

## **2025 Blacktown Shorts Film Festival**

### **Expressions of Interest Guidelines**

Blacktown Shorts Film Festival offers western Sydney filmmakers a grant to make new work, industry mentorship, professional development and screening opportunities.

Blacktown Shorts Film Festival is an award-winning recurring screen program previously presented as part of Magnify in 2019 and 2023 and then presented at Sydney Opera House in 2024.

The 2025 program will commission 3 short films to be presented alongside additional licensed films for a premiere screening at the Sydney Opera House.

Successful filmmaking teams will receive up to \$7,000 to produce their proposed short film. We encourage both emerging and established creatives to apply with all film types accepted, including narrative, animation and/or documentary.

This year Festival Curator, Vonne Patiag alongside a newly established Associate Curator will work collaboratively with Blacktown Arts to oversee the curatorial and selection process. They will brief and liaise with the successful filmmaking teams and provide logistical and producing support.

### **Eligibility**

Blacktown Arts are seeking short film proposals that have a clear connection to Blacktown's culture and community with finished short films 3 to 7 minutes in length.

An individual can submit or be attached to multiple applications but are only applicable to receive funding for 1 application.

All short film types are encouraged, including narrative, animation, documentary, etc. Branded content and music videos are not eligible for entry.

Please consider successful applicants will be expected to complete their short film in 12 weeks, between 14 July and 5 October 2025.

Proposals must:

- Be submitted by individuals aged 18 and above;
- be maximum 7 minutes in length;

- be produced entirely in Sydney, NSW;
- be submitted by a western Sydney based creative, individual or organisation that holds the rights to their project;
- have a clear connection to Blacktown;
- have an expected Australian Classification of Mature (M).

Funding is not available to:

- Employees of Blacktown City Council;
- Blacktown City Council Councillors and/or Advisory Committee members;
- the spouse, de facto partner, relative or partner of a Blacktown City Council employee, Councillor or Advisory Committee member;
- a Blacktown City Council employee, Councillor and/or committee member's spouse's or de facto partner's relatives;

Blacktown Arts follows the standards specified in Blacktown City Council's Code of Conduct: <https://www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au/About-Council/Plans-policies-and-reports/Code-of-Conduct>

## **Assessment Criteria**

Blacktown Arts are committed to supporting the increased participation of people from under-represented groups in the screen industry. Please consider inclusivity, accessibility and diversity when forming your filmmaking teams and applications.

Shortlisted teams may be asked to meet with the assessment panel prior to the final selection.

All eligible applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- originality and quality of concept.
- key creatives existing practice.
- ability to deliver the work within time and budget.
- contribution and relevance to the western Sydney screen industry.
- representation of diversity.

## **Application Process**

Applications must be submitted via online form by **Monday 30 June, 11.59 pm.**

Your application must include:

- a draft script, storyboards and/or story documents.
- a creative statement (in writing or video format).
- a connection to Blacktown.
- A current CV or portfolio of all key creatives – please include any relevant credits in screen and/or other storytelling mediums (performance, writing, music etc.).
- a completed budget.

Applicants are required to submit an itemised 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, for example, through crowd-funding or in-kind services. Applicants must disclose if other funding has been confirmed and ensure the project does not violate any terms and conditions of other funding bodies.

## **Successful Applications**

If successful, applicants will be allocated up to \$7,000 and are required to deliver their short film commission within the specified timeframe.

Festival Curator Vonne Patiag, Associate Curator and Blacktown Arts staff will liaise with filmmaking teams and provide logistical and producing support.

Applicants must be available for online meetings during the development of their commissioned short film.

Films must premiere as part of the 2025 Blacktown Shorts Film Festival at Sydney Opera House, as well as potential for other screening opportunities through Blacktown Arts.

You will be expected to work within the following timeframe:

Applicants notified	Week of 7 July 2025
Production	14 July to 5 October 2025
Public Announcement	September 2025

## **Need some assistance?**

If you have questions or require assistance with your application, contact Blacktown Arts via email [blacktownarts@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:blacktownarts@blacktown.nsw.gov.au) or call **(02) 9839 6558**, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.