



## QUEER SCREEN PITCH OFF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Since 1993 Queer Screen has worked closely with the filmmaking community to showcase quality LGBTIQ+ content and to provide opportunities for local filmmakers to create content.

The Queer Screen Pitch Off event offers Australian LGBTIQ+ filmmakers and content producers much needed financial support by contributing \$10,000 to assist with the production of the winning project. All finalists will also receive free script consultation from Matthew Dabner, Lecturer in Media Arts and Production at UTS, and renowned script editor, writer, and producer, plus two Flexi 5 passes to Queer Screen Film Fest 2024.

Queer Screen will consider funding for narrative fiction short films and documentary short films that address the lives and stories of people of diverse genders and sexualities. Note: projects can double as a web series pilot, but the story must be able to stand alone.

Additionally, in 2024 **Screen Australia's Gender Matters Taskforce** will also offer the following initiatives for eligible female and gender diverse practitioners selected as finalists:

- The Gender Matters Taskforce Screenwriting Prize, a \$5,000 cash prize for the best screenplay by a female or gender diverse screenwriter
- The Gender Matters Taskforce Professional Development Prize, a \$5,000 cash prize towards a program of self-directed professional development for a female or gender diverse filmmaker or filmmaking team
- A Gender Matters Taskforce Travel Stipend to assist female and gender diverse directors, screenwriters and producers who reside outside of metropolitan Sydney to attend Pitch Off

### Application deadline:

- for Non-Members: **Monday 29th July, 2024**
- for Queer Screen Members: **Monday 5th August, 2024**

Successful candidates will be notified **by Wednesday 21st August, 2024** and are strongly encouraged to pitch in person at the **Pitch Off event on Sunday 1st September, 2024**, at Event Cinemas George Street in Sydney – or they can pitch remotely via an online platform.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Project type (i.e. narrative fiction short film or documentary short film)
- Project length (must be less than 20 minutes)
- Applicant must be an Australian citizen
- The project must have on screen LGBTIQ+ representation
- At least one of your key creatives (writer, director or producer) must be from the LGBTIQ+ community
  - For the Gender Matters Taskforce prizes and travel stipend, all recipients must be female or gender diverse
- Applications are made through Google Forms and Google Drive, so signing into a Google account is required to complete the application
- Completed the **Pitch Off application form**
- Link to a (maximum 3 minute) pitch video for initial assessment
- Current draft of script (as an attachment)
- Applicants must own chain of title
- Summary project budget (as an attachment)



- If overall budget is greater than \$10,000, evidence of where the additional funds will be secured is to be provided
- Screener link to one example of previous work of the director
- Agree to these terms and conditions
- Post Production must be complete by November 1st, 2025. Inability to do so may lead to your team giving a full reimbursement of prize money to be given to a runner up
- Applicants must always act in good faith and be honest in all dealings with Queer Screen and not intentionally mislead the organisation

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

All eligible projects will be assessed, and up to six finalists will be selected to proceed to the Pitch Off session. The selected finalists will be provided with an opportunity to pitch their project to a panel of jurors who will determine the winner.

Additionally, from the selected finalists a separate independent panel from Screen Australia's Gender Matters Taskforce will determine the winners of the Gender Matters Taskforce prizes.

**Pitch Off will be held on Sunday 1st September, 2024, the final day of the 11th Queer Screen Film Fest. The winner of Pitch Off will be announced on the day, alongside the winners of Gender Matters Taskforce prizes.**

The selected finalists will have a maximum 5 minutes to pitch an idea to a panel of judges and members of the public. The timeline is strictly adhered to and finalists will be stopped by the timer.

Consideration will be given to the following areas:

- Relevance of story to a queer audience
- Strength and diversity of your creative team
- Timelines and production planning
- How you will meet your budget and project objectives

We need to know that you can make the project on time and on budget, therefore it is our suggestion that the total budget does not exceed the development fund. However, this does not include in kind support from cast and crew that have gear, time and talents which assist with production for free or at a reduced rate.

Applicants will be notified by email if they are not selected for the final pitch.

## **RESUBMISSION**

No resubmissions can be made to the Pitch Off development fund for projects that it rejects, unless there is a substantial and significant change or in respect of a project previously rejected by Queer Screen, or unless we have invited you to resubmit after additional project development.

## **FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

The successful Pitch Off project will be required to provide additional production documentation to receive the funds. The funds will be provided incrementally as the project evolves and progression reports are provided to Queer Screen.



A progression report may include a minimum of:

- A final draft of the script
- Biographies of all key cast and crew, and a list of all cast and crew
- Shooting schedule
- Post production schedule
- Agreements of any in kind support
- Budget breakdown
- Evidence of invoices paid or requiring payment

Be honest, if there is something you don't think you can do alone let us know and we may be able to supply assistance or an industry mentor.

### **OBLIGATIONS TO QUEER SCREEN**

- Queer Screen must have first rights to the Sydney Premiere, if invited to screen
- Queer Screen logo and any participating sponsor logo to feature in credits (use of logo must be authorised and approved by Queer Screen and/or its participating sponsor prior to displaying)
- All required approvals and licenses must be obtained from stakeholders engaged in the making of the project
- Recipients of funding must act compliantly with respect to any legislation which may regulate the activities when making the project
- Applicants must keep Queer Screen apprised of any significant changes to the project
- Courtesy consultation during final edit stages
- A digital copy of the final edit in ProRes (preferred) or H264 format
- EPK including production stills and posters for publicity and/or archival purposes

Applications can only be accepted electronically using the [application Google form](#). Any inquiries should be emailed to [filmmakers@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:filmmakers@queerscreen.org.au).

### **OBLIGATIONS TO SCREEN AUSTRALIA'S GENDER MATTERS TASKFORCE**

Recipients of any Gender Matters Taskforce prizes must:

- Be available for a photograph with the Queer Screen and Gender Matters Taskforce judges on the day of Pitch Off
- Acknowledge the Gender Matters Taskforce with a thank you in the film's credits
- In the case of the Gender Matters Taskforce Screenwriting Prize, acknowledge the Gender Matters Taskforce by adding the logo to the script's title page

Any use of the Gender Matters Taskforce's logo must be authorised and approved by the Gender Matters Taskforce.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- The information in these Terms and Conditions can change. Queer Screen reserves the right to review Pitch Off and/or change its policies, procedures and assessment criteria.
- The application form does not necessarily cover all the information Queer Screen will need to decide which applications to support. Queer Screen reserves the right to ask applicants for additional information.
- All applications are made at the applicant's own risk. Queer Screen will not be liable for loss, damage or costs arising directly or indirectly from:
  1. The application process



2. Queer Screen's decision not to provide an award to an applicant; and or dealing with the application
- Sometimes Queer Screen's Board, employees or contractors may be involved in some way with applicants. This interest must be declared in applications from such applicants. The relevant Board member or staff member will not be involved in assessing the application or the decision to make an award. Applicants are advised not to try to influence the success of their application by approaching a Board member or staff member.
  - It is important that applicants check the information given in the application form carefully. Queer Screen's standard terms and conditions entitle it to withhold or reclaim funds in the following circumstances:
    - If the application was filed in dishonestly or with incorrect or misleading information about the organisation or the project, whether deliberately or accidentally; and
    - If during the term of the agreement the awardee acts dishonestly or negligently to the disadvantage of the project. Queer Screen will follow up cases of suspected fraud and will pass information to the police.

### **COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS**

Queer Screen's decision is final. Inevitably, applicants may have to be turned down and will be disappointed by this result. Formal appeals against the final decision will not be considered unless the applicant has good cause to believe that the procedures for processing the applications were not adhered to or applied in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of the application. A complaint of this nature should be directed to the Queer Screen President at [president@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:president@queerscreen.org.au).