



POV Call for Entries Broadcast Season 2016: 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. All subjects, aesthetic approaches and lengths are welcomed.

Submission Protocol. POV encourages delivering your film online via Vimeo (vimeo.com). When you register and upload your film, make your film downloadable and password-protected. When you complete your online submission form, you can paste in your Vimeo link and password. Though online content delivery at vimeo.com is strongly preferred, POV will continue to accept content delivered on a USB flash drive or DVD.

Technical Specifications.

- If you submit a Vimeo link, the file **MUST BE DOWNLOAD-ENABLED**. If you do not want to download-enable your link, deliver your film on a USB Flash Drive or DVD. Please password-protect your link and **don't forget to include the password in the form.**
- Any file submitted via USB flash drive must not exceed 2 GB in size and is preferred at 480p (SD compression). We will ask for resubmission of files that exceed 2 GB.

All physical submissions must be received by 6 pm EST Monday, June 15, 2015. This is an **arrival** deadline, not a postmark deadline. Submissions received after June 15 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
- Internet Explorer



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Eligibility

POV considers work that fits 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.

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).

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.

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 Director.

Films that are complete or near completion. POV considers completed work or fine



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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. Exceptions will be made for work that was previously submitted in non-final form, and for a small number of producers who are invited to re-submit their films.

Works of any length will be considered. 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 Director reserves the right to make exceptions to these guidelines in special cases.

Early Introduction

Early Introduction is NOT for films seeking broadcast. If you're unsure of where your project belongs please email cfe@pov.org

POV's programming team gets to as many markets, festivals and other industry events as we can. Why? Because we are always interested in what is coming down the pike. We review many projects throughout the year but many of these projects are either in development or too early production to be considered in POV's highly competitive selection process. Many projects we encounter at an early stage will eventually submit through our Open Call for Entries.

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



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Complete only the section of the submission form that applies to your project's current stage of production (research, development, pre-production). Director and producer bios and pertinent contact information are required with any “[Early Introduction](#)” submission. 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.

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.

Deadline: Projects must [arrive](#) at POV no later than 6pm EST on Monday, June 15, 2015.

Projects will be considered for the POV broadcast season starting in the summer of 2016. [In extraordinary cases \(when a film is just being finished, for example\) the deadline may be extended, but only by contacting our office in advance of the deadline.](#) Submissions that arrive 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. 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). Please include your submission ID and film title in the video file name, for example: 2013_1_0567_my_great_film.mp4
- 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: 2013_1_0567_my_great_film.mp4
- Two (2) DVD copies of your work in **NTSC** format on a Region-1 or Region-0 encoded DVD. **Make sure that your DVD plays in a consumer DVD player - not solely in laptops or desktop computers.** Please use a Sharpie to label your DVD (paper or adhesive labels interfere with DVD playback and will delay our review of your film). Label your DVD with the film title, running time, name and email of the director **and the submission ID number** provided to you at the end of the submission process.



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Submission Form: When submitting via USB flash drive or DVD, please accompany these physical materials with a printed copy of your **completed** submission form. If you choose to submit an online link to your film, you do not need to print and mail in your submission form.

Note: By submitting your form, you affirm that the information contained within this application is true to the best of your knowledge and that you have authority to submit this project to POV for broadcast consideration. You have read POV's Submission Guidelines and you understand that submitted projects and completed forms that do not meet POV guidelines may result in the disqualification of your submission.

Liability: **DVDs or flash drives will NOT be returned.** Please do not submit original source material.

Fees and Rights

When a work makes its television premiere on POV, the base rate is \$525 per minute for exclusive PBS broadcast rights for either [six releases over a period of four years or four releases over a three year period](#), as well as U.S. web-streaming and PBS VOD Services. Completion funds and co-production funds are available on a case-by-case basis.

This rate does not apply to films funded by the NEH, ITVS, PBS, the Minority Consortia or CPB (as public television broadcast has generally already been licensed through that funding), or for a work that has already been broadcast. The exclusivity and standard release period are non-negotiable. Exclusivity may be waived at the discretion of the Executive Director 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



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request changes in length and/or treatment.

Selection Process

Selection of programs for POV will be made by the Executive Director, in consultation with 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.

Producers will be notified of the final selections approximately six months after the June 15 deadline (approximately December 2015).

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

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

Louis Alvarez, Independent Producer, New York, NY

Ron Bachman, Director of Programming, WGBH, Boston, MA

Angad Bhalla, Independent Documentary Director

Mahen Bonetti, Founder and Executive Director, African Film Festival, Inc

Bruni Burres, Executive Producer, Pivot Pictures, ICTJ

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

Ramona Diaz, Independent Documentary Director

David Feingold, Assistant General Manager-Content, Nebraska Educational Telecommunication

Jennifer Fox, Independent Documentary Director



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

Chris Hegedus, Independent Documentary Producer/Director

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

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

Andrea Meditch, President, Back Allie Films

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

Lourdes Portillo, Independent Documentary Producer/Director

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

Maria Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Broadcasting, KLRU, Austin, TX

Donna Sanford, Director of Programming and Production, Rocky Mountain PBS, Denver, CO

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

Jean Tsien, Independent Documentary Editor, Director, Producer

Jim Wiener, Manager of Program Services, WPTD-WPTO Dayton, OH

Marco Williams, Independent Documentary Producer/Director/Writer, Associate Professor of the Arts, New York University