



**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: Sept 28, 2024 - October 18, 2024

Top 5 finalists announcement: November 1, 2024

Finalists in-person live pitch: November 8, 2024

Recipient(s) announcement: November 17, 2024

Project(s) production: Jan. 1 - Sept. 15, 2025

## **2024-25 VAFF<sup>2</sup> FILM FUND GUIDELINES**

### **Objectives**

Vancouver Asian Film Festival (“**VAFF**”) established the 2024-25 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 **2024-25 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 2021. 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 Sept. 28 - Oct 18, 2024 (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 (Oct 18, 2024 - 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 8 months from the date on which the Agreement is entered into **(January 1 - September 15, 2025)**, 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 film(s) would be showcased as a world premiere** at the 29th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival in 2025.
  - 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, Web series 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 **20 - 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 every other 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 <https://vaff.org/vaffilmfund/>
2. Applicants must submit the following documentation to [filmfund@vaff.org](mailto:filmfund@vaff.org) with their Applications:
  - a. A detailed one-page project synopsis, including names and ethnic backgrounds of leading characters. (1 page)
  - b. Proposed industry-standard production budget and top sheet. (1 page)
  - c. Proposed shooting and production schedules. (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. (combined into one file) [pdf, doc, docx]

3. Pay for the submission fee: \$50 (CAD)

4. **NEW THIS YEAR:**

**A selected finalist(s) in-person pitch competition will be part of the judging process.** The selected five finalist(s) will be announced on November 1, 2024 to participate in the **in-person VAFF Film Fund Pitch Competition event on November 8, 2024** during the Vancouver Asian Film Festival. **The selected project recipient(s) will be announced on November 17, 2024 at the OVAAsian Award Ceremony event.**

- a. **Top selected 5 finalists will have 5 minutes to pitch their story** to an adjudication panel and an audience of filmmakers and storytellers.
- b. **Top selected 5 finalists will receive a complimentary VAFF industry pass** at the 28th Annual Vancouver Asian Film Festival.
- c. **All applicants** will receive a pair of spectator's tickets to the Nov 8, 2024 - in person VAFF Film Fund Pitch Competition event.

## 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 five finalist(s) will be announced on November 1, 2024 to participate in the **in-person VAFF Film Fund Pitch Competition event on November 8, 2024 during the Vancouver Asian Film Festival.**
- d. Top five finalists' projects will be determined by an adjudication panel of industry professionals and **the selected project recipient(s) will be announced on November 17, 2024.**

### 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)