

Call for Proposal – Land Acknowledgement

With support from the Rozsa Foundation, Calgary International Film Festival has opened a Call for Proposals for a new Cinematic Land Acknowledgement. The winning project will be featured ahead of all screenings as part of CIFF 2021, and will subsequently be made available by the Rozsa Foundation to events in the arts community where a cinematic land acknowledgement is appropriate. The call is open to all filmmakers and producers in Southern Alberta and should meet the following criteria:

Versions, lengths and delivery dates:

- Long (1 video); Length: 60 seconds
- Short versions (2 videos); Length: 30 seconds
- Delivery date: September 3, 2021
- The cinematic land acknowledgement in all its versions are collectively referred to below as “the film”.
- Technical Specifications:
 - Resolution: 2K FLAT (1998 x 1080) preferred, HD (1920 x 1080) accepted
 - Codec: Apple ProRes 422 (HQ) or better is preferred. H.264/MPEG-4 will be accepted
 - Bitrate: Unrestricted for most formats, 15 or above MBPS preferred if H.264/MPEG-4
 - Audio: Uncompressed/LPCM 16/24bit, 48 kHz preferred
 - Frame Rate: 24p preferred, other frame rates accepted, but will be converted to 24p
 - Wrapper: mov preferred, but most files accepted

Creative overview & required elements:

- The overall intention is to creatively reimagine the Treaty 7 land acknowledgement for a cinematic context on both the large and small screen.
- The standard verbal land acknowledgement script* can, but need not necessarily be, incorporated verbatim into the film, so long as its full spirit and content is honoured and reflected in the film.
- The film should:
 - Show the land that is being acknowledged, including in its current living, evolving state, both developed and undeveloped, (i.e. not just idealized representations of the land, but how it actually exists today);
 - Include multiple diverse voices, including but not limited to Indigenous speakers;
 - Be directly “about” and relevant to this region (Calgary/Southern Alberta/Treaty 7 territory) and yet accessible by a wider national and international audience as well.

Creative Team & Proposal

- Creative team (Director, Producer, Writer, Cinematographer, Production Designer) should have minimum 50% participation by Indigenous individuals
- Proposals must include vision, design, and budget (capped at \$15,000)

Future Uses:

- The film may be made available to the Calgary arts sector and such civic partners who would find it valuable.

*Here is one common version of the standard verbal land acknowledgement, for your reference:

"We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, Moh'kinsstis, is the ancestral territory of the Siksikaitsitapi—the Blackfoot people—comprising the Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani Nations, as well as Treaty 7 signatories, the Tsuut'ina Nation, and the Îyâxe Nakoda Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Wesley First Nations. This land is also the home of Métis Nation Region 3.

We acknowledge that there has been art, music, dance, storytelling, and ceremony on this land since time immemorial and it is in the spirit of this land and its people that we do our work."