



POV Call for Entries Broadcast Season 2018: Submission Guidelines

Introduction

POV, public television's premier showcase for independent, nonfiction film seeks programs from all perspectives to showcase in its annual PBS series.

Submission Protocol.

- POV encourages delivering your film online via [Vimeo](#). When you complete your online submission form, you can paste in your Vimeo link and password. POV will also accept content delivered on a USB flash drive.
- When you submit a Vimeo link, the file **MUST BE DOWNLOAD-ENABLED**. Please password-protect your link and **don't forget to include the password in the form**. All links and files received will remain confidential.
- Any file submitted via USB flash drive must not exceed 2 GB in size and is preferred at 1280 x 720 (HD compression). We will ask for resubmission of files that exceed 2 GB.
- Non-English submissions **must have burned-in subtitles** to your link/file.

All entries must be submitted by 6 pm EST Friday, June 23, 2017.

Submissions received after June 23 will be rolled into the following year's submission cycle, unless an extension is granted by POV.

Browser Requirements: The online submission form requires a JavaScript-enabled web browser. We recommend:

- Firefox
- Google Chrome
- Safari

Eligibility

POV considers work that meets the following criteria:

Non-fiction only. Works that integrate some fictional elements or create genre hybrids can be considered. Please do not submit docudramas, reenactments, or performance pieces. When in doubt, please email cfe@pov.org and include a phone number where we can reach you.



POV Call for Entries Broadcast Season 2018: Submission Guidelines

Works that have not been broadcast nationally. POV expects to provide the U.S. broadcast premiere of a program. POV will, however, consider a work when it is of special merit and has had only limited television exposure (such as broadcast on local public TV stations or on cable systems with limited geographical reach). When programming a film, we do take its digital distribution, and accompanying exposure/press prior to broadcast into consideration.

Works by independent filmmakers. Works produced by filmmakers in association with a station or organization are acceptable if editorial control was entirely in the hands of the filmmaker. Instructional films, films made for a client, and sponsored films are not eligible.

POV welcomes and encourages submissions by both domestic and international filmmakers. If your non-fiction film has not been previously broadcast in the U.S., and meets all other eligibility requirements, you may submit your film to POV. If your film is not in English, you must submit a version with English subtitles.

Works released within the past four years. POV will consider exceptional works completed before this date only if they have achieved significant recognition through festivals, awards or reviews. However, the producer or distributor must contact our office to obtain clearance before the work is submitted. Eligibility of films released prior to the four-year cut-off date is solely at the discretion of the Executive Producers.

Films that are complete or near completion. POV considers completed work or fine cuts for standard acquisition. Samples, assemblies or excerpts usually cannot be considered for broadcast in the upcoming season and should be submitted in the special category “Early Introduction”. See below for details.

Works not previously submitted to POV. If a film has been previously submitted to POV in non-final form (rough cut), the film can be submitted again if it is finished and/or the treatment has changed significantly since the previous submission. A small number of producers are invited to re-submit their films, but POV will contact directly.



POV Call for Entries Broadcast Season 2018: Submission Guidelines

Works of any length will be considered. Though we prioritize feature and hour-long films, short films (30 mins. and under) are welcomed and encouraged to be submitted in the “Short Film” category. If acquired, please note that producers may be asked to cut works to comply with the POV/PBS broadcast format.

Works that comply with PBS underwriting guidelines. For details on PBS National Program Funding Standards and Practices, please visit the PBS web site at www.pbs.org/producers/

The Executive Producers reserve the right to make exceptions to these guidelines in special cases.

Early Introduction

Early Introduction is NOT for films seeking broadcast or funding. Please see [our website](#) for other funding opportunities.

POV’s programming team gets to as many markets, festivals and other industry events as we can. We want to stay in touch with filmmakers and be aware of projects as they evolve. Most of the films we encounter at an early stage will eventually submit through the Open Call for Entries process as finished works.

If you have a documentary project you’d like us to know about [please submit under the “Early Introduction” category.](#)

Complete only the section of the submission form that applies to your project’s current stage of production (research, development, pre-production). You may also submit a treatment, trailer or project proposal in this category. Please specify if you do not want information about your project passed along to other parties.

If you’re unsure of where your project belongs please email cfe@pov.org

Submission Procedures

Please read the following guidelines carefully as you prepare materials to send to us. Failure to follow these instructions may result in disqualification.



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Deadline: Projects must **be submitted** to POV no later than **Friday, June 23, 2017**.

Projects will be considered for the POV broadcast season airing in the summer of 2018.

In extraordinary cases (when a film is just being finished, for example) the deadline may be extended, but only by contacting POV in advance of the deadline. Submissions submitted after the deadline will be automatically rolled into the following submission cycle. Email cfe@pov.org to request an extension. Requests must be made before the deadline.

Screening Copies: Filmmakers must submit **one** of the following:

- Vimeo link (Recommended). Upload your film to the Vimeo website at vimeo.com and include a password-protected link to your film in your submission form. Make sure your film is download-enabled (found under the 'privacy' tab of your Vimeo video).
- USB flash drive ("thumb drive") with a digital video file, in H.264 codec, preferred resolution of 480p and maximum file size of 2 GB. Please include your submission ID and film title in the video file name, for example: 2017_1_0567_my_great_film.mp4. Your submission ID will be provided to you once you submit your film, on the submission confirmation page.

Note: You must agree to the terms and conditions stated at the end of the submission form in order to complete your submission.

Liability: **USB flash drives will NOT be returned. Do not submit original material.**

Fees and Rights

If your film is selected for a POV broadcast, POV licenses exclusive US public television rights and accompanying limited digital-streaming rights. We do not handle educational, theatrical or festival distribution, though many POV films have found success in all these areas.

While we typically seek PBS broadcast rights for **a period of four years, as well as U.S. web-streaming and PBS VOD Services**, we understand that the media market is in flux and strive to work with filmmakers to both help ensure their distribution options and maximize the reach of public media funds. It is essential that POV and PBS maintain digital streaming windows around broadcast. Limited completion and co-production support is



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available on a case-by-case basis.

Acquisitions funds do not apply to films funded by the [NEH](#), [ITVS](#), [PBS](#), [the National Minority Consortia](#), or [CPB](#) (as a public television broadcast has generally already been licensed through that funding), or for a work that has already been broadcast. Exclusivity may be waived at the discretion of the Executive Producers and only under extraordinary circumstances.

Releases / Rights: PBS broadcast appearance releases, as well as PBS broadcast rights for all music, art, stills and stock footage must be secured by the producer prior to broadcast.

Final editorial control remains with the filmmakers, however POV retains the right to request changes in length and/or treatment.

Selection Process

Selection of programs for POV will be made by the Executive Producers, in consultation with the programming team and the Editorial Committee (see below).

Works are pre-screened by experienced curators, programmers, producers and media professionals. Submissions are evaluated on the basis of their potential impact on a national television audience, their aesthetic approach, directorial vision, contemporary resonance and compatibility with series priorities. All submissions remain confidential, and material is not shared outside of the POV programming team.

Producers will be notified of the selection decision approximately six months after the June 23 deadline (approximately December 2017).

Due to the volume of submissions, POV staff cannot provide individual feedback on submitted work.



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Editorial Committee: POV's Editorial Committee, a unique working partnership between independents and public television representatives, functions as an advisory board to the Executive Producers. Past members of the committee include:

Angad Bhalla, Independent Documentary Director

Garry Denny, Associate Director of Programming, Wisconsin PTV, Madison, WI

Ramona Diaz, Independent Documentary Director

Justin Harvey, Director of Content, NPT, Nashville, TN

Susie Hernandez, Associate Program Director, KQED, San Francisco, CA

Tom Holter, Executive Director of Programming, Twin Cities Public Television, Minneapolis, MN

Hildy Ko, Director TV Programming, Arizona Public Media, Tucson, AZ

Grace Lee, Independent Documentary Director

Loira Limbal, Vice President, Firelight Media

Sam Pollard, Editor, Independent Producer, Professor of Film and Television, New York University

Ron Pisaneschi, General Manager, Idaho Public Television, Boise, Idaho

Yoruba Richen, Film Director & Director of documentary program at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism

Dan Soles, Senior Vice President and Chief Television Content Officer, WTTW, Chicago, IL

Andrea Sosa, Director of Programming, KLRN, San Antonio, TX

Jean Tsien, Independent Documentary Editor, Director, Producer