



الصندوق العربي للثقافة والفنون  
The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

# The Arab Fund Documentary Film Program Guidelines

July 2009



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Arab Fund Documentary Film Program is a partnership between the Arab Fund for Arts and Culture and Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program (DFP). This program is dedicated to supporting contemporary nonfiction films produced by filmmakers targeting the audience in the Arab World. Individuals and organizations working in filmmaking and targeting the audience in the Arab World are invited to send in their proposals for development, production and post-production of nonfiction films.

As part of this program, Grant winners will receive a series of workshops and consultations with international advisors for the year following funding, guided by AFAC and Sundance DFP.

The Arab Fund for Arts & Culture (AFAC) is a private independent organization providing direct financial assistance to independent artists and cultural institutions across the Arab World. AFAC aims at stimulating and supporting artistic creativity and freedom of cultural expression in the Arab World.

Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program provides year-round support to nonfiction contemporary-issue filmmakers internationally. The program encourages the exploration of innovative nonfiction storytelling, and promotes the exhibition of documentary films to a broader audience.



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## 2. OBJECTIVES and PRIORITIES

### 2.1 Objectives

The global overall objectives of this initiative are the following:

- a) To contributing to the development and growth of the regional industry and talent in the field of documentary filmmaking.
- b) To give opportunities for Arab directors and producers to participate in the key international events and to promote Arab work in major international markets.
- c) To reinforce competitiveness of Arab audiovisual works within the framework of an open and competitive Arab market.

### 2.2 Priorities

This call for proposals is aimed at Arab directors whose activities contribute to realization of the above objectives. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the potential for documentary filmmaking in Arab countries with low audiovisual production.

## 3. TIMETABLE

Application deadline will be 30 September 2009 at 16:30 p.m. Amman time. Projected notification of final selections will be in January, 2010.

Please read carefully through this document to know more about the procedure for submitting proposals.

## 4. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The total budget available for this call for proposal is estimated at \$ 250,000 US.

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The amount of the financial contribution to be awarded will be determined within the limits of the available budgetary resources and with regards to the selection and award criteria.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be subject to an in-depth evaluation. Applications duly signed by the filmmaker and legal representative of the institution or company, must be submitted before the announced deadline using the application forms published on AFAC webpage “how to apply” on AFAC website [www.arabculturefund.org](http://www.arabculturefund.org).

### 5.1 Eligible Applicants

Eligible Directors /filmmaker must have previous directing experience in documentary or feature films.

Applications from the below mentioned categories are eligible. Supporting documents needed from applicants are mentioned by each category:

- **Individual Directors/filmmakers**
  - Copy of the ID card and/or passport.
  - Copy of director’s biography
  - 4 Copies of DVD's containing sample(s) of director’s previous work.
- **Private Companies, institutions, associations and public entities:**
  - Copy of director’s biography
  - 4 Copies of DVD containing sample(s) of director’s previous work.
  - A copy of the Certificate of Registration (for private entities) or a copy of the decree/act or governmental decision or any other official documents establishing the public body (public entities).
  - Institutions’ profile and activity report.
  - Institutions’ financial report.



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## 5.2 Eligible Applications

- Only proposals submitted using the official application form, completed in full, signed and received by the specified deadline, will be considered.
- Application form must be filled out in **English language**. Additional materials can be in Arabic, English or French.
- Only typed applications will be accepted. Hand written applications will not be considered.
- The application form must be accompanied with the documents attesting to its financial and operational capacity, and all the other documents referred to in the application form.
- AFAC reserves the right to request additional information from the applicant.
- Incomplete application will not be considered.
- The film must be completed after January, 2010. AFAC will not fund retroactively on a production.

## 5.3 ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES

The Arab Fund Documentary Film Program considers projects in the below mentioned categories. An applicant may not submit more than one proposal under this call. An applicant can submit for more than one of the following categories in the same proposal.

- Scripts and project development:** The maximum contribution for script and project development is (\$15,000 US).
- Production and Post-production:** The maximum contribution for production and post-production is (\$50,000 US). The fund is receptive to alternative and innovative ideas, as long as these are well-founded by a clear plan of implementation.

## 6. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSALS

The purpose of this section is to define clearly for the applicants the procedures to follow when applying for support. These guidelines are valid for the year 2009.



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### **6.1 Application form**

Applicants can download the full application form our website: [www.arabculturefund.org](http://www.arabculturefund.org) For applicant's consultation, please write to [documentaryfilm@arabculturefund.org](mailto:documentaryfilm@arabculturefund.org)

### **6.2 Submission procedure**

Grant applications must be submitted in English language, on the correct forms, duly completed, and dated. Applications which do not include all the stipulated documents and which are not submitted at the respective deadline will not be considered.

Applicants must label the submitted DVD cover with the following details: title of the film, the full name of the director(s), the duration of the film, the original language, and date of completion of production.

Application and documents must be sent via mail to the following address by the relevant deadline in hard copy and clearly marked with the project title:

The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture

P.O.Box 1402 Amman 11118 Jordan

E-mail: [documentaryfilm@arabculturefund.org](mailto:documentaryfilm@arabculturefund.org)

Submitted materials will not be returned.

Applicants will receive an e-mail acknowledgement when all materials and application are received.

## **7. EVALUTION AND SLECTION PROCESS**

Following the proposal submission deadline, a committee of independent international and regional experts and film professionals will assess the received proposals and will make recommendations from projects submitted by filmmakers.

Grant Winners will be notified of their selection by e-mail by the end of January 2010. The Arab Fund for Arts and Culture will send an official letter to explain next steps and request some details. A contract will be signed with grants winner and after that the grant amount will be transferred as per the payment terms mentioned in the contract.

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