



CHICAGO DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION FUND GRANT GUIDELINES FOR 2017

A Project of the Voqal Fund
Administered by Chicago Filmmakers

The Chicago Digital Media Production Fund provides grants to digital media artists in the Chicago area whose projects seek to advance progressive social change and are intended for online distribution. Proposals will be accepted beginning February 15, 2017 and all proposals must be submitted online by the deadline of 11:59PM on April 9, 2017.

Independent digital media makers based in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs are invited to apply for the Production Fund. Innovative video and media projects intended for online exhibition and distribution by established, emerging, and young artists alike could qualify for cash grants of up to \$20,000 toward the project's production and completion. All genres will be accepted, but content must highlight a relevant social issue and should be aimed at advancing progressive social change. All content should be appropriate for youth, but does not necessarily need to be intended exclusively for youth. Distribution plans **must** include **free** availability on the web by June 15, 2018.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants may apply individually or with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor organization. A fiscal sponsor organization must agree to accept funds on behalf of the applicant and will be responsible for redistributing funds to the project accordingly.
2. Individual applicants must reside in Cook County.
3. Associated fiscal sponsor organizations must be located in Cook County, if the individual applying with the nonprofit organization does not reside in Cook County her/himself.
4. Applicant must be the project director, producer, or developer with creative control.
5. Production and/or post-production must take place in Chicago.
6. Project must be independent of commercial objectives (no advertising, promotional, industrial, or contract work even for nonprofit organizations).
7. Projects may be funded in any phase of production.

Evaluation and Selection Criteria:

1. Content must address a present social issue and seek to advance social change.
2. All digital video genres (narrative, documentary, animation, experimental, webisodes, etc.) and digital media projects (apps, games, etc.) are eligible to apply.

3. Short productions are preferred; however feature length works will also be considered.
4. Proposed projects will be evaluated on creativity, artistry, innovation, and content.
5. Applicants must outline a clear plan for online exhibition and audience engagement for the project.
6. Content must be appropriate for a youth audience (ages 13+) although it does not necessarily have to be intended exclusively for youth.
7. Evidence of other support must be provided, either cash or inkind.
8. Previous work must demonstrate high technical and artistic ability. Allowances will be made for youth applicants in order to support strong concepts/projects by young artists.
9. The completed proposal should demonstrate a cost effective budget and clear production plan/timeline.
10. Applicants applying with a nonprofit fiscal sponsor organization will be evaluated based on the merits of the proposed artist and project, rather than on the associated nonprofit.

Application Process:

1. Applicants must submit a project proposal for review by **11:59PM** on **April 9, 2017**.
2. Proposals will be reviewed by an independent panel of media professionals. Chicago Filmmakers staff and board will not be part of the decisionmaking process. Panel award recommendations require final approval from the Voqal Fund.

Award Requirements:

1. Projects will be awarded between \$500 – \$20,000 based on the amount requested, project budget, scope of the project, and merits of the proposed project.
2. Grant monies will be distributed in 33% increments based on met project objectives and expense reporting.
3. All rights to the project will belong to the applicant.
4. Recognition of Voqal in the project credits must be acknowledged (i.e. "Produced with a grant from the Chicago Digital Media Production Fund, a project of Voqal administered by Chicago Filmmakers.").
5. Awarded project must be completed and available to view for free on the web as of May 15, 2017 and must remain available online for a minimum of three years.