



weho.org/arts

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS & PROPOSALS

WeHo@30

City of West Hollywood 30th Anniversary of Cityhood Festival & Archive of Film and Digital Media Art

Deadline: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

In celebration of its 30th Anniversary of Cityhood, West Hollywood is seeking to activate the West Hollywood Room at the West Hollywood Library to serve as an archival resource for the City's rich history and the numerous communities and cultures that make up its fabric. To kick-start this initiative, the City, through its Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, is seeking submissions from digital media artists and documentary and narrative filmmakers that tell stories about West Hollywood's diverse and progressive history. Titled *WeHo@30*, selected films will be presented as part of a film festival to be presented in the fall of 2015 and/or selected to be included in the City archives for future use by scholars, historians and researchers. This grant project is primarily directed towards film/video/documentary projects that can be included in a film festival style program, however other projects such as audio stories, oral histories, still photography will be considered if they tell the story of West Hollywood's history, can be publically accessed/exhibited during the City's anniversary year, and are suitable for inclusion in the City archives.

SCOPE

Submitted film and media works should tell important, appealing and impactful stories with special emphases on telling the story through the lens of the West Hollywood community. Works should have artistic quality, clear cultural and historic relevance to the City, and provide archival possibilities with thematic content.

Submissions may be of two kinds:

1. Already created/completed works (which may have been shown elsewhere)
[Honoraria of \$250 are available to selected artists and filmmakers of already completed works.]
2. Proposed or in-progress projects that could be completed by September 15, 2015.
[Grants of approximately \$1,000 - \$7,500 are available for proposed or in-progress projects.]

BACKGROUND

Thirty years ago, in 1984, Cityhood was proposed by an unlikely coalition of LGBT activists, seniors, and renters — these groups came together to form a City like no other with progressive policies and strong tenants' rights protections. Through tireless determination, the City of West Hollywood was officially incorporated as an independent City on November 29, 1984. Previously, West Hollywood had been an unincorporated section of Los Angeles County.

During its three decades, West Hollywood has become one of the most influential small cities in the nation. No other city of its size has had a greater impact on the national progressive public policy agenda. West Hollywood's story as a city includes countless individual and community stories.

Highlights of the past 30 years in West Hollywood include:

- The first West Hollywood City Council established West Hollywood as the first City in the nation to have a majority openly gay governing body. This was a landmark development in LGBT rights in the United States as well as globally.
- The ordinances adopted by the West Hollywood City Council within the first year of Cityhood included landmark legislation such as the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (which, upon its adoption was one of the strictest rent control laws in the country); Anti-Discrimination Ordinances prohibiting discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS as well as prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation; and a Domestic Partnership Ordinance prohibiting discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation. Today, many of the City's landmark ordinances have been duplicated and have become mainstream policies nationally and globally.
- In 1985, the City Council established its Social Services program to provide much-needed services to residents. Over its history, the City has provided millions of dollars in grants to fund programs for people in need. These services have included services for seniors; people with HIV and AIDS; members of the LGBT community; people with disabilities; alcohol and drug use recovery programs; support programs for Russian-speaking immigrants; services for people who are homeless; food programs; and health care services for people who are uninsured. Today, the City's Social Services Division budgets approximately \$5 million per year in funding critical support to programs that impact thousands of people in West Hollywood; City residents live longer and have lower rates of chronic diseases than residents of L.A. County as a whole.
- The onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic had a significant impact on the City of West Hollywood due to the disease's elevated infection rate among gay men which caused a devastatingly high number of deaths in the City. The City of West Hollywood was one of the first government entities to provide social services grants to local AIDS and HIV organizations. The City sponsored one of the first AIDS awareness campaigns in the country in October 1985 and the City's response to the AIDS crisis has been recognized as a model for other cities, nationally and globally. Today, 12 percent of households in the City have a person living with HIV/AIDS.

- The City has been one of the most outspoken advocates for the legal rights of LGBT people. In 1985, the City of West Hollywood was one of the first cities in the country to adopt a Domestic Partnership Ordinance. In October 2014, the City marked an exciting milestone as the City Clerk's office at West Hollywood City Hall welcomed its 10,000th couple as registered Domestic Partners. The City also created the nation's first municipal Transgender Task Force in 2001; in 2009 this became the City's Transgender Advisory Board.
- West Hollywood was one of the first cities in the country to pass a resolution in support of marriage equality, paving the way for same-sex marriage initiatives all over the county. In a monumental moment in U.S. history, the City, in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Register-Recorder Clerk, began to issue marriage licenses and perform civil ceremonies for same-sex couples in June 2008, following the Supreme Court of California ruling on Proposition 8. After a legal stay, in June 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed an appeal in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and the City of West Hollywood launched a marriage celebration. West Hollywood City Councilmembers and City Officials performed hundreds of civil ceremonies.
- Much more information on the City can be found at www.weho.org.

While blazing a trail on progressive policy issues, the City of West Hollywood has also received high marks for sound general and fiscal management policies. The City, with its diverse revenue base, recovered more quickly from the 2008 recession than most cities in the nation and receives top ratings from agencies such as Standard & Poor's (S&P). During the past five years, the City's revenues have steadily increased and have now surpassed pre-recession revenue levels by 12 percent. The City has invested in a series of leading-edge Capital Projects, including the West Hollywood Park Master Plan. In 2011 the City celebrated the opening of the new LEED-rated West Hollywood Library to showcase the City's rich intellectual, literary, and cultural diversity. A new Aquatic and Recreation Center is currently in design development.

In 2013, the City conducted a Community Study — one of the most intensive community engagement projects in the City's history. The Community Study updated the City's demographic data and provides information that informs funding priorities for social services initiatives. Ninety percent of respondents rated their quality of life as excellent or good, citing pedestrian orientation, central location, safe and quiet neighborhoods, amenities, and well-kept infrastructure as some of the highlights of living in West Hollywood.

During the past 30 years, the City of West Hollywood has demonstrated that it is like no other city in the world. A strong spirit of community activism and civic pride thrives in the City and people from all over the globe visit to experience its iconic destinations such as The Sunset Strip, the West Hollywood Design District, and historic Route 66. The City is honored to mark its 30 years of idealism, creativity, and innovation.

To preserve that legacy, the City is seeking to celebrate its 30th Anniversary of Cityhood while also providing material for its new digital archives which it hopes will continue to inspire and inform people throughout succeeding generations. *WeHo@30* is a special, one-time grant opportunity and will be curated by the Arts and Cultural Affairs

Commission, Arts & Economic Development staff, and/or other professionals and community members as designated by the Commission. As such, the City, through its Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, reserves the right to:

- Reject all proposals or to waive minor irregularities;
- Award *WeHo@30* funds to proposals previously submitted, but not funded, through its Arts Grant Program including City Arts Project Grants, Cultural Resource Development Grants, and One City One Pride Grants;
- Increase funds awarded to proposed projects based upon significant merit or other factors as determined by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission and approved by City Council.

ELIGIBILITY

For already completed works, no specific eligibility qualifications are required.

For proposed or in-progress works:

- Minimum of two (2) years of filmmaking, digital media, photography, audio or related artistic practice.
- Access to and knowledge of all necessary equipment and post production facilities;
- Knowledge of or relationship to West Hollywood and its diverse constituency.

Note: Organizations currently funded through the City's Arts Grant Programs are not eligible for additional funding through *WeHo@30*, but may submit works to be considered to be shown at the festival and placed in the archives.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For completed works, the online submission form (link at the bottom of the page) will require the following information:

1. Title of work.
2. Format.
3. Running time (if applicable).
4. Film or media project history (release date or when made, number of screenings/exhibitions, locations etc.)
5. Brief synopsis.
6. ** Relevancy to West Hollywood, including any particular community or issue that the work addresses.
7. ** Archival viability.
8. Link to trailer (if applicable).
9. Link to digital portfolio, website or other online location where work samples may be viewed.
10. Producer or principal artist resume/CV.
11. Principle cast/artist (if applicable).
12. Social media page(s).

**** Please note:** the submitted project will be reviewed **only** if the submission form clearly states the film or project's archival viability and relevancy to West Hollywood.

For proposed or in-progress works, the online submission form (link at the bottom of page) will require the following information:

1. Proposed title of work or project.
2. Proposed format.
3. Proposed or anticipated running time (if applicable).
4. For non-film/video style works please indicate how you intend to make the work accessible/visible to the general public and the means by which you intend to do so.
5. Proposed or anticipated running time (if applicable).
6. Provide logline (if applicable).
7. Provide a description of the proposed project – its genesis, community or other partners, talent or other principals involved, relevancy to West Hollywood, including any particular community, issue, or historic events it addresses.
8. Provide a brief bio and/or resume/CV of the lead person (director/artist/producer) demonstrating a minimum of two years of artistic practice.
9. Proposed project history/status (where is the project in terms of its development stage, e.g. script, funding, pre-production, shoot, post-production, etc.).
10. Archival viability.
11. Project budget – revenue and expenses. (NOTE: preference will be given to projects in which the City is not the sole source of funding.)
12. Proposed timeline.
13. Provide a link to a digital portfolio or link to website or other on-line location where work samples may be viewed.

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

- Submissions or proposals due by Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 5 pm.
- Notification of selection by April 30, 2015.
- Selected proposed or in-progress projects must be completed and forwarded to City Hall by September 15, 2015.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submissions of completed works and proposals will be reviewed by the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission, City staff, and other professionals and community members as designated by the Commission.

Submitted completed works will be reviewed for:

- Cultural and/or thematic and/or historic relevance to the City of West Hollywood.

- Alignment with the project scope to tell important, appealing and impactful stories.
- Artistic quality.
- Archival applicability.
- Commitment to a particular community, individual, demographic, issue, etc.

In addition to the above criteria, proposed or in-progress projects will also be reviewed for:

- Experience in completing film or digital media work relative to size and nature of the proposed work.
- Ability to complete the work within the appropriate time period.
- Request amount relative to the overall cost of the work.
- Overall merit of proposal.

CONTRACTING

Filmmakers and artists whose completed works are selected for the festival and/or archives will receive an honorarium on the day of the screening.

Filmmakers and artists with proposed or in-progress projects will enter into an agreement with the City of West Hollywood which will release funds based upon established benchmarks:

- 50% of the grant will be awarded within 45 days of receipt of a signed agreement;
- the next 25% of the grant will be released within 45 days of the half-way mark and/or review of the rough cut of the film or media work by the City or the City's designated agent;
- the final 25% of the grant will be released within 45 days of September 15, 2015 upon receipt by the City of the completed work.

If selected, the filmmaker/artist agrees that the City:

- May show the work to the public at a date to be determined in the fall of 2015 or thereafter
- May place the work in the City of West Hollywood archives which may be used in perpetuity for non-commercial, research, archival and scholarly purposes.

In return, the City agrees that the copyright of the work remains with the filmmaker/artist

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted electronically no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Application links

For Completed Works: <http://form.jotform.us/form/50356919993167>

For Works in Progress: <http://www.jotform.us/form/50284622136147>

For completed works, each filmmaker/artist may submit up to 3 works. Each work should be submitted with a separate proposal form.

For proposed or in-progress works, only one proposal may be submitted per filmmaker/artist.

For those applicants submitting proposed or in-progress projects and who also want to submit completed works, only 2 completed works can be submitted in addition to the proposed work per filmmaker/artist.