

# PUBLIC MEDIA FUND

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Is the Public Media Fund open to anyone– Native or Non-Native?**

Yes, applicants can be Native or Non-Native. However, Vision Maker Media requires that all projects have significant Native involvement either in Above-the-Line, Below-the-Line or both. The applicant must also be a US citizen.

### **What kinds of programs do you accept?**

We accept long-form and short-form documentary or fiction projects, as well as non-fiction episodic programming. Proposed projects should meet Vision Maker Media's mission to empower and engage Native people to share stories and must adhere to the PBS Technical Operating Specifications and Production Guidelines as outlined in the PBS Red Book(<http://www.pbs.org/producers>).

### **Can I submit more than one project at a time?**

Vision Maker Media knows you have tons of great ideas. Feel free to submit as many different proposal ideas as you want in any of the three funding categories: R&D, Production, and Post-Production. If you have submitted a production proposal before and did not receive funding, you are welcome to receive feedback on a re-submission and come back for another try.

### **Can I apply for production or postproduction funding if I have already received R&D funding?**

Yes, we encourage you to submit for all production phases if you have been making progress, meeting your deliverables and budget spend down in your current contract agreement on a transparent and timely basis.

### **Can I pay Above-the-Line talent with this funding?**

Unfortunately, you may not use this funding to pay Above-the-Line talent, including Directors, Producers or Executive Producers. Please reserve those budget lines for other

sources of funding. Our funding goes towards costs such as crew, camera and equipment rental, travel and other costs associated directly with production.

**What rights will Vision Maker Media have if my project is selected for funding?**

We require non-negotiable, exclusive, unlimited public television releases for 4 years and educational, audiovisual, and non-theatrical rights. We also require the right to stream, archive and/or podcast an unlimited number of times during the license period and to distribute the production over VMM's social media and other web-based and wireless platforms.

Producers may be offered additional distribution opportunities through Vision Maker Media, including educational (all formats), home video (all formats), video-on-demand (VOD) and Over-the-Top (OTT) streaming. DVDs and streaming downloads may also be sold through Vision Maker Media with royalty payments distributed directly to the producer by Vision Maker Media.

By entering a production funding agreement with Vision Maker Media, you are granting the exclusive right to distribute the completed program via public television pursuant to the terms and conditions of the producer's licensing agreement that is non-negotiable. Vision Maker Media cannot negotiate to include provisions for non-public television distribution in its funding agreements due to its contractual and fiduciary obligations to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

**Can I screen at Film Festivals before the broadcast?**

Yes.

**Can I work with other distributors or sales agents?**

Vision Maker Media has the primary obligation of funding film and television programming through the support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for public television and digital streaming distribution platforms. To make sure that obligation is fulfilled we ask that VMM's Public Media-funded producers communicate with us before they attempt any releases, sales or distribution deals on their own. We want to ensure we are upholding our agreement and fulfilling the mission of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Vision Maker Media in sharing Native stories through public television.

**What is your revenue-sharing policy for films in distribution?**

Vision Maker Media is entitled to a certain percentage of gross revenue contingent on how much funding we provided to the film's total budget. This percentage is non-negotiable and based on a formula provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

The formula is the total Vision Maker funding commitment/Producers' total budget = percentage/2 = Vision Maker Media's cut of gross revenue. For example, if Vision Maker Media gave a Producer \$100,000 towards the total project budget of \$400,000 you would

take:

$\$100,000/\$400,000 = 25\%$  of total production funding.  $25\%/2 = 12.5\%$ . Vision Maker Media would be entitled to 12.5% of gross revenue via the Producers yearly ancillary reporting.

Ancillary funds are defined as any funds the film generates through screenings, partnerships, distribution, or sales that the producer has secured without the direct guidance and assistance of Vision Maker Media.

In certain instances, Vision Maker Media may share in additional revenues from the production if it serves as a distributor of the production to ancillary markets outside of Public Television (e.g., home video, foreign broadcast, streaming, and educational markets). These rights are negotiable by way of a separate license agreement with the Producer, Vision Maker Media, and the licensor. Vision Maker Media will mail revenue share in the form of royalty payments.

### **Ancillary Reporting**

Producers are expected to report gross revenue gains twice a year over a 15-year term from the first public television broadcast/streaming date of the production. Whether any profit is made or not by the Producer on the Vision Maker Media funded production— Vision Maker Media will send a form to report any gross revenue gain from the production. Failure to submit a requested ancillary report on gross proceeds or zero income may disqualify one from receiving funding by Vision Maker Media or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) in the future; this is a non- negotiable term.

More questions? Please email [info@visionmakermedia.org](mailto:info@visionmakermedia.org)



