



black public media

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ's about the Open Call

What types of projects are eligible for the Open Call?

This Open Call is for stories about the climate or environment only. All types of projects – animated, traditional docs, experimental, hybrid formats, etc. – are welcome.

I'm not a U.S. citizen. Can I still apply?

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be citizens or legal residents of the United States or its territories

I am not African American or of African descent. Can I still apply?

You can still apply. Please know that Black Public Media's mission is to support media-makers of African descent. We seek projects in which media-makers of African descent are represented in key creative positions.

Are first time filmmakers eligible?

Yes, if you have an experienced senior producer committed to the team.

How do you determine a minimum of three years professional producing and/or directing experience?

Applicants may be asked to demonstrate work experience with sample work and/or detailed a resume list projects, role on the project, distribution platform and release date. Applicants must play a creative role on past projects but do not need to be the owner.

Are international projects eligible?

Projects or production entities, which are foreign-based, owned or controlled will not be considered.

I'm working on several projects. Can I submit them all?

While a single producer or production team may submit multiple applications, each project must be submitted separately, and no more than one project from any producer or production team will ultimately receive support.

I have a finished film but I still need funding to pay off production expenses. Can I apply?

No, funds are only available for projects that are in pre-production, production, or post-production.

I don't hold the copyright for my project. Can I apply?

Applicants must hold artistic, budgetary and editorial control and must own the copyright of the proposed project.

I already have a deal to stream my project online. Can I apply?

For awarded projects, BPM will hold exclusive broadcast premiere rights for 4 years on public media. Projects for which the domestic broadcast and/or streaming rights are not available will not be considered.

Are student projects eligible to apply?

Thesis projects or student films which are co-owned, solely owned or copyrighted, or otherwise editorially or fiscally controlled by the school are not eligible.

Are industrial, children's, promotional projects or impact campaigns eligible?

Industrial, promotional projects and impact campaigns are not eligible for funding. BPM does support projects for children and teens but not for this current Open Call.

Our public media organization is interested in helping employees with their applications. Is that allowed?

Yes, projects receiving organizational support are welcome to apply.

For awarded projects, what happens if the production schedule goes beyond the schedule proposed in the application? Projects must be completed 18 months from award. We will only consider extensions of a project's schedule for selected projects with a fully executed agreement. Requests for schedule changes will not be accepted until midway through the licensing term. Extensions in the production schedule are not guaranteed.

FAQs about PitchBLACK

What is PitchBLACK?

PitchBLACK is a dynamic forum where invited filmmakers pitch for up to \$150,000 in production funding.. PitchBLACK will be held in New York City at the end of April 2024. Filmmaking teams of up to 2 people will pitch live to a panel of three judges. The forum includes an audience of media professionals, funders, and industry stakeholders who will join the event in person and virtually. After receiving the invitation, the filmmakers will have 2 weeks to rsvp. Filmmakers joining from outside of NY will receive a travel stipend. Each filmmaking team will be required to attend at least two virtual pitch training sessions with BPM staff. Please note that BPM may adjust plans if needed to meet health recommendations.

How do I participate in PitchBLACK?

Five broadcast length projects that are awarded funding in the Open Call will receive an invitation to participate in PitchBLACK. Although it is not required, we encourage you to participate in PitchBLACK for the chance to receive additional funding for your project.

If I decline the PitchBLACK invitation, will I still receive the Open Call funding award?

Yes, but you will miss out on the opportunity to receive additional funding.

If I am unable to travel to New York City, am I disqualified from participating?

No, we ask that you join the forum virtually to present your pitch live. We encourage everyone to join in person for direct one-on-one conversation and networking. However, we do understand that some circumstances may not allow travel.

Will you require PitchBLACK participants to have the Covid vaccination?

BPM will follow the protocols set by the venues.

I've never pitched before, is that a problem?

No! PitchBLACK was the first pitching experience for almost all of the filmmakers in past events. For PitchBLACK 2024, filmmakers are invited to attend BPM's Artist Retreat where filmmakers will participate in workshops to prepare for their pitch. **The Artist Retreat is tentatively scheduled for Friday, February 16 - Monday, February 19, 2024.** It is not a mandatory event but we strongly encourage participation. Following the retreat, BPM will hold virtual pitch practice and feedback sessions leading up to pitch day in April 2024.

For more information please contact funding@blackpublicmedia.org, or call 212.234.8200.