



The Chicago Digital Media Production Fund Guidelines 2012

A Project of the Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation
Administered by Chicago Filmmakers

Independent film and video makers based in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs are invited to apply for the Chicago Digital Media Production Fund. Innovative video projects intended for online distribution by established, emerging and young artists could qualify for cash grants of up to \$10,000 toward the project's production and completion. All genres will be accepted, but content should be aimed at advancing progressive social change and be appropriate for youth (though not necessarily intended exclusively for youth). Distribution plans must include free availability on the web by May 15, 2013 in order to reach the widest possible audience.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants can be individuals or non-profit organizations.
2. Individual applicants must reside in Cook County.
3. Organizational applicants must be located in Cook County.
4. Applicant must be either the project director or producer with creative control.
5. Project must be shot and/or edited in Cook County.
6. Project must be independent of purely commercial objectives (no advertising, promotional, industrial, or work-for-hire).
7. Proposed projects may be funded in the production and/or post-production phase.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria:

1. Short video/film productions are preferred; however feature length works will also be considered.
2. All genres are eligible (narrative, documentary, animation, experimental), but content should address progressive social change in some fashion.
3. Proposed projects will be evaluated on creativity, artistry and innovation in addition to content.
4. Content should be appropriate for a youth audience (18 years and under) although not necessarily intended exclusively for youth.
5. Evidence of other support must be provided, either cash or in-kind.
6. Previous work must demonstrate high technical and artistic ability. Allowances will be made for youth in order to support strong projects by young artists.
7. The completed proposal should demonstrate a cost effective budget and a clear production plan.

8. Applications from organizations will be evaluated based on the merits of the proposed artist and project, though the organization's history and accomplishments will be taken into consideration.

Application Process:

1. Applicants must submit a project proposal for review by 11:59 PM on March 19, 2012.
2. Proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of media professionals. Chicago Filmmakers staff and board will not be part of the decision-making process. Panel award recommendations require final approval from the Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation.
3. Winning applicants will be notified in mid April 2012.

Award Requirements:

1. Projects will be awarded between \$500 - \$10,000 based on the amount requested, project budget, scope of the project, and merits of the proposed project.
2. Winning projects would need to be completed by April 15, 2013.
3. Grant will be paid out in 33% increments based on met project objectives and expense reporting.
4. All rights to the project will belong to the applicant.
5. Recognition of CITF in the project credits must be acknowledged (ie. "This film was produced with funding from the Chicago Instructional Technology Foundation.").
6. Completed project must be available to view for free on the web as of May 15, 2013.

Project Proposal:

1. Submit a complete application in the form provided.
2. Submit required attachments including budget, screenplay or treatment, and any other relevant information.
3. Submit a sample of your previous work, preferably a minimum of 5 minutes in length, or a sample of the work in progress for which you are applying. Please include a statement about your (or a key crew member's) specific involvement with the sample.

Send proposal by March 19, 2012 as pdf document to productionfund@chicagofilmmakers.org, or mail to:

Chicago Digital Media Production Fund
Chicago Filmmakers
5243 N. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640