



Stories x Women supporting access to international opportunities for authentic stories told by women animators from emerging national film and audio-visual animation communities of Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America

**A Programme by FIAPF – International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations
in collaboration with Women in Animation**

Sponsored by Walt Disney Studios

Supported by Triggerfish Animation

STORIES x WOMEN – GUIDELINES

Background:

You are invited to apply for the Stories x Women programme, which is led by the International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations (FIAPF) and Women in Animation (WIA) and works to increase diversity of voices in animation content globally.

FIAPF and WIA have partnered to create the unique programme Stories x Women (further described and called The Programme below) that aims to identify authentic animation stories told by women creators coming from emerging national film and audio-visual animation communities in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. The objective is to offer these creators additional access to international opportunities at the 2022 edition of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival.

Stories x Women will use the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, the world’s largest animation festival, to create a momentum and move the industry one step closer toward a world where women (in the sense of the *Women in Animation* definition, i.e. all underrepresented genders, including women, non-binary, and transgender people) share equally in the creation of and production of animation and have access to the resources and connections to make that happen.

Applications for this opportunity close on April 8th 2022 (11:59 P.M. Central Europe Summer Time / GMT+2)

About Stories x Women

Stories x Women is a springboard programme to propel women creators in particular producers, screenwriters, and directors coming from a selection of countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America¹.

Stories x Women will select six (6) delegations composed of women creators who are citizens of eligible countries and have pitch-ready projects that are either an animated feature film or series.

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee made up of various international industry stakeholders.

Programme Offerings

The selected candidates will be invited to attend the upcoming Annecy International Animation Film Festival and Market, which will be held in France, from June 13th to 18th, 2022 with the view to pitch their project and to close financing.

The Programme will start on June 11th to 18th, 2022 and includes participating in the Women in Animation World Summit on June 13th, 2022. Throughout the week, the selected candidates will have access to the robust network that Annecy offers, and will be able to connect with a wide range of decision makers.

To get prepared for this unique opportunity, the selected candidates will be required to attend a series of virtual mentorship sessions prior to the festival with internationally acclaimed experts. The sessions will help candidates strengthen their pitching skills and will help build relations with key stakeholders.

Who can apply?

- The call is open to up to two team members, which must include at least one woman as previously defined, to become the “Lead Project Holder”. In the event Project Holders are two women, the Lead Project Holder will be appointed by the applicants in the application form.
- Project holder(s) must be the producer and/or the director and/or the screenwriter entitled to represent the project and have a deep knowledge of it.
- The Lead Project Holder must be a citizen of one of the eligible countries from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America¹.
- Project holder(s) must have a ready-to-pitch project, whether it is an animated feature or animated documentary film or an animated series project. A Ready-to-

¹ See the FAQ for the full list of countries

pitch project is defined as being in advanced development – i.e. with significant creative material already in place – or at pre-production stage.

Note: If you are working with/for a production company, the production company must sign (see the application form).

- Project holder(s) are invited to assess whether they all have sufficient English skills² to fully enjoy the benefits of the programme, including its mentorship session and opportunities of pitches and networking in Annecy.
- Project holder must be able to attend the Annecy International Animation Film Festival and Market from June 11th to 18th, 2022 and must commit to attending virtual mentorship sessions before Annecy.
- Stories x Women actively encourages applications from communities that have been historically less visible. In particular we welcome applications from indigenous people, disabled people, those who identify as LGBT+ (all underrepresented genders, non-binary, and transgender people).

How to apply?

Application shall be sent by April 8th (11:59 PM CEST) to animation@fiapf.org

Mandatory elements to provide (in English):

- The completed and signed application form
- A max. 5-page project mini bible (including synopsis, presentation of the characters, etc.) for either an animated feature film or an animated series.
- Any further supporting documents allowing the selection committee to apprehend the artistic vision of the project (storyboard, a series of drawings, etc.)
- A detailed bio for each Project Holder.
- A copy of a valid ID as proof of citizenship for each Project Holder (see FAQ – Who can submit)
- List of workshops and events in which the project has circulated already (or may circulate by June 13th, 2022)
- List of grants the project has received (if applicable)

Optional element to provide:

- Previous works by the director and/or the screenwriter (including non-animation content)
- A short presentation of the production company (if applicable)

Please note that:

- Incomplete application will not be considered

² The organisers understand that the English linguistic requirement may limit the access of the programme to some interested applicants. We hope to address this limitation and expand the linguistic scope of the programme in future years.

- No change can be made between the application of your project and the end of the selection procession
- The selection process may include an interview for the final round of candidates

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

By applying, you declare and guarantee that you are the holder of all the usage rights to the work necessary for this application, or have been authorised to do so. Stories x Women and its organisers cannot be responsible in any way for any claim, conflict or lawsuit in connection with the application of the project.

By applying, whether your project is selected, you undertake to keep the selection confidential until the official announcement of the selected projects by The Programme.

By applying, whether your project is selected, you undertake that the Project Holder(s) as registered in the application form will attend in-person the Annecy International Animation Film Festival and will participate in all the virtual mentoring and networking sessions organised by Stories x Women prior to and during the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, as well as the Women in Animation World Summit. Participation also includes taking all the necessary logistical and administrative steps in due time (e.g. obtaining a visa, etc.).

By applying, whether your project is selected, should French authorities impose measures such as a quarantine to curb the pandemic in the lead up to the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, you undertake to accept to travel at the revised date mentioned by the organisers to proceed with the quarantine ahead of the Programme in Annecy.

By applying, whether your project is selected, you undertake to conform with all applicable laws and regulations, including those dealing with Covid-related measures, in the countries of origin and destination, stop-over territory/ies and in France. Stories x Women and its organisers cannot be responsible in any way for any claim, conflict or lawsuit in connection with the non-compliance of the Project Holder(s) with local laws.

By applying, whether your project is selected, you undertake that the Programme and its organisers reserve the right to cancel the selection of a project if conditions do not allow to have the Lead Project Holder attending Women in Animation World Summit and Annecy International Animation Film Festival, including if French authorities do not release a visa to the Lead Project Holder.

By applying, whether your project is selected, you undertake to mention “Selected by Stories x Women, a Programme developed by FIAPF and Women in Animation” on all your promotional and publicity materials, as soon as the official announcement of the selection is made. The same mention will have to be included in the credit once the film or series is completed.

Whether a case of emergency would not allow one or both to attend in-person the Women in Animation World Summit / Annecy International Animation Film Festival, you must inform the Coordinator of Stories x Women at the earliest.

The Programme reserves the right to adjust or cancel the initiative described above, in particular if health and/or geopolitical conditions deteriorate.

Should this happen, decisions and measures taken by Stories x Women will be announced as soon as possible.

Benefits of Stories x Women

- Virtual mentorship session led by internationally acclaimed experts.
- Networking and pitching opportunities in Annecy, including the participation in the Women in Animation World Summit.
- Connection with key players from the animation industry (producers, distributors, broadcasting and streaming services, festivals programmers...).
- Invitation to the Annecy International Animation Film Festival (expenses covered include economic-class flight ticket, seven-night accommodation, MIFA accreditation, per diem). Visa fee, if applicable, will be covered.

Selection criteria

The Selection Committee Members, made up of international industry experts, will study eligible candidatures and will pay attention to the following aspects of the candidatures:

- Artistic: originality and quality of the project.
- Production: potential added value for the project to participate in the Programme in terms of access to international network.

Please note that the composition of the Selection Committee will not be publicly released and motives behind their decisions will not be communicated to the candidates.

Considering the uncertainty of the pandemic, the Selection Committee may pick six (6) substitute projects in addition to the six (6) selected projects in the event selected Project Holders cannot attend the Festival.

Timeline

- Application open till April 8th, 2022 (11:59 PM CEST)
- The applicants will be informed about their selection status no later than April 30th, 2022.
- Mentorship sessions for the selected projects and preparation to the festival: from May 2nd, 2022
- Participation in the Annecy International Animation Film Festival: arrival in Annecy on June 11th, 2022 until June 18th, 2022.

FAQ

What projects can be eligible for participating in The Programme?

Projects shall be animation series, or full-length animated film, feature or documentary

Who can apply?

Projects must be submitted by up to two-people team made up of at least one woman (i.e. all underrepresented genders, including women, non-binary, and transgender people) in the position of the producer, director or screenwriter.

This woman animator will be considered as the lead project holder.

The Lead Project Holder must be a citizen of one of the eligible countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America (see the full list of eligible countries below). The applicants will have to provide a piece of evidence of their citizenship at the application stage. The applicant may have their residency in another country.

May a project presented by a production company established outside the eligible countries qualify?

Yes - as far as the Lead Project Holder is a citizen of one of the eligible countries.

Can a project be submitted by a director and/or a screenwriter?

Yes - in specific cases to be assessed by the Selection Committee.

Please note that if a production company is already involved in the project, the application form must be filled by the production company.

Is a minimum financing amount already in place required?

No minimum is required.

Can I submit more than one project?

Each Lead Project Holder can submit up to two (2) projects.

Is my student/school project eligible?

Yes, under certain conditions: your project shall be developed by a production company having records and shall meet the criteria listed above.

Which stage of production is eligible?

Projects in advanced development – i.e. with significant creative material already in place – or at pre-production stage are eligible.

If selected, can a different team from the Project Holder(s) registered in the application form participate in the mentorship session and/or the Annecy International Animation Film Festival?

No, the same team submitting the project has to be the one participating in all the activities organised by The Programme.

However, considering the uncertainty around the pandemic:

- The teammate who is not the Lead Project Holder might be substituted for another key creative.

- If the Lead Project Holder is unable to attend in person the Annecy International Animation Film Festival for health reasons, she might be substituted for another female leading animator, actively involved in the project.

Can my project have already been presented in other professional events?

Yes, your project can have participated in other professional events. You must mention them in your application form.

Can I submit my first project, whether as a producer, director or screenwriter?

Yes, you can submit your first project.

What is the deadline to submit?

Deadline to apply is April 8th, 2022 (11:59 PM CEST)

What are the materials to provide alongside the completed and signed application form?

Mandatory elements to provide (in English):

- The completed and signed application form
- A max. 5-page project mini bible (including synopsis, presentation of the characters, etc.) for either an animated series, or animated feature film
- Any further supporting documents allowing the selection committee to apprehend the artistic vision of the project (storyboard, a series of drawings etc.)
- A detailed bio for each Project Holder.
- A copy of a valid ID as proof of citizenship for each Project Holder (see FAQ – Who can submit)
- List of workshops and events in which the project has circulated already (or may circulate by June 13th, 2022)
- List of grants the project has received (if applicable)

Optional elements to provide:

- Previous works by the director and/or the screenwriter (including non-animation content).
- A short presentation of the production company (if applicable).

Please note that all the materials must be in English, except previous works by the director and/or the screenwriter.

What costs are covered by The Programme if my project is selected?

If your project is selected the following costs will be covered by The Programme:

- Economic-class round trip flight ticket from/to your home city to Annecy (France)
- Seven-night accommodation in Annecy
- Per diem for seven-day stay in Annecy
- Visa regular fee (if applicable). Visa application must be made in due time. In case of late visa application, extra cost will not be covered by The Programme.

Full list of eligible countries per region

Africa:

Algeria	Libya
Angola	Madagascar
Benin	Malawi
Botswana	Mali
Burkina Faso	Mauritania
Burundi	Mauritius
Cameroon	Morocco
Cape Verde	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Namibia
Chad	Niger
Comoros	Nigeria
Democratic Republic of Congo	Republic of the Congo
Djibouti	Rwanda
Egypt	Sao Tome and Principe
Equatorial Guinea	Senegal
Eritrea	Seychelles
Eswatini (formerly named Swaziland)	Sierra Leone
Ethiopia	Somalia
Gabon	South Africa
Gambia	South Sudan
Ghana	Sudan
Guinea	Tanzania
Guinea-Bissau	Togo
Ivory Coast	Tunisia
Kenya	Uganda
Lesotho	Zambia
Liberia	Zimbabwe

Asia-Pacific:

Afghanistan	Jordan
Armenia	Kazakhstan
Azerbaijan	Kiribati
Bahrain	Kuwait
Bangladesh	Kyrgyzstan
Bhutan	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Brunei Darussalam	Lebanon
Cambodia	Malaysia
Egypt	Maldives
Federated States of Micronesia	Marshall Islands
Fiji	Mongolia
Indonesia	Myanmar
Iran	Nauru
Iraq	Nepal

Niue
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Qatar
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Solomon Islands
Sri Lanka
Syrian Arab Republic

Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Tonga
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Tuvalu
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vanuatu
Vietnam
Yemen

Latin America (LATAM)

Argentina
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guatemala
Guyana

Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

Should you have any questions, please first review our comprehensive document.

In the event that your question has not been addressed, please contact us at animation@fiapf.org for further assistance.