



The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation For Documentary Photography & Film

Short-Short Documentary Film \$5000 Grant Award

Please note: Failure to follow all instructions could result in disqualification.

Email: submissions@mrofoundation.org

URL: <http://www.mrofoundation.org>

Grant Award Submission Rules & Guidelines

I. **DEFINITION** As part of our commitment to documentary work all around the world, and to the photographers and filmmakers who create such work, we created our documentary “Short-Short Film” grant category. This category aims at supporting the work of filmmakers from around the world with work they’ve already done on behalf of humanity. This category is defined as an already completed film project of ten to thirty minutes in length (without commercial interruption). This grant is for non-fiction work only. Submitted films must cover topics similar to those covered in our still photography grant program. These subjects include, but are not limited to stories of human unrest, famine, disease, national and international politics — the type of human interest stories that resonate globally because of their potential to impact all of humanity.

The best submissions will cover cultural, artistic, historical, economic, scientific, or other subjects inherent to human activity and survival. Your documentary project may be produced in actual occurrence, or may employ partial reenactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is strictly on fact and not fiction. Only up-and-coming filmmakers’ projects will be considered. No pro-level entries will be allowed. Participants must be committed to the field of reportage and documentary filmmaking.

SUMMARY

All entries must be individual, stand-alone non-fiction documentary films of 10 – 30 minutes in length and must have been completed no earlier than two years prior on the date of March 31 from the date of closing of submissions call. Film submissions may be either an original subject feature or a historical subject feature. Submissions may be produced in actual occurrence, or employ partial reenactment (if needed), stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is strictly on fact and not fiction. The film must show real characters and not actors portraying the roles of real characters. Dialogue and narration can be produced in any language. All non-English dialogue and narration must be provided with English subtitles.

All entrants must complete a grant application, and submit all required supporting materials per rules and submission guidelines found [here](#). Please be certain to read the entirety of our guidelines for submission details and expectations including how and when to submit a digital copy of your completed work being considered for the grant. All work including film must be submitted digitally or physically.

No work will be accepted as a link to any website including your own during second round submissions.

Judging will take place in two rounds. “Round One” judging will assess all entries submitted via URL links to personal or third-party video hosting sites such as Vimeo or YouTube for quality, content, real world impact on humanity. Of these only the most prolific film projects for the year, called our Top-10 list, will be moved on to “Round Two.” All “Round Two” entries will be required to submit a copy of the actual physical, digital copy of their completed project for judging, inclusion on our website, and for ultimate exhibition during Les Rencontres d’Arles, Arles, France. A grant laureate will be selected from this list.

Submissions begin November 1st of each consecutive year. Please subscribe to our email list [here](#) to receive notifications more information or visit our website for details.

II. CATEGORIES The Short-Short Documentary Film submissions may be in two possible categories:

1. Documentary “Short-Short” Feature — a documentary film (original subject) with a running time of 10 to 30 minutes including credits;
2. Documentary “Short-Short” Historical — a documentary project (historical stock footage/images) with a running time of 10 to 30

minutes including credits;

III. THE DOCUMENTARY “SHORT-SHORT” PROJECT

A. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for our Short-Short Documentary Film Grant a documentary film must have been completed no earlier than two years prior to the closing of our Call for Entries on March 31.
2. The eligibility period for entries to our Short-Short Documentary Film Grant Award begins on November 1 of every year, and ends on March 31 of the following year. **All requested entry materials must be completed and submitted to us no later than 12:00 p.m. EST/ midnight, New York time on March 31.**

Projects submitted to us will be judged in two parts: **Round One** during which we require only a viable link to the project regardless of your hosting site, and **Round Two (Top 10 entries)** when we do require you to submit an actual physical/digital copy of your completed work. [Please refer to No. 3, Section (B), and Section [E] submissions for more details.]

3. Length and File Size requirements include:
 - Running time of no less than 10 minutes and no more than 30 minutes including credits
 - File size no larger than 2.5 gigabytes
4. Eligible film formats include:
 - HD 1080p format
 - HDTV (16:9) 2048x1152 pixels
 - SDTV (4:3) 2048x1536 pixels
 - Panavision (2.39:1) 2048x856 pixels

Horizontal resolution, progressive scan, either 24 or 48 frames per second standard with Image Characteristics (image compression, if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000) may be employed and submitted so long as the final product conforms to aforementioned size limitations.

Your project may also employ image and sound file formats suitable for viewing Letterbox/Pillarboxed via portable and digital devices such as laptops, smartphones, desktop, and tablet

computers for proper viewing and judging on multiple devices.

These standards are provided as a general guideline. Suitable submissions may also be those produced utilizing modern, non-conventional cinematographic devices or techniques such as smartphones or digital devices capable of quality cinematographic production. Projects can also be those edited digitally through non-conventional techniques such as software available on portable devices like tablet computers.

5. Provided they were completed no earlier than two years prior to closing of our the Call for Entries date outlined under Eligibility Section A1, qualifying film projects may either:
 - Have been already exhibited, distributed and screened in public venues including theatrical public performing spaces such as movie theaters, film festival special screenings, television broadcast, home video distribution and Internet transmission [or]
 - Be never-screened-before projects.

Film entries submitted for consideration during a particular calendar year cannot be resubmitted the following year without justification, such as a major rewrite or content re-edit from the previous years' submission.

6. Advertisements of any sort will not be permitted as part of your submission either imbedded, implied, or as part of its running credits (including product placements). The purpose of this Grant Award is not to advertise other groups or companies, but to showcase your work and talent. Works produced for promotional or instructional purposes are also not eligible, nor are works that are verbatim recordings of live performances.
7. Only documentary works are eligible. The following are not eligible:
 - Episodes extracted from larger projects
 - Trailers
 - Alternate versions of ineligible works
 - Documentary short subjects created from materials
 - Substantially taken shorts cut from completed, publicly exhibited feature-length documentaries.
 - Sexually explicit material or pornography (Non-sexual nudity is permitted)
 - While works may be about hatred, discrimination, or violence and the people affected by it, submissions may

not incite hatred including defamatory or culturally discriminatory speech; or depict extreme violence

8. Participants must own or hold all necessary rights (copyrights, etc.) to their film entry including any third-party copyrighted materials, music, works of art, etc. included in their productions.
9. Dialogue and narration can be produced in any language. All non-English dialogue and narration must be provided with English subtitles.
10. Judging will take place in two rounds. Submissions requirements for each round are:
 - **Round One** - a viable link to the project submission on a hosting site (such as **YouTube** or **Vimeo**) on which access is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the eligibility period
 - **Round Two (Top 10)** – all finalist shortlisted entries will be required to submit an actual physical/digital copy of their completed project. Please refer to Submission, Section [3] for more details.

B. Submission

1. All participants must submit their entry via electronic mail to submissions@mrofoundation.org no later than 12:00 Midnight, New York time on March 31 of each calendar year.
2. The initial submission must include (for each member if submitted by a group):
 - a) Your official CV/Résumé in English including (for each project member):
 - Your complete name;
 - Actual address;
 - Telephone number;
 - Email address;
 - Other pertinent information required for contacting you;
 - Short biography;
 - Screen capture of your film for use on our website.
 - b) Project overview outlining the topic, purpose of your film and pertinent information regarding characterization, names of all performers, filming location(s), materials and processes used
 - c) Personal Head Shot for each project member.

- d) URL link to your submission
 - e) Entrants may also submit trailers or other pertinent materials — though such materials will have no bearing on the final outcome of your participation.
3. Submission formats must adhere to all eligibility requirements and the following:
- a) **Round One:** First round entries can be submitted as a link to the finished polished product. Submissions may be hosted in third-party video hosting sites such as **Vimeo** or **YouTube**. All links must be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week during the eligibility period.
 - b) **Round Two:** Only **Top 10 Shortlist Participants** will be required to submit a copy of the actual physical completed project for judging and for posting on our site. The project must be submitted in “digital form only” regardless of production process, materials, or equipment used. Files may be submitted via any one of a number of upload services such as DropBox, Hightail, WeTransfer and the like.
 - c) Please note that the purpose of this grant (for an already produced documentary short) is three-fold: **1.** To award one top entry as the best of the best—submitted to us—from around the world in the ranks of “Short-Short” documentary filmmaking. **2.** To showcase the incredible work of the Top-10 films as submitted to us. As such, should your film place on the Top-10 it will be showcased on our website (view only, password protected) utilizing our own Vimeo account with security settings as host site (please see section E). **3.** To support underfunded “Short-Short” documentary filmmaking.
 - d) Through this Grant Award it is our hope and desire that more attention—and by extension more funding—will be extended to this genre of filmmaking, too short for larger awards, too precious to be forgotten. We also hope that by showcasing your work not only do we say thank you to you for the work that you are doing (hopefully with a \$5,000 grant), but also inspire a generation of filmmakers both young and old to take up the camera and start making films that matter.

C. Voting

- 1. All participating entries may be viewed and judged by selected professionals. Judges may use an averaged score system to produce the Top-10 shortlist and a Grant Award Winner.

2. Judges with a personal, financial or professional interest or bias in entries or entrants will be asked to recuse themselves from the voting process.
3. The grant selection committee will use a secure online screening system for all submitted films. The initial screening system will be inaccessible to the public. Nevertheless, the submitting filmmaker agrees to hold The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation harmless for any unintended and unsupported digital distributions of submitted films. In addition, please note that the Foundation does not share selection committee comments or ratings with the public or submitting filmmakers.
4. Please note that due to the nature of this Grant Award, documentary film, and unlike for documentary photography, the screening and review process takes longer due to the lengths and number of submitted projects for any given year.

D. Nominees & Award Recipients

1. Entries must be submitted by the individual(s) most involved in the key creative aspects of the filmmaking process even though there will only be one award prize regardless the number of individuals involved in the submitted work.
2. Upon selection, the winning filmmaker(s) are required to provide a minimum of 2 high-resolution digital stills from their film for use by the foundation on its website in marketing or publicity materials.

E. Advertising & Publicity Permissions While the producer(s) retain all legal copyright to their materials, once having been submitted for this Grant Award, **The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for Documentary Photography & Film** retains the right to publish or display on our website and during our exhibitions any and all submitted materials specifically including your “Short-Short Documentary” film. It is our aim to showcase the shortlisted work of our entrants and to inspire future generations of filmmakers through this project. Our ultimate goal is to help find the next great documentary filmmaker before they become known.

F. Post Grant No submission materials will be returned. There are no exceptions.

G. **Other Rules** The Manuel Rivera-Ortiz Foundation for Documentary Photography & Film reserves the right to deny consideration for any project at any time.