

2026 Moving Image Fund - Production

LEF Foundation

LEF Moving Image Fund - Production LOI

Production Grants

A maximum of (8) grants of \$15,000 each will be awarded to projects in the production phase during LEF's major grants review.

Appropriate Use of Funds

Production funds may be used for shooting picture and sound, early stage editing, equipment costs, materials, travel, and staffing (creative, technical, or otherwise).

The Moving Image Fund's Production Grants have a two-part application process. Filmmakers interested in applying for project support must first submit a letter of inquiry. From these initial inquiries, a smaller pool of applicants is notified in early March about whether they are invited to submit a full application. Should the project be invited forward in March, these LOI elements can be updated, as needed, at the Full Application stage. These additional questions are based on the current Nonfiction Core Application.

Prior to submitting a letter of inquiry, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to read our guidelines, details on how to apply, and frequently asked questions, and to contact LEF New England staff to determine whether the film is eligible and a good fit for LEF's funding priorities.

Letter of Inquiry Deadline

- **Friday, 16 January 2026 - 11:59pm**

Letter of Inquiry Requirements

Interested applicants should submit a completed form in addition to a current work sample.

If the completion of this written application is a barrier to applying for the Moving Image Fund and you would prefer to submit your application by other means (i.e. video or audio application), please send an email to LEF Program Officer Matthew LaPaglia (matthew@lef-foundation.org), preferably by two weeks ahead of the submission deadline.

LOI Checklist

The LOI form asks for the following information:

- o Applicant Contact Information
- o Fiscal Sponsor Contact Information*
- o Project Title
- o Project Website (optional)
- o Estimated Running Time
- o Logline (2–3 sentences)
- o Project Stage and Timeline (50–100 words)
- o Director and Producer Bio(s) (~200 words per bio)
- o Budget Summary†
- o Grant Impact (50–100 words)
- o Current Project Work Sample Information
- o Generative AI Statement
- o Previous LEF Applicant Information‡

* LEF does not require you to have a confirmed fiscal sponsor at the time that you submit a letter of inquiry. However, this submission form does provide the option for you to share who your confirmed or potential fiscal sponsor will be. If you are awarded a grant, you must have a confirmed 501c3 fiscal sponsor in place in order to receive any grant funding. Find more details about locating a fiscal sponsor on our FAQ page, and reach out to us if you have other questions.

† This submission form asks you to submit a summary of your estimated project budget. If you are invited to submit a full application in March, you will be asked to submit a full line-item budget.

‡ If you have previously applied to LEF for this project, you will be asked how your project has progressed since the time you last applied. If you are a previous grantee, please make sure you have completed your final report assigned to you on your applicant dashboard. If you don't see a final report to be completed for your most recently-funded project, please email matthew@lef-foundation.org.

Work Sample

- o Please submit up to 10 minutes of sample footage from the current project for review. We encourage applicants not to spend extra resources creating a sample for LEF if you've already created a sample for a different funder. Due to time constraints, reviewers are only required to watch up to 10 minutes of footage. If your current sample is longer than 10 minutes, please provide reviewers with the time codes for a portion of the sample that is up to 10 minutes and best

reflects your intended style and approach (e.g., "3:15-12:15" or "Please watch 0:00-3:00 and then skip to 17:00-24:00").

- o The sample can include research/archival footage, character sketches, and/or rough scenes that best communicate your vision for the final project for which you are applying for funding. For example, the sample might demonstrate your access to participants/materials, visual treatment, and the developing tone and style.
- o Work samples should be submitted as links that will remain available to view online by peer reviewers through the duration of your application review timeline. Vimeo, Google Drive, and YouTube links are acceptable.
- o To increase accessibility for the review process, applicants are strongly encouraged to create captions for their work samples. We recommend the **"Subtitling, Captioning, and ASL Captioning Info and Services"** section of FWD-Doc's resources page for guidance on how to create captions, subtitles, and audio descriptions. Note that automatic captions can be turned on with paid Vimeo accounts and for all videos uploaded to Google Drive.
- o Please complete all fields per work sample. Learn more about creating a LEF work sample on our How to Apply page.

Collaboration

To collaborate with others on this submission, click the "Collaborate" button in the top-right corner. The collaborator will need to have an account. Click here for a full tutorial on how to use the Collaborate tool.

Global Data Protection Regulation Consent

By submitting this letter of inquiry, you agree to allow LEF to use the information you provide to be in touch with you by phone or e-mail about updates on your application, to process this information in order to make a funding decision, and, if your project is selected for funding, to share your project's title, brief description and direction/production team members in our public Moving Image Fund grant directory and public grant announcement. If you are awarded a grant for a project that has sensitive subject matter, and would like to take additional measures to protect the privacy of those involved with the film, please contact LEF staff, and we would be happy to discuss this with you after an award decision is made.

Questions about using the application platform? Visit this applicant tutorial.

Proposal Questions? Contact the LEF New England team at (617) 492.5333 or email LEF Program Officer Matthew LaPaglia (matthew@lef-foundation.org) and LEF Program Director Gen Carmel (gen@lef-foundation.org).

IMPORTANT: If you do not receive a confirmation email, you will not receive other important information.

Decision notifications will be sent via e-mail in early March to the e-mail address used to complete this form.

Decisions will also be visible when signing into your applicant Dashboard to check the status of the submission after that date.

To make sure the decision notification arrives in your inbox and not your spam folder, please safelist administrator@grantinterface.com by following these instructions.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title*

Character Limit: 100

Project Director(s)*

Please list the names of all directors / co-directors on this project. (Ex: Jane Smith, John Doe). Please do not include titles or bios. There will be a chance to share more about the team later on in the application.

Character Limit: 250

Project Producer(s)*

Please provide a list of all creative producers on this project, if any. (Ex: Jane Smith, John Doe). Please do not include titles or bios. There will be a chance to share more about the team later on in the application.

If there are no producers attached to your project at this time, please write N/A

Character Limit: 250

Estimated Running Time*

Enter the estimated running time of film in minutes

Character Limit: 250

Project Website

Enter your project website, if available

Character Limit: 2000

Co-Applicant Information*

Please note that if you, the primary applicant, are not the New England-based team member, you're required to include a Co-Applicant who is based in New England.

Choices

I would like to provide information for a Co-Applicant

I do not have a Co-Applicant

Fiscal Sponsor Information*

You are not required to have a confirmed fiscal sponsor at the time that you apply. However, this submission form does provide the option for you to share who your confirmed or potential fiscal sponsor will be. If you are awarded a grant, you must have a confirmed 501c3 fiscal sponsor in place in order to receive any grant funding. Find more details about locating a fiscal sponsor on our FAQ page, and reach out to us if you have other questions.

Choices

I would like to provide information for a Fiscal Sponsor

I do not have a Fiscal Sponsor

CO-APPLICANT

Please enter contact information here for your co-applicant if there is one. To collaborate with others on this submission, click the "Collaborate" button in the top-right corner. Click here for a full tutorial on how to use the Collaborate tool.

Co-Applicant Name

Character Limit: 250

Co-Applicant Title

What is the co-applicant's role in this production?

Character Limit: 250

Co-Applicant Address 1

Character Limit: 250

Co-Applicant Address 2

Character Limit: 250

Co-Applicant City / Town

Character Limit: 250

Co-Applicant State / Province / Region*Character Limit: 2***Co-Applicant Zip / Postal Code***Character Limit: 10***Co-Applicant Country***Character Limit: 250***Co-Applicant Email***Character Limit: 254***Co-Applicant Phone***Character Limit: 250****FISCAL SPONSOR***

Fiscal Sponsor Organization*Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor Contact Name***Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor Address 1***Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor Address 2***Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor City / Town***Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor State / Province / Region***Character Limit: 2***Fiscal Sponsor Zip / Postal Code***Character Limit: 10***Fiscal Sponsor Country***Character Limit: 250***Fiscal Sponsor Contact Email***Character Limit: 254*

Fiscal Sponsor Contact Phone

Character Limit: 250

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

“Participants” is used in this form to refer to those who are taking part in the making of your film, but depending on the specifics of your project you’re welcome to refer to your participants as characters/contributors/subjects/protagonists etc.

Logline*

Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of the project that captures the most important elements — setting, participants, key issues and form.

Character Limit: 500

Project Stage and Timeline*

In list form, outline the projected production timeline from the development of the project to the anticipated completion date. Please include major project activities, production schedules, and anticipated post-production and release dates. *(50–100 words)*

Character Limit: 650

Director Bio(s)*

Provide brief biographies for the director(s). Include information about relevant expertise/experience. *(Suggested length: Up to 200 words per bio)*

Character Limit: 5000

Producer Bio(s)*

Provide brief biographies for the producer(s), if attached. Include information about relevant expertise/experience and the individual’s role in the project. *(Suggested length: Up to 200 words per bio)*

If no producers are attached, please write N/A

If a director is also a producer on the project, please copy and paste the same bio for that person here.

Character Limit: 5000

BUDGET SUMMARY

We are looking for your best estimates. Please provide all numbers in US dollars, and with no commas between digits. Example: 10000 not 10,000.

Budget Summary Table

Total Pre-Production Expenses	
Total Production Expenses	
Total Post-production Expenses	
Total Distribution Expenses	
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	

Grant Impact*

Should you receive a grant, describe how any granted funds would be spent and how the funds would help you move forward with your project. *(50–100 words)*

Character Limit: 650

WORK SAMPLE INFORMATION

Please submit up to 10 minutes of sample footage from the current project for review. We encourage applicants not to spend extra resources creating a sample for LEF if you've already created a sample for a different funder. Due to time constraints, reviewers are only required to watch up to 10 minutes of footage. If your current sample is longer than 10 minutes, please provide reviewers with the time codes for a portion of the sample that is up to 10 minutes and best reflects your intended style and approach (e.g., "3:15-12:15" or "Please watch 0:00-3:00 and then skip to 17:00-24:00").

The sample can include research/archival footage, character sketches, and/or rough scenes that best communicate your vision for the final project for which you are applying for funding. For example, the sample might demonstrate your access to participants/materials, visual treatment, and the developing tone and style.

Work samples should be submitted as links that will remain available to view online by peer reviewers through the duration of your application review timeline. Vimeo, Google Drive, and YouTube links are acceptable.

To increase accessibility for the review process, applicants are strongly encouraged to create captions for their work samples. We recommend the “**Subtitling, Captioning, and ASL Captioning Info and Services**” section of FWD-Doc’s resources page for guidance on how to create captions, subtitles, and audio descriptions. Note that automatic captions can be turned on with paid Vimeo accounts and for all videos uploaded to Google Drive.

Learn more about creating a LEF work sample on our How to Apply page.

Current Project Work Sample

Please provide information about the current project work sample you are submitting.

Current Work Sample Title - LOI*

Character Limit: 250

Current Work Sample Shooting Format(s) - LOI*

Character Limit: 250

Current Work Sample Total Running Time - LOI*

Total running time of sample work

Character Limit: 250

Current Work Sample Time Segment - LOI*

Please indicate the time segment you would like to be reviewed (up to 10 minutes) (e.g., "3:15-12:15" or "Please watch 0:00-3:00 and then skip to 17:00-24:00")

Character Limit: 250

Current Work Sample Role - LOI*

Please name the roles you and your creative team played in the production of the sample.

Character Limit: 250

Current Work Sample Description - LOI*

Describe how your current work sample is representative of the film’s story or concept and intended artistic approach. Explain what is present and absent in the sample, and if or how it will differ as a finished film. What should reviewers be looking for in your sample? (125–250

words)

Character Limit: 1700

Current Work Sample Link - LOI*

Work samples should be submitted as links that will remain available to view online by peer reviewers through the duration of your application review timeline. Vimeo, Google Drive, and YouTube links are acceptable.

Character Limit: 2000

Current Work Sample Password - LOI

Provide a password to view the sample if required.

Character Limit: 250

GENERATIVE AI STATEMENT

In coordination with recent updates to the Nonfiction Core Application, LEF invites applicants currently utilizing or planning to utilize Generative AI to think creatively about these technologies while remaining transparent about their uses and ethical in their implementations. This list of resources can be a good starting point.

Generative AI Statement (Optional)

If you plan to use generative AI to realize any part of your project, or if the written materials or visual sample(s) you've submitted in this application include elements generated with AI, please describe how and why you wish to use these tools/technologies to realize your artistic vision, and if relevant, what tools/technologies were used. *(125–250 words)*

Character Limit: 1700

PREVIOUS APPLICANT INFORMATION

Have you received previous LEF Moving Image Fund support?*

Choices

Yes

No

Project Status Since Last Application*

If you have previously applied to LEF for this project, please share how your project has progressed since the time you last applied.

NOTE: This is not a Final Report form.

If this is not applicable to you, please write N/A.

Character Limit: 4000

Yes: Previous LEF Support

Please list the most recent LEF Moving Image Fund grant received.*

Grant year, Project title, Grant type/phase

Example: 2020, Film Title, Pre-production

Character Limit: 1500

Have you submitted a final report for your most recent LEF grant received?*

If no, please complete the final report form assigned to your project on your applicant Dashboard.

If you don't see a final report to be completed for your most recently-funded project, please email matthew@lef-foundation.org.

Choices

Yes

No
