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West Coast Vision Guidelines

Program overview

Screenwest's West Coast Visions initiative is a screen industry development program that provides production funding for low budget features that are to be produced in Western Australia.

Screenwest is committed to creating a development pathway for Western Australian creative teams. Screenwest commits \$750,000 of production funding into one low budget feature film intended for theatrical release each year under the West Coast Visions initiative.

West Coast Visions is designed to uncover, inspire and develop local talent and skills. The initiative supports talented and motivated writer/director/producer teams with distinctive visions who can best utilise this initiative to fulfill their professional potential.

To be competitive, applicants will need a well-developed, budget-savvy and marketable feature film surrounded by a team that can deliver the creative and logistical challenges of the project submitted.

To be viable, the applicant producer needs to have adequate experience, or have an experienced executive producer attached. The director needs to be able to show examples of work/short films that demonstrate their ability to direct this project.

There is no cap on the budget, however this initiative is aimed at low budget features. The producer must demonstrate firm evidence of how the balance of funding will be raised within a reasonable timeframe and clearly identify the audience/market potential.

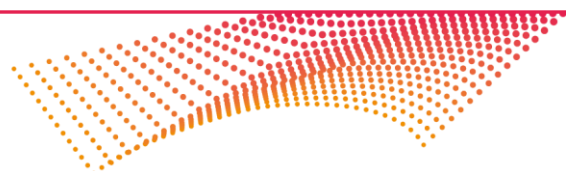
The film can be shot on film, HD or video and can explore any genre or period, as long as the budget credibly reflects these choices.

Funding available

There will be one (1) round per financial year. Successful applicants may be offered up to a maximum of \$750,000. The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and the total demand on available funds.

Eligibility

An application must first meet the following eligibility criteria in order to be competitively assessed for funding through this program.



The applicant must:

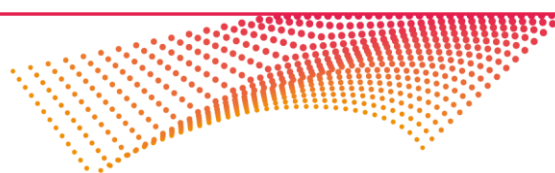
1. Meet the general eligibility requirements set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application.
3. Have a first time Western Australian feature film director attached (who has not had a theatrically released feature film credit or equivalent and will be credited in this position on this film).
4. Have at least one Western Australian producer or writer attached to be credited in this position on this film.
5. Complete all production and post production in Western Australia.
6. Meet a minimum of six (6) points out of a possible 11, with at least two (2) of the points coming from the producer or writer, under the below points system:

WEST COAST VISIONS POINTS ALLOCATION TABLE

Position	Points allocation for a WA resident
Producer(s)	2
Writer(s)	2
Line Producer OR Production Manager	1
First AD	1
DOP	1
Production Designer	1
Costume Designer	1
Editor	1
*Flexible Points	1

Please note the following clarifications for the above point allocations:

1. The maximum number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the above table. For example, a project that has two WA producers attached will receive a maximum of two (2) points.
2. *Flexible Points– these are floating points that can be attributed to a variety of outcomes that align with the Screenwest Strategic Plan, and that haven't been accounted for in other areas of the points table. For example, diversity elements, significant ex-pat/s attachment, a high-profile West Australian cast member, or the project will provide a significant innovative opportunity. It will be up to the producer to make the case for this point allocation.
3. All other crew members will be expected to be WA residents or ex-pat/s unless otherwise agreed upon by Screenwest Management.



4. Please note that although the number of points determines eligibility it is not the sole criteria for assessment.

In addition to meeting the above criteria, the project must:

1. Be a well-developed feature film intended for theatrical release.
2. Be achievable in Western Australia within a one-year time frame.

Be in good standing with all previous Screenwest funds and programs. Applicants who have an outstanding acquittal report and/or deliverable(s) or have not fulfilled their contractual obligations relating to prior Screenwest funding are not eligible to apply unless an alternative arrangement is agreed with Screenwest prior to application. Applicants should contact Screenwest directly for advice on their specific situation.

If an application has been unsuccessful in receiving support in the past, it cannot be re-submitted to Screenwest unless it has been substantially changed, developed or reworked. A document must be included with the application listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application. Screenwest may not accept a re-submitted application if either the Scripted Executive or the Head of Development and Production determines the project has not changed substantially.

Screenwest will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring the Western Australian Government or Screenwest into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest.

Terms of funding

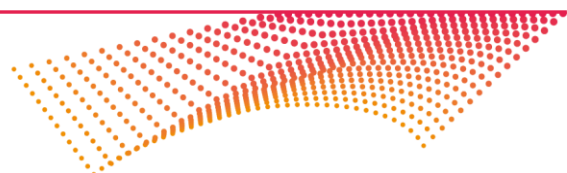
Funding is provided as a grant. Successful applicants will enter into a written Production Grant Agreement (PGA) with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive payments.

It is the Producer's responsibility to obtain and renew (i) the entire copyright in all material commissioned and/or acquired by it for the development of the Project, (ii) all necessary consents to permit the development of the Project, and (iii) all necessary consents to permit the Project to be produced and exploited.

Failure to fulfill acquittal and/or meet deliverable requirements as specified within the funding agreement is a breach of contract. If contractual obligations are not met, Screenwest has the right to recoup funds already paid to the applicant and it may disqualify the recipient from being eligible for future Screenwest funding until outstanding funds are paid back and the matter resolved with Screenwest.

How to apply

Prior to submitting an application, it is preferred that the applicant discuss the application with the program contacts listed below.

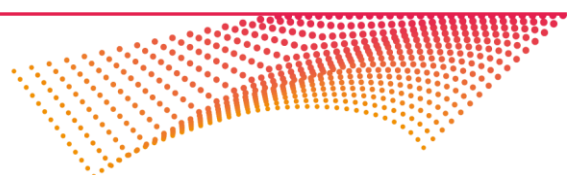


There is a two stage application process.

Stage One – Submit application

Applicants will need to submit the following:

1. Completed West Coast Visions Application Form utilizing the checklist provided to ensure all materials are submitted and in the correct format
2. Introductory cover letter
3. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing specific changes made to the re-submitted application is required.
4. Synopsis – a log-line, one paragraph and one-page synopsis
5. Full screenplay
6. A detailed budget (preferably a Screen Australia A-Z budget), including a highlighted column that shows Qualifying WA Expenditure (QWAE). The Budget should include:
 - Allowance for the repayment of any development funding and interest occurred (including slate development recipient companies).
 - Allowance in the budget for National Film and Sound Archive delivery items.
 - If relevant, allowance in the budget to adequately cover the cost of cash-flowing the Producer Offset.
 - An allowance in the budget to cover the cost of a mentor for an under resourced skill gap. To be identified in consultation with Screenwest and the completion guarantor (Minimum allocation of \$10,000 required)
7. All relevant Chain of Title documents should ideally be provided to Screenwest for approval at the time of application as Screenwest contracting will be contingent on such approval
8. CVs of key creatives (e.g. producer, director, writer and any other committed heads of department e.g. production designer, editor, director of photography)
9. Letters of commitment from relevant creative heads of department (ie. production designer, editor, director of photography) or attached Cast. This will demonstrate how you will meet the minimum six (6) points allocation requirement
10. Breakdown of how the creative team meets the minimum six (6) points required to meet the WA eligibility requirements (as contained within West Coast Visions Application Form)
11. Strong support notes from key creatives (eg. producer, writer and any other committed and relevant heads of department - e.g production designer, editor, director of photography)
12. Director's vision statement
13. Director's creative support material (eg. story boards, concept drawings - if relevant)
14. Examples of the Director's previous work (via online link only)
 - Please submit no more than two examples via link and limit your material to under 20 mins. Assessors will watch no more than two examples
 - Please provide a summary of why this work best reflects your directorial voice and tone of the feature film
 - Please check your link/s work when submitting, as Screenwest may not have the opportunity to follow up on corrupt links
15. Provisional shooting schedule including an outline explaining your proposed production methodology and ideas around implementing strategy for managing cast/crew and potential workflows.
16. A pathway to audience strategy which includes:
 - a summary of the target audience,



- distribution plan
 - marketing and social outreach strategy
17. Any distributor/broadcaster interest/sales arrangements already in place.
 18. A letter of offer from a completion guarantor
 19. Firm evidence of how the balance of funding (if any) will be raised within a reasonable timeframe, including Finance Plan and narrative. Projects with Producer Offset financing must include a statement on how the producer will cash flow the Producer Offset, a statement indicating the status of the project's Provisional Certification from Screen Australia and provision within the budget to adequately cover interest costs.

Additional material may be requested throughout the assessment process.

Shortlisting: Representatives from Screenwest and the screen industry will shortlist applicants at an assessment meeting.

If shortlisted, applicants will be notified as soon as practicable and may be required to provide additional material on request.

Stage Two – Shortlisted applicants meet with the Assessment Panel

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to outline their vision for the project in a series of meetings with the assessment panel. These will include, but are not limited to, an interview with the director and an interview with the team (e.g. writer, director, producer).

Each team will be expected to have evolved a practical and thematic approach to the realisation of the story within their budget. In the course of the application process, if any of the credits are being shared with a non-WA resident(s), the team will be required to define the collaborative nature of the project.

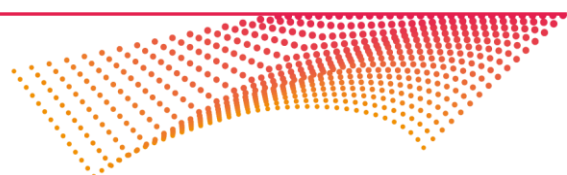
Applicants must ensure all requested material is completed and submitted together. Applications that do not include all requested material may not be accepted for assessment.

Assessment criteria

Screenwest competitively assesses eligible applications against the following criteria:

Stage One

1. Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements under the West Coast Visions points allocation table
2. The quality of the overall proposal including script and all supporting materials.
3. Evidence of a distinctive directorial voice and compelling storytelling style in the Director's Statement and in the example/s of the Director's previous works
4. Cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia
5. The team's track record and the ability to deliver the project to a high standard.
6. Identified development outcomes for the Western Australian screen industry



7. Achievability of the project within the year timeframe taking into consideration market interest and/or audience potential, finance plan, team's ability to deliver the project, and the budget.

Stage Two

In addition to the above assessment criteria for Stage One, the following criteria will be considered for Stage Two:

1. The strength the Director interview and potential ability to execute the project
2. Strength of your pathway to audience strategy
3. The strength of the team demonstrating a united vision for realising the project.

Screenwest will take into consideration whether the applicant has a number of concurrent outstanding projects in development or production that may impact on the quality and timely delivery of further projects as part of its assessment of the application.

The panelists assess all applications competitively and, as a consequence, funding is not assured even where an application meets the above criteria. Screenwest reserves its right to not fund any projects in any given year if the panel agrees that there is not a project strong enough in all of these areas.

Screenwest seeks to reflect the diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through projects funded and practitioners supported. The funding panel will take into consideration diversity elements of a submission during the assessment process.

Screenwest Management will also invite any unsuccessful teams (producer, director and writer) in for a feedback session.

Closing date

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are published in the Screenwest e-newsletter. You can register for the newsletter [here](#).

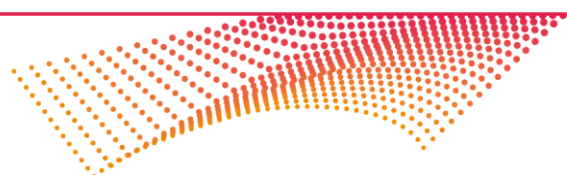
All application materials must be submitted by 5:00pm WST on the specified closing date

Applicants should allow plenty of time to submit an application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Submitting an application

Applications can be emailed to funding@screenwest.com.au Applicants should forward all required application materials in a single email. Application materials are not to be emailed directly to individual staff members.

For emails larger than 8MB, send via Screenwest's Hightail Account by following this link:
<https://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/screenwest>



Hard copy applications

Post applications to:

Development & Production Assistant - Scripted
Screenwest
PO Box 3275
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Hand deliver applications to:

Development & Production Assistant - Scripted
Screenwest
30 Fielder Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Screenwest recommends that mailed applications are sent via registered post. No responsibility is taken for unregistered mail.

Application receipt confirmation

An application receipt will be forwarded to the applicant within two working days to confirm that Screenwest has received the application. **It is the applicant's responsibility to contact Screenwest if an application receipt has not been received within this timeframe.** Application material(s) will not be returned by Screenwest.

Program contact

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Screenwest

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Shaye Guillory
Development & Production Assistant, Scripted
Screenwest

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Applicants should note that just prior to a closing date, consultation can be in high demand. Consequently, it is best to telephone or email program contacts for an appointment or general advice well before the advertised closing date.

