Screenwest (Australia) Ltd
ABN 43 620 492 300

Scripted Production Fund Guidelines

Program Overview

Supporting distinctive, high quality and diverse projects with strong Western Australian outcomes, the Scripted Production Fund provides production finance for feature films, telemovies and scripted series with significant marketplace attachments from traditional and new distribution platforms (with significant audience share).

Funding Available

- Up to a maximum of $600,000 per application to WA based Producers, or interstate/internationally based Producers in an Official Treaty or other approved Co-Production relationship with a credited WA based Producer.
- Total funding per project is calculated by a combination of **Base Funding** plus a number of **Funding Incentives**.

Funding under this scheme is provided as a grant.

- The level of Screenwest's funding commitment will be determined by the assessment process and total demand on available funds.
- All applications are assessed competitively. Funds are limited and demand on Screenwest's resources far outweighs its ability to assist all applicants. Funding is not automatic even if an applicant meets all the criteria.

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Producers and/or production companies can access:

- Up to a maximum of $1.2million per financial year from Screenwest Scripted Production funding; and
- A maximum of $1.2million per financial year across **all** Screenwest Production funding programs (including Scripted, Footloose, Documentary and On Demand Content funding).

Funding offers are valid for the set period (generally three (3) months) outlined in the funding Letter of Offer, after which the funding offer expires if conditions are not met, unless otherwise agreed upon by Screenwest.

Eligibility

Format and Marketplace:

Projects must be one of the following formats to be eligible for funding:

- Feature film; or
- Scripted series, mini-series, telemovie, animation series or children's series for traditional television broadcast or online platform.

Projects are required to have confirmed marketplace attachment from a recognised distributor or exhibition platform for one or more of the following:

- Theatrical release;
- Television broadcast on free to air or pay/cable television; or
- Online release (with significant audience share).

Applicants must also present a distribution plan for Australian domestic and Rest of World (ROW) sales.

Western Australian Elements

Screenwest's purpose is to bring Western Australian stories and identity to screen for the benefit of the community.

Recognising that there are many important elements involved in creating and defining a Western Australian story, the below Western Australian Elements points system will be used to define what is **eligible** for funding through the Scripted Production Investment Program.

To qualify for Scripted Production, projects are required to reach a minimum of 10 points in the below Western Australian Elements Points Table:

Ref	Position	Maximum Points
A	Producer (with a reasonable and material share of creative control, copyright and profit entitlement)	2
B	Authorship (original concept, book or play created by a Western Australian)	2
C	Identifiable, major Western Australian location/setting or character (identifiable to the national audience)	2
D	Writer	2
E	Director	2
F	Director of Photography	1
G	Line Producer OR Production Manager	1
H	1st AD	1
I	Production Designer	1
J	Editor	1
K	Composer	1
L	Sound Design	1
M	Flexible Points*	2

Please note the following clarifications for the above point allocations:

- To qualify as Western Australian for points allocation, practitioners must meet the definition of a WA resident outlined in the Screenwest Terms or Trade.
- 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.
- Individuals are able to receive points in multiple categories.
- For D & E – so long as 50% or more of those receiving these full credits are WA residents, the project is eligible to receive full points in each respective category.
- *Flexible Points (M) – these are floating points that can be attributed to a variety of outcomes that align with Screenwest Strategic Plan, and that haven't been accounted for in other areas of the points table. For example – Diversity, significant ex-pat attached, high profile West Australian cast member, or innovation in distribution. It will be up to the producer to make the case for these points.

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

Funding Request

Eligible projects can apply for Base Funding and may top this amount up with additional funds through Incentive Funding:

1. Base funding
    - Base Funding is calculated on 10% of the Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE) of a project, up to $400,000.
2. Funding Incentives
    - Funding Incentives represent additional equity provided on top of the Screenwest Base Funding.

Ref	Funding Incentive	Criteria	Potential Equity
2.1	**WA Producer or Co-Producer**	If the project is produced solely by a WA Producer, or if a WA Producer is in a Genuine or Official Treaty Co-production with an interstate or international Producer.	**Up to $50,000**
2.2	**WA Content & Authorship**	Awarded on the strength of the project meeting a number of the specific elements below which define the cultural significance of the project to WA: • The content is derived from, or profiles a significant work, character or event specific to WA either historically, artistically, scientifically and socially. • A recognisable WA setting. • WA authorship and/or adaptation. • Other significantly identifiable WA element in the content of the production. **Note:** to receive the full amount, at least two of the above elements will need to be met.	**Up to $50,000**
2.3	**WA Director**	a. Feature films with a WA Director: b. Scripted series	**a. Up to $50,000** **b. Up to $75,000** (pro rata if more than 1 director)
2.4	**Key WA Heads of Department**	This Incentive covers the following roles only: • Line Producer • Production Manager • 1st AD • Production Designer • Costume Designer	**Up to $50,000**

Ref	Funding Incentive	Criteria	Potential Equity
		• Director of Photography • Unit Manager • Production Accountant To be eligible for the full $50 000, 5 of the above positions must be filled by Western Australians (i.e. there is $10 000 allocated per position, up to a maximum of $50 000).	
2.5	**Post Production**	Post production incentive for WA Post means that Screenwest can invest up to $50 000 in Post Spend in the following areas: • Edit • Sound Post • Online • Grade • CGI • Music Composition • Music Recording, and • Sound Mixer.	**Up to $50,000**
2.6	**Flexible Incentive**	As determined by Screenwest Board, where a project demonstrates significant industry outcomes, for example: • **Diversity** (helping to achieve priorities set out in the Screenwest Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Plan) • **Industry Development** (eg, where a Western Australian key creative or HoD is credited in this position for the first time on a theatrically released feature film	**Up to $25,000**

Ref	Funding Incentive	Criteria	Potential Equity
		• **Employment of an ex-WA key creative** (Director, Writer) or HOD where they have worked interstate or internationally for more than 2 years • **Significant WA profile cast attachment** • **WA Elements points total 15 or higher**	

Completion Funding

Projects are eligible to apply for completion funds where a rough cut or equivalent has been produced and the project has received market or significant festival interest or support by way of a presale and/or a distribution agreement.

Funding is to be used to help meet the costs of post-production yet to be undertaken. Production Companies will need to show that any deferred payments, options or clearances have been paid or have been funded. Screenwest will not fund retrospective deferments.

Projects are not eligible to apply for completion funding, if they have already received Production funds.

Assessment

Assessment Criteria

1. Track record of the applicant(s) and key creatives.
2. Cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia (as highlighted in the total points accumulated in the WA Elements Points table).
3. Economic benefits including the amount of Qualifying Western Australian Expenditure (QWAE). and the employment of key Western Australian crew.
4. Strength of the market attachments.

5. Quality and rigour of the supporting materials.
6. Overall diversity of projects and production companies funded by Screenwest.
7. Availability of Screenwest funds.
8. How the project aligns with the relevant strategic initiatives as set out in the Screenwest Strategic Plan.

Indigenous Content and Participation

Where there is Indigenous content or participation in any project, Screenwest requires that each applicant complies with protocols related to the treatment of Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights (ICIP). For more information on ICIP, please refer to the Arts Law Centre of Australia.

Written confirmation of the willingness of both the subject(s) and the community to be involved in the project is essential.

There must be strong indigenous representation on all projects that tell indigenous stories, through the involvement of an indigenous key creative or through thorough consultation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Please ensure you allow sufficient time for consultation so that people giving consent can more fully understand what they are consenting to.

Please note, these requirements apply equally to Indigenous and non-Indigenous filmmakers.

For information on what Content, Consent and Consultation means, please refer to the Screenwest website for more information on Filming with Indigenous People, Content and Land.

For more detailed information on Indigenous Content and Participation protocols, please refer to Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts.

Additional Considerations

- 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.

- 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 will not fund projects that contain material that will bring, or is likely to bring Screenwest and its funding partners into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavourably on Screenwest or its funding partners.

Assessment Process

1. Screenwest Management prepares the applications for assessment.
2. An assessment panel, including experienced industry practitioners and Screenwest Management, makes funding recommendations to the Screenwest Board.
3. Two external script assessments will be provided to the assessment panel.
4. The assessment timeline is approximately 6 – 8 weeks from application deadline to board decision.
5. Final decisions are made by the Board of Directors of Screenwest.

Applying

Before applying

- Read these guidelines and the Screenwest Terms of Trade.
- Check eligibility.
- Contact the Development and Production Executive as early as possible to determine the most appropriate time to submit an application.

Timing

- Applications must be made at least three (3) months prior to commencement of pre-production.
- Projects are not eligible for retrospective funding.
- Projects where pre-production commences prior to the Board decision date are only eligible to apply for completion funding.

Application Materials

All applicants are required to submit:

1. A completed Scripted Production Fund Application Form.
2. All documents referred to in the Application Summary checklist.

Production Budget Requirements

Crew Attachment Program

- Productions that receive Screenwest production funding over $100,000 are required to budget for and engage a Western Australian attachment/s in consultation with Screenwest.

- $299,000 and less in Screenwest production funding – the production must budget for 1 attachment at $1,000/50-hour week for 6 weeks ($6,000)
- $300,000 and greater in Screenwest production funding – the production must budget for 2 attachments at $1,000/50-hour week for 6 weeks ($12,000)

Please refer to the Crew Attachment Program Guidelines on the Screenwest website for more information.

Fees

- All production budgets at application stage must allow for any and all repayable development, slate and/or administration fees.
- While Screenwest Project Managers may check that these fees have been adequately budgeted for, the responsibility to ensure they are accommodated rests solely with the applicant.

Closing Date

All closing dates are listed on the Screenwest website and are also announced in the Screenwest e-newsletter. You can opt-in through the Screenwest newsletter subscription page.

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

Please ensure you allow plenty of time to submit your application in case of unanticipated problems as late applications will not be accepted.

Submitting an Application

- Applications will be accepted through the Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal, with application forms going live **Wednesday, 1 July 2020**. Do not email applications directly to individual Screenwest staff members.
- An application receipt will be automatically forwarded to the applicant from SmartyGrants 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 two working days.**

If you are unable to submit an application online or having difficulties, please call Screenwest on +61 8 6169 2100 or 1800 463 043 (regional callers).

If you are successful in your application:

- You will be required to pay an administration fee to Screenwest of 2% of the funding amount, up to a maximum of $5,000.

Program Contacts

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Please note that meetings with program contacts can be in high demand, so it's best to telephone or email for an appointment or general advice well before planning to submit an application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their applications with the program contacts before applying.