

# GUIDELINES

## Diversity Development Grant



South Australian **Film Corporation**

### What is the Program?

The Diversity Development Grant supports the development of world class screen projects led by South Australian Key Creatives, made in South Australia (SA) to connect with audiences here and globally.

### What is on offer?

Development funding for screen projects intending to be produced and/ or post-produced in South Australia (SA) and for commercial release via theatrical, broadcast, or major digital content platform.

Projects funded under this program must have clear development goals and a demonstrated pathway to audience. Development is open to projects at all stages of development after the first draft is completed. Projects must be able to demonstrate a strong likelihood of being financed and produced within 24 months of the application.

Applicants can apply for up to \$20,000 depending on the type of project, the development activities proposed, the scope of the final project and the level of market interest.

### Who is eligible?

The applicant must:

- have read, and be compliant with, the SAFC's [Terms of Trade](#),
- be a South Australian Resident (as defined in the Terms of Trade),
- be a Credited producer,
- be able to prove that they own or control, or have an option to acquire, the necessary rights to own or control the project,
- have secured the attachment of a South Australian writer and/or director from a group underrepresented in the South Australian screen industry\*. Priority will be given to applications with a South Australian writer and/or director who identifies as D/deaf and/or disabled,
- not be in breach of any contractual obligations to the SAFC.

\* The SAFC is committed to supporting increased participation of people from groups under-represented in the SA screen industry which include:

- First Nations practitioners,
- Female identifying writers and directors,
- LGBTQIA+ practitioners,
- Practitioners residing in regional or remote areas of South Australia,
- Practitioners from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background,
- D/deaf and/or disabled practitioners.

Applications may be considered, subject to available funds, from non-South Australian producers where:

- the producer has a strong and recent track record of converting projects from development into production and causing these projects to be released commercially,
- all of the other eligibility requirements are met, and

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- project is intended to be filmed, produced and post produced in SA.

### What projects are eligible?

Narrative-driven stand-alone and series are eligible for funding under this program, for example:

- Live action,
- Animation,
- Documentary,
- Drama,
- Children's,
- Factual,
- Comedy,
- Immersive and Interactive.

### What projects are ineligible?

- Short films,
- Digital games (see separate funding programs),
- Formats ineligible under SAFC's Terms of Trade,
- Projects without a first draft at application,
- Projects that have been previously declined for funding from this program.

### Evaluation Criteria

SAFC and industry panelists will take the following into account when considering an application for the Diversity Development Grant:

- the likelihood of production and post-production in South Australia.
- originality and creative ambition of the project,
- the likelihood of the project being financed and produced within 24 months.
- marketability and potential audience for the film including the likelihood of A-list festival selection,
- potential of the film to launch the professional careers of SA Resident Key Creatives,
- authenticity of the storytelling,
- potential for the project to be realised within the proposed budget and timeline,
- career pathway opportunities for South Australian Residents.

In evaluating the project, the SAFC will consider any information and weight the above criteria as it judges appropriate to best serve the SAFC's [Strategic Objectives](#) and SAFC's [Diversity & Inclusion Strategy](#).

Specific assessment will be required for applications that include First Nations's content. For more information, please refer to SAFC's Terms of Trade (Working with First Nations Content and Communities), [Screen Australia's Pathways & Protocols: a filmmaker's guide to working with Indigenous people, culture and concepts](#), and SAFC's [First Nations Cultural Protocols Guide](#).

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### What can funds be used for?

Development Funding is considered a partial contribution to the next stage of development.

Funds may be used towards development activities including (but not limited to):

- writer's room costs,
- series bibles,
- episode outlines,
- draft scripts,
- detailed research,
- script editing,
- budgeting,
- scheduling,
- casting,
- location scouting,
- legal fees\*,
- creation of a teaser,
- proof of concepts,
- prototyping for VR,
- producer fees and overheads\*\*,
- writer fees,
- SA Resident director fees,
- location manager fees,
- line producer fees,
- script editors,
- script consultants.

\*Funding allocation for legal fees needs to be matched by the third-party contributor.

\*\* Producer fees and overheads are capped at 20% of development costs.

### What can't the fund be used for?

- The costs of options in the work, copyright, life rights,
- The purchase of assets, equipment, hardware or software,
- Retrospective development expenses or international travel,
- Non-South Australian producer fees or overheads,
- In-kind or deferred fees,
- Non-arm's length market contributions must be net of related party fees and overheads.

### How do I apply?

Applications for the Diversity Development Grant are open once a year and must be made via the SAFC's online grants platform [safilm.smartygrants.com.au](https://safilm.smartygrants.com.au). Applications will be processed in two stages:

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**Stage One** is assessment of eligibility by the SAFC. The application will be assessed for eligibility based on the materials submitted in the application platform. The onus is on the applicant to ensure that all required materials have been supplied to determine eligibility. Additional materials will not be accepted without the prior written agreement of the SAFC.

After Stage One acceptance, eligible applicants will be invited to proceed to Stage Two.

**Stage Two** is full assessment and consideration of an offer of funding.

## Decisions and Notifications

### Stage One

Applicants will be notified of a Stage One acceptance or decline within ten business days from receipt of a complete Stage One application.

### Stage Two

Applicants will be notified of a Stage Two Offer or decline within five business days from the Panel Decision (see Important Dates below).

Applications will be assessed at Stage Two by a panel comprising SAFC staff and industry experts. SAFC staff will ensure the evaluation criteria have been followed and will not be involved in the creative assessment.

## Application Materials

### Stage One (Eligibility Assessment)

- Warranties confirming the project meets SAFC rights holding eligibility requirements,
- Warranties confirming the project meets SAFC Residency status of applicant and/ or Key Creatives eligibility requirements, as applicable,
- Evidence of all market attachments that specify the commercial terms and level of commitment (dated no earlier than three months from application), if applicable,
- Short form creative materials – logline and synopsis,
- Demographic information of the applicant and Key Creatives,
- Filmography of the applicant,
- Evidence of the project meeting SAFC's eligible format requirements, if applicable,
- Development budget total,
- Level of SAFC funding requested,
- Warranties that SAFC Terms of Trade conditions and contractual obligations to SAFC are met.

### Stage Two (if invited to apply)

- ASIC Current Company Extract for the Production Company applying,
- ASIC Current Company Extract for the Production entity Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) if formed,



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- Documents evidencing Chain of Title,
- Documents evidencing South Australian Residency,
- Detailed development Budget (Including SA Expenditure),
- Development Schedule,
- Creative materials\*,
- Relevant supporting materials to evidence opportunities to advance progress towards SAFC's 2032 Diversity and Inclusion Strategy targets,
- Evidence of consultation relevant to the content and participants, if applicable, for example in the case of First Nations or D/deaf and/or disabled content in the application.

\*Creative materials dependent on the project type:

<b>Scripted Feature</b>	Draft script
<b>Scripted Series</b>	Series bible (including series arc)
<b>Documentary Feature</b>	Pitch deck or Treatment
<b>Documentary Series</b>	Series bible (including series arc)
<b>VR work</b>	Project bible or treatment

## Important Dates

Stage One Application Round Open	5 January 2026
Deadline to apply for Stage One	26 January 2026
Deadline to apply for Stage Two	16 February 2026
Panel Decision	9 March 2026

## Funding Conditions

The SAFC will provide the development funding as a grant.

- If a project proceeds to production with SAFC finance, all previously awarded development funding must be recognised in the production budget (as an above-the-line cost) and will form part of SAFC funding represented in the finance plan.
- If the project goes into production without SAFC funding, SAFC will require the producer to repay the development funding provided by SAFC.

The SAFC shall receive a development credit on the draft script cover page, pitch materials or teaser.

Further terms will be set out in the relevant contract issued by SAFC.

## Next Steps?

Before applying, all applicants must read SAFC's Terms of Trade and speak to the [SAFC Talent Development Manager](#) regarding your intended SAFC grant request and the estimated SA spend on your project.

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For initial enquiries, please contact the SAFC Production team

Phone: 08 8394 2029

Email: [programs@safilm.com.au](mailto:programs@safilm.com.au)

*(Note: All amounts in this guideline are quoted exclusive of GST, unless otherwise stated)*