



Image from Creative Shorts Fellowship, *SEEDS*. Courtesy of Kate Russell, Stills Photographer.

VISION MAKER MEDIA  
**CREATIVE SHORTS FELLOWSHIP**

For more information about submitting a proposal, contact:

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## Vision Maker Media's CREATIVE SHORTS FELLOWSHIP is now open for submissions

Call for submissions is January 19, 2022.

Call for submissions close date is February 25, 2022.

Selected short film production projects will be notified Spring 2022.

Vision Maker Media is unleashing the harness and barriers of Native storytelling through the Vision Maker Media Creative Shorts Fellowship. We want to nurture and encourage new and creative, innovative storytelling and have emerging Native filmmakers tell film stories in a uniquely imaginative, inventive, and artistically experimental way. We are seeking to support emerging Native filmmakers to produce new stories that deconstruct barriers of perceptions and misperceptions, facts and myths, ideologies and truths, push the limits of art and technology, while also supporting a mentorship with a career professional film producer or director.

Through the Creative Shorts Fellowship, VMM pays an honorarium directly to film professionals, Native or non-Native, to mentor an emerging Native filmmaker. Emerging Native filmmakers find their own mentor for their project. Film professionals, Native or non-Native, may also submit a proposal—following criteria and eligibility—to mentor an emerging Native filmmaker in the production of that emerging filmmaker's short film. Emerging Native filmmakers must choose their mentor prior to applying and film professionals must choose their mentee prior to applying.

Requests for funding in the Creative Shorts Fellowship should be a proposal to film, record, and produce short films to completion, and include a named film professional mentor.



Image from Creative Shorts Fellowship, *TWOBEARS*. Image courtesy from Jay Visit, Director of Photography.



Image from Creative Shorts Fellowship, *The Little Shepherd*.  
Courtesy of Deidra Lynn Peaches, Director of Photography.

## CRITERIA

The call is directed towards emerging Native filmmakers to submit a short film: documentary, drama, experimental, or animation. Topic ideas may be about Native cultures, values, histories, contemporary life, environmental justice, social justice, youth, elders, and/or Native empowerment. Within the fellowship, funds support a film professional's mentorship, and the production of a short film produced by an emerging Native filmmaker. Production costs may be funded in a request amount of up to \$25,000. Separately, VMM directly pays the mentor a total of \$5,000.

## CATEGORY

### PRODUCTION | UP TO \$25,000.00

Requests for funding under this category should be a proposal to film, record, and produce a short film to complete (i) principle photography (including all production activities, hiring of crew, talent and clearance of rights for public media use); (ii) development of a website for the program; and (iii) post-production (including editing and completion).

The mentor fee is paid separately from the production funding support.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Emerging Native filmmakers are encouraged to apply and must hold artistic, budgetary and editorial control and own the copyright of the proposed short film.
- Film professionals, Native or non-Native, who wish to mentor an emerging Native filmmaker in the production of the emerging filmmaker's short film, may apply in collaboration with their Native mentee.
- The proposed project must be a short film of 40 minutes or less.
- Topics and genres accepted for the Creative Shorts Fellowship can be short film: documentary, drama, experimental, or animation. Topic ideas may be about Native cultures, values, histories, contemporary life, environmental justice, social justice, youth, elders, and/or Native empowerment.
- The proposed project must be ready for production (The Creative Shorts Fellowship supports production to completion).
- Production timeline must have completion within 12 months of receiving 1<sup>st</sup> payment of awarded funding.
- All completed projects are required to meet the PBS Technical Operating Specifications and Production Guidelines as outlined in the PBS Red Book, online at <https://www.pbs.org/about/producing-pbs/red-book/>
- All applicants must be over 21 years of age, and a U.S. citizen or legal U.S. resident.
- Proposals must show significant Native American involvement on their production, whether Above the Line, Below the Line or both.
- Eligible Proposals should meet Vision Maker Media's mission of empowering and engaging Native people to share stories.

## NOT ELIGIBLE

- Film Professionals and film mentors seeking funding for their own short film project.
- Commercial Programs.
- Industrial or promotional films and videos.
- Student productions of any sort, such as thesis films.
- Filmmakers or production entities that are foreign-based, owned or controlled.
- Projects funded in part by a government entity or group featured in the content of the short film.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Vision Maker Media convenes a panel of Public Media professionals, independent filmmakers, and Native American story content experts to evaluate proposals and work samples. Committees of selection consider: the representation of Native cultures and experiences, the perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives, and how well the overall proposal/application meets Vision Maker Media's mission—empowering and engaging Native people to share their stories. Following in-depth evaluation and discussion, the panel recommends projects for Vision Maker Media to support. Recommendations are subject to approval by the Vision Maker Media Board of Directors.

When evaluating, the selection panel weighs the strengths of the following factors for project proposals: Strength of story, production team, budget, timeline, marketing plan, quality of work samples, and meeting Vision Maker Media's mission.

## CONTRACT TERMS

- Projects that are selected for funding and have not previously received funding from VMM may be required to have a fiscal sponsor or agent.
- A copy of Producer's or Fiscal Sponsor/Agent's completed W-9 and Mentor W-9.
- *If applicable*, a draft of the Fiscal Agent agreement before signature. If an agreement has already been signed, send a copy of the agreement between you and your fiscal agent(s), current or former, for the Program.
- Mentorship term is for the duration of the production to completion. Mentor and mentee develop goals and skill building objectives.
- Emerging filmmaker attends VMM's 2022 Filmmaker Summit, April 28-30.
- A completed and signed Mentor agreement with VMM that includes a goals sheet and lesson plan between the mentee and mentor.
- Verification of one Production Account for all Production funds and identification of two authorized signatories.
- Insurance: evidence of adequate insurance in the form of certificates: General Liability & Worker's Compensation.
- Web Publicity Materials: for the purpose of creating a web page on [visionmakermedia.org](http://visionmakermedia.org) for the Program, which includes the following: Head Shots of Producer(s) (for multiple Producers – headshot should be together), professionally photographed and processed color images at a resolution of at least 300 dpi (printable at a minimum size of 5"x7") to be delivered in PSD or JPG format, suitable and cleared for print and web publicity.

## ABOUT VISION MAKER MEDIA

Vision Maker Media (VMM) is the premier source of public media by and about Native Americans since 1976. Our mission is empowering and engaging Native people to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate. We work with VMM funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all public media. VMM supports training to increase the number of American Indians and Alaska Natives producing public broadcasting programs. A key strategy for this work is in partnerships with Tribal nations, Indian organizations and Native communities.

Vision Maker Media is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) funded in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), For more information visit [visionmakermedia.org](http://visionmakermedia.org).

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