

Sacramento Film + Media Grant Program

Guidelines – FY 2023-2024

Program Overview

Sacramento Film + Media is committed to sustaining and growing film and television production in the City of Sacramento. The Film + Media Grant Program supports this aim by subsidizing permit fees and reducing the costs of safety personnel and reimbursing qualified expenses for production companies when these activities occur in the City of Sacramento.

Sacramento Film + Media will award six \$10,000 production grants and two \$5,000 post-production grants during fiscal year 2024 in two grant rounds. Grant funds that remain available due to a lack of eligible applicants in the prior period will be rolled over to the next round. Grants will be for:

1. Required services and permitting fees by City of Sacramento staff and/or departments, including police, fire, permit fees, parking fees (inter-department transfer of funds); Reimbursement awards where an applicant has demonstrated a need that exceeds City services support, where qualified expenses occur within the city (i.e., hotel nights, rental cars, rental equipment, location fees, catering, local hires, post-production, etc.); or
2. Reimbursement awards for post-production support.

Eligibility

The Sacramento Film + Media Grant program is open to productions filming at least 50% of the project in the Sacramento region with at least two locations in the city of Sacramento. It is also open to productions where 75% of post-production is done in the city of Sacramento. Eligible productions include feature length films, short films, episodic television, television pilots, television movies/miniseries, documentaries, docuseries, commercials, music videos, and unscripted television. Production companies may only apply for one grant per round. Production companies may apply for multiple rounds but may only be awarded two grants in a twelve-month period, including a post-production grant. Applications must be submitted prior to physical production commencement to be considered eligible (documentaries excluded), and post-production applicants must have 75% of physical production completed to be considered eligible.

Funding support for a grantee may be revoked at any time if it is determined that the production does not fit within the criteria of the Guidelines, or the applicant provided false or misleading information to the City.

Application Deadlines & Submittal Periods

Three production grants and one post-production grant will be awarded in each of two separate rounds. Deadlines and submittal periods for each round are below:

1. Round 1 Deadline: January 15, 2024 11:59 p.m. PST
Round 1 Application Submittal Period: October 15, 2023 through January 15, 2024

2. Round 2 Deadline: May 15, 2024 11:59 p.m. PST
Round 2 Application Submittal Period: February 15, 2024 through May 15, 2024

Applicants may submit at any time during the application submittal period, but the submission must be received by the indicated deadline date and time. Applicants are asked to submit for projects that will begin physical production within 180 days from the award date.

Announcements concerning application period(s) will be made to email subscribers of the Office of Arts and Culture newsletter, Sacramento Film + Media social media platforms, and the Office of Arts and Culture and Sacramento Film + Media websites. The City reserves the right to modify or change the deadline dates or applications periods at its sole discretion. Prospective applicants will be notified of any schedule changes via social media or through the Office of Arts and Culture and Sacramento Film + Media websites.

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the application in Submittable and attach the following documents:

1. Treatment – This document should include the following components: the story idea, the most important information about the film including title, logline, story summary, character descriptions and demographics, and should help to justify Community Impact and Feasibility answers on the application. Panelists will use this treatment to rate the application against the community impact and feasibility criteria.
2. Budget – This document should include the following components: Overall Budget in each line item as well as a column denoting expenditures within the city of Sacramento. The budget will be used to determine eligibility, economic impact and feasibility criterion of planning and preparation.
3. Shooting Schedule – This document should include the following components: total number of filming days, number of city of Sacramento filming days, locations, city of Sacramento locations, scene summary, and characters. Panelists will use this to rate the application against the economic impact and feasibility criteria as well as eligibility.
4. Vendor List – This document should include the following components: all vendors used for physical and post-production denoting which vendors are support services companies with a city of Sacramento address. Panelists will use this to rate the application against the economic impact and feasibility criteria.
5. Crew List – This document should include the following components: crew member name and contact information (if known at the time of applying), with Sacramento crew notated. Panelists will use this to rate the application against the economic impact criterion of number of local hires; the community impact criterion of local cast and crew representation and reflection of the cultural and artistic expression of one or more marginalized communities; and the feasibility criterion of planning and preparation.
6. Hotel Nights – This document should include the following components: name of hotels, number of hotel nights (# of crew requiring lodging times # of nights) including short term rentals, and rate per night. Panelists will use this to rate the application against the economic

impact criterion of number of hotel nights and the feasibility criterion of planning and preparation.

7. Demonstration of Previous Projects or Experience – This can include samples of work, letters of support, or a resume. Panelists will use this to rate the application against the feasibility criterion of confidence of completion, ability to deliver.

Grant Review Process

Staff will review grant applications for completeness and eligibility. Failure to provide information at any time during the application and screening process will result in rejection of the application for the grant round in which it was originally submitted.

Complete and eligible applications are then reviewed by a panel consisting of industry peers and economic development professionals. Panelists will be asked to declare any conflicts of interest and will recuse themselves from reviewing applications where such conflicts of interest exist.

Panelists will score applications against the evaluation rubric and provide constructive feedback. Panelist scores will be averaged to create an aggregate score. The top scoring applications in each review group (based upon production size) will be awarded support. In the event of a tie, the panel will discuss the applications and will decide based upon majority support.

Review Criteria – total number of points = 100 (see panelist scoring rubric below)

Does this production have a positive economic impact on businesses in the city of Sacramento?

Total points = 20

Measurements of economic impact include:

1. Number of hotel nights
2. Number of local hires
3. Number of support service companies
4. Number of locations

Does this production have a positive community impact? Total points = 40

Measurements of community impact include:

1. Production subject matter reflects the lived experiences of people of color, LGBTQ+, disabled, or other marginalized community
2. Local cast and crew representation
3. Cast and crew reflects the cultural and artistic expression of one or more marginalized communities
4. Offers local internships

What is the project feasibility? Total points = 40

Measurements of project feasibility include:

1. Demonstration of previous projects or experience

2. Planning and preparation
3. Percent of funds committed including in-kind contributions
4. Confidence of completion, ability to deliver

Applicants will be notified as to the status of their grant application after panel review, usually within 2 to 4 weeks of application deadline. It can take up to 6 to 8 weeks to receive reimbursement funds. These dates and timelines are subject to change at the City's sole discretion.

Grant Contracting & Disbursement Process

Monetary Reimbursement awards require grantees to meet City of Sacramento insurance requirements, which include maintenance of commercial general liability insurance of not less than one million dollars and submission of certificates and required endorsements showing evidence of insurance. Other requirements shall include obtaining a Business Operation Tax (BOT), supplier ID, signing a contract, purchase order and check processing that can take several weeks. Grantee's will be expected to sign a grant funding agreement with the City within 30 days after receiving notice of an award of notification. Failure to execute an agreement within time required may result in the grant award being withdrawn by the City.

Grantee Obligations

Invoices shall be submitted within 90 days of incurring eligible Grant expenses. Grantees must provide a detailed post-event report within 60 days of principal production wrap for analysis by the City of Sacramento. Analysis elements include economic and/or social impact on the community, final crew and contact list, final vendor list, final shooting schedule, daily call sheets, final list of locations, ledger highlighting expenditures within the city of Sacramento, review of hotel occupancy, final demographics of crew and cast.

Public Record

Because Sacramento Film + Media is a government agency, applications and application materials are public records. All information received from a grantee, whether received in connection with a grant application or in connection with any grant funded activities performed, will be disclosed upon receipt of a request for disclosure, pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

Sacramento Film + Media reserves the right to use application materials as demonstration examples in future workshops. Submission of an application gives Sacramento Film + Media permission to use it for training purposes except for protected or proprietary information which will be redacted from shared materials and confidential information removed.

Panelist Scoring Rubric

Economic Impact 20%	Low - 1 point	Average - 2-3 points	High - 4-5 points
# of Hotel Nights	Less than 3 nights	3-5 nights	Over 5 nights
# of Local Hires (paid positions)	Less than 10 hires	10-20 hires	Over 20 hires
# of Support Service Companies	Less than 5 companies	5-10 companies	Over 10 companies
# of Locations	Less than 5 locations	5-10 locations	Over 10 locations
Community Impact (40%)	Low - 1 - 3 points	Average - 4-6 points	High - 7-10 points
Production subject matter reflects the lived experiences of people of color, LGBTQ+, disabled, or other marginalized community	No to low representation	Some Representation	High representation
Local Cast/Crew Representation	Less than 25% of cast/crew is local	25-75% cast/crew is local	Over 75% of cast/crew is local
Cast/Crew reflects the cultural and artistic expression of one or more marginalized communities	Less than 25% of cast/crew is from a marginalized community	25-75% of cast/crew is from a marginalized community	Over 75% of cast/crew is from a marginalized community
Offers Local Internships	1 or fewer internships	2-3 internships	More than 3 internships
Project Feasibility (40%)	Low – 1 - 3 points	Average – 4-6 points	High – 7-10 points
Demonstration of previous projects or experience	Little to no experience	Some experience	Experienced
Planning and preparation	Little to no planning/prep	Some planning/prep	Planned and Prepared
% of funds committed including in-kind contributions	Less than 25% funded	25-50% funded	Over 50% funded
Confidence of completion, ability to deliver	Little to no confidence	Some confidence	Confident

Definition of Terms

1. Hotel Nights-the number of crew who require a hotel *times* the number of nights staying
2. Local Hires-the number of hires residing in the Sacramento region
3. Support Service Companies-the number of companies paid in the Sacramento region including but not limited to City services, hotels, rental cars, rental equipment, rental facilities, location fees, catering
4. Locations-the number of location fees paid in the Sacramento region
5. Local Cast/Crew Representation-the percentage of cast/crew members that reside in the Sacramento region
6. Marginalized Communities-people of color, LGBTQ+, Disabled or other similarly marginalized community
7. Internships-the number of interns, paid or unpaid, on set throughout the production