2015 SDF Filmmaking Grants

**Please review the guidelines below, the application, and required supporting materials thoroughly. We suggest that you work on the application offline until you are ready to submit via the link below. If you start working directly in Submittable, your draft will only be saved for 21 days. Submit your complete application via this link no later than July 31, 2015:**

http://sdf.submittable.com/submit/42036

The Southern Documentary Fund seeks documentary films made in or about North Carolina for our annual filmmaking grants. These grants are made possible thanks to generous support from The Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

The 2015 submission window is June 1, 2015 through July 31, 2015. Grant awardees will be announced in October 2015. Beginning June 1, 2015, you may submit your complete online via Submittable.com. The online application is only available during the two-month submission window. All applications are due by July 31, 2015.

Note: Please answer all of the application questions thoughtfully and thoroughly. There will be a robust review process, submissions that are not complete will not advance to the final review stage.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must have a US social security number or US federal tax ID.
- Applicants must be 18-years of age or older.
- Applicants must live and work in NC, or their story must take place in NC.
- SDF does not fund student films.
- Applicants may be first time filmmakers (if working with experienced collaborators), emerging artists, or veteran producer/directors.
- Projects must be non-fiction documentaries, 26 minutes or longer in length.
- Applicants must own the copyright of their production, and have editorial and budgetary control over their project. No works-for-hire.
- You do not need a fiscal sponsor in order to apply for a grant. But if you are accepted, you must have a US fiscal sponsor in order to receive the funds.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

- Projects in development, production, or post-production (no grants available for distribution or engagement).
- Compelling Southern stories.
- Well-written and researched proposals.
- Strong samples (for films in production or post production).
- Contemporary relevance.
- Feasibility of the project (budget, financing, schedule and scope).
- Confirmed access to subjects and story.
- Originality of form, approach or content.
- Potential to generate public discourse and social engagement.

GUIDELINES

- SDF filmmaking grants range from $1,000 to $5,000.
- Funds may not be used to cover previously incurred expenses.
- Applicants may submit only one project per funding cycle.
- Previously funded projects should not re-apply, even if in different stage of production.
- Grantees must submit narrative and financial reports during the course of the grant period, along with photos and other publicity materials.
- SDF support must be acknowledged with a tag line and logo—of similar size and stature to other logos in the credits—at the end credits of the film as well as on all publicity and promotional materials relating to the production.
If you are not certain you or your project are eligible, please contact SDF before filling in the application materials: info@southerndocumentaryfund.org

APPLICATION

Project Title *

Applicant name *

Do you meet the criteria below? *

- Applicants must live or work in NC
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older
- Applicants must have a US Social Security Number or US Federal Tax ID

Please check all that apply.

Note: If you do not meet ALL of these requirements you are not eligible to apply.

Fiscal sponsor *

Are you currently working with a fiscal sponsor on this project? If so, list the organization. Please note: You do not need a fiscal sponsor in order to apply for a grant. But if you are accepted, you must have a US fiscal sponsor in order to receive the funds. If awarded a grant, you will have the option to join SDF's fiscal sponsorship program if you are not currently sponsored by another organization.

Applicant's role on project *

Applicant's phone number *

Applicant's email address *

Project website and social media links *

Director's experience *

- First-time filmmaker
- Emerging
- Mid-Career
- Veteran
Filmmaker(s) name and one-paragraph bio *
This space is for the director and producer only. *Limit: 500 words*

Other key personnel/crew *
Please list the key creatives on your team. *Limit: 250 words*

How did you learn about SDF’s Filmmaking Grants? *

Project type *
- Documentary short (40 minutes and under)
- Documentary feature (over 40 minutes)

Project stage *
- Development/Pre-Production
- Early Production
- Mid-Production
- Post-Production (early editing)
- Post-Production Rough Cut

Please note we do not accept applications for distribution or engagement funding.

Shooting format and camera *

Logline (12 sentences max) *Limit: 50 words*
One-paragraph synopsis*

Limit: 250 words

Project Timeline*

Brief outline of production timeline from inception through completion. Limit: 250 words

Story treatment*

How you plan to tell this story stylistically and structurally? Limit: 500 words

Access to story/characters*


Audience engagement*

Who do you want to see this movie? Where/how will audiences see it? Describe partnerships. Limit: 500 words
Total project budget *

Total money spent to date *
Please note grant funds cannot be used for previously incurred expenses.

Estimate to complete *

Fundraising plan * Limit: 500 words

How specifically will SDF grant monies will spent? * Limit: 250 words

Work sample URL and password *
We will accept work samples up to 10 minutes or we will watch the first 20 minutes of a rough cut. We discourage submitting a short trailer.

If the work sample is not the project you’re applying for please list the title, length, and a one-sentence description. Limit: 250 words

Budget *
Upload a .pdf of your complete project budget, not to exceed 3 pages. Please make sure your budget columns are readable across a single page. Acceptable file types: pdf.