



VISION MAKER MEDIA  
PUBLIC MEDIA FUND

For more information about submitting a proposal, contact:

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## Vision Maker Media's PUBLIC MEDIA FUND is now open for submissions

Call for film and television program proposals open date for submissions is January 4, 2022.

Call for proposals close date is February 11, 2022.

Funded film and television programs will be notified Spring 2022.

Vision Maker Media is seeking public media film and television programs that are intended and appropriate for Public Media Television Broadcasting, including Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) digital and streaming platforms, that represent the cultures, experiences, and perspectives of Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

Proposed film and television programs should be appealing to a broad audience, intended for public media broadcast and its digital and streaming platforms, and have effective outreach/community engagement activities to reach audiences beyond a Public Television broadcast. Included in Vision Maker Media's Production License Agreement (contract) for a funded film or television program, is the assignment of exclusive broadcast rights for four years and one-year off-air recording rights for educators. All funded and completed film and television programs 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/>.

At times, Vision Maker Media may offer additional distribution opportunities to funded film and television programs such as educational and home, as well as possible theatrical, non-theatrical, television (free, pay syndicated and video-on-demand), multimedia and internet broadcasting (including podcasting and streaming).



## Content

We believe Native Americans and Alaska Natives play a vital role in the story of the United States. Vision Maker Media works with numerous public television distributors who help our content reach more than 90-million Americans each year. Vision Maker Media films have been featured on *Independent Lens*, *POV*, *America ReFramed*, and *American Masters* to name a few. Vision Maker Media producers have received several accolades across broadcast television over VMM's history. Our most recent television award win came in 2019.

## Categories

You may submit more than one broadcast film or television program per production category listed below.

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT | \$5,000 - \$25,000

Requests for funding under this category should be a proposal to fully develop a documentary, animation, or episodic program, which includes storylines, engaging characters, production talent, timeline, budget, a tangible community outreach plan for a broad audience reach, and a script for fictional episodic programs. Eligible activities include: (i) research; (ii) clearance of life story rights or other rights necessary to initiate production; (iii) development of a script or treatment, including the hiring of writers; (iv) preliminary filming, if necessary prior to the commencement of principle photography; and (v) submission of a Vision Maker Media production application and budget to the following year's Vision Maker Media Public Media Fund open call.

### PRODUCTION | UP TO \$150,000.00

Requests for funding under this category should be a proposal to film, record, and produce programs 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). For episodic programming, a minimum of four (4) episodes are expected to be produced under this funding. Programs must have a final broadcast run time of 26:46 or 56:46.

### POST-PRODUCTION | UP TO \$100,000.00

Requests for funding under this category should be a proposal to bring programs to their completion where principal photography has already been achieved. Eligible activities include: (i) post-production (including editing and completion); (ii) clearance of rights required for public media use; and (iii) development of a website for the program. Funded programs in this category must deliver a master cut broadcast film or television program that meets the PBS Technical Operating Specifications and Production Guidelines as outlined in the PBS Red Book, online at <https://www.pbs.org/about/producing-pbs/>.



## ELIGIBILITY

- Independent and Public Television producers, film and digital makers. Applicants must hold artistic, budgetary and editorial control and own the copyright of the proposed program.
- Applicant's submitted work must be cleared for broadcast, digital and streaming rights for a minimum of 4 years.
- Applicant must be able to provide a marketing plan that shows an effective community outreach plan. The plan should be engagement through distribution ideas, social media and the creation of a website. See **SELECTION PROCESS** below for more details on how Vision Maker Media evaluates the marketing plan.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen.
- Applicants must be able to show significant Native American involvement on their program, whether Above the Line, Below the Line or both.
- Eligible programs should meet Vision Maker Media's mission to empower and engage Native people to share their stories.

## NOT ELIGIBLE

- Commercial Programs.
- Industrial or promotional films and videos.
- Student productions of any sort, such as thesis films.
- Programs for which four-year exclusive Public Television broadcast rights are not available.
- Programs intended solely for theatrical release.
- Filmmakers or production entities that are foreign-based, owned or controlled.
- Programs funded in part by a government entity or group featured in the content of the program.



## 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 based on the strength of public media film and television programs that are intended and appropriate for Public Media Television Broadcasting, including PBS digital and streaming platforms. 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 to empower and engage Native people to share stories. Following in-depth evaluation and discussion, the panel recommends public media programs for Vision Maker Media to fund. Recommendations are subject to approval of the Vision Maker Media Board of Directors and successful contract negotiations between Vision Maker Media and the filmmaker.

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

## CONTRACT TERMS

- The programs that are selected for funding and have not previously received funding from VMM may be required to have a fiscal sponsor.
- Proof of general liability insurance and errors & omissions insurance is not required at the time that you submit your proposal. General liability insurance will be required by the beginning of principal photography. Errors and omission insurance is required upon the program's conclusion.
- The minimum required digital format for all programs is HD; mandatory length is 26:46, 56:46, or 86:46.

## 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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