

MOANA COLLECTIVE

NEW PASIFIKA CREATORS ACCELERATOR PROGRAM APPLICATION

This application is for \$50,000 from the Screenrights Cultural Fund to support the implementation of an innovative new program, the New Pacific Creators Accelerator Program. Developed with the **New Teams** focus in mind, the program will place talented emerging Pacific key creatives (writers, directors, producers) living in New Zealand with high-profile, established Pacific-led production companies, providing on-the-ground training, mentorship, networking and skills development.

WHY?

Pacific creatives have little to no access to funding and support to learn their craft within the screen sector. Creatives looking for opportunities must move to New Zealand, where, in addition to losing local talent from the Pacific region, these creatives are likely to experience high rates of income inequality and pay disparity of around 23% of their New Zealand counterparts. These creatives need support that is Pacific-led, which is how the New Pacific Creators Accelerator has been conceived.

The program has been developed by a new team itself, a collective of four Pacific-led production companies working across New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific who call themselves the **Moana Collective**. Recognising limited resources for Pacific-focused projects and fewer opportunities that are linked to structural post-colonial inequalities, the Moana Collective is dedicated to working collaboratively to share resources and ideas and finances in ways that will shine a spotlight on Pacific stories and culture in New Zealand and beyond.

DESIGN & DELIVERY

The program has been designed by the Moana Collective to create a pipeline of new Pacific talent by providing sought after opportunities that will help provide essential credits necessary to gain entrance into the industry. The program has been devised as an annual program for four highly talented emerging Pacific creatives.

Over the course of one year, the program will:

- match each creative with a highly-experienced Pacific mentor;
- provide each creative with one paid internship with one of the Moana Collective's four production companies within that year;
- Ensure that this internship is aligned with either a development or production phase whereby they will gain hands-on experience working with the team and building skills and knowledge of the production process;
- Provide access to the Moana Collective's extensive network for relationship building and networking opportunities, including structured events;
- Guarantee a credit on the production aligned with their expertise. This is essential for providing our selected participants with a tangible outcome that can assist them in moving ahead in their career progression.

The program is simple in its design and has been crafted in consultation with Sweetshop & Green Executive Alice Burgin, who has a history of developing similar professional development programs as CEO of the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC). The program is designed to be delivered over twelve months, with the Screenrights funding supporting the program for two years and seeing two cohorts pass through the program (with program costs of \$25,000 per year).

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	OWNER
1st August 2021	Mentees are confirmed & matched with mentors.	Four participants are selected to participate in the program.	Moana Collective
1st August 2021	New Pacific Creators Lab meet-up	Participants, mentors and the Moana Collective networking event to introduce the four participants.	Moana Collective
1st August 2021	Program Begins.	Mentors and mentees are matched and introduced. Mentoring program begins.	Moana Collective
1st Aug 2021	Director Attachment 1 - Sweetshop & Green	Director attachment to take place with Sweetshop & Green during production.	SSG
1st Aug 2021	Writers Attachment 1 -	Writer attachment to take place with BSAG Productions during development.	BSAG Productions Ltd
1 Aug 2021	Producer Attachment 2 -	Producer attachment to take place with BSAG Production during development/production.	BSAG Productions Ltd
1 Aug 2021	Writer Attachment 2 -	Writers attachment to take place with Sunpix.	SunPix Ltd
July 2022	New Pacific Creators Lab final mixer	Closing event between participants, mentors and the Moana Collective to share experiences of the program and conclude the program together.	

CURRENT & FUTURE INVESTMENT

The \$50,000 of funding from Screenrights will be invested directly into paying the participants and mentors. A large in-kind contribution will be made by all four companies to ensure the continuing support of the participants throughout the program, including covering additional placement costs, administrative and on the ground support as well as all costs associated with networking and events.

We are requesting the maximum funding from Screenrights to run the program across two years for two reasons:

- We believe that new initiatives need time to develop in order to be able to demonstrate results. By providing the funding for two cohorts, we will be able to develop the program by gaining feedback from all involved.

- The Moana Collective representatives are currently in conversation with New Zealand On Air (NZOA) about how the funding body can build support for Pacific screen practitioners into its offering. Securing Screerights funding for two years will provide the Moana Collective with the best opportunity to demonstrate the success of the program, which will strengthen our application to NZOA to assist us to continue to deliver and expand the program from 2023.

PROMOTIONAL PLAN

Due to the small number of eligible creatives working in this field and the newness of the program, the selection process for the program will be targeted, hand-picking candidates through a rigorous recommendation process developed by the Moana Collective. The collective will work with their Pacific/New Zealand networks to find writers, directors and producers suitable for the program. This approach will be reassessed for the second cohort.

That being said, with so few opportunities currently available for Pacific creatives in the New Zealand screen industry, the promotional plan for this program will play a large role in providing visibility to our participants. In order to raise the profile of the program and those involved, we will be asking participants to video diary their experiences, which we will share via our social media channels throughout the year. This will provide other Pacific creatives with an opportunity to follow their creative journey, while also building awareness of Pacific talent to the broader industry.

SELECTION OF MENTORS

COVID-19 has resulted in a “brain gain” for the New Zealand screen industry, with much of its talent returning home, as well as highlighting the importance of connecting with our Pacific talent internationally to tell our stories together. With its strong relationship with Pacific talent, the Moana Collective will be able to confirm the participation of four Pacific mentors whose contribution to the community of creatives participating in the project will provide both inspirational role models as well as an essential new network for the participants involved. These mentors will undertake a minimum of six one hour mentoring sessions during the twelve months, which will be centred on providing the participant with the capacity to share work and gain feedback to develop their skills.

COVID-SAFE PLAN

The program has been designed to respond to the current climate of COVID-19 snap lockdowns. The mentoring component of the program can be done in person or online. Any productions that are suspended due to COVID-19 that can affect the placements will be rescheduled for the participants with any additional costs incurred covered by the Moana Collective.

PROJECTED 2-YEAR BUDGET

DESCRIPTION	UNITS	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL	NOTES
YEAR 1 2021/2022				
Placement 1	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 2	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 3	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 4	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Mentors	4	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	One-off fee
Group Wananga	4	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	Skills development costs
Administration costs			\$ 2,000.00	
		TOTAL YEAR 1	\$ 25,000.00	
YEAR 2 2022/2023				
Placement 1: Director	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 2: Director	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 3: Writer	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Placement 4: Writer	4	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4-week placement
Mentor	4	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 6,000.00	One-off fee
Group Wananga	4	\$ 250.00	\$ 1,000.00	Skills development costs
Adminstration costs			\$ 2,000.00	
TOTAL YEAR 2			\$ 25,000.00	
TOTAL			\$ 50,000.00	