



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson

Governor

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Governor Richardson announces Call for Proposals for second round of “New Visions/New Mexico” Contract Awards

New Mexico-based filmmakers eligible to receive contracts up to \$20,000 - Panavision joins the program with two awards of camera rental packages valued at \$10,000 each

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today announced a Call for Proposals for New Visions/New Mexico, a program designed to assist New Mexico’s very own filmmakers. Now in its second year, the program will provide a total of \$160,000 in contracts for New Mexico-based producers and directors to create narrative films, documentaries, animated and experimental works. Subject to application and review by a panel of professionals and peers, filmmakers may apply for funds up to \$20,000 toward the completion of existing projects, or the launching of new ones.

“I’m pleased to recognize our exceptional local talent and engage them in furthering our strategic goals for film production in the state,” said Governor Richardson. “Our home grown filmmakers are crucial to the long term success of the industry here.”

Applicants are required to provide a service to the state as part of their contract, such as training other New Mexicans who are new to the industry, providing in-state screenings and seminars, or creating projects that promote and explore New Mexico’s history, cultures, challenges or future. Last year’s twelve awardees trained a total of twelve apprentices, fourteen interns, and almost 200 classroom students in a variety of film industry tasks. In addition, nearly 3,000 audience members attended free screenings of completed works or works-in-progress.

This year, Panavision joins the program with two prizes, each an in-kind donation toward the rental of motion picture camera equipment (HD, 16mm or 35mm) with a rental value of up to \$10,000 per prize. “We’re honored to work with the New Mexico Film Office to support the state’s film industry,” says Panavision’s James Finn.

“This program is part of our strategy to establish a solid in-state production and training base,” said Eric Witt, Director of Media Industries Development. “Our hope is that these awards will continue to help filmmakers leverage more support from other sources, and help grow their careers.”

Film Office Director Lisa Strout noted the experiences of the 2006 awardees. “These awards have not only given life to some incredible New Mexico stories, they are also designed to create much needed exposure for the talent that lives right here in the state.”

This year will also mark the introduction of the Mike Laurance Narrative Film Award, in honor of Las Cruces resident, filmmaker and educator Mike Laurance, who passed away in May. “Mike was a founding Advisor for New Visions/New Mexico, and is deeply missed by all of us,” said Jodi Delaney, NM Filmmakers Program Director.

The deadline for proposals is September 7, 2007. Awardees will be announced in November. A selection panel will review each proposal based on a number of criteria, such as the artistic quality of the project; the applicant’s demonstrated ability and creativity; the applicant’s managerial and fiscal competence; the quality of service provided to the state; and the applicant’s efforts to reach a broad, diverse audience.

A free seminar about preparing a New Visions/New Mexico proposal will take place at the Jean Cocteau Cinema in Santa Fe at 6:00 pm on August 1, 2007. Interested filmmakers should call 505-476-5600 to reserve a seat.

Applications are available online at www.nmfilm.com, and at the New Mexico Film Office, 418 Montezuma Avenue in Santa Fe.