

Guidelines 2024/25

Creative BC and Rogers Documentary + Factual Development Fund

Round 5: Early-Stage Development for B.C. Filmmakers

About the Program

Creative BC, in partnership with the Rogers Group of Funds, is seeking applications for development funding for the fifth round of the Creative BC and Rogers Documentary + Factual Development Fund.

Early-stage investigative development funding will be provided to develop documentary or factual projects that have strong potential to secure production support and connect with audiences.

Eligible Applicants: Incorporated B.C.-based production companies with a proven track record in production.

Targeted Funding: A minimum of 30% of the available funding will be dedicated to projects owned and controlled by applicants from systemically excluded groups, including Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, 2SLGBTQIA+, Women, Non-binary, and people with disabilities.

Eligible Project Types: Documentary or factual one-offs or series.

Funding Per Project: Up to \$15,000 per project.

Overall Funding Envelope Available: Up to **\$200,000** will be committed in this Round 5 funding cycle.

Project Deliverables: funds are to be used for early-stage development (e.g. research, treatments, pitch documents, proof of concept, demos, trailers etc.) that will enable applicants to successfully pitch the project to the market.

Decision Process: Competitive, informed by an external advisory panel.

Deadline to Apply: January 14, 2025, at 4:00pm PT.

Aims and Objectives

The Documentary + Factual Development Fund is intended to encourage the development of motion picture projects in both documentary and factual series formats.

Delivered over several years, this Fund represents the first partnership in Canada at the provincial level between the Rogers Group of Funds and a provincial partner.

The Fund's key objective is to support individual projects during early-stage development, before they have been greenlit by the market, growing opportunities for BC-based projects, filmmakers and producers. The fund will also support diverse voices that are historically systemically excluded and critical to a vibrant and equitable industry.

In its fifth round, this fund supports **Early-Stage Investigation Development**. It will provide up to \$15,000 per project, in the form of a non-recoupable advance, to BC-based filmmakers and producers.

Applicant Eligibility

Companies applying must:

- Be a production company incorporated in British Columbia or Canada with its head office in British Columbia.
- Companies must have a proven track record in production and should have produced a minimum of 2 completed B.C. owned and controlled film or television productions.
- The primary owner / majority common voting shareholder(s) of the applicant company must meet be a B.C. resident – either a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident – who has resided in British Columbia for at least 200 of the 365 days prior to the application and have filed income tax returns in B.C. for the taxation year prior to the application.
- 100% of the copyright of the project must be owned, controlled, or optioned by the applicant (except for inter-provincial or international treaty co-productions).
- Companies must be in good standing with Creative BC.

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects may include B.C.-owned and/or controlled:

- Documentaries and hybrid-documentaries for television broadcast, streaming, or for theatrical release;
- Documentary or factual television series, pilots and mini-series;
- Documentary short films and web series.

Eligible projects that receive funding must be produced in British Columbia—although it is not a requirement that the subject matter is B.C.-based, nor that the project is shot in B.C.

Eligible Costs

Funding will go towards early-stage development, for example:

- Research;
- Treatment development;
- Pitch document development;
- Proof of concept/trailers.

Financial Participation

Up to \$15,000 will be committed per project.

No market trigger is required to apply for this program, nor are other funding sources expected to be committed at this stage. However, letters of interest from the market will increase competitiveness and are encouraged for this round of the program.

Application Procedures

Applicants are asked to complete and submit an online application ([here](#)), and to include the following supporting materials:

- A brief logline for your project (no more than 140 words);
- A development budget;
- Key personnel bios: brief one-paragraph biographies for each key personnel including the role on the project. Be sure to list relevant credits that show track record and applicant eligibility;
- A document that includes the following clearly identified elements:
 - A description of your intended project: what is it about.
 - An outline of the intended development activity: what do you want to use the funding to do;
 - An understanding of who the audience is and how you intend to reach that audience including where your project would ultimately land in the market;
- Certificate of incorporation.

Optionally, applicants can also include any supporting documentation that is relevant to your application such as letters of interest or letters of support.

Applications to this fund will open December 3 2024, and close January 14 2025, at 4:00pm PT.

If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation or additional support in the application process, we are here to help. Please contact the Program Analyst.

Program Evaluation

The review and analysis of each application considers:

- Program eligibility;
- Elements of creative evaluation;
- Viability and market potential.

In examining a submission, we consider both the proposed project *and* the applicant's experience. The matrix of criteria used to evaluate a project also includes:

- Potential to secure production support;
- Potential to reach and connect with the project's intended audience;
- Creative merit of proposed project;
- Feasibility of budget;
- Feasibility around the pathway to audience.

For more information on evaluation, please see the EVALUATION MATRIX attached as Appendix 1.

Advance of Funds

Projects awarded funding are subject to a contract that will include a payment schedule and specific development deliverables.

A completion date will be noted in the contract by which all and any deliverables should be submitted. Successful recipients are also required to publicly acknowledge Creative BC and the Rogers Group of Funds by placing both logos at the end of the completed project. Projects are also encouraged to acknowledge support on social media.

Hi-resolution logo graphics can be found [here](#), alongside guidelines for their use.

Indigenous Initiatives

It is required that any applicant applying with a project containing Indigenous content or components read: [On Screen Protocols & Pathways](#): A Media Production Guide To Working With First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities, Cultures, Concepts and Stories (available on the imagineNATIVE website) prior to submitting their application.

Being Seen | Black Screen Office

Creative BC supported the [Black Screen Office's "Being Seen – Directives for creating authentic and inclusive content"](#) study, conducted to provide directives to everyone in the film, television and interactive digital media industries to help them commission, create and assess authentic content. We urge applicants to read and utilize this study as a tool to educate themselves, develop strategies for change, and enact real, systemic, and long-lasting transformation.

Reel Green™

Sustainable production efforts in British Columbia were formalized in 2016 through the [Reel Green™ initiative](#), a resource centre with a collection of best practices to help productions reduce their environmental impacts and improve their overall environmental footprint.

Successful applicants must adhere to sustainable practices throughout the development process of their project and beyond. We also require successful applicants to take the [Sustainable Production Training course](#).

Respectful Workplace

As investors in B.C.'s creative industries, Creative BC is committed to supporting a healthy ecosystem that thrives in a culture of mutual respect, dignity, and inclusivity that is free from any form of harassment. All persons, companies, and organizations who work with, or are granted funding from Creative BC are expected to respect these principles, comply with relevant laws, and implement policies and procedures for a harassment-free workplace. Creative BC is a signatory of the [Canadian Creative Industries Code of Conduct to Prevent and Respond to Harassment, Discrimination, Bullying and Violence](#) and expects all applicants and recipients to adhere to this Code of Conduct. [Learn more.](#)

Questions?

If you have any questions about eligibility, or require additional supports to submit your application, please contact:

Miranda Ryan | Program Analyst
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Raquel Dominguez Simpson | Program Analyst
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Heather Campbell | Coordinator
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APPENDIX 1 - EVALUATION MATRIX

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	POINTS
<p>Applicant team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge, experience and track record. (15) • Capacity to execute and successfully deliver the project. (15) • Connection to the subject matter, and how well suited the team is to tell this story. (5) • Additional equity factors of applicant or project (language, regional representation). (5) 	40
<p>Creative Elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative merit of proposed project (20) • Potential to secure production support (10) • Feasibility of development budget for proposed activity (10) 	40
<p>Market Potential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience for the project and feasibility of proposal to reach that audience (10) • Appeal of the project, including international sales potential (10) 	20
TOTAL POINTS:	100