



He Kauahi Catalyst Fund

He Aratohu mā ngā Kaitono Guidelines for Applicants

September 2024

Īmēra mai, mēnā he pātai āu

If you have any questions please email industrysupport@nzfilm.co.nz



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- A detailed list of documentation required to make an application can be found in the **TALENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECKLIST.**



KUPU WHAKATAKI - INTRODUCTION

He kauahi (*noun*) – firestick that ignites the flame; Catalyst (*noun*) - the cause of significant change.

He Kauahi Catalyst Fund supports filmmakers to make exceptional short films, with the additional step to progress a feature film script that your team already has in development. This supports filmmakers to build a sustainable career, and the initiative is focused on the progression of New Zealand writers, directors and producers through the creation of world class short films.

The Key Objectives of the Catalyst Fund are to:

- Invest in talent by supporting capability development with diversity, equity and inclusion at its core.
- Empower and champion authentic and diverse films that are uniquely of Aotearoa and maximise audiences for New Zealand films.

He Kauahi Catalyst funds production of a short film and a new draft of a feature film script. The short film should be linked to the feature film concept – through theme or tone or character, or an exploration of visual style or technique.

This fund is open to narrative drama and animation short films for the big screen, not documentary and not episodic.

We are here to help

These guidelines are intended to help you deliver the strongest application possible. Please note we cannot read your scripts or applications prior to submission. If you have any questions, contact us via email industrysupport@nzfilm.co.nz

Your application must be completed through our application portal, please see the NZFC website for application and decision deadlines.



KO WAI KA ĀHEI KI TE TONO - WHO CAN APPLY?

He Kauahi Catalyst is open to filmmaking teams comprising of writer/s, director/s, producer/s).

Each member of the team must be emerging or mid-career level in the role they are listed under in the application as per [NZFC talent eligibility criteria definition](#).

- All team members must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.
- The lead applicant must be the producer. The lead producer cannot also assume the role of director.
- Be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident.

The film must:

- Have significant New Zealand content in accordance with section 18 of the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978. (Read the [New Zealand Content Information Sheet](#) for more details).

NGĀ MEA KA TAEA E KOE TE TONO – WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

Applicants may apply for a grant of up to \$90,000 for the development and production of the He Kauahi Catalyst short film.

An additional grant of \$10,000 will be awarded to each successful team for development work linked to their feature film. To be eligible, you must submit either: a feature length script draft OR, a ten-page treatment.

Please note that the \$10,000 is a grant and will not be counted as part of the development funding limits allocated to feature films through the NZFC.

Retrospective applications will not be considered; that is, you cannot apply for funding to cover costs you have already incurred.



NGĀ ĀHEINGA KAUPAPA – KEY CONDITIONS


- You must hold or share the intellectual property rights or have an option to acquire the rights for the short film.
- Please read the *NZFC Chain of Title* information sheet to ensure you have the necessary rights.
- The writer must hold or have an option to acquire the rights for the feature film in development.
- Please note, that by submitting your application, you acknowledge and agree that your application may be reviewed by external assessor(s), and you also accept that the identity of any assessors used to assess your application will be kept strictly confidential to the NZFC.
- The NZFC will use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of the information provided by the applicant. Please note that any information you provide to the NZFC is subject to Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”) requests. In processing a request under the OIA, the NZFC may consult with the relevant applicant prior to issuing the request.

RAUTAKI MĀORI

The NZFC has a commitment under our Te Rautaki Māori Strategy to work in partnership with the Māori filmmaking community to achieve mutually agreed aspirations. We are keen to receive film applications with a strong Māori narrative from Māori creative teams and/or films in te reo Māori.

Māori Content is anything sourced and/or generated from a Māori world view, Te Ao Māori - including but not limited to:

- Te reo, Māori words, proverbs, expression of language, dialect, genealogical information, naming conventions.
- Reference to or inclusion of Māori names, people, places, characters, protocols.

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- Anything based on Māori history, stories, myths & legends, songs, dance, cultural expressions that may or may not be in public domain.
 - Toi Māori – art, carving, tā moko (cultural tattooing), weaving, visual arts, games, both traditional and modern cultural expressions. Taonga Māori (highly valued treasures).
 - Mātauranga Māori – anything that is sourced in the wide context of Māori knowledge, its expression and cultural practice.

Tangata Whenua, Diversity, and Inclusion Collaboration Summaries

- He Kauahi Catalyst Shorts encourages applicants to consider ethnicity, gender, and gender diversity, those with a disability and/or those from a diverse background that reflects Aotearoa New Zealand society in their projects.
- If your project and project content involve Māori or those from an under-represented community including ethnically diverse, gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, those with a disability or those from a diverse background, please provide a written summary (up to 300 words maximum) indicating how you are collaborating with these communities to ensure authentic representation. If you have not yet consulted with any of the communities, please indicate how you will undertake meaningful and appropriate consultation and collaboration.
- Please refer to NZFC's [He Ara Whakaurunga Kanorau | Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#).



TIKANGA AROMATAWAI – HE KAUAHI CATALYST ASSESSMENT

What the NZFC Is looking for:

- Unique directorial voices with distinctive, original styles
- Excellence from creative teams who push and challenge boundaries
- Projects that have the potential to advance careers
- Narrative short films with impact and vision, specifically for the big screen.
- A feature film script draft in development that shows potential to progress towards production.

Assessment Criteria

Your application will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Quality of the script and the ability for the short film to stand out on the world stage
- Point of difference.
- Director's voice/vision.
- Filmmaking talent involved.
- The team's ability to deliver a world class short film.
- The development plans for the feature film, and the idea and strength of the project.

The NZFC often receives high volumes of applications for a limited number of grants. Funding is discretionary – that is, the NZFC chooses where best to apply the limited funding available. Decisions are final. The criteria applied may change from time to time, but decisions will be consistent with these guidelines and the New Zealand Film Commission Act 1978.



TE HUARAHĪ WHAKAMUA - NEXT STEPS

- If your application is successful, you will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the NZFC.
- You will receive a letter from the NZFC detailing our offer for funding and outlining any conditions.
- No payments will be made until you have entered into a funding agreement.

Repeat Applications

- If your application is unsuccessful, you will be notified via the online application portal.
- If your application is unsuccessful, you may re-apply for He Kauahi Catalyst with the same project in the next annual round, provided the project has substantially changed, developed or has been reworked.
- If you have reapplied and have been unsuccessful twice with the same project, you can not apply to He Kauahi Catalyst for that same project.

WHAKARITENGA TONO - APPLICATION PROCESS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

You must apply via the NZFC online application portal
<https://funding.nzfilm.co.nz>

ELIGIBILITY

Once your application is received, it will be checked for eligibility in line with these guidelines. If the NZFC determines that your application does not meet requirements it will be deemed ineligible.

Incomplete applications will be considered ineligible.

ASSESSMENT

If your application passes the eligibility stage, your application will be assessed by NZFC staff, and external assessors.

Applications will be assessed by the NZFC against the objectives of He Kauahi Catalyst Fund.

DECISION

Funding recommendations are made by NZFC Funding staff, taking into account any assessments from external assessors.

Final decisions are made by the Head of Funding, Chief Executive and Industry Support Lead.

NZFC aims to notify applicants as to the outcome of their application within 10 weeks of the application deadline. In all cases the decision made by the NZFC is final.

If you have any questions, email industrysupport@nzfilm.co.nz



HE KAUAHI CATALYST FUND SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Key Personnel

- Details of key personnel attached to the short film with evidence of talent level (*as per NZFC talent eligibility criteria definition*), including one-page CVs and links to previous work
- Details of any key cast if attached to the short film, or an outline of the plans to confirm any possible key cast
- Details of key personnel attached to the feature film and/ or long form content including one-page CVs and links to previous work

Other NZFC projects

- If applicable, provide details of any projects in active development with NZFC (Project Title and NZFC involvement)
- If applicable, provide details of any outstanding reports/deliverables due on current NZFC loans, grants or equity that are being delivered alongside this application
- You cannot apply for He Kauahi Catalyst if you have any overdue contractual or reporting obligations to the NZFC.

Short Film

- Genre
- Log line
- Synopsis
- A developed short film screenplay of 10 – 15 pages, standard formatting.
- Director's treatment for the proposed short film including visual references
- Vimeo link to Director's best work
- Producer's statement for the proposed short film and how this links to the feature film.
- Evidence of chain of title including, where appropriate, copies of any signed agreements



Health and Safety

- You must outline the intended plans for any aspect of your production that may have managing Health & and Safety requirements on your production

Audience Engagement

- A festival strategy and audience engagement plan for the short film

Budget and Schedule

- A production budget top-sheet and full production budget for the short film including provision for legal costs for chain of title of the short film
- A production schedule for all relevant stages leading up to and including delivery of the short film

Tangata whenua, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Authentic representation of Tangata Whenua and, diversity, and representation within content summary (if applicable)
- Championing Diversity and inclusion summary (if applicable)

Feature Film

- Genre
- Logline
- Either: a feature script draft of 80 – 120 pages, the draft can be at any level – first draft to advanced OR: a ten page treatment.
- One page synopsis covering the concept for the feature film that the team is committed to making.
- Producer, director and writer’s narratives outlining how the feature film is linked with the short, and how the creation of the short will help with the development of the feature film concept.

Audience Engagement

- An outline of the target audience for the proposed feature film.

Budget and Schedule

- A budget, schedule, and short explanation outlining how the \$10,000 grant will be used for development of the feature film



CHANGE LOG: September 2024 updated to restructure for clarity and the following changes:

Assessment	Decision maker to be Head of Funding, CEO and Industry Support Lead
Eligibility	For feature film component - for feature film development only. Removed 'long-form'. Must submit a feature length script draft OR a ten-page treatment. Removed 'not a proof of concept' paragraph.
Team vision	No change
Rights – Chain of title	No change
Assessment and decisions process	SOI's, Key objectives and assessment process have been updated and clarified.