

Film SF Guidelines for Review by San Francisco Film Commission on Friday, March 7.

Fee Waivers

Context

We have expanded the types of qualifying productions that are eligible for a fee waiver and do not have to pay our Daily Use Fee (permit fee). This information will live on our website and internal procedures manual.

Guidelines

Qualifying student productions, and productions created by or for entities that are tax-exempt under sections 501(c)(3), 501(c)4, or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from Film SF Daily Use Fees. Proof of non-profit status such as a copy of the IRS Determination Letter must be provided in order to qualify.

Film Notifications

Context

Previously, productions were required to post film notices that caused parking or traffic obstruction lasting 4 or more hours (parking for 4 or more spaces). Now, Film SF has guidelines in place that help determine when notifying the public is necessary based on impact. This information will live on our website and internal procedures manual.

Guidelines

Film SF | San Francisco Film Commission oversees and facilitates production activity in the City and County of San Francisco. A core component of this work includes proactive outreach to residents, local businesses, and other key stakeholders notifying them of production activity in their area. Below are updated guidelines for film notification distribution.

Film Notice Requirements

Productions must notify neighbors if certain activities will take place such as:

- The use of 8 or more parking spaces
- Lane or street closures
- Simulated violence or explosions
- Stunt activity
- Late night filming between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am

- Intermittent Traffic Control for 4 or more hours
- Drone/UAS activity over moving vehicles or pedestrians
 - Note, any waivers that are granted by the FAA for flying over nonparticipants must include specific details for approval, and each request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
 - Small drones (≤ 0.55 lb) with no exposed propellers are allowed to operate over non-participants without a waiver, however notifying the public is determined on a case-by-case basis.

No Film Notice Needed When:

- Drone/UAS flight paths that are **vertical** only.
- Drone/UAS flight paths that are **horizontal only and conducted over open land or water**, not directly over moving vehicles or pedestrians.
- **Overnight parking with no production activity taking place** (parking only and production vehicle engines turned off).
- **Reserved parking** for production vehicles - 7 spaces or fewer.
- **Driving routes:**
 - **Car-to-car filming** and **filming inside a vehicle** along routes that follow flow of traffic only and obey all traffic laws.
 - **SFPD Police Escorts** (e.g. SFPD driving alongside a car-mounted crane system).
- **Intermittent Traffic Control** for less than 4 hours

Film SF may determine additional requirements not listed above on a case-by-case basis, based on the duration and level of impact on the surrounding areas, residents, and businesses (for example, certain industrial, non-commercial, non-residential areas may not require a film notice).

Additional Outreach

Film SF will advise if any additional outreach and/or or meetings are required to nearby neighborhood groups, merchant associations, or District Supervisors.

Timing

Productions must distribute film notices **72 hours** before the shoot date/time. The production must distribute film notices during the day between 8am-8pm and by 6pm for businesses. Productions may encounter unpredictable circumstances that would reasonably interfere with scheduled film production activities and render the notice infeasible. Examples of this include unforeseeable, uncontrollable weather or natural disasters, medical issues or emergencies, travel delays, uncontrollable cancellations. If so, the 72 hour distribution requirement may be shortened or waived depending on the circumstance.

Footprint

Productions must distribute film notices in the immediate area around the production activity.

- Distribute to residents/businesses on both sides of the street and 150 feet (half block) past the first/last parking space that is posted and where the production is filming.
- For apartment buildings, the film notice must be left near the call button (if there is one) using blue painters' tape only. If no call button is available, productions can tape the film notice near the front door in a clearly visible area.
- For businesses, film notices must be left inside the business with the on-site manager.
- For homes, the film notice must be rolled up and left on the door handle, under the door mat, or taped with blue painters' tape near the mailbox (if mailbox is near the front door).
 - Note: do not place film notices in the mailboxes of residences or businesses as it is against the law.
- If distributing a translated film notice, the film notice must be distributed in both English and the other language and ideally printed double-sided to lessen the amount of paper used. If distributing a translated film notice, the English and translated versions must be printed together double-sided, posted side by side, and taped to buildings with blue painters' tape.
- Film notices should not be taped or stapled to poles along the sidewalks within the neighborhood.
- Productions must remove film notices from buildings after filming if they are still up.
- Productions can consult with Film SF if unclear on where to distribute.

Translation Requirements

If production activity is taking place in a neighborhood where another primary language besides English is spoken, a translated film notice is required (e.g. the Mission = Spanish, Chinatown = Cantonese, Mandarin, etc). More information can be found on the [Language Access Ordinance](#) site.

Scene in San Francisco Incentive Program

Context

Film SF updated our incentive program and the following guidelines include updated production phases that qualify, credit requirements, rebate structure, film skills training requirement, qualifying expenditures, and more. This will live on our website and internal procedures manual.

Guidelines

Scene in San Francisco Incentive Program Guidelines

Table of Contents

- Overview
- Eligibility
- Incentive Structure & Requirements
- How to Apply
- Phase A: Application
- Program Acceptance: Letter of Conditional Eligibility
- Phase B: Pre-Production Paperwork
- Phase C: Final Paperwork & Rebate Request Package
- CPA Audit OR Film SF Internal Verification

- Final Review of Rebate Request Package
- Rebate Determination and Payment Process
- How to Appeal
- FAQs

Overview

The *Scene in San Francisco* Incentive Program is administered by Film SF | The San Francisco Film Commission ("Film SF"). Established in 2006, the program supports film and television production by providing financial incentives that offset eligible City-related costs and encourage local economic activity. The updated program includes both a 100% rebate on City fees and staffing costs, as well as a 10-20% rebate on qualifying San Francisco expenditures and labor.

The program is administered on a rolling basis (i.e. there is no application window) and is subject to the availability of funds and appropriations. Rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis depending on the date a production submits a complete final paperwork and rebate request package. The maximum rebate is \$1,000,000 per project (\$1,000,000 per season for television and web series).

Eligibility

To qualify for the incentive program, productions must meet the following requirements:

- The production must be produced by a film company that has entered into a Film Use Agreement with the City.
- The production must have at least five (5) full principal photography days in San Francisco.
- The production must spend at least \$500,000 in San Francisco. If the project budget is under \$3 million, the minimum spend requirement is \$250,000.
- Productions must base their production office in San Francisco unless they determine that no physical production office is needed.
- Fulfill the Film Skills Training and First Source Hiring requirements.
- Qualified film production types are: a feature-length film, documentary feature film, docudrama feature film, television film, television pilot, "reality" program, or each episode of a television series or web series, regardless of the medium used to create or convey the project.

Ineligible Projects

Ineligible projects include a news or current affairs program, interview or talk program, instructional film or program, film or program consisting primarily of stock footage, sporting event or sports program, game show, award ceremony, film or program intended primarily for industrial, corporate, or institutional end-users, fundraising film or program, commercials, or music videos; or a production for which records are required under Title 18 United States Code Section 2257, to be maintained with respect to any performer in such production. Film SF reserves the right to determine final eligibility.

Qualifying Production Phases & Definitions

Qualifying production phases include principal photography, pre-production, and post-production. These phases are defined as follows:

"Principal photography" means the time period and phase of film production during which the main photography occurs with the director and lead actors usually present. Principal photography does not

include the filming of primarily backgrounds, visual effects, action, and/or crowd scenes by the second, stunt, or visual effects units.

“Pre-Production” means the process of preparation for physical production which begins after a qualified film production has received a firm agreement of financial commitment. And customarily includes, but is not limited to, activities such as hiring key crew members, scouting for locations, building sets, casting, and establishment of a dedicated production office.

“Post-Production” means the final activities in a qualified film production’s creation including, but not limited to, editing, Foley recording, ADR, scoring, sound editing, negative cutting, color correction, and sound mixing.

Incentive Structure & Requirements

The *Scene in San Francisco* Incentive Program includes three components: **City Fees** (CF = expenses paid to a city agency), **Qualifying Expenses** (QE = SF goods and services), and **Qualifying Wages** (QW = SF resident employee wages). Participating productions can receive a rebate on qualifying San Francisco expenditures and labor, with a 10% rebate applied to the first \$1,000,000 spent for hourly pay or salaries and any item or services purchased or rented from a business located in San Francisco and a 20% rebate applied to qualifying expenditures on production spend exceeding \$1,000,000.

City Fees

Participating productions can receive a 100% rebate of eligible costs paid directly to San Francisco City departments. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- **Permits & Fees:** Film SF, Fire Department, Recreation and Parks, Business License Registration Fee.
- **Transportation & Parking:** Rentals (Cable Car, Light Rail Vehicle, Streetcar, Bus), De-energizing Muni Lines, SFMTA Use of Image Fee, Muni Inspectors, Lane and Street closures, Use of SFMTA or city-owned garages, Lots, and Parking Meters, Parking Control Officers.
- **Services:** Street Cleaning, Water Meter, Streetlights.
- **Police:** Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC), Police Escort, Safety.
- **Staffing Costs:** Police Department, Municipal Transportation Agency, Sheriff's Office, Fire Department.
- **Real Estate & Facilities:** City Hall, Hall of Justice, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco Airport (SFO), Port of San Francisco, Public Utilities Facilities, City-Owned Real Estate.
- **Recreation and Parks:** Parks, Plazas, and Recreational Facilities.
- **Museums & Performing Arts:** de Young Museum, Asian Art Museum, Legion of Honor, California Academy of Sciences, War Memorial Opera House, Herbst Theater, Davies Symphony Hall.

- **Treasure Island (TIDA):** Parking, Film Permit Fees, and City-Owned Facilities.

Qualifying Expenses - San Francisco Goods and Services

Participating productions can receive up to a 20% rebate on production-related goods and services purchased or rented from businesses located in San Francisco. See [here](#) for a list of qualifying and non-qualifying expenditures. Details on required submission requirements are listed in Phase C Final Paperwork & Rebate Request Package.

Qualifying Wages - San Francisco Resident Employee Wages

Participating productions can receive up to a 20% rebate on eligible wages paid to verified San Francisco residents. This includes Above the Line and Below the Line employees and is capped at \$100,000 per employee.

Film Skills Training

Productions participating in the incentive program must provide skills training as part of the production's engagement with the local community. This requirement can be fulfilled in several ways including:

- Hosting a talk or panel
- Facilitating a set visit
- Providing a hands-on workshop or demonstration
- Providing an internship

The Film Skills Training requirement ensures that the economic benefits of film production in San Francisco extend beyond short-term spending of productions to long-term workforce development, strengthening local talent pipelines and expanding access to careers in film, television, and digital media for San Francisco residents. Productions must provide proof of fulfillment of this requirement at Phase C: Final Paperwork & Rebate Request Package. Film SF will work closely with the production to coordinate and fulfill this requirement.

Productions participating in the [California Film Commission's \(CFC\) Film & Television Tax Credit Program](#) can fulfill their Career Readiness Program requirement through the *Scene in San Francisco* incentive program Film Skills Training requirement.

Productions participating in the state's Tax Credit program are required to make a financial contribution to fund the CFC's Career Pathways Training Program for individuals from underserved communities to receive training for careers in the industry. That donation can go to the California Department of Education, Foundation of California Community Colleges, or a non-profit of their choosing.

First Source Hiring

San Francisco's [First Source](#) Hiring Program provides a ready supply of qualified workers to employers with hiring needs. It also gives residents the first opportunity to apply for entry level jobs in San Francisco. Productions must enter into a [First Source Hiring Agreement](#) and post entry-level positions and ultimately demonstrate good faith efforts to hire individuals through this program. Film SF will coordinate a meeting between the production and the City Employer Services team who can advise and assist productions on posting the Production's open positions and hiring needs. Under the program, productions create a business profile on [workforcelinksf.org](#), and upload the production job description(s). Productions schedule interviews with pre-screened candidates and inform Film SF about hiring status.

Real Estate

To be added here. Will review at next Film Commission meeting on March 30, 2026.

Credit & Promotional Deliverables

Productions must provide credit to the City and Film SF and deliver promotional assets as follows to be submitted during Phase C: Final Paperwork & Rebate Request Package.

Required Language for the Screen Credit

Productions participating in the incentive program must give credit to the "City and County of San Francisco" in the credits of any film resulting from the production's filming activities in San Francisco. Said credit shall be on screen, with size, placement and all other aspects thereof consistent with other "thank-you" type credits accorded to locations of filming, if any. Productions must include the following statement in the post-credits scroll.

"Made in partnership with Film SF | The San Francisco Film Commission and the City and County of San Francisco with the support of the *Scene in San Francisco* incentive program."

Required Logos in Scroll

Productions must include both the Film SF and *Scene in San Francisco* logos (2 total) to the end credits scroll.

Electronic Press Kit

Productions must submit an Electronic Press Kit (EPK) to Film SF for marketing and promotional purposes. The EPK must include, at minimum, a trailer (if available), production stills (2 total at a minimum), poster and/or key art, synopsis, logline, full credits, and basic production information. All materials must be cleared and approved by both the production and cast, delivered as high-resolution JPG or PNG files (no screenshots), and may be submitted under embargo if needed.

How to Apply

Productions seeking to participate in the incentive program must complete a 3-phase submission process. Each phase has specific required materials. Incomplete submissions may delay review and may result in forfeiture of rebate. All applications and documentation must be submitted through the Film SF incentive application portal [HERE](#). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Submitting an application does not guarantee participation or reimbursement.

Phase A: Application

When do I submit? Minimum 60 Days Before Principal Photography

Phase A of the submission process establishes a production's eligibility and allows Film SF to determine whether the project meets the requirements of the program. Film SF reviews the project's budget, script, and anticipated spend on city fees, local goods/services and resident employee wages to estimate what Film SF staff anticipate the production's total rebate will be. During Phase A, productions should be in contact with Film SF regarding production office space needs so that Film SF can help coordinate. If Film

SF approves a production's Phase A application, Film SF will issue a **Letter of Conditional Eligibility** confirming participation.

Required Information

- **Applicant Information**
 - Applicant Name, Applicant Title, Production Company Name, Production Company Address, Type of Entity, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), Production Company Business License (Upload)
- **Estimated Project information**
 - **Project Title**
 - **Type of Project**
 - **Total Projected Worldwide Budget**
 - **Shoot Start date**
 - **Shoot End date**
 - **Estimated Total # of Cast Members**
 - **Estimated Total # of SF Cast Members (SF residents)**
 - **Estimated # of Base Crew Members (ATL + BTL)**
 - *Base Crew is the average number of staff and shooting crew employed per principal photography day.*
 - **Estimated Total # of SF Base Crew (SF residents)**
 - **Total # of SF background performers**
 - **Estimated Total # Background Performers & Stand-ins Man-Days**
 - *Total Man-Days is the sum of the number of days, full or partial, a person is estimated to work.*
 - **Estimated Total # of SF Residents hired**
 - *Should include Base Cast, Crew, Background performers, and First Source*
 - **Estimated # First Source Hires Total**
 - **Estimated # First Source Hires SF Residents**
 - **Estimated amount of wages to be paid to SF Residents**
 - *Base Cast and Crew*
 - **Estimated Spend in San Francisco**
 - **Estimated Spend on Goods and Services in San Francisco**
 - **Estimated Spend on City Fees**
 - **Estimated Total Amount of Final Rebate Request**
- **Script**
- **List of key creatives and cast**
 - This includes executive producer(s), producer(s), writer(s), director,
 - lead actor(s), director of photography, and location manager
- **Logline**
- **Synopsis**
- **Proof of funding / financing sources**
 - This includes one or more of the following: term sheet, deal memo, studio letterhead, letter from investor, bank statement

Program Acceptance: Letter of Conditional Eligibility

If a production's Phase A submission is approved, Film SF will issue a formal Letter of Eligibility confirming that the production is cleared to proceed into Phase B. This letter will include language stating

that participation is subject to availability of funds, rebates are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and the production's final rebate is based on verified eligible expenditures submitted in the final Phase C and include the estimated amount of rebate that a production anticipates receiving (acknowledging that this figure can fluctuate). Note that rebate payments cannot be issued until Film SF verifies proper credit (logo and acknowledgement) requirements.

Phase B: Pre-Production Paperwork

When do I submit? Minimum 5 Days Before Filming

Phase B of the submission process ensures Film SF has final production schedule details and core production documentation prior to filming. This is separate from but complimentary to a completed Film Use Agreement which productions are required to complete along with other permitting requirements (COI etc). More information on Film SF's permitting process can be found [here](#). Phase B also establishes the baseline schedule and crew documentation used later during Phase C verification.

Required Information

- Full production shooting schedule (detailed)
 - If TV series or episode, a calendar in place of a full production shooting schedule will suffice.
- Crew call for the first day of production
- Call sheet signed by the UPM for the first day of production
- Crew list
- Completed First Source Hiring Agreement

Phase C: Final Paperwork + Rebate Request Package

When do I submit? As early as 14 days after principal photography has wrapped and once production has assembled their final paperwork. Phase C is the final submission stage in which the production formally requests reimbursement for qualifying expenditures. Phase C is when Film SF determines final eligible costs, verifies qualifying expenditures, and calculates the final rebate amount. Productions must submit complete and organized documentation. Film SF will not begin final rebate calculation until Film SF receives a complete submission package and payment may only be issued when screen credits are verified, subject to available funding.

Required Information

- **Final Project information**
 - **Project Title**
 - **Type of Project**
 - **Total Projected Worldwide Budget**
 - **Shoot Start date**
 - **Shoot End date**
 - **Actual Total # of Cast Members**
 - **Actual Total # of SF Cast Members (SF residents)**
 - **Actual # of Base Crew Members (ATL + BTL)**
 - *Base Crew is the average number of staff and shooting crew employed per principal photography day.*

- **Actual Total # of SF Crew (SF residents)**
- **Actual Total # of SF background performers**
- **Actual Total # Background Performers & Stand-ins Man-Days**
 - *Total Man-Days is the sum of the number of days, full or partial, a person is estimated to work.*
- **Actual Total # of SF Residents (Base Cast, Crew, Background performers, and First Source) hired**
- **Actual # First Source Hires Total**
- **Actual # First Source Hires SF Residents**
- **Actual amount of wages to be paid to SF Residents (Base Cast and Crew)**
- **Actual Spend in San Francisco**
- **Actual Spend on Goods and Services in San Francisco**
- **Actual Spend on City Fees**
 - *Invoices and receipts needed per city department*
- **Actual Total Amount of Final Rebate Request**
- **Local community expenditures report**
 - *What is this? This is a summary that shows how much the production spent with local San Francisco businesses, vendors, and services.*
- **Total spent on SF goods and services**
- **San Francisco Expenditure**
 - Uploads for all SF goods and services receipts.
- **General ledger**
 - *What is this? This is a complete record of all financial transactions that shows every expense and payment in San Francisco, organized by category or account, and serves as the primary source to verify that claimed costs - wages, vendor payments, city fees, and other qualifying expenditures- are accurate and properly documented for incentive or rebate purposes.*
 - Field: Total SF expenses - to confirm minimum spend requirement.
- **Vendor list** (alphabetical and by county of vendor headquarters)
- **Total number of SF Vendors**
- **Final cast and crew list** (alphabetical, including resident zip codes)
 - *Proof of SF residents is required and must include the following: CA Driver's License, State ID Card, or Passport, AND one of the following: a current home or apartment rental agreement, a utility bill, mortgage statement, internet or phone provider bill, renter's or homeowner's insurance bill, or equivalent document, issued within the previous three months) as proof of residential location. A Driver's License alone is not sufficient.*
- **Representative Verification Letter**
 - *What is this? This is a letter from a production representative (such as the producer, line producer, or UPM) confirming that all the information and documents submitted including expenditures, wages, and other supporting records are accurate and complete.*
- **Payroll Representative Letter**
 - *What is this? This is a letter from the production payroll representative confirming that all payroll obligations (wages, fringes, union payments) have been paid.*
- **Proof of wage payment** to San Francisco residents
 - A summary payroll record generated by the production's financial system that includes payment details (hours, wages, SF employee name, etc).
- **Final Production shooting schedule**
- **Final Call sheets signed by the UPM**
- **Daily production reports**
- **Film Skills Training - Topic (Drop-down)**

- **Film Skills Training - Institution (School, Organization, etc)** - *optional field*
- **Film Skills Training - Date**
- **Film Skills Training - Time**
- **Film Skills Training - # of Participants**
- **Film Skills Training - Production Participants**
- **Completed CFC Career Readiness Form**
- **Final List of First Source Hires**
- **Final # of SF residents hired through First Source**
- **Electronic Press Kit** (uploads)

CPA Audit

Film SF requires that participating productions hire a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to assemble their final paperwork. Productions must select a CPA from the [California Film Commission's CPA List](#). CPAs must meet the following requirements to perform Agreed Upon Procedures: Active California license to perform attest services or proof of valid out of state accounting firm registration for the firm practicing attest services; current peer review of "pass"; attendance at a CFC CPA Orientation Meeting. A CPA-Generated Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) Report contains the final budget appropriately tagged with all eligible expenditures, vendor eligibility, proof of SF location, proof of residency, payroll verification, proof of payment, and the final award amount requested. All claimed costs must be supported by documentation and must be clearly tied to production activity (i.e. within the pre-determined production schedule of pre-production through post production). Qualifying expenditures generally fall into three categories:

Qualifying Expenses: San Francisco Vendor Goods and Services

Goods and services qualify for rebate if they are purchased or rented from a business located within San Francisco with a verifiable San Francisco business registration. A full list of non-qualifying expenses can be seen [here](#). To qualify, expenditures must be supported by:

- Invoice showing vendor name and address
- Proof of payment
- Description of goods/services tied to production

Qualifying Wages: San Francisco Resident

Wages qualify for rebate if paid to verified San Francisco residents and supported by payroll documentation. Wages are eligible only if:

- Residency is documented and verifiable
- Payroll reports clearly reflect wages paid
- Proof of payment is provided
- Note: wages are capped at: \$100,000 per individual per project

City Fees: expenses paid to a City agency

City costs paid directly to San Francisco departments may qualify for the **100% City rebate**. These costs must be supported by City invoices and proof of payment.

OR

Film SF Internal Verification

Film SF requires that participating productions submit their final cost documentation directly to Film SF for review and verification via the online portal. No CPA or Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) report is required. Film SF will conduct a comprehensive internal audit to confirm all eligible expenditures, vendor eligibility, proof of San Francisco location activity, proof of residency, payroll verification, proof of payment, and the final award amount requested. This can take up to 6 months. All claimed costs must be supported by clear documentation and must be directly tied to production activity occurring within the approved production schedule (pre-production through post-production). Expenditures that are incomplete, unsupported, or outside the approved timeframe may be disallowed. Qualifying expenditures generally fall into three categories:

Qualifying Expenses: San Francisco Vendor Goods and Services

Goods and services qualify if they are purchased or rented from a business located within San Francisco with a verifiable San Francisco business registration. A full list of non-qualifying expenses can be seen [here](#). To qualify, expenditures must be supported by:

- Invoice showing vendor name and address
- Proof of payment
- Description of goods/services tied to production

Qualifying Wages: San Francisco Resident

Wages qualify if paid to verified San Francisco residents and supported by payroll documentation. Wages are eligible only if:

- Residency is documented and verifiable
- Payroll reports clearly reflect wages paid
- Proof of payment is provided
- Note: wages are capped at: \$100,000 per individual per project

City Fees: expenses paid to a City agency

City costs paid directly to San Francisco departments may qualify for the **100% City rebate**. These costs must be supported by City invoices and proof of payment.

Final Review of Rebate Request Package

Productions must maintain accurate production accounting records and be prepared to provide complete documentation supporting all claimed costs. Film SF will require:

- Vendor registration confirmation

- Note: businesses can register with the Treasurer & Tax Collector with a PO Box but they cannot file for a DBA with a PO Box.
- Verification that vendor has a location within San Francisco
- Payroll reports
- Proof of residency documentation
- Proof of payment documentation (ACH, bank statements, cleared checks, etc.)
- Cost tagging within the general ledger identifying QE and QW

Misrepresentation / Penalties

Productions that submit incomplete, inaccurate, or misleading documentation may be disqualified from the program and may be required to repay funds if reimbursement has already been issued.

Rebate Determination and Payment Process

Film SF may take up to 6 months to issue final payment after receiving all completed Phase C paperwork. Once Film SF has received all materials via the online portal and verified that the requested amount is accurate, the production will be emailed an award letter (noting any applicable adjustments) and Finance will issue payment (typically a mailed check). All rebate payments are subject to availability of funds and appropriation, paid on a first-come, first-served basis based on submission of complete final documentation, and capped at \$1,000,000 per project / per season.

How to Appeal

If an applicant's initial application (Phase A) or an approved applicant's final application (Phase C) is disapproved by Film SF, or if the applicant disagrees with the amount of the tax rebate granted by Film SF, the applicant may appeal such determination. An appeal shall be made by sending a letter to the Controller of the City and County of San Francisco, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 316, San Francisco, CA, 94102, or via email to: film@sfgov.org, within thirty (30) days from the date of Film SF correspondence notifying applicant of the challenged decision. The applicant's letter must include a mailing address or email address for the applicant, a statement of the reasons why applicant believes that the Film SF's decision is unwarranted, and other materials that applicant alleges support applicant's position, including but not limited to receipts and other evidence of qualified production costs.

The Controller, or the Controller's designee, shall issue a written, final order deciding the appeal within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Controller shall transmit the decision on appeal to both the applicant, at the address provided in the appeal letter, and to Film SF. If the appeal is granted, the Controller, or Controller's designee, shall specify in the written order the steps that the City must take to comport with the decision.

FAQS

Is the program rolling or does it have an application window?

The program is rolling and does not have an application window. Participation is subject to availability of funds.

Does approval guarantee reimbursement?

No. Approval to participate in the program does not guarantee reimbursement. Reimbursement is based on verified eligible expenditures and available funds.

What is the maximum rebate available?

\$1,000,000 per project, and \$1,000,000 per season for series.

Are commercials eligible?

No. Commercials are not eligible under Administrative Code Chapter 57.

What qualifies as a San Francisco vendor?

A business located within San Francisco with an active San Francisco business registration, supported by invoices and documentation.

Do San Francisco resident wages qualify?

Yes, subject to verification and capped at \$100,000 per individual per project.

Can City costs be reimbursed?

Yes. Eligible City permitting fees and City staffing costs may qualify for a 100% rebate.

Do we need a CPA?

Film SF will determine whether a CPA AUP report is required or whether Film SF will perform internal verification.

Are service charges on city fees included in what you rebate back?

No, service charges are not eligible for a rebate.

What SF goods and services are not eligible to submit as part of the rebate?

Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, sugary drinks, etc.