

creativeBC



REEL FOCUS BC SLATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2021-22

PART OF THE \$2 MILLION DOMESTIC MOTION PICTURE FUND

Applications open: 22 December 2021 – 25 January 2022

BRIEF

The Slate Development Program is designed to support the company growth of mid-level and experienced B.C. based production companies who have a significant track record of owned and controlled independent production in the province. Recipients will receive a modest envelope of money towards the development costs of two or more scripted television and feature film projects, as well as select business capacity building activities.

Eligible Project Types: scripted television series and feature film projects.

Funding Per Company: up to \$45,000

Decision Process: Competitive, informed by an external advisory panel.

Deadline to Apply: January 25, 2022, at 11:59pm PT.

AIMS + OBJECTIVES

1. Support B.C. owned and controlled companies developing their own creative IP.
2. Encourage company growth for mid-level and experienced producers beyond project by project funding.
3. Enable the development of bold and innovative work that will attract investment from national and international broadcast or streaming platform decision makers.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Up to \$45,000 per recipient for the development of two or more film or television projects, as well as select company capacity building activities is available. Funding will be provided in the form of a non-recoupable grant.

The capacity building component of this program is delivered in partnership with the CMPA-BC Producers Branch. A portion of the funding from within the Slate amount must be dedicated for company and business growth needs outside of project spending. It can be used to hire external consultants or experts and will include in-kind guidance and support from Creative BC and the CMPA-BC.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must meet the following requirements in order to apply:

- Be a company incorporated in British Columbia or Canada with its head office in British Columbia. (Note: Companies extra-provincially registered in B.C. are not eligible.)
- A majority of the common interest voting shares of the company must be held by B.C. residents*.
- Their primary business is the creation of motion picture audiovisual content.
- They, and any related or associated parties must be in good standing with Creative BC.
- Further, they must demonstrate in the past 5 years EITHER -
 - a minimum B.C. owned and controlled production spend of \$1 million in the province, OR
 - have produced at least 2 completed B.C. owned and controlled film or television productions that have been released theatrically, broadcast on television (including VOD services such as Gem, CraveTV, Netflix, Amazon or Hulu) or played at internationally recognized film festivals.

Keep in mind the above eligibility requirements are minimum thresholds and do not guarantee support.

Applications from companies majority owned and controlled by members from equity or sovereignty seeking groups are encouraged: women or non-binary people, Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, or people with disabilities. Applicants self-declare during the application process.

*BC residency is defined as either a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident who has resided in B.C. for at least 200 of the 365 days prior to application and have filed income tax returns in B.C. for the taxation year prior to the application.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible projects must be:

- At least one of the projects earmarked for spending MUST be a scripted television series earmarked for broadcast or streaming / VOD platforms.
- Other projects can include scripted feature films for theatrical release, broadcast, streaming or VOD platforms.
- 100% owned and controlled / optioned, or intended to be optioned should the application be successful, by the applicant for a minimum of 12 months.

- Under the financial and creative control of the applicant (exceptions available for inter-provincial co-productions and international treaty co-productions).¹
- Intended to be produced in B.C.

The following projects are NOT eligible for spending:

- Unscripted, reality, factual, lifestyle or documentary one-offs or series.²
- Web-series.
- Excluded productions as defined by the Film & Television Tax Credit Regulations including, but not limited to: pornography, talk shows, news, live sports events, game shows, reality television, and advertising.
- Projects currently supported through other Creative BC funding programs.

At the time of application, companies will only be asked to provide a snapshot of their development slate for the upcoming year, including select projects they may not yet have the rights to develop but intend to procure with these funds. They do not have to confirm which projects the money will be spent on unless they are selected and contracted. Projects on the company slate, regardless of project type, should be included, so Creative BC has a full picture of their development plans.

No other financing or market support needs to be attached to the projects proposed in the Slate, though any confirmed financing will weigh favourably in the evaluation.

Note: Creative BC recognizes that support for scripted television series from B.C companies is critical and historically difficult to fund, and therefore part of the aims of this program is to provide extra support for this underfunded production type. Therefore, priority in the evaluation process will be given to companies that demonstrate previous scripted television production experience and/or have multiple scripted television series on their development slate.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

PROJECT SPENDING

A range of development phase costs for the projects being proposed in the slate are eligible:

- Acquisition of rights or optioning fees.
- Script writing (all phases) and script workshopping.

¹ In the case of an inter-provincial co-production, a minimum of 51% of the project must be owned by the B.C. applicant. In the case of an International Treaty Co-Production, Creative BC will follow the minimum guidelines laid out in the governing treaty, but generally, cannot be less than 20% of the ownership of the project. In either case, the B.C. applicants' creative and financial control must be commensurate to their copyright or ownership in the project.

² Other programs at Creative BC, notably the Rogers-Creative BC Documentary + Factual Fund, are currently available to support these project types.

- Production of a demo, storyboards or animatic.
- Pre-production planning, finance packaging and/or casting.
- Business affairs and legal services associated with the above activities.
- Producer fees and corporate overhead (up to a combined total of 40% of development costs).
- Marketing and travel expenses related to securing market support or further financing.

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

In addition, between \$5,000 and \$10,000 of the budget must be dedicated to new company-wide capacity building expenses. These must be tied to an identified area of company growth, outside project activities and be payable to external parties or new company hires. This may include:

- Hiring a corporate lawyer, business affairs consultant, or accountant.
- Engaging a producer mentor, coach or advisor.
- Hiring executive support, a development producer, marketing or human resources needs.
- Hiring a more junior producer position that you will provide mentorship to.
- Companywide training or workshops in the areas of justice, equity, decolonization, diversity and inclusion (JEDDI) tactics, leadership development or sustainable filmmaking practices.

Activities should be new. Creative BC will not finance costs retroactively, that were incurred prior to contracting.

EVALUATION + SELECTION

We anticipate a minimum of 10 weeks to review applications and convey decisions.

The evaluation process will begin with an initial eligibility review conducted by Creative BC staff. Any application deemed ineligible at this stage will be notified.

There will then be a competitive review based on the following:

- Track record and experience of the applicant company and its directors or shareholders.
- Development business plan that speaks to the future growth for the company, how the company will contribute to the rise of B.C. owned and controlled production in the province and the support of diverse talent across its slate of projects.
- Viability of the budget, financing strategy, market research and target audience plans for the company's development slate.
- Weighted criteria will apply - additional points will be awarded for companies owned/controlled by equity or sovereignty seeking applicants.

See the evaluation matrix on our website for a full breakdown.

The competitive review will involve Creative BC staff as well as an advisory panel comprised of external industry professionals who represent a variety of backgrounds and relevant areas of expertise. Due to

the sensitive and confidential nature of the application materials, any advisory members will be carefully vetted for conflict of interest.

All decisions will be confirmed via email. When an application is unsuccessful, a brief explanation can be provided upon request.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants will be asked to complete an online application form and the following support materials:

- Company information, including shareholders' and directors' filmography.
- An overview of previously completed work that satisfies the minimum eligibility.
- Basic information for each project on your current Slate
- High level proposed budget for the activities in the Slate, including the intended split between projects costs and company capacity building work.
- Slate Development Business Plan (max 4 pages) which should cover company track record, previous performance, vision and growth plan, market research and target audience goals, and plans for fostering talent and diversity.
- Capacity Building Activities Plan (max 1 page) which should identify a current corporate need and include a short plan for how you wish to address it with these funds.

Applications are due by Monday January 25, 2022, at 11:59pm PST.

If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation or additional support in the application process, we are here to help. Please contact the Project Manager to discuss.

ADVANCE OF FUNDS + CONDITIONS

Projects awarded funding are subject to a contract that will include specific development deliverables.

SLATE SPENDING PRE-APPROVAL

Before contracting, selected recipients will need to identify which projects they intend to spend their slate development funding on, what the proposed budget is, and obtain approval from Creative BC before any spending occurs. At least one project, and ideally both, should be scripted television series. Projects can be swapped out with the prior approval of Creative BC during the contract period and before final reporting occurs.

Creative BC and CMPA-BC will meet with each recipient to discuss and approve proposed capacity building activities.

DELIVERABLES

Final deliverable will include a report on the outcomes of the project development work, project phase cost reports, a short report on the outcomes of the capacity building work and receipts for final costs.

All deliverables must be submitted by the completion date noted in the contract, or the applicant will be placed in default. According to the terms of the contract, should an applicant be placed in default, this may limit the applicant from accessing further funding from Creative BC. In addition, Creative BC reserves the right to request immediate repayment of any advanced funds.

ON SCREEN PROTOCOLS & PATHWAYS

It is a requirement that filmmakers adhere to the guidance provided in [ON SCREEN PROTOCOLS & PATHWAYS](#): A Media Production Guide to Working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities, Cultures, Concepts and Stories.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Successful recipients are required to publicly acknowledge Creative BC by placing logo in the tail credits of the completed production, wherever other financiers are acknowledged. Recipients are also encouraged to acknowledge support on social media.

QUESTIONS?

Make sure to review the FAQ, Application Checklist and Evaluation Matrix on our website.

If you have any queries, or if you would like to discuss any aspect of your project prior to application, please contact:

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