



GUIDELINES FOR AN 'EPIC-IN-MAKING' FILM FUND 2019/20

BACKGROUND

The Eastern Cape Arts and Culture Council (ECPACC) is a public entity of the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, with a vision to create an enabling environment for the development of arts and culture in the province and enable artists to realise their potential. As part of its mandate, ECPACC was charged with the responsibility to establish a Film Office under its auspices, to kick start the implementation of film development programmes, that will build a momentum towards the establishment of a film commission and ultimately the rise of a thriving film industry. Many film developmental activities were done to date, with minimal impact due to financial constraints. It was only in 2018, that ECPACC embarked on a vigorous fundraising drive, which led to a breakthrough in 2019, that has seen ECPACC receiving funding from the Provincial Economic Stimulus Fund. The overall objective of the Stimulus Fund is to support sectors and projects that demonstrate a potential to create jobs in the province.

Programme Overview- What funding do we provide?

ECPACC notes that in order to stimulate the development of a film industry in the Eastern Cape, development has to start from 'inside out', prioritising people who are keen to commit their time and resources locally. Currently, high commercial value filming that takes place in the Eastern Cape is primarily done by production companies that come from outside the province, mainly from Johannesburg and Cape Town. While this adds commercial value to the film profile of the Eastern Cape, it is equally important to invest in local productions in order to bridge the gap that currently exist between the external and local companies.

Through this Fund, ECPACC aims to support **experienced film producers** from the Eastern Cape, (preference given to those currently residing in the EC) who need to develop commercial feature length fiction or documentary projects for the local and / or international market. The fund is divided into two categories, namely:

1. DEVELOPMENT FUND

The programme will provide grant funding for film development projects to a maximum of **R400 000. 00** per project towards the development and packaging of the project. This will provide funds that are needed to invest in the development of a project to suitably package it for presenting to investors and ensure the project is capable of attracting production financing.

1.1 Eligible Costs – What do we fund?

Development funding may be required to cover costs associated with various preparatory activities, which include the following:

- Research fees.
- Writer's fees.
- Script editors.
- Payments to acquire and option rights to adapt works for the screen.
- Producer's fees and reasonable overhead costs of the producer.
- Reasonable legal costs.
- Script readings with cast.
- Developing a presentation package for potential partners.
- Developing budgets and / or schedules.
- Training courses related to project development.
- Developing a Trailer.

2. PRODUCTION FUNDING

Through this fund, ECPACC is committed to ensuring that at least three experienced Eastern Cape previously disadvantaged film makers are supported to produce readily packaged projects into potential blockbuster films (feature films, short films, and documentaries) of exceptional quality and commercial value.

Grant Size: The fund offers a maximum of **R 1 000 000** to a total of three successful applicants, each.

This fund can be used as a '*seed capital*' to leverage additional investment/ funding to produce the film, in which case verifiable evidence of commitments already secured must be provided. The fund can also be used to '*co-finance*' or '*top -up*' the budget already approved by / received from other funders, provided that there is justifiable need for additional funding. Therefore, applicants must note that as this is a competitive fund, their budget breakdown will be closely scrutinized to assess if the proposed budget meets the proposed activities and methodology and whether it displays cost-effectiveness.

In the case of projects with multiple financiers, the production funds will not be released until all funds for the project have been raised and proof provided to ECPACC in the form of a letter from the financier.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERION - Who should apply?

In order for a filmmaker to be considered for this opportunity, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be an Eastern Cape based production company with relevant experience and a credible track record in producing content of broadcast quality.
- For this fund category, collaborations are welcome, but the lead applicant must be an Eastern Cape based company/ individual.
- For co-production, compliance to treaty requirements is compulsory.
- The project must be capable of being developed as a non-fiction feature film (minimum 90 minutes) or feature length documentary film (minimum 60 minutes).
- At least 50% of the team falls within the definition of being historically disadvantaged individuals as defined in the constitution of South Africa.
- Company profile which demonstrates proven industry experience and CVs of a writer, director or producer.
- A producer with at least two to three completed comparative projects.
- Applicants may submit only one project per funding category.

4. Submission Criteria – What must I submit with my application?

- Completed application form.
- A motivation letter (maximum 2 pages), expressing why the project should be supported.
- A Production budget and schedule.
- A project plan detailing how the funds will be used over the next 12 months with clear objectives and deliverables.
- A Job Creation Plan detailing how the project will create jobs and the number of anticipated temporary and potentially long-term jobs. This should include any economic spin-offs anticipated.
- Company profile and profiles of key creative team (writer, producer, director).
- Examples and/ or showreels of previous works if available.
- Company Registration documents
- Valid SARS tax clearance certificate.
- Certified copy of South African identity document.
- BEE Certificate.

Production applicants also require:

- A completed script that is ready to go into production, in line with the identified theme, strong relevance to a South African audience and an appeal to international markets.
- 1-page synopsis, Treatment or project outline; (Fiction projects submit a narrative treatment and Documentaries submit a detailed outline).

- In the case of Documentary applications, a Research Report, an Outline and a documentary script must be submitted.
- In the case of co-productions, compliance with treaty requirements.

5. THE THEME

In our quest to contribute to the rich body of knowledge and promote the understanding of the heritage of the Eastern Cape Province, this fund is centred around the theme of **“The Legend”**. Indeed, the Eastern Cape has given birth to a quantum of legends, who form the core of the rich history and heritage of the province. We are looking for creative concepts that explore the embodiment of “the legend” in different forms, from outstanding heroes and heroines, champions in different facets of life, legendary stories, places, and even objects of significance. All these should reflect the rich tangible and intangible heritage of the EC province and bring life to the provincial brand of the Home of the Legends.

Thus, thus looking for creatives who can interpret the theme of THE LEGEND and what it means to them from a fresh angle in a non-fiction feature film format. The concepts need to be unique and speak to the identified target audience.

6. FUNDING EXCLUSIONS

ECPACC does not fund the following:

- Activities whose outcomes are solely directed towards the interests of a single employer supported by the Skills Development levy;
- Capital expenditure including equipment;
- Music and corporate videos;
- Non-governmental organisations and other institutions or companies not primarily involved in the film and television industry;
- Development and production of a television series;
- Individuals or companies who are not South African citizens; (This year’s fund will also exclude applicants from other provinces).
- Persons or companies who have not satisfactorily discharged of the contractual obligations on ECPACC’s previously funded or collaboration project/s, including those funded by our partners, ECDC, NFVF and DTI.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- ECPACC reserves the right to alter program guidelines with general public notice to all potential applicants.
- The number of awards and amounts is dependent on the confirmation and availability of the Stimulus Funds as approved for ECPACC.

Please take note of the following disclaimers:

1. Categorise yourself accordingly.
2. Carefully read the definitions of the sub categories before selecting
3. It is advisable that the main applicant applies instead of using a 3rd party to apply on their behalf
4. Only valid and recently certified documents will be accepted. (NOT OLDER THAN 3 MONTHS, WITH A DATED STAMP)
5. Applications which do not submit the above-listed mandatory documents will be automatically disqualified

Please note that no late applications will be accepted.

For any queries regarding applications please contact:

Kumaro Runeyi - Email: kruneyi@ecpacc.co.za - Telephone: 043- 743 5244

*NB: All submission to be hand-delivered to ECPACC, 16 COMMISSIONER STREET, 2ND FLOOR DSRAC (OLD ELCO) BUILDING, EAST LONDON.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday; 29 November 2019.