



GUIDELINES FOR MICRO -BUDGET 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.

To ensure credibility of the entire funding process, and that it meets requisite standards, ECPACC has collaborated with the National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF) to ensure due diligence during the application and the adjudication of applications.

1. MICRO-BUDGET FILM FUND:

This Fund seeks to develop a profile of low budget film-making that is cost-effective, practical and commercially viable. This fund will support intermediate film makers, who have acquired some minimal experience of producing 1-2 works films and are aspiring to venture into theatrical feature film development and production. The Micro-budget Film Programme offers funding for production of a fiction feature film or documentary.

To ECPACC micro-budget filming is not so much about the size of the budget but about encouraging cost-effective professional filmmaking that exploits constraints creatively, utilizing fewer locations and smaller cast and crew size.

Grant Size: The fund offers a maximum of **R 250 000** to successful applicants, of which R50 000 will be set aside to cover costs for development of a project to suitably package it to be ready for production (e.g. research fees, writer's fees, script editors etc.)

The fund is further aimed to build a culture of responsible budgeting and disciplined financial management. 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. Therefore, it is advisable not to apply for a maximum budget for the sake of it.

2. 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 combined would reflect the rich tangible and intangible heritage of the EC province and would bring life to the provincial brand of the Home of the Legends.

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

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERION

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.
- The project must be capable of being developed as a feature-length fictional (minimum 90 minutes) or documentary film (minimum 40 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 one to two completed comparative project.
- Applicants may apply for funding under one 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 one-page synopsis of the proposed feature or documentary film.
- Narrative treatment of the script (if available).
- Showreel/work portfolio (if available)
- A Production budget and schedule.
- A project plan detailing how the funds will be used over the next three 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.

5. 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

- Categorise yourself accordingly.
- Carefully read the definitions of the sub categories before selecting
- It is advisable that the main applicant applies instead of using a 3rd party to apply on their behalf
- Only recently certified documents will be accepted. (NOT OLDER THAN 3 MONTHS, WITH A DATED STAMP)
- Only valid documents will be allowed (NOT EXPIRED)
- Applications which do not meet compliance 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.