



Next Exposure: Suffolk County Low Budget Independent Film Completion Grant

Guidelines for 2009

Please read the guidelines carefully. They contain important information on eligibility criteria and the application and selection process.

Program Objectives

The *Next Exposure: Suffolk County Low Budget Independent Film Completion Grant* is a Suffolk County Film Commission initiative administered by the Tribeca Film Institute. The purpose of the grant is to create opportunities for filmmakers who shoot in Suffolk County. There are two grants available in 2009 of \$7,500 each.

This program supports the completion of high quality, original director-driven low budget independent films from both emerging and established filmmakers who have completed eighty percent of principal photography within Suffolk County.

Eligible Applicants

1. The following are required to determine applicant's professional status:
 - a. Have directed and completed at least two independent short drama, non-student films that have been selected for exhibition; or
 - b. Have directed and completed at least one independent, short drama, non-student film that has won an award.
2. Eighty percent of principal photography for the project must have taken place in Suffolk County.

Eligibility for Completion Assistance

Only directors are considered eligible (producers are *not* eligible).

Applicants may hire and work with a producer, but the director must own and control 100% of the creative and editorial rights of the project. Successful applicants will be required to sign an affidavit declaring that they exercise full creative and editorial control over the project.

Students currently enrolled at a school, college, or university *are not* eligible to apply.

Eligible Projects

To be considered eligible, a project must meet all of the following criteria. It must:

1. Be director-driven. The director must own and control 100% of the creative and editorial rights over the work. Contracts with other funding sources must not require the director to give up such control.
2. Be a theatrical film over 75 minutes duration.
3. Be completed on digital video, 16mm or 35mm
4. Have 80% of principal photography occur in Suffolk County.
5. Have a production budget of no less than \$50,000.

Non-Eligible Projects

The following types of projects are *not eligible* for support:

1. Projects done on contract for, or produced by, a government agency or private company.
2. Instructional projects.
3. Promotional projects.
4. Student projects.
5. Pilots for television.
6. Projects using film to record or document artworks.
7. Conventional television formats, such as "movies of the week".
8. Direct-to-video movies.
9. Technical, non-creative, post-production or completion projects, such as blow-ups and transfer to another format.

Nature and Terms of Participation

Financial Assistance is available for completion ONLY.

Assistance is provided in the form of an advance.

Assistance will not exceed 20% of the total project budget, up to a maximum of \$7,500 per project.

Tribeca Film Institute will expect a production budget to be based on industry norms and market rates.

The project's financial structure must identify other sources of financing, confirmed and pending, such as other agencies, broadcasters, distributors, etc.

Terms of Payment: 100% on signing agreement.

Final Reporting Requirements:

- i) Copies of invoices and cancelled checks for payment for all services paid for under this agreement.
- ii) 2 DVD copies of work product incorporating completion services.

Evaluation of Applications

a) Evaluation Method

This program seeks to support films of media artists that demonstrate innovative and original creative elements. Priority will be given to eligible projects that have a letter from a theatrical distributor, broadcaster, major festival, or other recognized means of exhibition.

The evaluation of all projects will be conducted by Tribeca Film Institute at their NYC offices with support from the Suffolk County Film Commission.

b) Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be evaluated on both their creative merit and financial feasibility, according to the following criteria:

i) Creative Elements

- Quality and level of achievement to date
- Originality of the project;
- Director's vision and intentions for the film;
- Track record of the director, screenwriter, production team and cast;
- Distribution, broadcast, festival, and other pertinent exhibition arrangements.

ii) Financial Elements

- Viability of financial structure.

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How to Apply

The *Next Exposure: Suffolk County Low Budget Independent Film Completion Grant* application and all supporting material must be sent to the following address:

Eileen Newman, Deputy Director
Tribeca Film Institute
73 Spring Street
Suite 406
New York, N.Y. 10012
212-274-8080

Attn: NEXT EXPOSURE GRANT

Application forms are available online **June 30, 2009** at
www.suffolkcountyfilmcommission.com

Application Deadline (postmark): October 2, 2009
Notification of Decision: October 26, 2009

All applicants will receive written notice of the results of their application.

If you have any questions on the application or application process contact:
Michelle Isabelle-Stark, Director, Suffolk County Film Commission
michelle.stark@suffolkcountyfilmcommission.com
631-853-4834