

## PWIFT Palmer Enfield Grant for First-Time Female Directors

Schedule	The PWIFT Palmer Enfield Grant for First-Time Female Directors is now currently accepting applications. Deadline to apply is Friday, January 30, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST.
Size of Pool Grant	One project a year.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Applicant identifies as female.</li> <li>-Applicant has not previously directed a feature-length film or equivalent major project.</li> <li>-Applicant must demonstrate intent to pursue directing as a career.</li> <li>-Project types: Narrative films, documentaries, sizzle reels, spec commercial reels, experimental media works, TV pilots, TV series, and short films.</li> </ul>
What we do not fund	Female directors who have directed an aired commercial program, a feature-length film or equivalent major project before, who are not based in the Greater Philadelphia area (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania) or have no clear intent to pursue directing as a career.
Entry Fee	There is no entry fee associated with applying to the fund.
Requirements	Applicants are required to fill out an online application via <a href="#">FilmFreeway</a> . Please consult our <a href="#">proposal checklist</a> for required questions. Applicants will also be required to upload a line-item budget that covers the entire project from development to finish. Applicants may include supporting material such as a portfolio or reel, links to prior creative work, as well as optional visual references such as mood boards or concept art. Letters of support are optional but strongly encouraged. All supporting materials must be attached to your online application via <a href="#">FilmFreeway</a> .
Evaluation Criteria	<p><b>Creative Vision (40%):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Originality and uniqueness of the project.</li> <li>-Clear articulation of the director's artistic approach.</li> </ul> <p><b>Feasibility (20%):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Realistic budget and timeline.</li> <li>-Evidence of preparation and readiness to execute the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Career Advancement (20%):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-How the grant will help the applicant's career trajectory as a director.</li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting Materials (20%):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Quality and relevance of portfolio or reel (if provided).</li> </ul>
Accessibility Support	PWIFT is committed to improving overall experiences & belonging for our members, audiences, and artists, in alignment with our core values. We consider inclusion, racial equity, and accessibility the drivers of institutional excellence, and it is our aim, therefore, that the PWIFT Palmer Enfield Grant for First-Time Female Directors reflects these core values at every level. The director or key creative on a project who self-identifies as an artist with a disability may request assistance at any time while completing and submitting their application. To request assistance and for additional information, please email <a href="mailto:president@pwift.org">president@pwift.org</a> .
Grant Categories	<p><b>A Media Project (up to \$2500):</b></p> <p>The PWIFT Palmer Enfield Grant for First-Time Female Directors aims to empower emerging female filmmakers by providing financial support to help bring their creative vision to life. Eligible projects include narrative films, documentaries, sizzle reels, spec commercial reels, experimental media works, TV pilots, TV series, and short films.</p> <p>The PWIFT Palmer Enfield Grant for First-Time Female Directors is open to first-time female directors working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Narrative Films – Any length, including pilots, series, proof of concept sizzles/teasers</li> <li>- Documentary Films – Any length, including pilots, series, proof of concept sizzles/teasers</li> <li>- Spec Commercial(s) – Director's spot reel</li> <li>- Experimental Film – Innovative or unconventional works</li> </ul> <p>Eligible applicants must identify as female, have a clear intent to pursue directing as a career, and be based in the Greater Philadelphia area (includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania).</p>