

Faith-Based Filmmakers Grant

\$20,000 Bi-Annual Film Grant- Short Scripts

At the Robert Craig Films Foundation, we believe in utilizing the power of film to inspire our world to greater acts of kindness and compassion. In furtherance of our mission to raise awareness through financial productions of films that educate viewers and create social awareness regarding critical needs within society, including those that uplift the underserved and underrepresented members of our communities., we are seeking **uplifting short scripts with faith at their center that inspire acts of generosity, goodwill, and kindness**. We are looking for scripts that, when produced, will transform **communities** and **bring people together** for greater positive change. We are encouraged to find the future Faith-Based Filmmakers of America who will lead those changes and positively impact our communities for generations to come.

This grant of up to \$20,000 is intended to help filmmakers who otherwise would not be able to fund their film projects. We want to help launch new projects that are in the early development phase. This grant is intended for short scripts or treatments for larger film projects. Our foundation wants to empower these filmmakers to utilize the power of film and share their inspirational, faith-infused stories, and to enrich our communities with more positive, hopeful content. Projects selected for grant funding shall be referred to herein as “Grant Funded Projects”.

Twice a year we will collect grant requests submitted by those aspiring to create impactful faith-based films. As an added plus, those who are selected by the Robert Craig Films Foundation for the Faith-Based Film Grant will be offered the opportunity for a job interview on a future film project with our partner, Robert Craig Films. We will award the grants twice a year to one or more promising Faith-Based Filmmakers who embody the values of the Robert Craig Films Foundation: Compassion, Hope, Transformation, Faith, and Education.

Mission Statement: Through the lens of cinema, we spotlight critical needs within society to educate our communities, create awareness, and inspire compassion to drive transformation.

Vision: To create a world where film ignites transformation, and through education, hope, faith, and compassion our communities can unite to build a promising future.

Values:

Compassion – film allows us to see the world from another’s perspective and feel as they feel. Through film, we can better understand critical human experiences and emotions such as love, empathy, forgiveness, kindness, and mercy.

Hope – we seek to uplift and encourage people to see the world with new eyes, and to believe new and greater things are possible.

Transformation – we believe in changing lives, and communities, giving a voice to those with the least economic and social power.

Faith – we believe in demonstrating faith through actions in how we behave, treat, and serve others.

Education – we believe lifelong learning is a journey that motivates us toward creating a better community for all.

Grant Application:

If you agree with our Mission, Vision, and Values, live in the USA, are 18 years or older, and have an uplifting, inspirational, faith-based short screenplay that you believe needs to be shared with the world, we will welcome your grant submission for the Faith-Based Filmmakers Grant.

When you submit your project for consideration for the grant-funded project, you will retain all intellectual property rights for your project. **All grant applications should be submitted by the secure application form on our website or through FilmFreeway.com. If you have any questions or errors during submission, please contact us at Filmmakers@RCFFoundation.org.**

Please provide the following with your grant application.

- One short script, twenty pages or less, submitted as a PDF document. You may not submit a screenplay you did not write or do not have the sole rights to. If a grant applicant would like Robert Craig Films Foundation to consider multiple scripts, they must enter each script under separate submissions. The script, or screenplay, must be a completed screenplay upon submission. Once submitted, you are not allowed to submit any updated versions during the grant review process.
 - Please note: If chosen as the grant recipient, you must submit a final script prior to the receipt of the first disbursement. Any changes in the script from what was originally submitted must be approved by the Robert Craig Films Foundation to ensure alignment with the foundation's mission and purpose. If any changes are made, the foundation has the right to rescind the grant you received, depending on the degree of changes made and whether those changes would cause support for the project to fall outside of the foundation's mission and purpose. (See Grant Disbursement, document can be found on website)

- Must submit your background, “bio” and why you feel you should be awarded the grant. Please include why the faith-based film grant with Robert Craig Films Foundation fits your values. How have these values been embodied in your script, and/or how do the Mission, Vision, and Values of our foundation align with your work?
- Submit a sample of any prior work you may have done, whether it be a full-length feature film, a short film, trailer, commercial, documentary, music video, a high school project, or anything you produced that you are proud of. – Show your creativity.
- You must submit your anticipated budget, timeline for production, and the city and state you would like to film in. Please provide details on how you will fund any part of the project not covered by this grant.
- You must disclose any existing relationship(s) (including, but not limited to, familial relationships, friendships, business relationships, or any other relationships) that you have, or had, with the Robert Craig Films Foundation, and/or any board member, officer, or employee of the Robert Craig Films Foundation.

Timeline For Production:

Your screenplay must be completed prior to submission of the grant application. Once submitted, you are not allowed to submit any updated versions, so please make sure you are comfortable with your screenplay before submitting.

Please see the Grant Cycles and Due Date section for a listing of important dates for when you can expect to receive a response to your grant application. Screenplays that are in the pre-production phase or beyond are not eligible for submission. See production phase breakdowns below. During the review stage of your submitted application, if you proceed to the pre-production phase of your script, it will disqualify your application.

The 5 Phases of Film Production:

These stages are for reference purposes only. To give applicants an understanding of each phase of film production and to help determine if their current project is eligible for applying to our grant program.

Development: This is the stage where the idea or concept for the film is formed, often starting from an original idea, book, script, or pitch. The script is created and finalized, which serves as the blueprint for the film’s story, dialogue, and structure. You may seek funding from investors, studios, grants, or other sources to secure the budget needed. Key members of the production team, such as the director, producer, and lead actors, can be hired. Detailed planning takes place in preparation for pre-production, such as location scouting, set design, and scheduling.

Pre-Production: This is the planning stage before filming begins. It involves organizing all the necessary elements to ensure the production runs smoothly. Some of the important steps are: The script must be locked and ready for production; a detailed budget is created and a production schedule is established; final decisions are made on hiring actors; the production team is assembled, including the department heads like the cinematographer, production designer, costume designer, catering and others; locations are secured for filming including obtaining any necessary permits; sets are designed and built, along with finalizing any props and costumes needed; the actors can begin to rehearse their scenes.

Production: This is the stage where the actual filming of the movie takes place. It involves capturing all the scenes according to the script, with the director overseeing the process. Some of the important steps are: filming all the scenes in the script with the actors, camera crews, lighting, sound, and other departments, at the designated locations; the director guides the actors and crew to bring the script to life; the sound department records dialogue, sound effects, as well as ambient noises, while the lighting team ensures proper lighting for each scene; the production team ensures that everything runs accordingly to the schedule, managing logistics, props, costumes, and more.

Post-Production: This is the stage where the movie is edited and refined after filming is completed. Some of the important steps are: the raw footage is edited to create a cohesive story, including selecting the best takes, arranging scenes, and adding transitions; sound effects, background music, and dialogue are added or enhanced to match the film's style and tone; visual effects, CGI, or other visual enhancements are added to the film; proper coloring of the edited film is adjusted to set the mood and for visual consistency; the film is completed with credits, sound mixing, and mastering to prepare for distribution.

Distribution: This is the final stage of movie production, where the finished film is made available to the public. Some of the important steps are: marketing the film with promotional materials such as trailers, posters, and interviews with actors, producers and the director to generate buzz for building an audience that want to watch your film; submit your film to film festivals to help gain attention, recognition and awards; the film is sold or licensed to distributors, broadcasters, and streaming platforms for release in theaters, TV or online streaming; the film is released in cinemas, often with a planned rollout to different regions or countries; after the theatrical run, the film is made available for streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and others; DVD and Blu-ray discs are made available for online and instore sales.

Grant Cycles and Due Dates:

All grant submissions will be reviewed biannually by the Robert Craig Films Foundation Board of Directors. One or more awardees will be chosen on a biannual basis. If you have been selected for the film grant, you will be ineligible for future Faith-Based Film Grants

with Robert Craig Films Foundations for a twelve-month period and cannot apply for the film grant again for the same project. If the board of directors has questions about your submission, they may reach out with inquiries and request that additional information be submitted. If your submission was not chosen for the period you applied for, you are welcome to resubmit for future grant cycles.

The 2025 grant cycle will open in February 2025 for submissions. Grant applications must be submitted by the following dates to be considered for the upcoming grant cycle review by the board of directors. Submissions made after the dates listed will be held for the next review cycle, as applicable.

- November 1, 2025

Announcements of those selected for grants will be made within 90 days or less of the grant submission due date. For the disbursement schedule and required documents once selected, see the Grant Disbursement Schedule.

In the event that under 30 grant applications are received during a grant cycle, all active grant applications will be held and entered into the next open grant cycle. The grant applications will not proceed into grant review with fewer than 30 available grant applications.

Terms and Conditions:

By applying to the Faith-Based Filmmakers Grant with the Robert Craig Films Foundation, you agree to the following terms and conditions. Robert Craig Films Foundation accepts no liability whatsoever for any claims of damages, real or perceived, by any entrant(s) as a result of their participation and entry into the grant program.

You must attest that you have the sole rights and copyright to your screenplay; you may not submit a screenplay you did not write or do not have the rights to. By submitting for the Robert Craig Films Foundation Faith-Based Filmmakers Grant, you are stating that you have sole rights to your screenplay.

Additionally, by applying to the Faith-Based Filmmakers Grant with the Robert Craig Films Foundation, you agree to the following terms and conditions if you are selected for and awarded the grant.

- To allow Robert Craig Films Foundation and its partner, Robert Craig Films, the option to promote you and your Grant Funded Project on their websites and in the media and social media.
- To utilize the Robert Craig Films Foundation name and logo as requested and where applicable in relation to the Grant Funded Project (i.e., your website, social media, production, credits, etc.).
- To utilize the name and logo of any sponsor or partners for the grant as requested by Robert Craig Films Foundation and, where applicable in relation to the Grant Funded Project (i.e., your website, social media, production, credits, etc.).
- To properly utilize all grant funds for the Grant Funded Project, in furtherance of the Grant Funded Project and the Robert Craig Films Foundation's mission and purpose.
- To submit all required documentation as outlined on the Grant Disbursement Schedule. Failure to comply with the Grant Disbursement Schedule will terminate future disbursements, make you ineligible for future grants, and/or may have other legal and tax consequences. (Grant Disbursement Schedule can be found on website)
- To complete your Grant Funded Project film within six months of receiving the first disbursement check.
- If there is an official premiere party for your Grant Funded Project film, we ask to be notified in advance, and if feasible, provided with the option to attend so that we can celebrate your success with you. If attendance is not feasible, or there is no official premiere party, we ask for photos and videos of your film's launch to document the occasion.

We reserve all rights to our logo, name and brand and when it may be used on the website, social media, productions of others. Additionally, any sponsors, or partners of Roberts Craig Films Foundation also reserve all rights to their logo, name and brand and they reserve the right to determine when it may be used on the website, social media, or productions of others.