



Pathways Development Program

Program Guidelines

About the program

The Screen NSW Pathways Development Program supports the continuation of a career in screen for creatives with disability. This initiative is open to emerging creatives with disability who may not meet the guidelines for the [Screen NSW Development program](#). Screen NSW strongly encourages past recipients of the Screenability Film Fund to apply.

The opportunity is to support three projects conceived by creatives with disability to develop a long form project. This could be an adaptation of their Screenability short film into a feature or series or the development of an entirely new series or feature film of fiction or non-fiction. The format can include live action and animation and there is no restriction on subject matter or style, but Screen NSW is looking for a one-page synopsis that is compelling, distinctive and has a strong sense of their audience.

In addition to people with disability, Screen NSW is committed to supporting increased participation in the industry of people from other underrepresented groups including:

- Regional NSW
- Western Sydney
- First Nations people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- LGBTQIA+ people.

The initiative will identify and track NSW screen talent and invest in developing and establishing their strong and distinctive creative voices by enabling them to develop an idea from a one-page synopsis to a series bible for a series, a comprehensive pitch deck and treatment for a factual project or a treatment for a feature film. The aim is to support a team to develop material that is ready to pitch and to leverage further development support or secure marketplace finance.

The initiative encourages creatives to build networks and relationships with experienced practitioners, as well as with experienced industry professionals through the development of the project

- Funding amount: \$30,000
- Applications open: Tuesday 23 April 2024
- Applications close: Monday 3 June 2024, 5pm (AEST)
- [Program page](#)
- [Apply here](#)

Program objectives

The objectives of the program are to:

- Increase participation from screen practitioners with a disability
- Support opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups in the NSW screen industry
- Ensure past Screenability Film Fund recipients have opportunities to continue a career in the screen industry
- Encourage authentic storytelling through screen.

This grant is funded and administered by Screen NSW.

Eligibility

Who can apply

Writer applicants must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be a NSW resident
- Be a writer with disability. Screen NSW classifies disability as per the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (see definition below)
- For feature films you must have a confirmed experienced script editor attached, for drama series you must have a confirmed experienced tv writer on your team, for factual projects you must have a confirmed experienced researcher on your team.

Producer applicants must fulfil the following criteria:

- Be a producer who will undertake responsibility for producing the project
- Hold all necessary rights to make the project

- Ensure the project is written by a writer who meets “Writer Applicant” eligibility guidelines above.

The [NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 \(DIA\)](#) defines disability as: “The long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”. The term ‘disability’ can also include d/Deaf or hard of hearing people and people with mental health conditions.

Eligible projects

Eligible projects are:

- Narrative fiction or documentary projects (as defined by ACMA) for any release platform including cinema, television and online.

Non-eligible projects are:

- Short films under 60 minutes
- Lifestyle, Infotainment, Magazine, Sports, Game Shows and Current Affairs concepts.
- Community television
- Reality television series
- Projects being developed as part of a course of study.

Screen NSW encourages applicants or third parties to co-contribute funds to the development budget of the project, however this is not an eligibility requirement and shall not affect the assessment of the project.

What you can apply for

Funding requests could include:

Series (Fiction)

- Writers room costs (Writers’ fees and notetaker)
- Writers’ fee for series bibles
- Producer fee

Feature (Fiction)

- Writer’s fee for treatment
- Producer fee
- Script editor fee.

Feature & Series (Factual)

- Researcher Fees

- Writer's fee for pitch deck and treatment
- Producer Fee.

What you can't apply for

We do not provide funding for office overheads, option fees, teasers, or trailers in Fiction Development.

Development budgets cannot include funding for:

- Office overheads
- Legal fees
- Option fees
- Items already expended prior to applying for development funds
- Graphic design or printing costs associated with a pitch deck
- Catering costs for writers' rooms over \$200 per day.

Assessment criteria

Applications will be competitively assessed against the following weighted criteria.

Story (30%)

- The underlying idea's strength, distinctiveness, originality and dramatic potential
- Does the story feel timely or particularly resonant?
- The quality of the submitted materials: what work needs to be done on story, structure, character, tone, etc.
- Is there clarity about genre and does the one-page synopsis deliver on it?

Audience (20%)

- Potential of the project to reach and resonate with its target audience.

Creative Team & Development Plan (20%)

- Does the team show potential to advance the project towards production and deliver on its creative vision?
- The appropriateness of the development plan for this stage of funding.
- Does the development plan provide the opportunity for the creator to learn development skills?

Participation & Diversity (15%)

- How robustly does the project advance diversity across one or more of the following:
- On-screen representation of diversity in protagonist/s, themes, narrative

- Key Creatives and project leadership
- Industry access and opportunities for training/career progression/mentoring
- First Nation's content and/or participation.
Note: Screen NSW does not currently support projects with significant First Nations' content without a member of the key creative team coming from an appropriate background. With co-writing teams of Indigenous and non-Indigenous writers, the original concept must come from the First Nations writer. This must be demonstrated in the application.

NSW Cultural & Economic Benefit (15%)

- How the project generates cultural value in terms of local storytelling i.e., content and/or authorship
- How the project generates NSW economic value in terms of local storytelling i.e., content and/or authorship.

Application process

To apply for funding, you will need to complete and submit an application form through our secure online grants system SmartyGrants. It is a one stage application process.

Your application needs to include:

- A one-page synopsis of your project. This should clearly articulate structure, tone, character arc and plot.
- A two paragraph (max) biography for each team member
- A one-page development plan
- A one-page audience and marketplace statement. This should include your target audience and how you plan to reach that audience.
- A development budget.

[Apply now.](#)

Applicants will receive an email confirmation of application submission from Screen NSW's secure online grants system, SmartyGrants.

Assessment process

At least two members of the Screen Investment Team and an external industry professional with a lived disability will assess projects against the above assessment criteria. A decision meeting will be held with the assessors and the Head of Screen NSW to discuss and approve the [3] successful projects.

Final recommendations and approvals will be made in writing to the Head of Screen NSW, who is the final decision maker.

Please ensure your application addresses all the assessment criteria.

Applicants will be notified on the outcome of their application with 6 weeks of the application closing date.

Award process

Successful funding recipients will enter into a standard non-negotiable agreement with Screen NSW, setting out the terms and conditions of the funding. This will include undertaking Accessibility Training before undertaking any development activity for the project.

An experienced Executive Producer will be assigned to oversee the development you have proposed for this stage of development. They will also work with you to:

- Connect you with relevant industry professionals in order to advance your project
- Work with you to secure a producer if you haven't already secured one
- Assist you in achieving your goals for this phase of development
- Ensure you meet the terms and conditions set out in your Development Agreement
- General development mentorship.

Recipients will be required to submit an acquittal form, which will include confirmation of their use of funds and evidence completion of delivery items as per the funding agreement.

Support and contact

Screen Investment team

screeninvestment@create.nsw.gov.au

Ph: +61 2 9228 4451

Please contact us with any questions, or to make accessibility arrangements which best support your individual needs.