

ABIERTO FILM FUND

A regional film fund for Independent
Filmmakers at the Philadelphia Foundation

Filmmakers are

Storytellers

Entrepreneurs

Employers

Researchers

Innovators

Designers

Mediators

The **ABIERTO FILM FUND** will treat filmmakers like the innovative entrepreneurs that they are. By providing research and development funding, start-up funding, production, completion and distribution support we can keep this vital sector growing in our region and produce works of great impact.

As the late Toni Cade Bambara used to say
"Cultural Workers are Mental Health Workers".
Film and media that represent our diverse culture enable us to envision a better society and better ways of being.

ABIERTO FILM FUND

The goals of the fund are to:

1. Provide opportunities for diverse voices, especially filmmakers that lack access to traditional sources of capital
2. Support local talent through small grants and mentoring
3. Make *socially conscious films* that use new as well as traditional platforms to reach audiences in the region and beyond
4. Create a catalog of new work available for festivals, public television broadcast, online, and educational use

ABIERTO FILM FUND

Each year an open call will go out for documentary and narrative work that reflects our diverse cultural heritage.

Grants and mentoring are given to makers whose proposals pass the Advisory Board review process. The filmmakers are then paired with consultants to advance their projects toward completion and through distribution.

Categories for support include:

[Web Series \(combined time of 12 to 54 min.\)](#)

[Short Narrative \(12 to 28 min.\)](#)

[Short Documentary \(26 to 28 min.\)](#)

[Feature Documentary \(56 to 88 min.\)](#)

[Feature Narrative \(70+ min.\)](#)

Other points:

- Projects must have a 501(c)(3) Fiscal Sponsor
- Grants range between \$3,000 to \$25,000
- Personnel or subject must have Delaware, New Jersey or Pennsylvania connections
- The filmmaker/applicant must be the copyright holder of the work

ABIERTO FILM FUND

Applicants to the fund submit the following:

- Letter of support from 501(c)(3) Fiscal Conduit
- Resume with professional experience
- Two samples of film/video work, online or on DVD
- Short 2 to 10 minute sample of project the funds are being requested for
- Project Synopsis, 500 word maximum
- Film Outline or Script
- Budget Outline
- Proposal with the following: project description and timeline; outreach and distribution plan; rationale, why you must make this project now
- One paragraph bio (500 words max) of key members of creative team, including applicant
- List of funders or sources of income for project
- List of project partners
- Three names and contacts for references

ABIERTO FILM FUND

Timeline

Fall 2014

Seed the fund and solicit tax-deductible donations

Summer 2015

Announce RFP for Slate #1

Fall 2015

Grants are submitted

Winter 2015/2016

Announcement of recipients made. Meeting of Grantees and select Advisory Board Members to review fund process and best practices for film production and distribution

Summer 2016

Cycle repeats with Slate #2

Winter 2016/2017

Works from Slate #1 premiere and are released

ABIERTO FILM FUND

Management

All donations are tax deductible and managed at the Philadelphia Foundation. The funds will be granted to projects through 501 (c)(3) fiscal conduits. A culturally diverse Advisory Committee of established and emerging filmmakers, curators, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, educators, and others from diverse fields will review applications on an annual basis.

Partnerships

The **ABIERTO FILM FUND** will partner with venues, film festivals, foundations, and community organizations to solicit advice, spread the word about the fund, and nurture funded projects.

We will advise the filmmakers about best practices from the growing network of independent content makers. The fund is not just about granting money, but helping filmmakers who are creating work in the cultural arena to engage audiences.

ABIERTO FILM FUND

The idea for the fund came through a series of one-on-one dialogs with filmmakers, educators, cultural workers, and business development consultants. What emerged from the conversations was a desire to see an open, transparent and supportive funding process for diverse film artists. We acknowledge the particular need to fund work by women and people of color as well as work of a progressive nature. The goal is to launch more locally produced films and to have more media artists sustained in the region.

Thanks to The Philadelphia Foundation for providing feedback and guidance on this proposed fund.

Written and designed by Nadine Patterson @hipcinema.

9/16/2014