

POCC Film Fund 2023 Brief

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We're thrilled to announce that we've partnered with Shutterstock to launch our first POCC Film Fund in 2023. In honour of this year's theme **#YourSpace**, the 2023 Film Fund will give two filmmakers of Global Majority Heritage £5,000 each to create their own short film answering the brief:

What does 'your space' mean as we continue to fight for equality?

WHAT IS THE POCC FILM FUND?

POCC is an organisation of transformation championing change through creativity, activism and non-traditional means. We believe in the power of creativity to drive positive change for our respective communities, and we recognise the barriers to entry and access to funds for Global Majority creative professionals.

Supported by Shutterstock and 2POCC (POCC's Not For Profit Arm), we are funding two short films with budget contributions of up to £5,000. Projects will receive creative and mentorship support from the POCC Productions team, and will be amplified across POCC and Shutterstock channels, as well as our POCC Film Club Screenings.

Whilst not mandatory, we strongly encourage filmmakers to team up with a producer before applying. If your idea is still in the very early stages of development and yet to find a producer, don't be deterred – if your pitch is approved for funding, we'll help facilitate a partnership with a likeminded producer. Please check that you're comfortable completing the **Budget Estimate** and **Production Schedule Templates** if applying without a producer attached.

WHO CAN APPLY

- ▶ UK directors and filmmakers and those with equivalent experience over the age of 18 are welcome to apply.
- ▶ You must identify as Global Majority – having African, Caribbean, Asian, Latinx, Pacific Islander and/or Indigenous heritage
- ▶ You must be based in the UK.
- ▶ You should have a minimum of 1 year film and production experience.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO SUBMIT

A Treatment – please submit a treatment which includes a synopsis of your idea and vision for the film, how it responds to the brief **'What does 'your space' mean as we continue to fight for equality?'**, your script, visual approach, intention for cast, music /sound, post-treatment, and any further details on crew (if applicable).

Budget Estimate Template – please download and complete our production budget estimate template. This doesn't need to be perfect, but gives us a sense of how you'd approach bringing the film to life. Please outline if you have committed funds from other sources outside of the POCC Film Fund to bring your film to life.

Production Schedule Template – please download and complete our production schedule template with a topline overview of your production timings. Again this doesn't need to be perfect – but is helpful for us to get a sense of how you'd approach topline timings for production.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications open 10am (BST) on Wednesday 31st May 2023 and will be accepted until 12 noon (BST) on Sunday 23rd July 2023.

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of creative and production specialists from POCC and Shutterstock. Our POCC Productions team are happy to review ideas for short films of a length of up to 10 minutes, but ideas should consider the £5,000 budget contribution.

Shortlisted artists will be notified in August and invited to a round of interviews with our panelists to present their treatment and discuss production approach and support.

Final filmmakers will be selected, notified and awarded the grant in August 2023. Once selected, films will need to be delivered by 15th December 2023, so please ensure you consider the production window between September and December this year before applying.

Key Dates

Please take note of the following key dates for applicants and finalists, it is important that if you are selected as a finalist, you are available between August-November 2023 to produce your film.

APPLICATIONS

- ▶ MON MAY 29 – Applications Open
- ▶ SUN JULY 23 – Applications Close
- ▶ MON 24 JULY – FRI 4TH AUGUST – POCC and Shutterstock Review Applications. Filmmakers shortlisted for interviews.
- ▶ W/C 7th AUGUST – Interviews held with filmmakers to discuss treatment, budget, approach and support.
- ▶ W/C 14th AUGUST – Successful Filmmakers Notified
- ▶ W/C 21st AUGUST / September – Finalists announced and grants awarded and transferred

PRODUCTION

- ▶ SEPTEMBER – Pre-Production Commences
- ▶ OCTOBER – Shoot Window
- ▶ NOVEMBER – Post and Edit
- ▶ DECEMBER –
 - ▶ W/C 4th DECEMBER – Filmmakers deliver final film
 - ▶ W/C 11th DECEMBER – Amplification across POCC and Shutterstock Channels
- ▶ JAN 2024 – Promotion / Film screening at POCC Film Club across POCC and Shutterstock Channels

FAQs

Please find below some commonly asked questions to help you out with the POCC Film fund application process:

What is 2POCC?

2POCC is our Not For Profit arm, created to support creative professionals of global majority heritage through events, grants, training, partnerships and more. We do this through securing funds, grants, donations and partnerships with like-minded organisations. 2POCC has partially funded the Film Fund, the Art Fund, POCC Film Club screenings alongside other initiatives.

Do I need a producer to apply for the fund?

We highly encourage applications from director producer teams to apply for the fund, but understand that not all filmmakers may have a producer secured at application stage. If shortlisted for interview we can advise you on connecting with a producer through our extended networks.

What if I am the director and producer?

In our experience, successful films are driven by talented collaboration and a strong creative team. You can apply for the fund if you are a director/producer but we would urge you to consider the benefit an experienced producer would bring to the progress of the project.

Do I need a production company?

No, you do not need a production company to apply. We recognise that not all filmmakers are connected with a production company, but have the means and networks capable of producing a film. We do advise completing the application with a producer who has experience with managing productions, schedule and budgets. If shortlisted for interview we can advise you on connecting with a producer through our extended networks.

At what stage can I apply?

You can apply for funding for your project at any stage from development through to late production.

If I am a British Citizen living in a country other than the UK, can I apply?

Yes. As long as you can provide proof of a UK address and bank account. The grant will be awarded in GBP and your production approach needs to consider this in terms of managing your final production budget and transactions.

What supporting materials need to be provided?

And how do I upload them?

In the application you will be asked if you want to submit supporting materials. You will be able to upload materials once you have completed and submitted your application.

These will include any film files you wish to upload as sample work.

It is necessary to upload a budget and production schedule. It is optional to also upload any creative materials to support your application – a mood board or previous work. Please note that support materials **MUST** be uploaded before the application deadline.

Can I apply with more than one project?

You can apply with more than one project. The fund is limited and you may wish to think about which project is most developed and suitable prior to application. You will need to fully complete an individual application form for each project that you submit.

Will I need to sign a contract?

The successful filmmakers will need to sign a professional agreement to deliver the film by an agreed date to ensure the grant is spent and the final output is produced.

AFTER YOU HAVE SUBMITTED YOUR APPLICATION:

When will I find out if my application has been successful?

To ensure a thorough and fair review process, it takes our team and external peer reviewers a couple of weeks after the fund close date to make decisions. We do contact ALL applicants by email to let them know the outcome.

If my application is unsuccessful can I reapply?

Yes. However please consider how you will be able to demonstrate that the project has developed since your last application. Do you have new material? Added any senior roles to your team? Developed characters, access or progressed with other funding sources? If we receive a repeat submission for a project that cannot demonstrate significant development, it's unlikely that it will be selected.

We hope this is the first of many POCC Film Fund opportunities – if your idea fits the brief outlined in future Film Fund applications, we're more than happy to review it again at that time. However, we'll need to see that the project has been further developed or revised following its unsuccessful bid here.

If you still have questions, please contact us on:

filmfund@wearepocc.com