



Scripted Project Development Fund Guidelines

The Screenwest *Scripted Project Development Fund* provides development investment funding to Western Australian writers and/or producers creating long-form scripted content, for all screen-based delivery platforms (excluding online).

This fund aims to accelerate quality, distinctive projects with existing well-developed pitch documents, episode outlines, pilot episodes, series bibles, treatments and/or draft screenplays and which can demonstrate a strong pathway to audience and/or attract further investment.

Screenwest encourages applications from First Nations Australians and people from historically under-represented groups.

What You Can Receive Funding For

Screenwest funding is a partial contribution to the next stage of development.

Upon submission of a developed concept, funds may be used for the following types of activities:

- Work with a Writers' Room to write series episodes or a full series bible.
- Write a new draft of a pilot episode or feature length screenplay.
- Work with story developers.
- Work with executive producers to secure matched market investment and/or advance the project to production.
- Work with casting agents to attach talent.

Funding Available

- Up to **\$25,000** per project application.
- Maximum cap of \$50,000 per project (Concept and Project Development funding combined), per financial year.
- There will be up to four competitive rounds per financial year.

Receiving Concept Development funding does not automatically guarantee Project Development funding.

Eligibility

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

Applicant / Company Eligibility

The applicant / company must:

1. Be a Western Australian Resident with a registered Australian Business Number (ABN) or a Western Australian Resident Company, as defined in the Screenwest Terms of Trade. (Non-Western Australian applicant Producers/Production Companies will only be considered where they can demonstrate they will bring significant cultural and/or economic benefits to Western Australia.)
2. Control the underlying rights to the project at the time of application.
3. Develop the scripted television series or feature film aimed towards broadcast/distribution to the Australian and international markets.
4. Include at least one individual among the creative team (EP, producer, director, writer) who has a commercially distributed/released feature, series or equivalent credit in the last 5 years in the role they are applying for (ie EP, producer, director, writer); OR Supply evidence of market interest in the project from a bonafide broadcaster, network, streaming service, theatrical distributor and/or sales agent.

To note: Creative team and/or documented market interest must be confirmed at the time of application.

Resubmissions

Projects must clearly demonstrate substantial changes (as determined by Screenwest Management) if the project has previously been declined twice for funding.

Application Materials

All applications must include:

1. Supporting documents (ie, pitch deck, episode outlines, pilot episode, series bible, extended treatment, draft screenplay).
2. A project summary statement addressing:
 - a. Project development history;
 - b. Key personnel; and
 - c. Strategy to market and pathway to audience relative to market interest.
2. A detailed development plan outlining the objectives and tasks to be undertaken throughout this stage of development and intended outcomes.
3. Written evidence from the market confirming level of interest.

Assessment Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

1. *Creative*: The originality, quality and strength of the project and its ability to deliver production outcomes in Western Australia.
2. *Commercial & Economic Impact*: How well the project will contribute to the long-term sustainability and commercial goals of the applicant and/or team.
3. *Planning & Delivery*: The strength of the development plan and the perceived ability and/or track record of the applicant and/or team to deliver outcomes.
4. *Benefits to WA*: Cultural and creative benefits of the project to Western Australia and likelihood of the project being fully realised in Western Australia.
5. *Diversity & Inclusion*: How the project supports Screenwest's commitment to the creation and growth of diverse representation.

Screenwest will weigh the above assessment criteria as it deems appropriate to best serve the purpose and strategic priorities of the organisation.

First Nations Australian Content

Screenwest supports the telling of First Nations Australian stories by First Nations Australian creatives and storytellers.

There must be strong First Nations Australian representation on all Scripted projects that tell First Nations Australian stories, through the involvement of First Nations Australian key creatives and thorough consultation, incubation and collaboration that is adequately budgeted for.

Diversity Statement

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

It is important that you / 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.

Application Process

- Before applying, read these guidelines and the [Screenwest Terms of Trade](#), and check your eligibility.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their applications with the Program Manager before applying.

How to apply

1. Complete an online application form through the [Screenwest SmartyGrants Portal](#).
2. Attach all relevant documentation and supporting material. Refer to the 'Application Material' section above.

To note: Screenwest funding is not automatic; it will depend on the competitive strength of the application and the availability of Screenwest funds. Funding may be approved at a lesser amount than is applied for.

After you apply

- Eligible applications will be assessed by a panel consisting of Screenwest Management and experienced screen industry representatives.
- You can expect to be advised of the outcome of your application within 8 weeks of the funding round closing date.

Terms of Funding

- Funding is provided as a repayable investment.
- Successful applicants are required to enter into a written agreement with Screenwest, specifying the terms of the funding. Payments will be made on satisfactory achievement and delivery of each contracted milestone.

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 submissions will not be accepted.

Program Contact/s

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