# BLACKTOWN SHORTS – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

**Blacktown Shorts** is a new western Sydney film festival, delivered as part of Blacktown Arts’ upcoming *Magnify* 2019 festival in Blacktown, NSW. We are currently open to short film proposals from emerging and established filmmakers, with a focus on finding and supporting western Sydney talent.

Blacktown Shorts will fund up to 5 filmmaking teams. The successful applicants will receive $2000 in Production Funding to help realise their ambition.

**Vonne Patiag**, a local filmmaker, has been appointed Festival Director and will oversee the curatorial and selection process. He will brief and liaise with the successful filmmaking teams and provide logistical and producing support.

**What project proposals are eligible?**

We are seeking proposals for films that are 3 – 7 minutes in length, and that have a clear connection to Blacktown, with at least one key creative (Writer, Director, Producer) from the area. The ideal projects will develop this connection, be it through shooting on location in Blacktown or casting local talent – anything that helps promote local storytelling and sustainable creative practice in Blacktown.

All short film project types are encouraged, be it narrative, animation or documentary. Branded content and music videos are not eligible for entry.

**Projects must:**

* Be a maximum 7 minutes in length.
* Be produced and post-produced entirely in NSW
* **Be submitted by a NSW-based creative, individual or company,** with at least one key creative (Writer, Director, Producer) from Blacktown.
* Have a maximum Australian Classification M15
* Be developed and ready to shoot tentatively from May 2019.
* Be delivered by end of July 2019.
* Have its PREMIERE at Blacktown Shorts on Saturday 24 August 2019.

**An individual can submit or be attached to multiple applications, however we advise you put your most competitive projects forward.**

**Who is eligible?**

**Applicants can be individuals or teams.** Applicants from non-filmmaking backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

**We encourage applications from all content creators, with a preference for western Sydney talent. Diversity is encouraged in all its forms – all proposals will be considered through the application process. We are committed to supporting the increased participation in the screen industry of people from under-represented groups. Please consider inclusiveness, accessibility and diversity when forming your filmmaking teams.**

**Applications are open to all content creators of all ages. Applicants 18 years or younger must provide permission of entry from a parental or legal guardian.**

**All applicants need to be a NSW-based creative, individual or company,** with at least one key creative (Writer, Director, Producer) from Blacktown. Branded content and music videos are not eligible. All applicants must hold the rights to their projects.

**THE APPLICATION**

**Applications open** **Thursday 14 March and close on Monday 8 April 2019.**

The application must consist of:

* A completed application form and budget.
* A draft script and/or storyboards
* A one-page creative statement OR a 1-2mins video pitch describing the idea, and describing the team’s connection to Blacktown.
* A current CV – please include any relevant credits in screen and/or other storytelling mediums. (performance, writing, music etc.)

**HOW TO APPLY:**

All applications must be submitted via an online form at the link below.

<https://blacktownarts.com.au/blacktown-shorts-eoi-form/>

If artists or teams require any assistance with the application process, please contact Miguel Olmo or Maria Mitar at Blacktown Arts on (02) 9839 6558. We are dedicated to lowering barriers to entry for storytellers unfamiliar with the application process.

**The Assessment Process**

All applications will be assessed by a panel including representatives from Blacktown Arts and the film industry. **The following criteria will be assessed:**

* The strength and distinctiveness of the concept.
* The track record of the key creative in storytelling.
* The ability to deliver the short film to budget and time.
* The potential for the project to contribute to a robust screen industry in western Sydney.
* **The inclusiveness, accessibility and diversity of your filmmaking teams.**
* The film is produced and post-produced entirely in NSW
* **The application is submitted by a NSW-based creative, individual or company,** with at least one key creative (Writer, Director, Producer) from Blacktown.
* The film has a maximum Australian Classification M15
* The film is developed and ready to shoot tentatively from May 2019 and be delivered by end of July 2019.
* Have its PREMIERE at **Blacktown Shorts on Saturday 24 August 2019.**
* **Final decisions will be made by late April 2019. Shortlisted Teams may be required to meet the assessment panel for an interview.**

**Funding**

If successful, teams will be allocated $2000 to make their short film.

Applicants are required to submit a production budget to demonstrate how the funding will be spent.

Budgets that exceed the allocated funding amount will be accepted, however please indicate how the shortfall will be made up (example: through crowd-funding, in-kind services, etc.). Teams are able to submit budgets with existing production funds in place. Applicants must ensure if other funding has been confirmed, the project does not violate any terms and conditions outlined as above.

**Additional Support**

Blacktown Arts is in discussions with western Sydney organisations to provide equipment and facilities in-kind to successful applicants (depending on availability) as well as access to venues for meetings, rehearsals, casting, etc. where possible.

We will also provide Public Liability insurance in relation to location shoots for successful applicants.

**Magnify 2019**

Magnify is a multi-artform program that will take place across eight distinct sites throughout Blacktown between 3 August and 15 September 2019.  The program explores Blacktown’s identity and connection to place by building collaborations between artists and local communities. It will offer opportunities for artists and audiences to experience arts and culture in and outside of traditional cultural venues, sharing unique and intimate experiences, through new local voices.

Program information to be released soon.