



MICRO DRAMAS, PROVINCIAL LOCAL FESTIVALS & FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE FUNDING GUIDELINES 2026 - 27

*Big Ideas.
Perfect Location.*



WHO ARE WE?

The Gauteng Film Commission's (GFC) core business is to facilitate and enhance the industry's contribution to the economic growth of the Province. It has an essential role in enhancing Gauteng's competitiveness in driving job creation and economic development.

This guideline outlines the eligibility and selection criteria for projects seeking funding from the GFC's special projects, aimed at fostering growth in the creative industry through impactful initiatives.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES

To fulfil the Vision and Mission of the GFC, the below objectives have been identified.

The GFC, in partnership with suitable organisations, intends to provide credible opportunities for advancing socio-economic impact, by:

1. Supporting the development of human capital through training, grants, and other investments
2. Ensuring opportunities for economic empowerment through job creation
3. Facilitating exposure and distribution of local content

GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD

The GFC prioritises applications from the following regions of the Gauteng Province:

1. City of Ekurhuleni (East Corridor)
2. City of Tshwane (North Corridor)
3. Sedibeng District Municipality (South Corridor)
4. West Rand District Municipality (West Corridor)
5. City of Johannesburg (Central Corridor)



THE FUNDING PROCESS

All applications must be submitted through the GFC Grant Management System. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Following the closure of the call, all submitted applications will undergo a structured evaluation process comprising the following stages:

1. Administrative Assessment

Initial screening and assessment conducted by the internal team.

2. Compliance & Quality Assurance

Internal review to verify eligibility, and compliance with submission requirements.

3. Probity Review

Independent review conducted by internal auditors to ensure fairness, transparency, compliance, process integrity, and alignment with applicable policies.

4. Independent Adjudication & Funding Recommendation

Assessment undertaken by external adjudicators to evaluate the merits of each application and provide an objective funding recommendation.

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the GFC upon approval of their project.

The evaluation and approval process may take approximately 30 working days from the closing date of this funding call.

APPEALS

A dissatisfaction on how the decision to decline the project was reached should be submitted to the GFC via appeals@gautengfilm.org.za within 30 calendar days of receiving a signed regret letter

- The letter should clearly state the **reason for the appeal and the desired outcome**, any supporting documents, if applicable, must be attached.
- An appeal does not constitute an opportunity to submit new or corrected information. Where an applicant's original submission was non-compliant, the initial regret reason will remain in effect.
- Appeals will be submitted through the relevant department, which will escalate the matter to the Appeals Committee for consideration.
- All appeals applications will be evaluated to ensure fairness, transparency, and adherence to established guidelines and procedures.
- Approval from the Appeals Committee does not constitute funding approval. Instead, it means that the affected application will be revisited and reviewed.
- The adjudicators will conduct the final review and make a recommendation regarding the appeal for CEOs final consideration as per policy.

REQUIRED COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS

Applicants who fail to submit all of the required supporting documentation listed below will be deemed non-compliant and will not proceed to the evaluation stage.

1. Certified Copy of Company Director's ID (Certified within 3 months of the application date)
2. Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) with Valid tax Pin
3. BBBEE Certificate/Affidavit (obtained within 12 months of the application date)
4. Company Registration Documents
5. CSD Registration Report (obtained within 12 months of the application date)
6. Bank Account Confirmation Letter (obtained within 3 months of the application date)
7. SBD 4 -Completed Declaration of Interest (only obtained from the GFC website) All relationships with the State must be fully disclosed. However, for funding purposes, such disclosure serves as a formal notification to the GFC and does not, in itself, constitute grounds for automatic disqualification.
8. Company Proof of Address reflecting the company's name, not an individual's. Where the business and owner operate from the same address, an affidavit must be submitted confirming this arrangement. The applicant is then required to attach both the proof of address and the supporting affidavit.
9. Complete project proposal
10. Detailed company profile

Incomplete, non-compliant, unclear, or late applications will not be considered.

TIERED FUNDING APPROACH BY GFC TARGETS

The GFC adopts a tiered approach to funding to ensure equitable access to funding opportunities for filmmakers at different stages of their professional development, from emerging to experienced practitioners. Each funding call specifies the target number of projects to be supported within each tier. These are categorised as follows:

TARGET

The indicative number of projects the GFC intends to support within that category under this funding call.

TIER 1

This category is for seasoned filmmakers with a proven track record in the industry. Eligible applicants must have developed and produced at least three to five theatrically released feature films.

TIER 2

For filmmakers who have demonstrated potential but may not yet have extensive experience with theatrically released films.

TIER 3

Designed for emerging filmmakers who are taking their first steps into the industry.

MICRO DRAMA FUNDING

The Micro Drama Funding Category has been established to support the development and production of short-form, high-impact scripted content that responds to evolving audience consumption habits and emerging digital distribution platforms. The category seeks to create opportunities for filmmakers to produce market-ready content, and provide a pathway for emerging and established producers to participate in the growing digital content economy.

Through this funding category, the GFC aims to:

- Support the production of commercially viable short-form scripted content for digital and mobile-first audiences.
- Increase opportunities for Gauteng filmmakers to develop original intellectual property with the potential for expansion.
- Promote innovation in content creation by encouraging production models that reduce production costs while maintaining creative quality.
- Strengthen Gauteng's position as a competitive hub for digital content production by supporting projects that can access local and international streaming and digital distribution platforms.
- Enable filmmakers to test new concepts, build audiences, and attract future investment through proof-of-concept productions

The Gauteng Film Commission evaluates all applications for Production funding utilising the following criteria sample:

Applicable to Micro Drama

Description	Evaluation category
Concept of the series (Brief Synopsis, Logline, Script Sample, and outline of main characters)	• Reflects Gauteng and South African stories, cultures, people and experiences. • Strong audience hook suitable for mobile-first consumption. • Clear episodic structure, demonstrates innovation in vertical storytelling. • Clear visual approach for vertical format (9:16).
Proposed production budget, and finance plan	• Budget is realistic and aligned with proposed scale (proof attached) • Clear production schedule and cash flow • Production feasibility within proposed episode count.
Demonstrate expertise in film or TV production projects	• Experience in digital content, television, web-series or short-form production. • Demonstrated storytelling capability through previous projects
Distribution Plan	• Clear platform strategy (TikTok, YouTube Shorts, Meta, broadcaster digital channels, streaming platform, dedicated mobile app, etc.). • Confirmed or prospective distribution partners • Marketing and monetisation strategy.



PRODUCTION FUNDING OVERVIEW

Description	Cap	Tier	Target
Micro Drama (1 – 10 episodes)	R60 000	All	4
Micro Drama (1 – 20 episodes)	R80 000		
Micro Drama (1 – 25+ episodes)	R100 000		

PRODUCTION IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

- **Production Readiness:** Only projects that are production-ready and capable of progressing immediately into principal photography, post-production, and final delivery within the prescribed implementation period will be considered.
- **Efficient Project Management:** Applicants must demonstrate sufficient technical and financial capacity, and the ability to deliver the project within the approved budget and timelines.
- **Compliance and Reporting:** Successful applicants will be required to comply with all contractual obligations, including provisional reporting, and submission of agreed project deliverables by 15 March 2027

**** END FOR MICRO DRAMA ****

PROVINCIAL LOCAL FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS FUNDING

The **Provincial Local Film Festivals and Awards** category has been established to strengthen Gauteng's film and television ecosystem by supporting community-based festivals, markets, and awards that foster grassroots industry participation, showcase and launch local content, facilitate networking and career development opportunities, and deliver masterclasses and professional development initiatives that build industry skills, capacity, and audience development across the province.

Projects under this funding category must demonstrate the following:

- A Business plan that illustrates how this initiative will inculcate the culture of local content appreciation
- A proven track record of hosting events/screenings/markets and/or festivals of proposed size, format and theme
- A detailed Project Implementation Plan including proposed screening programme
- A document outlining target audience
- Proof of screened films copyright ownership, classification or release documentation
- Demonstration of innovative marketing approaches sensitive to the target market

PROVINCIAL LOCAL FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS OVERVIEW

Description	Cap	Tier	Target
Medium (100 – 250 Delegates/ attendees)	R100 000	Tier 2	1
Large (150- 500 + Delegates/ Attendees)	R150 000	Tier 1	

**** END FOR PROVINCIAL LOCAL FILM FESTIVALS AND AWARDS ****

FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE FUNDING

The **Film Festival Attendance** category has been established to support Gauteng filmmakers in accessing recognised local film festivals, markets, and industry events that provide opportunities for film exhibition, project pitching, professional development, industry networking, market access, and international exposure. Through this category, the GFC seeks to strengthen the competitiveness and visibility of Gauteng's film and television industry by enabling filmmakers to showcase their work, build strategic partnerships, attract investment, and advance their professional careers.

Projects under this funding category must demonstrate the following:

- Proof of official invitation
- Detailed attendance or showcase plan
- Names, roles, and details of attendees/delegation
- Trip itinerary
- Travel, accommodation, and other relevant details
- Nominated film trailer, workshop information pack, or talk outline

FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE FUNDING OVERVIEW

Description	Cap	Tier	Target
Provincial Festival Attendance	R15 000	All	6

**** END FOR FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE ****

OUT-OF-CYCLE APPLICATIONS

In addition to this funding call, the **Film Festival Attendance** category will remain open throughout the financial year to accommodate applications arising from official festival or market invitations received outside the published call period, as well as where the target number of projects for the category has not been achieved, subject to the availability of funds.

Applications submitted outside the call period must comply with all eligibility, assessment, and compliance requirements set out in these Funding Guidelines. Incomplete or non-compliant applications, including those with outstanding supporting documentation, will not be considered.

Only applications received **within one (1) month before the opening of the funding call or within one (1) month after the closing date of the funding call** will be eligible for consideration. Eligible applications will be adjudicated on a demand-driven basis at the discretion of the GFC.

**** OUT OF CYCLE APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SENT TO PROJECTS@GAUTENGFILM.ORG.ZA ****



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