

OREGON FILM & VIDEO OFFICE

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM - 2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT

The Creative Opportunity Program was created during the 2022 legislative session and is a dedicated allocation of 2% of annual incentive funds targeted to support grants, workforce development, career development, DEI work and regional work in our industry.

The 2022-2023 fiscal year was the first year for the program which has its own operational FY of October through September due to the timing of the availability of incentive funding. All together \$373,984 was committed to the further development of the media and content industry in Oregon,

In its inaugural year, the Creative Opportunity Fund supported or directly administered the following programs:

Pathways Placement Program (with Oregon Made Creative Foundation)

Description

Paid job placement program for entry-level or experience seeking employees from priority populations.

Outcomes

Funding to support 28 placements into paid positions on sets and in studios or projects working in Oregon.

Overall Funding Amount

\$97,500

Pathways PA Training (with Outside the Frame)

Description

Implement two Production Assistant training sessions, training 30 people. Feeds into Pathways (above).

Outcomes

Funding for partner to host PA training programs to train people from priority populations and then to placed in paid positions on sets and studios on Oregon projects.

From Outside the Frame

The most beneficial outcomes of our project has been providing our participants with tangible opportunities for them to learn about the film industry on set, as well as providing them with the connections and resources to continue on their path. Participants now have a wide range of entry points into the film industry through our programming, which we will continue expanding, with your continued support.

Overall Funding Amount

\$25,000

Outdoor Adventure Film Grants (x4) (with Travel Oregon)

Description

Project specific grants for work showcasing the Oregon outdoors - focused on priority populations.

Outcomes

Funding for 2 projects -“El Que Busco Encuentra” and “Healing & Brotherhood on the Coast.” These short films whill help support and amplify stories and storytellers (both in front of and behind the camera) utilizing Oregon's outdoor spaces as a backdrop.

Additional funding will be used for an influencer campaign highlighting the Oregon Film Trail, Film Tourism and “the outdoors are for everyone” messaging over the course of the 2024 calendar year. This project is being coordinated with Travel Oregon and the SetJetters app.

Overall Funding Amount

\$20,000 (+ \$80,000 from Travel Oregon)

Tell Your Story Grants (x2) (with Oregon Made Creative Foundation)

Description

Non-project specific grants to filmmakers seeking support to move their career forward in the film, media and entertainment fields. Focused on priority populations.

Outcomes

Funding for x2 filmmakers supported for a 6-12 month period. Office space at Desert Island Studios for the residency period.

From a Previous TYS Grant Winner

[My film] would have never happened if I hadn't received the Tell Your Story grant. An entire world of filmmaking has opened up to me since then, and I am eternally grateful.

Overall Funding Amount

\$32,000

BIPOC Filmmaker Grant (with BendFilm)

Description

For the past three years, BendFilm's BIPOC Woman Filmmaking Grant has supported BIPOC women artists with \$10,000 toward making a short or feature film. The grant supports storytellers who are working to tell creative and complex stories told from a point of view that is unique and authentic.

Outcomes

An additional \$10,000 from the Creative Opportunity Fund will allow BendFilm to increase the existing grant to double the previous amount. This grant was awarded during the 20th Annual BendFilm Festival October 12-22, 2023.

From BendFilm

BendFilm has helped transform the visibility of BIPOC women filmmakers in the region and nationally, which has had ripple-effect on the support of and appreciation for continued diversification of underrepresented populations in the industry. BendFilm is recognized as an industry and community influencer on this front.

Overall Funding Amount

\$10,000

Location Database Development (with Central Oregon Film Office)

Description

Support to create and source 10-15 images of 10 separate locations around Central Oregon. All images would be uploaded to Reel Scout, and to the Central Oregon Film Office website. They would also be used in our social media outreach (Instagram and Facebook).

Outcomes

Create greater awareness of Central Oregon from location scouts who use ReelScout and our website as tool to locate production areas for their shoot.

From Central Oregon Film Office

We were able to capture some excellent images of locations in Central Oregon (Lake Billy Chinook, Cove Palisades, Cultus Lake, Cascade Lakes Highway) and Eastern Oregon (Baker City, Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, Joseph, Lake Wallowa, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest) that will be utilized for location awareness via Reel Scout, our website and social media.

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Local Studio Space Development (with Lane County Studios)

Description

Lane County Film Studios has a goal to raise funding for a studio location that can be made available to all local (Eugene, Lane Co. area) filmmakers, both amateur and professional. We intend to sign up members who will pay a nominal annual fee.

Outcomes

The grant is to support and recognize the importance of a film studio in Eugene, help open doors that would lead to donations and other grants, and make the point that Eugene has a thriving film community.

From Lane Co Studio

We are grateful for the COP grant we received. It not only allowed us to get the ball rolling, it also increased the confidence that others in the film community now have in LCFS. We are take more seriously, and are getting more attention.

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Pathways Professional Support (with OMPA)

Description

Identify and pair participants, projects and mentors; support participants' experiences; find ways to create inclusive culture on those sets; tie it to DEI training; expand it to other parts of the industry (post, immersive, commercial); fundraise and seek partners to make that possible; and help expand and develop the program

Outcomes

Identify new partners that help expand the program's impact. Identify new funding sources. Install an OMPA mentorship connection to placements. Create a seminar based education program for placements and trainees.

From OMPA

Success included creating common language around the program that can be shared out consistently across partner channels, developing a vision for the program, supporting work of OTF.

Overall Funding Amount

\$12,000

OMPA Professional Memberships (for all COP participants)

Description

Provide OMPA membership to all participants of the various programs to ensure they can promote their skills, are featured on the platform, access jobs info

Outcomes

Funding to provide 50 memberships to participants of these various programs.

From OMPA

Success included providing access to the benefits of OMPA membership to those who might not be able to access them otherwise. Benefits include a listing, jobs email, opportunities to be featured on our platform and free or discounted access to our events.

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Documentary Finishing Funds (with NW Documentary)

Description

This grant will provide funding and support to help a documentary film cross the finish line in 2023. Open to documentary films of all kinds but priority will be given to short documentaries telling stories about Portland and the Pacific Northwest. In addition to funding NW Documentary will offer support via equipment access and community support. This grant is meant to provide support and motivation. Filmmakers will need to describe how the funds will help get the project across the finish line. The project can be one that has already started or one that will be started and finished within the year. A portion of the funds will be held as an award for crossing the finish line and the rest will be made available to help support the work in whatever way the filmmaker determines is most helpful.

Outcomes

To help the completion (editorial, sound, screening) of a new documentary film.

From NW Documentary

We are really proud to support the film and believe that our support has created an ongoing relationship between the creative team that was working on the film and NW Documentary. We look forward to building on that relationship to continue to help the film find audiences and to potentially build workshops around the film.

The grant was able to meet the needs of the filmmaking team with out imposing external control or direction. We are proud of how well this program was able to meet the filmmaker needs with adding constraints. There was some initial concern about coming into a project towards the end of it's development and being additive rather than disruptive.

Overall Funding Amount

\$10,000

Animation Paid Placement (with PCC & Laika)

Description

Create a structured internship program for a PCC student to gain direct experience in studio production and stop motion animation.

Outcomes

Created a 13 week paid internship at Laika Studios in their production management department for a qualified PCC student.

From Laika

28 PCC students took part in the LAIKA portfolio day where LAIKA recruiters presented about careers at LAIKA, reviewed resumes and portfolios and advised students for how to apply. 5 students were selected for interviewing and among this group, 3 finalists were chosen who all interviewed with members of the LAIKA Production team. Anna Terpening was offered the role. PCC is having Anna come back and do a talk for 24 current PCC students about her experience as part of the Industry Survey Class.

We created awareness about the internship via Portfolio Day, which was hosted at PCC with members of the LAIKA Recruiting team. The job was posted internally at PCC accordingly and PCC faculty helped encourage students to apply.

The success of the PCC intern, Anna Terpening's, overall skills and qualifications fitting into the LAIKA Production Management department. Through the process of creating awareness and posting for the internship, PCC applicants gained exposure to the professional process of how to pursue a job.

Overall Funding Amount
\$10,000

Hatfield Marine Science Documentary Residency (with NW Documentary)

Description

This grant will support a two month residency for a filmmaker at Hatfield Marine Science Center. The filmmaker will be embedded in the middle of a complex dedicated to scientific research. Inspiration for this grant comes from Jean Painlevé, a pioneer in scientific filmmaking who worked at the intersection of cinema, science, and poetry. The filmmaker will be expected to complete work by the end of 2023. The length, structure, and focus of the work is left up to the filmmaker as they explore and discover stories and textures from Hatfield, the City of Newport, and the central Oregon coast.

Outcomes

Creation of one short documentary created using experiences and recordings from a two month residency at Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Overall Funding Amount
\$10,000

Writing for Games (with Soma Games)

Description

Create a program to train interested students at writing for interactive games.

Outcomes

Funding for a 2 day class for 35 people with free scholarship placements for 9 students.

From Soma Games

35 participants came from far and wide to expand their portfolios and get introduced to a new market for writing. Participants learned about tools, techniques, and market opportunities from 5 professional game writers over 10 sessions. With 22 completed satisfaction surveys completed the most popular sessions were the most tactical. Specific exploration of software, team techniques, and world building were the most highly rated.

Overall Funding Amount

\$15,000

Festival Filmmakers Workshops (with BendFilm)

Description

The Bend Filmmakers Workshops will be hosted during the 2023 BendFilm Festival, October 12-22, 2023 as part of the Festival's education components. These workshops will be hosted both in person and virtually throughout the 11-day Festival.

Outcomes

Three (3) different workshops are planned for the 2023 Festival and this funding will cover the honorariums of the presenters, the travel expenses, venue and equipment expenses.

Overall Funding Amount

\$1,610

Indigenous Filmmaker Fellowships (with Confluence)

Description

The Confluence Filmmaker Fellows are a group of emerging movie-makers and multimedia artist from Indigenous communities who are who are using their craft to share their cultures and perspectives. With support from Oregon Film, Confluence will offer grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to support projects that align with our mission to connect people with the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices. Winning projects will be featured in the Confluence Digital Library of interviews and

documentary shorts and can be used in classrooms and public events. They will also be showcased in a Confluence Story Gathering, which are public events designed to elevate Indigenous voices in our collective understanding of the Columbia River system. Submissions will be judged on their alignment with the Confluence mission and quality of the production.

Outcomes

Throughout the year, Confluence staff and four filmmaking mentors from our Judging Committee are meeting with seven Fellows to provide mentorship opportunities, culminating in a film screening and celebration to showcase their work in June 2024. We offered prizes to support projects that align with our mission to connect people with the history, living cultures, and ecology of our region through Indigenous voices. Three Indigenous video artists received cash prizes to support a film developing project: one for \$5,000 and two for \$2,500. One filmmaker received our Spotlight Award for \$1,000. Three other Emerging Indigenous Filmmakers received full camera kits (or alternative equipment) worth \$800.

From Confluence

Winning projects will be featured in the Confluence Digital Library of interviews and documentary shorts and can be used in classrooms and public events. They will also be showcased at public screening event designed to elevate Indigenous voices in our collective understanding of our region.

Overall Funding Amount

\$15,000

Top Secret Script Development Workshops (with Desert Island Studios)

Description

Host and facilitate bi-monthly table reads for screenwriters and professional actors to workshop their projects. The event would be open to the community and allow people to provide notes and feedback. These events would be followed by networking and socializing afterward to support intersectional relationship building. Facilitate and support teams in the story development and next phase of their project development.

Outcomes

Funding to host four script reading events for 2 projects at each event. Grant recipients are be able to become “fellows” over a six month period where they can utilize the funds to further develop their project toward fundraising, grant writing, attaching producers, auditions etc.

From Desert Island Studios

Bringing together so many community members for the events was a great success. We are really pleased with the turnout and feedback. The events felt special. The energy was clear and powerful for each read. We have a lot of interest in bridging the local film and theatre communities and we feel that was another success of this program. Writers and actors who may not have met one another otherwise have had the chance to connect. Lastly, we feel that story development is really important and wanted to start this program as a way to illustrate to our wider community that developing the script and working with actors is a really important part of making a successful film. We hope that Top Secret Club has inspired our local filmmaker and theater community to recognize that this part of creative development is important to their work and is best cultivated through the community. We hope Portland can continue to be a place where great storytellers can grow and level up.

Overall Funding Amount
\$10,000

DAMN Good People Crew Placement Services (with Desert Island Studios)

Description

Develop a list of vetted freelancers from priority populations. Then offer a service to productions interested in DEI for their projects; providing a hiring body as well as provide HR and DEI training support to productions. Implement a Safe Set agreement for all cast and crew as part of the process.

Outcomes

Funding to build crew for a vetted roster. Orientate, train, and oversee DEI initiatives for outside productions. The grant funds helped manage a jobs pipeline, offering DEI trainings to production teams, and providing HR and mediation support for production teams throughout their project cycle.

From DAMN Good People

This grant program is AMAZING. We are beyond grateful to have the opportunity to work with these funds to create programs we believe in. We can't thank the COP enough for believing in us and what we are trying to do. It has been so inspiring to know the leaders of our film industry care about equity issues in our industry and are invested in our community. Thank you!!!

Overall Funding Amount
\$17,000

Professional Crew DEI Training (with OMPA)

Description

Provide DEI Training for those working on productions welcoming PAs to set; for mentors; for the community at large

Outcomes

Over 45 people which was a mix of OMPA staff, OMPA Board Directors and committee members as well as volunteers and community members. By making it virtual, OMPA was able to make the DEI training more accessible to volunteer leaders and board members and committee members who live across Oregon.

OMPA worked with Authentica Consulting to take the lead in crafting a detailed DEI program that was customized to speak to the film and media industry. The training also was made virtually which was accessible to more OMPA board members, volunteer committee members, and community members who reside in various communities throughout Oregon. Once the training format was confirmed, OMPA did email invitations and postings in newsletters and to various stakeholders including the OMPA membership and it was shared as DEI Community Event. A successful component was the DEI Training Workbook a digital pdf accessible and made available to event participants.

The most successful was the customization of the training specific to the title of Inclusivity Behind the Scene and supporting detailed 20-page DEI Training Workbook that supported the 3 hour training sessions.

Overall Funding Amount
\$7,500

Southern Oregon PA Training Program (with Southern Oregon University)

Description

PA Training program focused on training and placement in Southern Oregon

Outcomes

9 trainees benefitted from the training, while 6 of those benefitted from the professional employment. Two different production companies and their crews benefitted across multiple shoots from the subsidized labor.

From Southern Oregon University

9 trainees...were placed on shoots [and] had an amazing experience and the producers evaluated them highly. Several were asked back on future jobs where they were paid by the producer. The trainees were well prepared to be on a professional shoot and knew what to expect. They were able to handle many of the tasks experienced PAs are expected to complete without any additional instruction on set. All the placed PAs now have positive professional references and several have already been rehired by the producers they worked with.

Overall Funding Amount
\$7,500

Student Festival Submission Support (with several Oregon based Film Fests)

Description

Subsidize Oregon Festival submission costs for Oregon based students

Outcomes

Funding to allow Oregon students free submissions to Oregon festivals like Klamath Independent, Eastern Oregon, BendFilm, Portland FF and McMinnville Short FF.

Overall Funding Amount

\$3,000

CINE/SEEN Screening Series (with OMPA)

Description

A showcase of talent from priority populations including those who are producing content via the other COP programs; chance to partner with other COP programs to develop filmmaker's careers.

Outcomes

Funding for partner to help showcase the work of 7 filmmakers, culminating in a screening that occurred at Portland's Hollywood Theatre on Sept. 7, 2023.

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Creatives of Color Networking Events (with OMPA)

Description

Provide a safe space for creatives of color to connect, collaborate and develop.

Outcomes

Over 150 people benefited from the two events. The collaboration with Pathways was also impactful to help other partners involved including Outside the Frame and also spotlighted the space and programming of a woman and BIPoC-owned creative studio, Desert Island Studios. Also, partnering with Open Signal at Lights, Cameras, Connection was impactful. Other partners included PMG who work to uplift BIPOC youth and communities with internships and low cost business consulting.

Collaborating and activating peer organizations like Outside the Frame, Desert Island Studios, and Open Signal including Lights, Camera, Connection and lifting up OMPA's partnership with supporting Pathways funded by Oregon Film made for a successful plan to create, communicate and implement the COCO

events. This collaborative approach to the events enabled ways to invite, reach, and expand opportunities for more diverse audiences to participate, network, and experience OMPA's offerings and community-building.

The most successful parts of the project were the collaborations with the Pathways program and lifting up relationships with partners including Outside the Frame as well as connecting with Desert Island Studios making the event accessible for more people to serve.

Overall Funding Amount
\$5,000

Artists in Residency (with PAM CUT)

Description

Working with two media creators to provide space, resources, and time to focus on creating a project that is not normally in their wheelhouse, i.e. a different medium. As part of the residency there will be a few open houses for the community to come and hear about what the artists are working on.

Outcomes

Provide a \$2500 stipend to participating artist.

From PAM CUT

[Benefits included:] Allowing the time and space for the artists to fully engage with their project. Many times they told me they could not have done what they were able to do had it not been for the space and time that the residency provided for them. Also, we were able to use our lobby during the residency to showcase work already made...so they were given an opportunity for others to learn more about who they are as artists during the duration of the residency.

Overall Funding Amount
\$2,500

Professional Development Workshops (with PAM CUT)

Description

Provide direct workshops to learn more about the basics of creating a business, and budgeting, and all of the professional business side of things that go into film/media making.

Outcomes

Run 4 workshops, with 4 different instructors reaching up to 40 people (with 8-10 free scholarship provided) with a range in topics from budgeting, to business creation and what that looks like, to brand development for a project. Funding to help assist in paying for instructors or as scholarships for makers.

From PAM CUT

[The most successful part of this program was] Bringing individuals to our space and allowing industry professionals to connect with these individuals who might not otherwise have had the opportunity or chance to learn from and/or speak directly with. 37 individuals...were able to attend a workshop for free led by an industry professional.

Overall Funding Amount
\$5,000

Black Filmmakers Short Anthology Series (with Lion Speaks)

Description

This project will be used to help develop writers and directors here in town. We'll be providing them with information, training, and mentorship to prepare them to not only be successful in this endeavor, but also to help prepared them for the studio system and the requirements to be successful at the next level in their respective careers.

Outcomes

"Dark Arts Bazaar" will have a total of 8 directors, with over half of them being people of color and women. The film will be budgeted at just under 300k for everything so that we'll be on the SAG ultra low budget agreement . This funding would be used to identify the film makers. To have an agreement/contract (legal) drawn up with them to pay them for their ideas/creative pitch decks. To pair them with an industry veteran for development advice and guidance. To put together a complete deck with all the anthology ideas to use in getting the full project funded.

From Lion Speaks

10 [people were helped or impacted]. Those who were chosen to participate were given access to information and transparency in the process which was powerful. Even those who were ultimately not chosen were able to have discussions about the reasons why, and they were still invited to participate with the project in other ways. [Benefits of the grant included:] Giving participants feedback on their projects and explaining the contract to them [and providing] clarity of the process for all participants. Also the participants are working on a project that they know if actually going to get made.

Overall Funding Amount
\$7,500

Eastern Oregon Filmmakers Residency (with Eastern Oregon Film Fest)

Description

A month-long program for writers/directors to get designated time and space to work on feature-length screenplays.

Outcomes

The goal of this 4-week program is for artists to walk away with a draft that has the potential to be produced in Oregon in the coming years, and for attendees to learn about resources and opportunities available to them for filmmaking in this region.

From EOFF

[We] really see the COP program as a fantastic chance to back fresh and exciting projects that keep fueling our efforts to build and attract filmmakers to our regions. I'm thankful for this fund and the awesome work that Oregon Film is putting in. It's been wonderful to see how truly inspiring this experience was for the filmmakers involved – this fund is truly making a difference in creative's lives and those they connect with. .

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Cinema Unbound Access Scholarships (with PAM CUT)

Description

Subsidized attendance at PAMCut's Cinema Unbound Awards.

Outcomes

Free admission to the CU Awards for x4 members of the local filmmaker community including Faith E Briggs, Fuchsia Linn, Maximilliano, Rubén Garcia-Marruffo.

Overall Funding Amount

\$2,000

Pathways Mentorship Program (with Outside the Frame)

Description

Mentorship connections with mentees from the Pathways program. Oversight of the program

Outcomes

Linked to the Pathways training and paid placement program, OFT created an additional program that provided a platform for at least 10 mentors to meet at least 10 mentees with a goal making a lasting connection between the two

groups and forming some type of lasting relationship meant to bring experience and guidance to career development for the Mentees.

From Outside the Frame

One of the foundational pieces we have been building is a pilot of a Mentorship Program which will provide individualized support with making industry connections, improving resumes and interview skills, assistance gaining work opportunities and helping be well placed for the next job. We currently have 7 mentors and 10+ mentees signed up.

Overall Funding Amount

\$8,500

Consent on Set (with DVA Productions)

Description

This quarterly half-day workshop will cover introductions to consent, boundaries, power dynamics, trauma-informed practices, and the role of Intimacy Coordinators for anyone working in film, television, video, and digital content creation. The focus is how producers, writers, directors, and actors can expect to work with an Intimacy Practitioner, whether the content is Union or Non-Union, and scripted or unscripted.

Outcomes

To teach and codify with the community the following:

- The 5 Elements of Consent and how they increase safety and creativity.
- How to request and give consent throughout the creative production lifecycle.
- What to do when something goes wrong—and how to spot the signs before it occurs.
- How to be an advocate and ally, as well as knowing how to safely intervene.
- Adding their voice to the City of Portland (and possibly statewide) Consent and Safety Guidelines.

Overall Funding Amount

\$5,000

Vision Grant (with Women in Film Portland)

Description

Augment existing grant to \$10k. The Vision Grant provides financial support to women and non-binary media creators in Oregon and SW Washington (Clark County). This project-based grant aids in a current production while fostering the artist's professional and personal development.

Outcomes

Finalists will be asked to participate in a pitch session to determine the grant recipient. One grant awardee will be selected to receive \$10,000 and the opportunity for mentoring.

Overall Funding Amount
\$2,500

Workforce Workshops (Desert Island Studios)

Description

Community Career Development and Damn/Pathways Collaboration

With Workforce Workshops, we will strive to provide educational content that will be relevant to a variety of experience levels, accompanied by targeted outreach meant to entice participants for whom the material is most appropriate. In the wake of the pandemic and recent strikes, we feel it's an important time to equip future generations of media makers with the invaluable tools and knowledge they will need to be successful in their careers.

Outcomes

- 50 - 200 media makers engaged in hands on learning and educational training
- 5 industry leaders offering valuable education and mentorship to media makers in various stages of their career.
- Feedback from 50 - 200 participants that can help inform future educational programming.

Overall Funding Amount
\$7,000

“Wrap Around Services”

Description

Additional stipends for grantees to be utilized on "support" programs like transportation, child care or housing.

Outcomes

Rental cars, equipment, scholarships and other transportation/support subsidy provided for Pathways placements.

Overall Funding Amount
\$657