



## **2023 General Grant Guidelines**

The Berkeley FILM Foundation (BFF) is pleased to open applications for our 2023 grant program. Once you have read through the grant guidelines and find you are a qualified candidate, we invite you to submit an application using our Submittable link available on our website starting Monday April 10 at 8am. The deadline for General Grants is May 15 at 5pm PST and - we are making one change to our schedule to accommodate university final exams - will allow students to submit their applications until May 30 at 5pm PST.

If you are unable to submit a written application, please contact Isabella Miller at [isabella@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org](mailto:isabella@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org) or at 510-705-1481 to discuss accommodations and alternate methods to apply.

**\*\*\*New This Year! We are introducing a separate application for Narrative Short film projects. If you are planning to submit a fiction project for review, please refer to the Narrative Short Guidelines document.**

### **Description**

The Berkeley FILM Foundation supports East-Bay based emerging and established independent filmmakers whose work combines intellectual clarity with creative use of the medium. We support both narrative and documentary works that have a social consciousness and addresses complex issues of our time. **BFF follows many aspects of IDA's Core Application.** A new version was released in the fall of 2022 and is incorporated into BFF's 2023 application. However, it is not identical to the Core, so please be sure to read the questions carefully and complete the answers to the best of your ability.

### **Guidelines**

Berkeley FILM Foundation provides grants in the production, post-production and distribution stages. We do not fund pre-production film projects. Maximum grant request is \$12,000. Applicants may submit one project for consideration per funding cycle.

If you are a previous grant award winner, you may not reapply in consecutive years. In a non-consecutive year, if you are reapplying for the same project, it should be for funding in another category (i.e. if you received production or post production funding, you may reapply for outreach and community engagement funding. For ITVS funded films, we can only accept

applications for distribution. However, BFF will consider projects that have received an ITVS Diversity Development Grant.)

Only the official online application will be accepted. Applications are due on or before 5pm, Monday May 15, 2023.

**Grant Awards:**

Up to \$12,000 for general awards.

Up to \$5,000 for student awards.

The Saul Zaentz award is \$25,000\* and The Al Bendich award is \$20,000\*.

*\* Recipients of these awards will be determined by the Grants Review Panel. You may not apply for them separately.*

**Eligibility**

- Filmmaker must work or live in Berkeley, Emeryville, Albany, El Cerrito, Richmond or Oakland.
- Must use a valid street address for application, no P.O. Boxes accepted.
- BFF will not consider a new film proposal from a former grant recipient until the prior funded film is completed.
- Applicant must be:
  - The Director or Producer of the film. Organizations may not apply.
  - Be at least 18 years of age.
  - Be residing or working in a qualified city for at least one year prior to the application deadline.
  - Be the primary creator of work submitted.

**Eligible Genre:**

- Short Form Animation (30 minutes or less)
- Short Form Narratives (30 minutes or less)
- Short Documentary (40 minutes or less)
- Long Documentary (over 40 minutes)

**Not Eligible:**

- Broadcast news journalism
- Broadcast reality entertainment
- Advertising Commercials
- Industrial or Corporate Media
- Animation over 30 minutes
- Narratives over 30 minutes
- Music Videos

**We Do Not Fund:**

- Retroactive costs
- Media projects other than film or video.

- Organizational projects for internal or promotional use.
- General operating expenses of companies or organizations.

### The Application

The application must be submitted via Submittable using the link on the ‘Apply’ page on our website, [www.berkeleyfilmfoundation.org](http://www.berkeleyfilmfoundation.org) that will be live on Monday April 10, 2023.

In addition to the various questions asked on the form, applicants will be required to include the following materials:

1. **Current resume:** Please include a current resume for the director and producer of professional activities and achievements within the application. Other key personnel on the project may be listed on the resume as well.
2. **Project Budget:** You must provide your full project budget for consideration as part of the application as an excel document. Please ensure this document is concise and easy to read. If applying for a distribution grant, please provide a detailed distribution budget and the total production cost. **Please make sure the document is formatted correctly and blank cells do not bleed onto additional pages.**
3. **Footage:** For Short & Long Form Documentaries, Animation and Narratives: You must provide a maximum 10-minute clip as a Vimeo link to your project. If a password is needed, please use: **BFF** (all caps).
  1. When describing your film sample, tell us how it is representative of the intended story, style, subject, or other aspect of the project. If your current sample is outside of the suggested length requirements, please provide reviewers with the time codes of the portion of the sample that best reflects your intended style and approach (e.g., 3:15-12:15). Reviewers will not watch outside of these parameters.
  2. The sample should demonstrate your access to characters, visual treatment, and the developing tone and style. We encourage applicants to submit a complete scene that provides the viewer insight into the team’s ability to communicate their intention.
  3. As part of your application, you may now provide links to previous work samples to better understand your creative style and scope of your work. It is not required.

### Application Review

Grants and awardees are approved by the Berkeley FILM Foundation Board of Directors acting upon the recommendations of the Grant Review Panel. The Grant Review Panel is comprised of six to eight industry professionals distinguished in their respective artistic fields.

- Official applications and support documents must be received by Monday May 15, 2023.
- The review process is six to seven weeks in length.

- Applicants notified of award decisions no later than end of July.
- Grants are awarded on a competitive basis.

*Please Note:*

The Berkeley FILM Foundation can only fund a small percentage of the applicants we receive. A rejection does not preclude future applications. If you are awarded a grant, the film must conduct one community screening in partnership with BFF following completion, taking into consideration signed distribution contracts.

For technical assistance, including troubles accessing your account or uploading files, please contact Submittable Support at [support@submittable.com](mailto:support@submittable.com)

For content assistance please contact the Berkeley Film Foundation at [info@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org](mailto:info@berkeleyfilmfoundation.org)