

TRESTLE

How To Navigate

trestleworks.org

Seattle, Washington

Funding for Nonprofits, Founders & Filmmakers

Seattle has one of the most intentional public arts funding ecosystems on the West Coast - and a film incentive that is genuinely one of the best in the country for community-rooted productions. For queer, BIPOC, and independent filmmakers and nonprofit leaders, Seattle has built real structure around inclusion. The resources are real.

COLOR KEY:

Nonprofit

Startup / For-profit

Film & Media

NONPROFIT

For Nonprofits

CITY & GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Seattle Office of Arts & Culture (OAC)

City of Seattle

Full portfolio of annual grants. CityArtist Grant: \$8,000 unrestricted for individual Seattle-based artists and curators (2026: Literary, Media/Film, Visual Arts). Centering Art & Racial Equity Grant: \$10,000-\$100,000 for organizations centering racial equity - high priority for BIPOC-led arts orgs. P.S. You Are Here: Community-led outdoor arts activations. Downtown "We Still Dream a Future": Nearly \$900,000 in public art grants (\$10,000-\$50,000) - watch for 2026-2027 cycle.

\$8K-\$100K

Film eligible

BIPOC-led priority

LGBTQ+ & COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

Pride Foundation

Pacific Northwest LGBTQ+ Foundation

The Pacific Northwest's largest LGBTQ+-focused foundation. 2024-2026 cycle: committed to 106 organizations - 64 receiving 3-year grants totaling \$2.19M, 42 receiving 2-year grants totaling \$544,000. Priorities: BIPOC-led, trans-led, and gender-expansive organizations. Applications for next cycle open late 2026.

Multi-year grants

LGBTQ+ focused

Next cycle late 2026

Seattle Pride Impact Fund

Seattle Pride

Over \$500,000 distributed since 2018. Spark Grant: up to \$3,500 + \$1,500 in-kind for grassroots LGBTQ+ arts/culture events. Collective Futures Grant: \$10,000-\$15,000 for large-scale collaborative initiatives. Annual application cycle opens July 15.

\$3,500-\$15,000

LGBTQIA2S+ orgs

Opens July 15

What to know about Seattle's arts funding ecosystem

Seattle has one of the most intentional public arts funding ecosystems on the West Coast. The city has committed, at the municipal and state levels, to keeping arts funding accessible to artists from historically excluded communities. For queer, BIPOC, and independent filmmakers and nonprofit leaders, Seattle has built real structure around inclusion - and the resources are real.

STARTUP

For Underestimated Founders

CAPITAL & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Washington State DBE Certification

WA Department of Commerce

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise certification opens doors to state contracts and economic development programs - a key pathway for BIPOC-owned service businesses in the Seattle metro.

BIPOC-owned

State contracts

Ventures (formerly Women's Business Center)

Seattle-Based CDFI

Seattle-based CDFI providing microloans, training, and business development services for low-income entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs of color in the Puget Sound region.

Microloans

Entrepreneurs of color

Community Capital Development (CCD)

Seattle CDFI

CDFI lending for underserved small businesses in Seattle with particular focus on businesses owned by women, immigrants, and people of color.

Women-owned

Immigrant-owned

POC-owned

For queer founders in Seattle

Pride Foundation's network connects LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs to philanthropic and business networks across the Pacific Northwest. Seattle's startup and tech ecosystem is well-funded but equity gaps persist - the CDFIs above represent the most direct entry points for underestimated founders.

FILM

For Filmmakers

Washington Filmworks Production Incentive - Cash Rebate

Washington Filmworks

A direct cash rebate - not a tax credit. Cash goes directly to productions after qualifying spend is verified. Annual fund: \$15M (expanded from \$3.5M in 2022). No per-project cap. Authorized through June 30, 2030. Rates: 30% WA resident above/below-the-line labor, 15% non-resident below-the-line, +5% episodic series, +10% rural county OR underrepresented community story (max 45%). Minimum: \$500K film, \$300K episodic, \$150K commercial. Documentaries and projects about historically underrepresented communities qualify for the +10% uplift.

Up to 45% cash rebate	Direct cash	+10% underrepresented bonus	\$15M annual fund
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Northwest Film Forum - Fiscal Sponsorship

Seattle Film Nonprofit

Offers fiscal sponsorship to independent filmmakers and media artists in the Pacific Northwest. Primary local option for Seattle-based filmmakers seeking foundation grants or tax-deductible donations.

Fiscal sponsorship	Pacific Northwest
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Why the +10% matters for queer and community-rooted filmmakers

The +10% bonus for productions telling stories of historically underrepresented communities is one of the most explicit equity-aligned incentives of any state program in the country. For queer, BIPOC, and community-rooted filmmakers, this is a direct financial argument for keeping your production in Washington. The maximum 45% combined rate is genuinely competitive with Georgia and New Mexico.