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OAS-SEDI CULTURAL INDUSTRIES PROGRAMME

“FILM DEVELOPMENT LAB”

CALL OPEN FROM

August 2nd – August 30th, 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS-SEDI) is pleased to announce its **2024 Regional Film Development Lab** targeting filmmakers from CARICOM member states of the OAS. The program is part of OAS-SEDI’s mandate to provide technical support for the growth and development of the region’s creative sector.

The film and audio-visual sub-sector is an important and critical area of creative endeavor. The subsector has the potential to help in the growth of the overall Culture and Creative Industries (CCI) sector, generate jobs and stimulate local economies by building critical links with other key sectors including the vital tourism, entertainment, music, and Information Communications and Technology (ICT) sectors. In a region that is well-known for its dynamic and vibrant cultural expressions, the film and audio-visual sector has the ability to highlight and promote those expressions of unique universal value, tell the stories of the region’s people, and use its power to entertain and educate local and global audiences on the life and times of the Caribbean region.

FILM DEVELOPMENT LAB

The OAS-SEDI has developed an online training program aimed specifically at building a stronger and more competitive regional film and video sub-sector. The program will focus attention on capacity building for regional filmmakers in an effort to begin addressing some of the challenges facing the growth and development of the film and video industry.

This intervention in the film and video sub-sector will be implemented through a series of virtual master classes and individual project coaching, delivered in English, that will put emphasis on the elements required to properly develop a film or video project, including the narrative, technical, artistic, financial and distribution aspects of an audiovisual project.

The program will involve approximately (36) contact hours divided in collective master classes and individual (15) project coaching online, to be delivered by leading film developer from Ecuador, Mr. Paul Venegas. Participants will have the opportunity to work with other regional participants in an exciting and stimulating environment over the period of the training.

GOALS

- Obtain the theoretical and practical tools necessary to begin the development stage of an audiovisual project.
- Effectively design the production plan and the resource possibilities to finance a project.
- Become familiar with the concept of film development by establishing the necessary elements to begin the sale of an audiovisual project from the point of view of its marketing and sale.
- Understand the operation of a production company and how to define a profile of the entrepreneurship according to its objectives, needs and responsibilities.
- Design a presentation or project dossier with all the necessary elements that will help candidates market their idea with investors, both public and private.
- Understand the different possibilities of marketing and distribution of an audiovisual project.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The virtual laboratory is aimed at emerging and experienced filmmakers interested in the production of audiovisual projects. Participants must have a project in any stage of development or an idea that they are working on and must submit the following in English:

- Project synopsis (maximum 500 words)
- Letter of motivation (maximum 400 words)
- Brief description of the specific points that the filmmaker would like to address in his or her project.

Participants must be committed to attend the entire duration of the training, including delivering presentations and submitting assignments.

HOW TO APPLY

Those wishing to apply should complete the attached application form along with the synopsis of their project, letter of motivation and description of the specific points that the filmmaker would like to have addressed, and submit these to Richard Campbell rcampbell@oas.org, Santiago Noboa snoboa@oas.org, and Sobers Esprit sesprit@oas.org. All completed applications should be received by August 30th, 2024. All participants selected for the program will be notified by September 6th, 2024.

This will be a very competitive selection process with only the top 15 projects to be selected for this Film Lab. Each project will be allowed to register up to three persons to participate in the training including, any of the following - Director, Producer, videographer, or scriptwriter. Tutorials and practical sessions will be held between September 10th and October 25, 2024.

Facilitator - OAS/SEDI 2024 Regional Film Development Lab



PAUL VENEGAS / Director- Screenwriter - Producer

After almost a decade living in between Manila and Beijing while working in finance, he founded Xanadu Films in Ecuador in 2003. His filmmaking career evolved from the creator-screenwriter and producer of the documentary series, “Journey to Xanadu” shot in Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and China, to becoming the director and screenwriter of the documentary “Alberto Spencer, Ecuadorian of Peñarol.” “EMPTINESS” internationally premiered at BUSAN is his opera prima in fiction and Ecuador’s entry to the Academy Awards 2021. He has co-produced with Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Brazil, France, and Germany the following features: “On the line”, “All about my Mate Herb”, “With the eyes wide open”, “Defense 1464”, “When my time comes”. Presently is working on different stages as director and producer of the features, “With Me, Performatic Cinema,” "The sound of silence", “The last Panama Hat”, “The song of earth” and the series "The age of ambition" and "Latin America Imaginary". Xanadu Films have been widely distributed and have earned various recognitions.