



Rochester Documentary Filmmakers **Group** (RocDocs) members are creative professionals focused on non-fiction storytelling. Our annual Election Day grant will go to a Rochester-based documentary filmmaker to develop his/her feature-length documentary film, short, or series 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.

### **Election Day Grant Criteria**

#### **Applicants must:**

- Be 18 years old and residents or students living in the Greater Rochester, NY, area.
- Be dues-paying members of Rochester Documentary Filmmakers.
- To join or renew your membership, 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.

#### **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.

## **IF AWARDED THE GRANT, you agree to:**

- **Complete your film within one year of receiving the Election Day Grant.** This includes sharing your progress with the RD Directors at four and eight months AND screening your work-in-progress at a monthly RocDoc meeting.
- Include a line in your end credits about the grant, such as: *Funded in part by the Election Day Grant from the Rochester Documentary Filmmakers Group.*
- Serve on the submissions review committee for the Election Day Grant the year after your award.
- Submit a final grant report when you complete the project using our form available on the website.

**Please Note:** If you're not awarded the grant, you'll still receive feedback as to why your project wasn't selected, which is useful as you continue to look for funding elsewhere, or if you want to reapply another year.

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

1. Save your application and any additional attachments as a PDF.
2. Include your name in the file name.
3. Be sure to include PDFs of your complete budget breakdown with your application.
4. Send the PDFs as email attachments to [rocdocgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rocdocgroup@gmail.com).

## **How will applications 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](mailto:rocdocgroup@gmail.com)

**Best of luck**