Diverse Film Fund 2026

Application Pack

togetherTV

Welcome to Together TV's Diverse Film Fund!

Together TV's BAFTA-winning documentary fund returns this November to support your next film.
We will support five new filmmakers to create short documentaries telling the stories of the people, places, localities and legends of the West Midlands.

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If you have any questions or accessibility requests, feel free to contact us.

You can email us at info@togethertv.com,

and learn more about us on www.togethertv.com.

What we offer

Local stories told by local storytellers.

Are you a **West-Midlands based, working-class, first-time director working in film, TV** or video and have a short inspirational documentary story that needs to be told?

Here's what the Diverse Film Fund will give you:

- **£20,000** funding to make your short documentary
- An experienced **industry mentor** and a named **Together TV production contact**
- Development, pre-production, editorial, compliance and delivery **support**
- **Practical training** covering story, contributors, budgeting, filming, post-production and impact
- **A West Midlands premiere** in 2027, **nation-wide Together TV broadcast, streaming and film festivals exposure**
- **Ownership of your final product: a completed short film** that can act as a calling card for future commissions

Selection process:

Applications will be reviewed by **a panel of TV professionals**, including commissionsers and producers with relevant expertise and deep local knowledge.

How to Apply:

We will run a **webinar on December 3rd at 1pm** to help guide filmmakers. Webinars recording will be made available afterwards. You can sign up on: www.togethertv.com/diverse-film-fund-2026.

Please submit your application online at www.togethertv.com/diverse-film-fund-2026/submit-your-film through the **web-form.**

Additional accessibility tools will be available for deaf, disabled and/or neurodivergent creatives.

For any queries, email us at info@togethertv.com using the subject **"DFF2026"**.

If applying online does not meet your needs, please contact us to discuss other ways to submit your application.

Please note that all films will be produced to BFI Diversity Standards, ALBERT sustainability standards and The TV Access Project's (TAP) Guidelines for Disability Inclusion in UK TV Production. Filmmaker, crew and contributor needs will be assessed with reasonable adjustments made as needed.

All eligible applicants are welcomed - filmmakers may be working in TV, branded content, online video, community video, leaving college or university, have no formal training or not working.

The Diverse Film Fund Timeline

Tuesday 10th November 2026

The Diverse Film Fund is live! Get familiar with the theme and start preparing you Project Proposal.

Thursday 3rd December 2026

We will host a **webinar** to help all applicants and answer your questions (sign up on our website).

Thursday 15th December 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE.

January to June 2027

You will **shoot and produce your film** with the help of industry mentors.

Thursday 1st July 2027

FILM PRODUCTION DEADLINE

July 2027

West Midlands premiere
and nation-wide Together TV broadcast

Creative Brief & Eligibility

To apply, you must:

- be a **first-time director**: this will be your first broadcast credit.
- **live or work in the West Midlands**
- **be working class**
- be telling **a story of a person or community you feel deserve a to be known more widely**, are deeply connected to, know and love.

Creative Brief:

We want to support **five working-class first-time directors** to tell us stories from the ten million people who call the West Midlands homes. These are stories that could only be told in the West Midlands **- stories of place, people and community.**

- Each film will be **20 minutes**, with a **clear creative narrative approach**, authorship and ambition. It will be motivating and hopefully inspiring to audiences locally and nationally.
- Your film should be **unfolding narratives, immersing the viewer** in the specificity of people and place. Your contributors will bring the film to life, it is through them that viewers will remain engaged and feel a deep bond with the story.
- They can be standalone films or have the potential to be the first in a longer series of mid-form documentaries, a pilot or calling-card to be expanded into a longer-form feature.

Remember to have fun! Your film will be ultimately **positive, revealing and uplifting.** It is an opportunity for you to showcase your talent and creativity through producing a meaningful, positive and impactful film which will be a calling-card for your future career.

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applications are from **individuals** not companies or organisations
- Applicants **must live in the West Midlands and identify as working-class**: successful applicants supported by CE funding must be based in the West Midlands Combined Authority region of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton.
- Applicants must demonstrate commitment storytelling **representing the experiences of the region and its communities**
- Applicants must be **aged 18+, live and work in the UK**
- Applicants must be **available for the training** (2-3 days in total), development, production and post production period
- Applicants **do not have a broadcast credit as director or producer**

Submission Deadline:

Tuesday 15th December 2026 at 12.00pm (noon).

What to include in your Project Proposal

Project Proposals must include:

- **A strong overview of your project to grab our attention,** including the story, people, themes and vision (100 words or less)
- **A short rationale** setting out your creative approach to the story you want to tell (50 words or less)
- **A short biography** introducing you and any filmmaking experiences so far (50 words or less)

What you will be asked in the application form:

About You

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Where do you live?
- If you live outside the West Midlands, where do you work in the region?
- What pronouns would you like us to use?

About Your Film:

Your film title
(Maximum 50 characters)

Tell us about your film idea.
What is the story, who are the people at its heart, and what makes it compelling? Why is this a story worth telling?
(Maximum 100 words)

How would you tell this story?
Briefly describe your creative approach and how you would bring the story to life on screen.
(Maximum 50 words)

About Your Experience:

Tell us a little about yourself.
Introduce yourself and tell us about any filmmaking or storytelling experience you have so far. You don't need professional filmmaking experience or formal training to apply. We're interested in your perspective and the story you want to tell.
(Maximum 50 words)

Would you like to upload your CV? (Optional)
You can upload a CV if you'd like to tell us more about your background, but it isn't required and won't affect your eligibility.
Accepted formats: PDF, DOC, DOCX.

Our partners

West Midlands Combined Authority

WMCA works with regional partners to drive economic growth, skills and investment across the West Midlands.

Create Central

Create Central champions the West Midlands creative industries, connecting storytellers with opportunities and networks to grow.

Creative UK

Creative UK is the national membership body for the cultural and creative industries. We exist to champion creativity in its widest form.

Royal Television Society Midlands

RTS Midlands is the regional centre of the Royal Television Society, a leading forum for television and media professionals. It brings together broadcasters, filmmakers, students and emerging talent across the Midlands through industry events, networking and opportunities to share knowledge and celebrate excellence in television production.

BFI Film Academy Hub West Midlands

Led by Rural Media, BFI Film Academy Hub West Midlands offers free training, mentoring and industry access to young people across the region, building practical skills and real routes into film, TV and the wider screen industries.

Filmmakers testimonials

“**Together TV has been absolutely incredible.** It's so rare that you get to collaborate with people in such a wholesome way. They gave us training sessions, brought in educators to teach us and they checked in. It can be such an isolating experience as a filmmaker, and knowing that there were people you could run to was great. I don’t think this would have happened without the resources they equipped us with."

"Always, Asifa" by Shiva Raichandani, Diverse Film Fund 2022, BAFTA Nominated.

"The Together TV Diverse Film Fund was an amazing opportunity for my film and for my personal development. The well-curated webinars and **the incredible exposure this grant gave me was invaluable.** I’m very grateful to Together TV and to my fellow grantees who continue to be a supportive network."

"Our Land" by Alexandra Genova, Diverse Film Fund 2021, BAFTA Winner.

"I’d like to share my utmost thanks and gratitude to everyone for this opportunity. I can’t even begin to imagine the organisation that this took. From raising the funds, to organising the fantastic webinars and giving us access to amazing mentors. **Every step of this process was simply brilliant."**

"Superheroes Wear Hoodies" by Jason Osborne, Diverse Film Fund 2021.

"**The Diverse Film Fund was a truly unique opportunity** - being given the financial backing, and being trusted to create a film about a community I'm passionate about- it's hard to take stock of all the positives that have come out of it."

"Come Out Fighting", by Tom Gaisford, Diverse Film Fund 2022.