

Cultural Fund Guidelines

OBJECTIVES

The Screenrights Cultural Fund supports Australian and New Zealand projects and initiatives that make a broad positive contribution to industry development. The **focus** of the Fund will change periodically to reflect trends and issues in screen content creation.

The Fund is underpinned by the following **qualities**:

- diversity
- innovation
- inspiration
- collaboration
- transparency

These qualities should be reflected in the projects proposed for funding, as well as in the applicants' own creative practice.

SCOPE

Cultural Fund initiatives will demonstrably contribute to a healthy local screen sector. We encourage submissions that increase diversity. The Cultural Fund supports a wide range of activities, from small individual projects through to large-scale initiatives.

For example:

- projects that break down barriers to access, and engage with remote and isolated communities
- workshops that foster inclusive collaboration
- services that deliver content to users in innovative ways
- start-ups that upend existing business models to support the creation, delivery, and use of content
- projects that create viable pathways for under-represented voices

Successful applications will have:

- committed partners to ensure maximum reach and impact
- a positive impact on the career of the recipient, partners, and participants
- a positive influence on the screen industry more broadly

The Cultural Fund **does not fund** production or development of screen projects. What you can apply for: mentoring programs, skills development workshops, training programs, capacity building initiatives, new distribution platforms, developing new technical tools, etc. What you can't apply for: script development, producing screen content, post-production or impact campaigns for a specific screen project, etc.

For an insight into the kinds of initiatives we're looking for, take a look at the [projects that have previously been supported by the Screenrights Cultural Fund](#).

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The projects proposed for grant funds will preferably be new. Existing projects or re-workings of existing projects that do not respond to the Cultural Fund focus or align with the qualities underpinning the Fund are not eligible.

Timeframe: Applications must demonstrate planned, viable delivery of the project within a maximum two-year timeframe. Projects must not commence prior to the announcement date of the grant round (usually late August). Any applications seeking retrospective funding will be deemed ineligible.

Delivery: Applications must set out:

- How and when the project will be delivered;
- Plans for the subsequent exploitation of the project to extend its life and reach.

Applications should consider:

- A delivery contingency plan should the project be impacted by world events, such as a pandemic. In such circumstances an extension request must be submitted for approval.
- The processes put in place to ensure the safety and well-being of minors if the project intends to deliver skills and training to people under the age of 18.

Promotion: Applications must demonstrate a commitment to promoting and documenting the project and the Cultural Fund via social media and other channels.

Applicants must disclose the completion status of pre-existing projects in their application.

Where a project involves or results in story output from participants, Applications must include a statement setting out who will own the intellectual property of this output.

If a project engages with Indigenous peoples and their cultural heritage, and where there is Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) involved, a statement setting out how the project will treat ICIP.

The Cultural Fund cannot cover costs associated with the production or development of screen content – whether traditional or VR or AR – or any marketing, promotion or impact campaigns relating to specific productions. Research projects that don't have a tangible outcome or clear impact are unlikely to be considered strong candidates for funding.

APPLICANTS

While applications may commit a number of parties to the project, one person must be identified as the Applicant and primary contact for the purpose of administering the project.

The Applicant:

- must be an individual who is a resident of Australia or New Zealand for taxation purposes, or a company domiciled in Australia or New Zealand for taxation purposes
- cannot be a director or employee of Screenrights, or a member of a director or employee's immediate family
- should have some experience relevant to the proposed project
- may only be involved in one application per funding round
- cannot have received a Grant from the Screenrights Cultural Fund within the last 3 years

If successful, the Applicant:

- will be the recipient of the Grant funds and be accountable to Screenrights for the expenditure of Grant funds
- must take responsibility for successfully administering the relationships between all parties, the deliverables, and promotion throughout the project
- is not eligible to apply again to subsequent Cultural Fund rounds until their funded project has been acquitted
- is not eligible to directly benefit from subsequent Cultural Fund rounds – as, for example, a paid collaborator or employee of another Applicant – until their funded project has been acquitted; Any such involvement may cause the new Application to be ineligible

FUNDING AND EXPENSES

Applicants may apply for any amount of funding up to A\$50,000.

The value of individual grants will vary according to the needs of the proposed project.

A Cultural Fund grant is intended to contribute to realising the project, rather than cover the total cost. Applicants are therefore encouraged to incorporate other funding sources, both cash and in-kind.

Applications must clearly identify their funding sources and which expenses that funding will cover.

Only expenses directly related to the delivery of the proposed project will be considered eligible for the Cultural Fund.

Applicants must therefore submit a budget setting out:

- How the Applicant intends to use the Screenrights Cultural Fund Grant, shown as specific, itemised expenses to be covered by the Grant; and,
- Details of other sources of funding: who is providing funding, how much funding they will provide, and which expenses the funding will cover

ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed by a panel of professionals with both local and international expertise in the screen industry and as called for by the Cultural Fund's annual focus. Panel members will make recommendations to the Screenrights Board of Directors for consideration.

The Board's determination of successful applicants will be final. No further correspondence relating to the Board's decision will be entered into. No feedback will be provided.

CRITERIA

The criteria on which applications will be assessed are:

- the potential of the proposed project to advance Cultural Fund objectives, including its alignment with the Fund's annual focus and qualities
- the strength and viability of the proposed project, including a realistic budget
- the quality, clarity and viability of the presentation and delivery plan
- the strength and relevance of the experience of the Applicant and any collaborators
- the likely impact of the project on the career of the Applicant, partners and participants

A proposal will be viewed favourably if:

- the project is new and has been devised directly in response to the Cultural Fund focus
- it includes any aspect that maximises the opportunities to further exploit the project; increase the life of the project; or deliver a return on investment to the Applicant and key collaborators
- international opportunities and other exploitation avenues are included
- other funding partners are committed

APPLYING

Applications must be submitted online through the Screenrights Cultural Fund Grant platform in order to be eligible for full consideration. Using the platform, Applicants will be required to provide details including:

- a description of the proposed activity, project, or initiative; its alignment with the Cultural Fund focus and qualities; and a delivery and promotion plan
- optional video pitch of up to two minutes (recommended)
- a budget setting out details of expenses to be covered by a Cultural Fund grant and other sources of funding
- CVs of the Applicant and key collaborators demonstrating examples of projects delivered that support the Applicant's ability to deliver the proposed project or initiative
- letters of support and/or other evidence that clearly demonstrates the commitment of all key collaborators

Applications can be saved and resumed as required, but must be submitted by the closing date in order to be considered.

APPLICATION TIMEFRAME

Applications for the 2026 Cultural Fund open on Friday 13 February 2026, 9:00am AEDT and close Wednesday 8 April 2026, 5:00pm AEST.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their Application by Friday 14 August 2026.

Successful grant recipients will receive funding within one month of submitting a tax compliant invoice to Screenrights. Invoices must be received on, or prior to, Friday 21 August 2026.

ACQUITTAL

Grant recipients **must**:

- advise Screenrights of any changes in arrangements, delivery parameters and timeframes during project delivery
- keep Screenrights informed of progress by providing updates within a reasonable timeframe when requested
- upon completion, demonstrate that the funded project has been delivered according to the proposal submitted with any approved variation requests
- acquit the Grant before the earlier date of two years after project delivery or 30 September 2028 by providing a brief report including:
 - an overview of the delivery of the project, explaining both successes and challenges
 - budget details outlining how funds were spent
 - a description of how the project provided branding and awareness of the Cultural Fund generally, with evidence that Screenrights' support has been acknowledged as required in media releases, at live events and on websites and social media channels relevant to the funded project

In the event that the project is not completed or is substantively changed without the agreement of Screenrights, recipients must refund the grant amount in full within 30 days of the date of notice given by Screenrights.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Screenrights Cultural Fund, including the application and grant process outlined above, is governed by the Terms and Conditions. These terms and conditions are applicable to all applicants of the Screenrights Cultural Fund. Terms & Conditions are available at screenrights.org/cultural-fund.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any further questions regarding the Cultural Fund, please contact culturalfund@screenrights.org.