

Revised 03/2024

## FINISHED PROGRAM ACQUISITIONS GUIDELINES

**Deadline:** Programs are accepted year-round.

**Notification:** Please allow 3-6 weeks for review.

These guidelines are for preparation purposes only. Submit online at  
<https://visionmakermedia.submittable.com/submit/0580776b-2c31-4c15-902b-7ea124065865/acquisitions-fund-2024>

Vision Maker Media seeks provocative and engaging completed programs from independent or public television producers. We encourage works that address new and current issues reflecting the changing identity of Native American communities, including the following:

- Works that are innovative, original and compelling to a national audience.
- Works that explore issues of universal interest from a unique Native American perspective.
- Works that view the history of Native Americans through contemporary stories.
- Works that use new technology and/or provide new models for television production.
- Works with a sense of humor.

### INITIATIVES

Vision Maker Media will also consider programming, beyond general submissions, in the following initiatives to foster dialogue about today's critical social issues in Indian country.

**American Graduate** - <https://www.pbs.org/show/npt-american-graduate/>;  
<https://www.cpb.org/americangraduate#:~:text=The%20public%20media%20initiative%20American,of%20postsecondary%20education%20and%20employment.>

- Projects aimed at decreasing the achievement gap and encouraging Native students to finish high school.
- Projects that showcase how Native communities are tackling the high school dropout crisis.
- Projects that increase awareness of bullying and promote youth safety.

### Indian Mascots -

- Projects that address the use of derogatory and offensive Indian mascots and names that promote harmful stereotypes locally and nationally.

### Native Women -

- Projects that address failure to protect Native women locally and nationally.
- Projects that address sexual and domestic violence in Indian country.

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#### **Suicide Prevention -**

- Projects that address the suicide rates in Indian country, serve as a resource for people working to prevent suicide and promote wellness in Native communities.

#### **Underrepresented Tribes -**

- Projects that profile Native American Tribes underrepresented in the United States and on Public Television.

#### **Veterans & Military Service -** <http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2014/pbs-cpb-veterans/>, <http://www.pbs.org/veterans/stories-of-service/home/>

- Projects that tell the stories of Native American veterans and to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.
- Projects that shed light on the impact and experience of PTSD, healing in Indian country, or transition to civilian life.

#### **PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC TELEVISION**

Vision Maker Media is seeking programs in many genres including documentary, performance, cultural/public affairs and animation. Programs submitted to this solicitation must be intended for national public television broadcast. Assignment of exclusive broadcast rights, off-air recording rights, educational, home video, foreign distribution, and Internet broadcasting rights are included in the Vision Maker Media Production License Agreement. The Vision Maker Media Public Television Program Fund is made possible by funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

#### **PRIORITIES**

- Quantity and quality of Native American participation in creative, technical, and advisory personnel.
- Power of the program to illuminate the Native American experience.
- Originality of concept and style.
- Potential interest to a national audience.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Works by independent film or video makers. Works produced by independents in association with a station or an organization. The producer or production entity must retain the copyright and have artistic, budgetary, and editorial control over the proposed program.

#### **NOT ELIGIBLE**

- Student productions such as thesis films.
- Industrial or promotional programs.
- Programs for which the exclusive public television broadcast rights are not available.

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## **CONTRACT TERMS**

Programs selected for acquisition for public television broadcast will be required to provide the following materials, at the least, for licensing purposes and for submission to public television distribution services (PBS, NETA, APT, POV, Independent Lens, Frontline, etc.):

- Evidence of E&O insurance naming Vision Maker Media, CPB, and the designated distribution service as additional insureds.
- Appearance release forms for each individual in the film and publicity photographs must be provided.
- Documentation of all material licensed from another party, such as literary works, artwork, music, etc.

*There are additional stipulations that accord Vision Maker Media certain approval rights and reporting obligations, which are detailed in the contract once contract negotiations begin.*

### **For more information, contact:**

Phone: 402-472-3522

E-mail: [info@visionmakermedia.org](mailto:info@visionmakermedia.org) or [vmmproduction@visionmakermedia.org](mailto:vmmproduction@visionmakermedia.org)

Support for the Vision Maker Media Finished Acquisitions is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

At Vision Maker Media we create, promote, and distribute Native stories that represent the cultures, experiences and values of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Founded in 1976, Vision Maker Media, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) which receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, nurtures creativity for development of new projects, partnerships, and funding. Vision Maker Media is the premier source for quality Native American and Alaska Native educational and home videos. All aspects of our Projects encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media—to be the next generation of storytellers. Located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we offer student employment and internships. For more information, visit [www.visionmakermedia.org](http://www.visionmakermedia.org).