

Red Sea Film Festival Foundation announces \$10 million Red Sea Fund

The \$10 million Red Sea Fund will back more than 100 projects

Grants awarded for Development, Production and Post-Production

Fund aimed at projects with directors from the Arab World and Africa

Details of Red Sea Souk's Project Market and Films-in-Progress Workshop

Applications for Red Sea Fund are open June 15 – July 21, 2021

Tuesday June 15th, Jeddah – Saudi Arabia

The Red Sea Film Festival Foundation has announced the Red Sea Fund. The \$10 million fund will support projects with directors from the Arab World and Africa, launching a new generation of filmmakers and supporting established auteurs as they bring their work from script to screen.

The fund will back more than 100 projects in its first year, creating a game-changing boost for filmmakers from Africa and the Arab world by supporting fiction, documentary and animation feature films, as well as episodic content. Additionally, Saudi nationals will be able to apply to the Red Sea Fund to support short films in development and production.

“Helping African and Arab cinema grow, that’s a very exciting responsibility,” says Edouard Waintrop, Red Sea International Film Festival Artistic Director. “That’s what the Red Sea Fund will do at every stage of the making of the chosen movies and episodic content. In providing more than 100 grants of up to \$10 million to help the development, production and post-production of movies across the Arab World and Africa, the Red Sea Fund will help cinema that is in full metamorphosis.”

The Red Sea Fund is part of the Red Sea Film Foundation’s commitment to the regional screen sector, that will also include launching the inaugural Red Sea International Film Festival that will take place from November 11 – 20, 2021.

The Festival will see the launch of the **Red Sea Souk**, its market place and industry hub for the region. Red Sea Souk will include a Project Market, with pitching sessions of more than 20 projects from the Arab World and Africa, as well as Films-in-Progress workshop. All projects that apply to the Red Sea Fund will automatically be eligible for Red Sea Souk – Project Market and Red Sea Souk Films-in Progress Workshop.

The **Red Sea Souk - Project Market** will take place from November 12-15, 2021, at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah. The projects will compete for the Red Sea Development and Production Awards respectively in the amount of US\$25,000 and US\$100,000.

The **Red Sea Souk Films-in-Progress Workshop** will take place from November 12-15, 2021, at the Red Sea International Film Festival in Jeddah. Each selected project in Films-in-Progress will compete for the Red Sea Post-Production Awards in the amount of US\$30,000.

“The Red Sea Fund is a major boost for the African and Arab film industry,” says Shivani Pandya, Red Sea International Film Festival’s Festival Managing Director. “Over the past two decades, we have seen the Arab and African film industry grow and flourish. The Fund and the Red Sea Souk will provide more tools to support the Arab and African film business to make even more of an impact on the international marketplace with the launch of its project market and films in-progress workshop this November.”

The Red Sea Souk will also contain panels, networking events, workshops and booths connecting the international film community to the exciting new Saudi market.

Applications are welcome from around the world to support projects that are being helmed by an African or Arab director. The Red Sea Fund is open from June 15 – July 21, 2021, with all details and requirements available via <https://redseafilmfest.com/en/red-sea-fund/>

The Red Sea Fund will be split across three main categories

Red Sea Fund – Development

The fund aims to support bold and creative directors in developing live-action, emerging media, and animation projects from treatments to production-ready screenplays and concepts. Red Sea Fund will develop projects from Arab, African and Saudi directors that have a director and producer attached.

Red Sea Fund – Production.

The Red Sea Fund – Production is for projects going into production and is aimed at supporting any aspect of the shoot. Open to viable projects at the production stage, with a script, committed director and producer attached, as well as potential cast and confirmed timeline. The team can be emerging or established, but with proven experience in filmmaking.

Red Sea Fund – Post-Production

A fund supporting all aspects of post-production on feature-length projects. Once a rough cut is ready, these grants will support filmmakers to complete their films and get them ready for distribution and exhibition. The team can be emerging or established, but with proven experience in filmmaking.

About Red Sea Film Festival Foundation

The Red Sea Film Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization created to support the film industry in Saudi Arabia in the production, distribution, and education of cinema. Established in 2018 by the Kingdom's first Minister of Culture, Prince Badr bin Farhan Al Saud, the Red Sea Foundation's official mandate is to promote film culture in Saudi. The initiatives support the ambitious plans for Saudi in the entertainment industries as part of the Saudi Vision 2030, with its pillars of a vibrant society, an ambitious nation and a thriving economy.

About Red Sea International Film Festival

The Red Sea International Film Festival brings the best in Arab and World Cinema to Jeddah Old Town. The Festival showcases exciting new films on the Saudi big-screen, alongside retrospective programs celebrating the masters of cinema, the latest Saudi films, and feature and short film competitions. There are also industry events and workshops nurturing the next generation of talent.