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## West Coast Visions Initiative Guidelines

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 will commit up to \$750,000 of production funding in 2023, to one low budget feature film intended for worldwide distribution, 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.

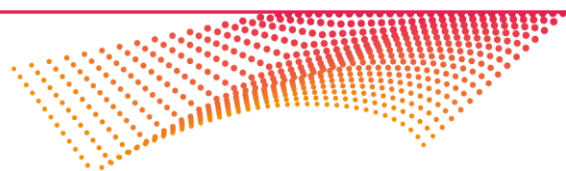
To be competitive, applicants will need a well-developed, budget-savvy and marketable feature film, surrounded by a team that can deliver the creative and logistical challenges of the project submitted.

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 demonstrates 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.

## Funding Available

- Up to \$750,000 per project.
- *Funding is not automatic, even if an applicant can demonstrate they meet all the assessment criteria.*



## Eligibility

To be considered eligible for this initiative, the below general minimum eligibility applies.

### Applicant / Company Eligibility

#### The applicant / company must:

1. Meet the general eligibility requirements as set out in the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#).
2. Be a resident Western Australian Producer/Production Company, as per the Terms of Trade.
3. Hold the underlying rights to the project at the time of application.
4. Complete all production and post-production in Western Australia.

### Team Eligibility

#### The team must:

1. 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).
2. Have at least one Western Australian producer or writer attached to be credited in this position on this film.

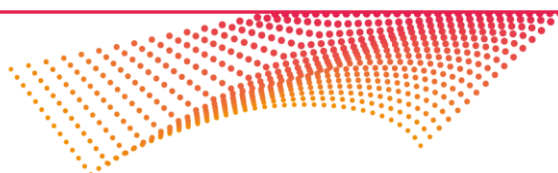
### Project Eligibility

#### 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.
3. 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:**

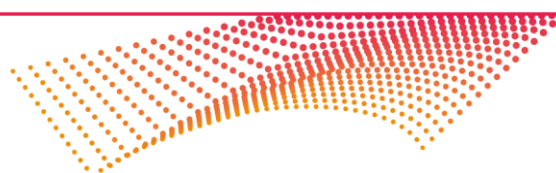
1. The maximum number of points that can be attributed to a position is the number stated in the above table. For example, a project that has two WA producers attached will receive a maximum of two (2) points.
2. \*Flexible Points– these are floating points that can be attributed to a variety of outcomes that align with the current Screenwest Strategic Plan, and that haven't been accounted for in other areas of the points table. For example, 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.

## Application Process

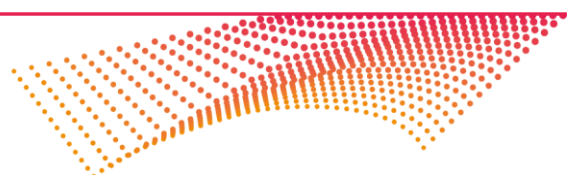
- Before applying, read these guidelines, the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#) and check your eligibility.
- Discuss your application with the Screenwest Contact person if you have any questions.

West Coast Visions has a two-stage application process.

### **Stage One – Submit application**



1. Complete an online application form through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal](#) and attach the following materials.  
*If you are unable to apply online or are having difficulties submitting your application, contact the Screenwest Program Contact during business hours.*
2. Introductory cover letter
3. A logline, one paragraph and one-page synopsis
4. A completed screenplay, professionally formatted and no more than 110 pages in length.
5. Director's statement outlining their vision and any support materials support materials (eg. story boards, concept drawings - if relevant)
6. Examples of the Director's previous work (via online link only)
  - a. Please submit no more than two examples via link and limit your total material to under 30 mins. Assessors will watch no more than two examples
  - b. Please provide a summary of why this work best reflects your directorial voice and tone of the feature film
  - c. Please check your link/s work when submitting, as Screenwest may not have the opportunity to follow up on corrupt links
7. 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)
8. Any distributor/broadcaster interest/sales arrangements already in place
9. A pathway to audience strategy which includes:
  - a. identification of the target audience
  - b. domestic and international distribution plan
  - c. Marketing and social outreach strategy
10. A COVID Risk Mitigation Plan, in line with the Australian Screen Production Industry COVID-Safe Guidelines, that complies with applicable State and Federal Covid Legislation.
11. A detailed budget (preferably a Screen Australia A-Z budget), including a highlighted column that shows Qualifying WA Expenditure (QWAE). The Budget should include:
  - a. Allowance for the repayment of any development funding and interest occurred (including slate development recipient companies).
  - b. Allowance in the budget for National Film and Sound Archive delivery items.
  - c. If relevant, allowance in the budget to adequately cover the cost of cash-flowing the Producer Offset.
  - d. 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)
12. Provisional shooting schedule including an outline explaining your proposed production methodology and ideas around implementing strategy for managing cast/crew and potential workflows.
13. A letter of offer from a completion guarantor



14. 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
15. CVs of key creatives (e.g. producer, director, writer and any other committed heads of department e.g. production designer, editor, director of photography)
16. 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
17. Breakdown of how the creative team meets the minimum six (6) points required to meet the WA eligibility requirements
18. 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.
19. If the project has been submitted and declined funding previously, a document listing substantial changes made to the re-submitted application.

Additional material may be requested throughout the assessment process.

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

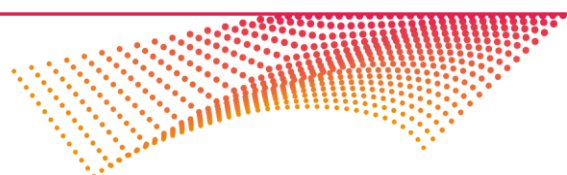
### **Stage Two – Shortlisted applicants meet with the Assessment Panel**

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.

### **After you apply**

- Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced industry representatives. Depending on the number of applications, Screenwest Management reserves the right to shortlist applications, prior to formal panel assessment.



- Funding recommendations over \$25,000 will be presented to the Screenwest Board for approval.
- You will be advised of the outcome within 8-10 weeks of the funding round's closing date.
- Screenwest Management will also invite any unsuccessful teams (producer, director and writer) in for a feedback session.

## Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed 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.

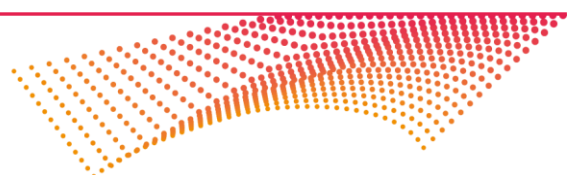
### Additionally, for Stage Two

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.

## First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers. Stories with significant First Nations Australian content must have a member of the Key Creative team coming from an appropriate background.

Where First Nations Australian aspects to a story are more minor, Screenwest requires meaningful consultation with the appropriate First Nations Australian communities for the story being told.



**When there is First Nations Australian content or First Nations Australian community participation of any kind in the project, or when there are First Nations Australian members of the team who do not have the authority to speak for the people or place being represented in the story, please refer to the checklists from [Pathways & Protocols: a film maker's guide to working with First Nations people, culture and concepts](#).**

You will be required to include a statement on how you are approaching the First Nations Australian content, (even if you believe the content is not specific to a community or individual), evidence of your collaboration to date and where relevant, signed letters of consent confirming community and/or individual's willingness to participate.

Early collaboration is strongly advised.

All projects involving First Nations content or participation will be assessed by First Nations Australian Assessors.

## Diversity & Inclusion

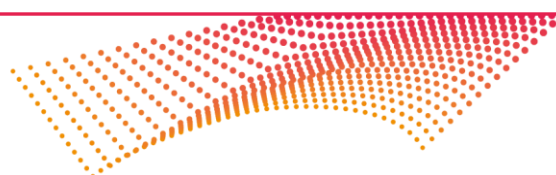
Screenwest is committed to reflecting the broad diversity of Western Australia's community on screen and behind the camera, through stories funded and practitioners supported.

It is important that your team of key creatives authentically represent the story and characters in your application.

Screenwest recognises diversity broadly as differences in gender; age; Indigenous identity; cultural and linguistic diversity (CaLD); disability; sexuality and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and ace (LGBTQIA+); location (including regional and remote regions) and socio-economic status.

## Terms of Funding

- Successful applicants will have 12 months to achieve greenlight, at which point the West Coast Visions funding offer will lapse.
- Funding will be provided as a grant.



- Successful applicants will enter into a written Production Grant Agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding and what the applicant will need to deliver to receive their scheduled payments.

## Closing Dates

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

Allow yourself plenty of time to submit the application as late applications will not be accepted.

## Program Contact

**Tenille Kennedy, Scripted Executive**  
**Screenwest**

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**Toll Free:** 1800 463 043 (regional callers)

[www.screenwest.com.au](http://www.screenwest.com.au)

Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to discuss their applications before applying.

