Rochester Documentary Filmmakers
Election Day Grant

Rochester Documentary Filmmakers (RocDocs), a group of creative professionals focused on non-fiction storytelling, funds the Election Day Grant with proceeds from ELECTION DAY 2016, our first collaborative film project.

What Do We Fund?
Our annual $500 grant will go to a Rochester-based documentary filmmaker to develop his/her project to the next level, be it pre-production, production, or finishing work. Our goal is to support powerful and moving storytelling by filmmakers with a strong voice across a broad spectrum of subject matter. The project can be a feature-length documentary film, a short, or a series.

Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be 18 years old and residents of Greater Rochester, NY.
- Be dues-paying members of Rochester Documentary Filmmakers. To join, visit http://www.rocdocfilms.org/join.html.
- Complete the grant application included with this document in its entirety.
- Own the copyright of their production and have budgetary and editorial control of their project.
- Have credible access and rapport with the proposed subject(s) of the story.
- Agree to screen the work-in-progress at a monthly RocDocs meeting.

Projects must include:

- Creative, artful, compelling and innovative storytelling techniques.
- Strong story narrative at the core of the film.
- Emphasis on story, not the lesson or agenda of the filmmaker.
- Originality of form, approach or content.
- Budget, schedule, and scope feasibility.

Grant Time Line

Submissions deadline: Friday, February 28, 2019 at 6 p.m.

Grant awarded: April 2020, during the One Take Film Festival at The Little Theatre.

FAQ

Who can apply?

If you are a filmmaker residing in the Greater Rochester area and a current member of Rochester Documentary Filmmakers, you are welcome to apply. Students 18 years of age and up are welcome to apply, too!

To join or renew your membership, visit **http://www.rocdocfilms.org/join.html.**

***How do I submit my completed application*?**

- ✓ Save your application and any additional attachments as a PDF. Include your name in the file name.
- ✓ Be sure to include PDFs of your complete budget breakdown with your application.
- ✓ Send the PDFs as email attachments to **rocdocgroup@gmail.com.**

How will my application be evaluated?

A small, select committee of professionals will review applications and accompanying materials. Some of the questions they will use to evaluate applications include:

- ✓ Can this film be realized within the stated budget, fundraising strategy, and described schedule?
- ✓ Is the narrative well written and does it give a clear picture of the film's story and themes?
- ✓ Does the project take an innovative approach to the subject matter? Has the story been told before and if so, does this project's approach bring something new to the story?
- ✓ Does the filmmaker have access necessary to tell the story in a compelling way?
- ✓ Is the budget thorough and realistic? Are line items in the budget within industry norms and standards?

More Questions? *Send them to rocdocgroup@gmail.com.*

If you have a problem entering your information into this interactive PDF, type and save your answers in a Word document, export it as a PDF file from Word, and send it as a file attachment to e-mail address above. Write *Grant Application Submission* in the subject line of your e-mail.

Best of luck!

Application

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Date:

Applicant Name:

Street Address:

Email:

Phone:

Working title of the film:

Intended length:

Complete ALL fields of your application!
Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Summary (100 words)

Provide a brief, catchy summary of your story.

Synopsis (500 words)

Give an overview of your story, introducing the main characters and potential plot points. Describe the anticipated story structure and narrative trajectory, or potential character arcs for your project. Discuss your access to the story and characters.

Topic Summary (250 words)

Describe why this topic is so important, timely or relevant. Things to consider include: Why are you the best person to make a film about this? Explain the cultural or social relevance and context for this topic, and why this project is timely or urgent. Detail the topics, issues, themes, challenges, stakes, or questions that your project will cover.

Artistic Approach (150 words)

How are you going to tell this story? Describe your vision for the look and feel of the finished project. If applicable, mention any creative elements and assets, interactive elements, new technologies or non-traditional mediums that you intended to utilize. Explain how these elements will enhance the experience and interaction between viewers and the world of the story.

Project Stage and Time Line (150 words)

Outline the projected time line from the project's current state to the anticipated completion date. Your time line should detail major project activities, production schedules, and anticipated post-production and release dates.

Key Creative Personnel (200 words/person)

Please identify your core team/roles below. Include bios and any links to relevant web-based content for each person.

Budget

Please provide the expected cost to complete the film, not including outreach. Also, please include your full budget as an email attachment with your application.

Fundraising (150 words)

Describe your fundraising strategy for raising the additional funds necessary to complete the project. Be specific.

Provide a bulleted list of all sources and amounts raised to date. Please include all In-Kind sources.

Should you receive any grants, describe how you would spend the funds to help move your project forward. **(100 words)**

Do you have a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor for your project at this time? If yes, please list the name and contact information.

Work Samples (A fine cut, rough cut, sequence, or fundraising trailer will do.)

Share your work-in-progress via **link and password** below. If you don't have anything to share on your current project, please use the space to provide a link and password to a previous project.

For a work-in-progress, please note what additional footage/editing you will be doing. OR, if you provided **a previous project,** please explain why or why not this work is representative of your current project. **(150 words)**