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CBR Screen Fund Guidelines – Special Programs MADE IN CBR (COVID-19 Support)

MADE IN CBR Fund

MADE IN CBR is a \$250,000 Special Purpose Fund established in 2020 under the CBR Screen Fund to provide specific support to ACT Screen professionals whose work and income have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MADE IN CBR supports screen projects that have the potential to connect with markets and reach audiences, as well as supporting the development of ACT Screen professionals.

The Fund is in the form of a loan (not a grant). However, it is intended by Screen Canberra to be one part of a project's overall finance strategy.

Three rounds were held in 2020 and \$180,000 was committed to projects. The Fund was suspended as ACT opened up at the end of 2020, and returns in September 2021. \$70,000 remains allocated for MADE IN CBR Special Purpose Fund.

The COVID-19 pandemic has again halted production on screen projects and Screen Canberra appreciates that these circumstances could provide an opportunity for local practitioners to progress projects in development. However, Screen Canberra will still consider applications for projects outside of the development phase.

About the CBR Screen Fund

The CBR Screen Fund is managed by Screen Canberra, under agreement with the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government to foster a vibrant ACT screen industry.

Established in 2018, the \$5 million Fund will support projects, practitioners and businesses over a 7-year period.

Screen Canberra will fund projects and practitioners accordingly within its strategic remit to:

- uphold the quality and quantity of screen productions in the ACT
- foster projects with creative merit and market engagement
- contribute to the growth and sustainability of the local screen industry
- champion diversity
- contribute to the profile of the ACT region nationally and internationally
- nurture the professional development of local talent
- return capital to the Fund

The Fund is multipurpose and strategic, enabling Screen Canberra to remain responsive to continuing change and innovation.

Screen Canberra encourages diverse screen professionals including First Nations peoples, people with a disability, identifying as GLBTQI, and from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, to apply.

MADE IN CBR Overview

- Funding type: Project Loans
- Applications are due by 26 October 2021 at 11.59pm
- Application via the Smarty Grants Online form only
- Late entries will not be accepted
- Applicants will be advised of the outcome during December 2021

What are we looking for?

We are looking for screen projects that:

- provide project development funds to local screen professionals and businesses that have lost substantial work and income due to COVID-19
- provide development opportunities to ACT Screen Professionals
- are creatively compelling
- can demonstrate a capacity to reach audiences
- have a Key Creative and/or Producer attached with a significant track record, or who shows potential
- with “chain of title” in place and ability to demonstrate “proof of concept” (where applicable).
- show market engagement and are commercially feasible

Eligible projects

MADE IN CBR will fund projects including:

- feature films
- adult and children’s television dramas and narrative comedy, documentary and animation, including series, miniseries, web series and telemovies, and
- creative interactive screen entertainment/cross platform projects.

Preference will be given to projects where:

- an established producer, production company and/or broadcaster is attached and will contribute a share of finance for the project’s development and deliver a budget with the application, and/or
- the project has broadcaster or distributor interest, a strong local story and/or could provide opportunities for key ACT creatives.

What is not eligible?

The following types of projects are not eligible for funding:

- games

- short films
- factual programming (other than documentary), such as lifestyle, magazine or current affairs.

Who is eligible?

- **ACT Applicants:** ACT Screen professionals who demonstrate their work and income have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Non-ACT applicants:** Non-ACT applicants are not eligible.
- One Application **only** per applicant.

Assessment Criteria and what to include with your application

We will assess applications on the creative merit and viability of the project, evaluating the story, project plan, budget and audience reach, talent, potential and development opportunities of individuals and team, as well as ensuring that funding of the project will support local screen professionals and businesses.

Please use the following Checklist as a guide on what to include with your application:

1. Preliminary pitch document, outlining (as applicable):

- subject matter
- description of the story, or intended line of enquiry, or premise
- intended stylistic approach
- intended audience
- visual designs, sketches or early prototyping
- compliance plan for projects with Indigenous community participation or content, following the protocols as set out in Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols – A filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts (see link):
<https://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/getmedia/16e5ade3-bbca-4db2-a433-94bcd4c45434/Pathways-and-Protocols.pdf>

2. Project budget, including:

- detailed development budget (where applicable)
- top level or detailed anticipated production budget (where applicable)
- disclosure of other funding sources (where applicable)
- confirmation of "chain of title"

3. Define Market, include an indication of intended market and market interest through the following (as applicable):

- intended audience and distribution strategy
- demonstrate "proof of concept" showing how the project is to be realised and received by an audience
- letters of support and/or financial commitment
- producer track record

How much can I apply for?

Funding requests are not currently capped under MADE IN CBR. However, the Fund itself is limited to \$250,000, of which \$70,000 remains. Screen Canberra typically benchmarks funding against other State and Federal agencies.

Funding is competitive and successful applicants are not guaranteed to have their full request from the Fund approved even when their application substantially meets the criteria.

Successfully funded projects can to apply again in future rounds, for later stage development support.

How to apply

- Carefully review the guidelines to ensure eligibility.
- Contact Screen Canberra's Fund Manager, Sophie Harper, to discuss the application if necessary, at sophie@screencanberra.com.au.
- Complete and submit the online MADE IN CBR Application form via SmartyGrants, and supply supporting material (as outlined in the form).
- There is a non-refundable application fee of (\$50). You will be invoiced after submitting your application, ahead of assessment. Where financial hardship is demonstrated in the application, Screen Canberra will waive this fee.

How will applications be assessed?

- Applications will be assessed by the Screen Canberra Assessment Committee, which is made up of a selection of Screen Canberra Board members, an ACT Government-appointed industry professional, and industry experts, as required.
- Applications may be reviewed by independent screen professionals from outside the ACT appointed by Screen Canberra, as well as by Screen Canberra staff.
- Additional information may be requested from applicants during the assessment process and applicants may be asked to present to the Committee.
- The Screen Canberra Assessment Committee has the right to contact and discuss the project with any party associated with the application.

Assessment Times

Applications will be considered at Screen Canberra's February Assessment Committee meeting and then approved by the Board. Applicants will be notified of the outcome as soon as possible after the December Board meeting.

Contracting and Funding Disbursement

Successful applicants will enter into a funding agreement with Screen Canberra. Funds will be disbursed according to agreed milestones and the timing of other contributions. The final 10% will typically be disbursed after the producer has delivered all the Screen Canberra deliverables. GST is not payable on the Development Loan.

General Conditions

Screen Canberra requires Loan recipients to accept the following terms:

- Chain of Title - provide documents that establish ownership or control of all necessary rights by the applicant to fully develop, produce and market the project.
- A fee of 10% of the loan amount (not including the administration fee) applies. Repayment of the Development Loan plus the 10% fee is payable on first day of principal photography.
- Acknowledgement of Screen Canberra's support along with the ACT Government with a credit on the project, on publicity materials and on any other documentation produced. The required credits for each project will be part of the funding agreement.
- other funding terms will be set out in the relevant funding agreement issued by Screen Canberra

In addition, Screen Canberra is entitled to:

- 1% copyright interest in the project, until the loan is repaid.
- The right of approval/consultation over major changes such as to the project, script, key personnel, finance plan, the budget, the use of funds.
- The recipient to agree on a method of reporting and provision of an agreed acquittal. The reporting requirements will form part of the funding agreement.
- The recipient to participate in interviews or surveys related to the evaluation of the Fund.
- The right to an audit of the project at development stage and the ACT expenditure is a standard requirement, unless otherwise stated in the project agreement.
- The producer to deliver the items specified in the funding agreement as Deliverables to Screen Canberra.

What if Conditions of the Loan cannot be met?

If agreed conditions as per funding agreement are not met, Screen Canberra reserves the right to apply a premium on top of loan of up to 25% on the first day of principal photography.

Costs

For funded projects an administration fee of 3% applies. This amount is payable in advance, ie. added to the loan amount but held back from the first drawdown. GST is payable on the administration fee (for GST-registered applicants only).

Freedom of Information

As this Fund is from the ACT Government it may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act which provides a general right of access to records held by government. Applicants should be aware that information pertaining to the receipt of ACT Government financial assistance will be tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly. This information may include the name of recipients and projects, the amount of the assistance, and a description of the funded activity. This could result in requests for more detail to be released publicly.

Confidentiality

The applicant and Screen Canberra must not divulge any confidential information (other than as published by Screen Canberra) relating to the application process to any third party (other than those of their respective employees or authorised agents) without prior written consent.

Where can I find out more information?

Contact Screen Canberra's Fund Manager, Sophie Harper at sophie@screencanberra.com.au.