

# The Ultimate Filmmaker's Grant List

## The FatChix Guide to Grants + Applications

By Margaret Boschini

### Film Grants 101

What is the one thing that ALL great filmmakers *have* to have?

Creativity? Charm? A cinematic vision?

The answer, my friends, is **money!** (I know, I'm sorry)

As artists, our collective reputation when it comes to money is...not so stellar. This is unfortunate, because filmmaking is expensive AF. Luckily, there is a way to raise funds for your next big project without tap dancing for tips in the subway (although you might just have to do that too). We're talking, of course, about FILM GRANTS.

Film grants can be a filmmaker's best friend when it comes to finance. They are usually given out by governmental organizations, companies or festivals, and come in many forms— from sums of money to complementary equipment for shoots. The general goal of these grants is to allow filmmakers to create work that reflects the goals of the granting organization. For example, some grants give funds to filmmakers from marginalized groups, like women and minorities. Other grants are designed to fund films that tackle certain themes or issues that the creators of the fund feel are important. But no matter what the specifics may be, grants ultimately exist to give filmmakers (like YOU!) the opportunity to fund their independent works and unleash their creative greatness into the world!

Below is our official FatChix Directory of Film Grants and application links. These links can get you started on your quest for that sweet, sweet cash. Take a look and see if any of these programs might work for you. But first, check out our tips for when you're ready to tackle that intimidating grant application!

### Application Tips

So you found a grant that looks good—what now? Although every grant is different, there are a few steps you can take to get a head start on the competition.

## **1. Do your Research**

Check out the website of the organization offering the grant you have an eye on. What is their mission? What is their goal? Often sites list links to the projects of previous winners. Take the time to be sure your project would fit in among their past grantees. Don't waste your time applying for something you aren't actually eligible for.

## **2. Follow the Rules**

Your proposal and/or application for a grant should follow ALL rules and guidelines set forth by the granting organization. Look through the guidelines closely, and then look again. Some grants require applications in PDF form. Some old-school granters may want hardcopies of proposals (crazy, I know). Most organizations WILL and DO rule out your application for any minor infraction. Odds are they have a LOT of proposals to sort through, and will take your mistake as a sign of apathy. If you can't bother to do it right, they won't bother to read it.

## **3. Know your Project's Purpose**

All grant-giving organizations look for different things in their grantees, but EVERYONE will want to know your project's *purpose*. Take time to meet with your creative team and find a cohesive way to construct your pitch. If your application lacks direction, the only place it's going is into the "no" pile.

## **4. Be Bold**

At FatChix, we are all about being bold—and we think you should be too! Take what you learned from Tip #1 and use it to your advantage. Make it clear in your application that you have done your homework, and that you WANT THIS MONEY OPPORTUNITY! If you're really feelin' it, grab somebody's contact info off the site and shoot them an email. Leave them your name and info, and ask them a question about the grant to show your interest (just be sure that your question cannot be answered from the website!!!). Getting your name involved in the process, even in a small way, can never hurt.

## **5. Be Someone YOU'D Wanna Fund.**

If you were in a grant-giving position, what would you look for in a grant candidate? Keep this in mind as you apply. Be sure to come off as the dedicated, intelligent, and innovative creator that you are! A grant-giver's worst fear is to give money to someone who might blow their cash on something stupid, or leave a project halfway through. So take the time to let your planning skills, potential, and dedication shine through. Repeat that to yourself. Planning skills, Potential, Dedication. These three points are important to emphasize clearly, because they paint you as someone who has their sh\*t together and isn't going to abandon ship—the ideal candidate for a grant!

## FatChix Grant List 2018

### 1. Bertha Doc Society: Journalism Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-Various amounts of \$\$

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Filmmakers with a secure production plan for their project

**LINK:** <https://docsociety.org/bertha-journalism/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 2. Bureau of Creative Works: Grant Program\*

**THE GOODS:**

-Promotion on social media

-Entry into the online Bureau Film Library

-Free organizational support

**GENRE:** Any short film (no music videos)

**OPEN TO:** Any Filmmaker (\*APP FEE \$20)

**LINK:** <https://www.bureauofcreative.works/submit/>

**DEADLINE:** December 1<sup>st</sup>

### 3. Camden International Film Festival: Short Form Editing Residency

**THE GOODS:**

-Week long trip to Maine (travel stipends+accommodations+rental car incl.)

-Two all access passes to the Camden International Film Festival and Points North Forum

-Scheduled meetings with industry mentors and distributors

**GENRE:** Documentary (episodic)

**OPEN TO:** All independent filmmakers with projects in post-production

**LINK:** <https://pointsnorthinstitute.org/artist-programs/shortform-residency/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 4. Catapult Film Fund: Outreach and Engagement Fund Grant

**THE GOODS:**

-Up to \$20,000

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Filmmakers with a secure production plan for their project

**LINK:** <https://catapultfilmfund.org/how-to-apply/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 5. Center for Asian American Media: CAAM documentary Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-Grants from \$15,000-50,000

**GENRE:** Documentary  
**OPEN TO:** Asian American centered works for public television  
**LINK:** <https://caamedia.org/for-medi makers/get-funded/>  
**DEADLINE:** September 1<sup>st</sup>

#### 6. Center for Independent Documentary: Fiscal Sponsorship

**THE GOODS:**

- Consultation with experienced producers
- Help with grant acquisition, invoice management, and budget management

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Nonfiction film projects

**LINK:** <https://www.documentaries.org/fiscal-sponsorship/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

#### 7. Film Independent: Alfred P. Sloan Grants

**THE GOODS:**

- Various, depending on stage of production. Up to \$50,000

**GENRE:** Narrative

**OPEN TO:** Films in all development stages that feature STEM related themes or characters

**LINK:** <https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/grants-and-awards/alfred-p-sloan-grants/>

**DEADLINE:** Various

#### 8. Film Independent: Directing Lab\*

**THE GOODS:**

- LA Film Festival pass
- Equipment grant
- Professional production assistance

**GENRE:** Narrative

**OPEN TO:** Any Filmmaker (\*APP FEE \$65)

**LINK:** <https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/artist-development/directing-lab/>

**DEADLINE:** August 27

#### 9. Film Independent: Fiscal Sponsorship\*

**THE GOODS:**

- Consultation with professionals
- Administrative assistance with finance
- Access to networking events

**GENRE:** Any Filmmaker

**OPEN TO:** Film Independent Members (\*APP FEE \$45)

**LINK:** <https://www.filmindependent.org/programs/fiscal-sponsorship/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 10. Filmmakers Without Borders: Filmmaking Grants

**THE GOODS:**

-Four tiers of grants, from \$100-\$5,000

**GENRE:** All

**OPEN TO:** Films in all stages of development

**LINK:** <http://filmmakerswithoutborders.org/grants/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling, on a yearly basis

### 11. Frameline: Completion Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-\$25,000 in total grants

**GENRE:** “Queer Films”

**OPEN TO:** LGBTQ identifying creators

**LINK:** <https://www.frameline.org/year-round/filmmaker-support/completion-fund>

**DEADLINE:** Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

### 12. Fork Films: Grants

**THE GOODS:**

- Grants from \$10,000 to \$50,000

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Any film with an “important social contribution”

**LINK:** <https://www.forkfilms.net/apply/>

**DEADLINE:** Cyclical, with new cycle in Fall 2018

### 13. From the Heart Productions: Film and Video Grants

**THE GOODS:**

-Fiscal sponsorship

-Consultation

**GENRE:** ANY

**OPEN TO:** Films with a budget of \$500,000 or less

**LINK:** <https://fromtheheartproductions.com/roy-w-dean-film-grants-and-awards/#>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 14. Glass Breaker Films: Catalyst Grant

**THE GOODS:**

- Up to \$7,000 per grant

**GENRE:** Short nonfiction

**OPEN TO:** Young Female Filmmakers

**LINK:** <https://glassbreakerfilms.org/catalyst-grants/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

### 15. Gucci Tribeca: Documentary Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-Support for your production (monetary and professional)  
**GENRE:** Documentary  
**OPEN TO:** Filmmakers with docs that spotlight social issues worldwide  
**LINK:** [https://www.tfiny.org/programs/detail/gucci\\_tribeca\\_documentary\\_fund](https://www.tfiny.org/programs/detail/gucci_tribeca_documentary_fund)  
**DEADLINE:** TBA

#### 16. International Documentary Association: Enterprise Documentary Fund Development Grant

**THE GOODS:** Grants up to 15k  
**GENRE:** Documentary  
**OPEN TO:** Directors or creative producers of journalistically-sound, contemporary works in R&D  
**LINK:** <https://www.documentary.org/enterprise-documentary-fund/development-grant-application-guidelines>  
**DEADLINE:** Sept. 1, 2018

#### 17. Jerome Foundation: Film Grants

**THE GOODS:**  
-Up to \$30,000  
**GENRE:** Various  
**OPEN TO:** Minnesota or NY based directors with 2 previous titles  
**LINK:** <https://www.jeromefdn.org/film-video-production-grants>  
**DEADLINE:** Rolling, with grants given every other year

#### 18. MountainFilm: Commitment Grant

**THE GOODS:**  
- \$30,000 in total grants  
- Possible fellowship opportunity  
**GENRE:** Documentary  
**OPEN TO:** All Filmmakers  
**LINK:** <https://www.mountainfilm.org/news/2014/09/29/winners-of-the-2014-mountainfilm-commitment-grant>  
**DEADLINE:** Next cycle in June 2019

#### 19. National Endowment for the Humanities: Production Grants

**THE GOODS:**  
-Up to \$650,000  
-Support in distribution  
**GENRE:** Documentary  
**OPEN TO:** Works that engage with humanities topics (history, art, etc.)  
**LINK:** <https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/media-projects-production-grants>  
**DEADLINE:** August 9<sup>th</sup>, yearly

## 20. New York Foundation for the Arts: “Made in NY” Women’s Film, TV and Theatre Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-From \$20,000 to \$50,000, depending on the nature of the project

**GENRE:** Various

**OPEN TO:** Female and/or female identifying creators

**LINK:** <https://www.nyfa.org/Content/Show/NYC-Womens-Fund>

**DEADLINE:** October 16th

## 21. New York Women in Film and Television: Fund for women filmmakers

**THE GOODS:**

-Cash grants of varying amounts

**GENRE:** VARIOUS

**OPEN TO:** Female filmmakers in New York working on films in multiple stages of production or post

**LINK:** <https://www.nywift.org/fund-for-women-filmmakers/>

**DEADLINE:** Various (turnover usually in June)

## 22. Panavision: New Filmmakers Program

**THE GOODS:**

-Equipment grants and digital camera packages

**GENRE:** ANY

**OPEN TO:** Independent/Student filmmakers with projects around two months from planned production

**LINK:** <https://www.panavision.com/new-filmmaker-program>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

## 23. Screencraft: Screencraft Film Fund

**THE GOODS:**

-From \$10,000 to \$30,000

**GENRE:** Any

**OPEN TO:** Films or screenplays in any stage of production

**LINK:** <https://screencraft.org/fund/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling, with recipients announced every six months

## 24. SFILM: Rainin Filmmaking Grant

**THE GOODS:**

-A six month residency

-Cash grants

-Access to various development programs

**GENRE:** Narrative feature films

**OPEN TO:** Filmmakers whose work features issues of social justice

**LINK:** <https://www.sffilm.org/artist-development/grants-and-fellowships/rainin-filmmaking-grant>

**DEADLINE:** Aug. 29

## 25. Sundance Institute: Documentary Fund Grants

### THE GOODS:

- Development grants up to 15,000
- Production/Post production grants up to 40,000

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** All

**LINK:** <http://www.sundance.org/programs/documentary-film>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling (Sept. and Dec. decision dates)

## 26. Sundance Institute: Episodic Program\*

### THE GOODS:

- Training and Industry access
- Development assistance

**GENRE:** Original Pilot Scripts

**OPEN TO:** All Filmmakers (\*APP FEE \$40)

**LINK:** <http://www.sundance.org/programs/episodic-storytelling#/>

**DEADLINE:** Reopens Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## 27. The Fledgling Fund: Outreach and Engagement Fund Grant

### THE GOODS:

-Grants from 10-25K

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Social issue documentary projects

**LINK:** <http://www.thefledglingfund.org/documentary-fund/>

**DEADLINE:** Rolling

## 28. The Rogovy Foundation: The Miller/Packan Film Fund

### THE GOODS:

-Up to \$25,000, depending on stage of production

**GENRE:** Documentary

**OPEN TO:** Films in advanced production, production, or post production.

**LINK:** <http://rogovy.org/film-fund/overview/>

**DEADLINE:** November 15