



**VAFF Film Fund (VAFF<sup>2</sup>) founded by VAFF Lifetime Benefactor Mr. Richard K. Wong. It aims to support talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and TV producers, to develop, produce, and finish creative projects that raise the profile of Asians in Canada.**

Submission Date: Dec. 19, 2022 - Feb. 19, 2023

Recipient(s) announcement: March 14, 2023

Project(s) completion: Sept. 30, 2023

## **2022-23 VAFF<sup>2</sup> FILM FUND GUIDELINES**

### **Objectives**

Vancouver Asian Film Festival (“**VAFF**”) established the 2022-23 Film Fund the “**Film Fund**”) to assist talented Asian Canadian filmmakers and TV producers produce creative projects that raise the profile of Asians in Canada.

The **2022-23 Film Fund** was established to address the challenges faced by Asian Canadians in the film industry and was made possible by Richard K. Wong’s generous contribution in 2022. VAFF aims to secure further donors and sponsors to increase the amount available under the Film Fund.

To provide Asian Canadian filmmakers the opportunity to complete their works, the VAFF may finance original, high-quality projects (collectively or individually, the “**Project**”) that satisfy the criteria of the Fund, including those set out below, as may be amended or otherwise determined by VAFF at its sole discretion. VAFF’s hope is that the Project will further establish Asian Canadians as talented and notable filmmakers and actors.

Project applications (“**Applications**”) **open from Dec. 19, 2022 - Feb. 19, 2023 (11:59 pm)**. It will be evaluated by VAFF or its representatives, and the owner of the selected Project(s) (the “**Owner**”) will enter into an agreement (the “**Agreement**”) with VAFF with respect to the Project. The Agreement will set out terms relating to an amount up to **\$ 10,000** to be received by the Owner(s), including the timeline in which that amount will be given to the Owner(s) for the Project.

### **Eligibility**

The following criteria apply to all Applications and will be subject to the terms of the Agreement.

#### **1. Requirements**

- a. Applications must be submitted before the **deadline (Feb 19, 2023 - 11:59 pm PST)** and may be submitted by Canadian independent producers who are individuals or co-ventures or may be submitted by corporations or other entities controlled by the Owner.

- b. Projects under the Applications must not have been produced in whole or in part before the Agreement is entered into.
- c. The ideal applicant is an intermediate-level filmmaker.
- d. The selected Project(s) should be able to be completed, script to delivery, in approximately 6 months from the date on which the Agreement is entered into (**April 1, 2023 - September 31, 2023**), however longer delivery dates may be considered.

## 2. Ownership & Rights

- a. The beneficial ownership of the Project will be retained by a Canadian resident.
- b. The Owner agrees to:
  - i. Give VAFF the exclusive license to first screen the completed Project (the “Film”) and a non-exclusive and royalty-free right to further screen the Film for a period of two years.
  - ii. Funded films may showcased at the Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival
  - iii. Assign film credits to Richard K. Wong, Grace Wong and VAFF as Executive Producers.
  - iv. Provide a testimonial for VAFF supporting the Film Fund.

## 3. Applicants Eligibility:

- Applications must fulfill the following Asian representation requirements:
  - at least one member of the creative team member (producer/production company, director or writer) self-identifies as being of Asian or part-Asian heritage
  - At least one of the lead characters self-identifies as being of Asian or part-Asian heritage and
- Applications may be submitted by Canadian independent producers who are individuals or co-ventures or by corporations or other entities controlled by the applicant.
- Any resident of Canada (Canadian Citizen or Permanent Residence status) can apply from anywhere in the country.
- The ideal applicant is an intermediate-level filmmaker, but there are no requirements or limitations on the size of the project.
- One entry only per each above-the-line applicant
- Previous film fund recipient(s) may apply as different roles of the creative team member.

#### 4. Film Criteria

For the purposes of the Film Fund, the Project can take form as a **Short-film or TV pilot** that satisfies the following criteria:

- a. Showcases a story where the protagonist is Asian or Part Asian Canadian.
- b. Have **leading characters** that are 50% or more Asian Canadians or Part-Asian Canadian (not including supporting)
- c. Have **above-the-line personnel** that are 50% or more Asian Canadian or Part-Asian Canadian
- d. Runs at least 15 - 30 minutes at maximum
- e. Has an original narrative and visual construction.
- f. Has enduring appeal, and therefore a durable "shelf-life".

Projects with any hate, political or religious propaganda will not be funded. Likewise, Projects with only one lead Asian character under circumstances where that character is the antagonist will not be funded.

#### 5. Funding

- a. There is no budgetary limit in order to qualify for funding.
  - i. The other 50% can be self-funded and/or crowd-sourced.
  - ii. The fund can be used for production and post-production.
  - iii. The fund can be used to top-up an existing budget.
- b. VAFF reserves the right to split the fund between multiple Projects.
- c. This is an annual fund, awarded once per year. VAFF reserves the right to end the program in future years if the funds are not replenished.

#### Application Procedure

1. Applicants must submit Applications via [www.vaff.org/filmfund](http://www.vaff.org/filmfund)
2. Applicants must submit the following documentation to [filmfund@vaff.org](mailto:filmfund@vaff.org) with their Applications:
  - a. Detailed industry-standard production budget and top sheet. (1 page)
  - b. Proposed shooting and production schedules. (1 page)
  - c. A detailed one-page project synopsis, including names and ethnic backgrounds of leading characters. (1 page)

- d. A detailed outline or treatment, including a description of the subject matter as well as the filmmaker's editorial and cinematic approach.
  - e. Resumes and background information on producer(s) and key creative, including screenwriter and director.
  - f. Total number of pages: no more than 10 page total
3. Pay for the submission fee: \$50 (CAD)

## **Administration and Evaluation Process**

### **1. Administration**

The **VAFF Film Fund** is administered by VAFF, a British Columbia Society, under the governance of an independent Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and an adjudication panel of industry professionals has sole and exclusive responsibility to make funding decisions. The day-to-day operations and supervise the implementation of the Film Fund that will be overseen by an Executive Officer(s) who reports to the Board of Director(s).

### **2. Evaluation Process**

- a. Deadlines are strictly enforced by VAFF.
- b. All interpretations of these Guidelines and decisions made by the Board of Directors are at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. All decisions are final and are not subject to appeal.
- c. All projects will be determined by an adjudication panel of industry professionals and the selected project recipient(s) will be announced on March 14, 2023.

### **3. Factors for Success:**

The following criteria will be considered when determining the potential success for a program:

- a. Producer track record
- b. International pre-sale/financing
- c. Creative team
- d. Film festival potential
- e. Audience appeal in Canada
- f. International audience appeal
- g. Distribution
- h. Potential TV series

#### **4. Additional Fine Print:**

- Current Vancouver Asian Film Festival Board, Executive and Committee members are not eligible to enter this competition as above-the-line personnel.
- VAFF is under no obligation to award the fund if we don't find a suitable project, it will simply get rolled over to next year
- VAFF reserve the right to make minor adjustments to the rules and regulations without informing applicants
- Once submitted, the applicant cannot change anything. - submit cautiously.
- VAFF is under no obligation to provide feedback for not being selected for funding.

#### **5. Delivery Specification**

Min 1920x1080p 24fps.

Subtitles required for any in language, other than English is required.

192kps audio.

Within broadcast colours.

For additional information, please go to: <https://vaff.org/filmfund> or email [filmfund@vaff.org](mailto:filmfund@vaff.org)