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བོད་གྲྭ་ཚོང་ལས་དང་ལྷ་གཡོག་ལྷན་ཁག།

BHUTAN INFORMATION COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT



Terms of Reference for Film Production Grant

The Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) hereby announces the availability of film production grants and shall only be applicable for art films. A total of six best film proposals shall be supported through the grant with a funding support of Nu. 1 million per project.

The Film Production Grant is being made available to financially support filmmakers, helping them cover the cost of film production with the goal of promoting creative projects and fostering the film industry. The fund is intended to support artistic or experimental intentions, prioritizing aesthetic expression and thought-provoking content over mainstream commercial appeal so that complex themes and unconventional narratives may be explored with a focus on character development, atmosphere, and mood rather than action or plot-driven stories. Through the grant, filmmakers can focus on creativity rather than commercial pressures, allowing for more experimental or niche projects, thus enhancing their knowledge/skills towards pursuing such

The grant is also intended to fund films that tell culturally significant stories, promote diversity, and preserve local heritage with a prospect to reach global audiences, showcasing the talent and culture of Bhutan.

Eligibility

1. Applicant(s) must be a Bhutanese citizen
2. Applicant(s) must hold a valid audio-visual production license
3. Applicant(s) with experience in film production (short/documentary/feature) shall be given preference

Application Period

September 19 - October 18, 2024

Selection Criteria

The following criteria shall be used for the purpose of awarding the grant:



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Sl. No.	Criteria	Total Points	Points Awarded
1	<p>Artful, compelling and authentic storytelling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique and compelling story with fresh perspective or an innovative approach to filmmaking (5) • Relevant, timely, or thought-provoking theme (5) • Well-developed and engaging characters who drive the narrative effectively (5) • Visual style and tone of the film (5) 	20	
2	<p>Potential to resonate with both local and international audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential of the film to succeed in local or international markets? (10) • Strategies for the film to reach its audience including festivals, streaming platforms, or other forms of distribution (5) 	15	
3	<p>Relevance to Bhutan with a unique perspective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films that promote national folklore, heritage, music, dance, and artistic expressions are often seen as relevant (4) • The film may need to feature stories that are rooted in the country's societal fabric, exploring local characters, issues, or events relevant to the nation's population (4) • Film relevant to contemporary social, political, or economic issues facing the country. For example, films that address topics like inequality, immigration, environmental challenges, or health crises may be prioritized (4) • Films that reinforce national pride, unity, and identity, or explore what it means to belong to the country, may be deemed highly relevant (4) • Potential of the film to promote positive social change or contribute to important conversations within the country, such as human rights, gender equality, or community development (4) 	20	
4	<p>Cultural and social Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the film address social, cultural, or political issues in a meaningful way? Does it have the potential to 	20	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contribute to important conversations? (7) Does the film showcase diverse voices or stories from underrepresented communities? (7) Is there a clear purpose or message behind the film? (6) 		
5	<p>Past experiences and recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a history of completed films, especially those that are relevant in scale and scope to the proposed project (e.g., short films, feature films, documentaries) (3) Success of the previous projects (awards, festival selections, box office performance, or online views) (3) Experience in the same genre as the proposed project (3) Previous work should showcase strong storytelling skills that align with the goals of the new project, such as compelling narrative structures, character development, or emotional depth (3) Evidence of films that have been selected or screened at recognized film festivals provide evidence (3) 	15	
6	<p>Pitch/project readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project ready for production, with all the elements properly visualized/researched/prepared? (10) 	10	
	Total	100	

Guidelines:

- One applicant cannot submit more than one proposal.
- All submitted materials must be original and the applicant(s) must wholly own all rights.
- The grant cannot be diverted to another project.
- Dzongkha should be the main language of the film while local dialects and English could be used in parts only.
- The creative aspects of the film (Direction and Story) must be in control of the locals.
- Selected applicants will be made to make a presentation on the proposal (pitch deck).
- All principal photography of the film should take place in Bhutan, while the post-production can be pursued elsewhere.



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- Upon completion of the production, a copy of the film will be submitted to BICMA for record.
- All due processes shall be followed for further screening and distribution of films both within and outside.
- The film should run for a minimum of 60 minutes.
- Applicant(s) should submit the proposal along with the following required documents:
 1. *Copy of valid business license*
 2. *Synopsis, logline and director's note*
 3. *Production schedule along with details of cast and crew*
 4. *The cost breakdown of the total budget for the production*
 5. *Relevant CVs and details of the past projects*
- The grant shall be disbursed in three installments as follows:

Sl. No.	Installment	Amount	Remarks
1	1st Installment	Nu. 0.6 Million (60%)	To be released after award and signing of contract agreement
2	2nd Installment	Nu. 0.3 Million (30%)	To be released after a rough cut of the film, with sound is submitted
3	3rd Installment	Nu. 0.1 Million (10%)	To be released after submission of final accepted copy to BICMA

- All projects must be completed by April 30, 2025.