

FICMA



FESTIVAL INTERNACIONAL DE
CINE CON MEDIOS ALTERNATIVOS

**OPEN CALL FOR
ENTRIES**

**FROM APRIL 6TH
TO JULY 31
2026**





FICMA CALL 2026

The International Festival of Alternative Media Film (FICMA) promotes and disseminates the creation of films and audiovisual projects using new digital narratives and disruptive technologies. Our selection includes projects made with diverse devices such as smartphones, DSLR cameras, GoPro cameras, Blackmagic Pocket cameras, and drones, among others; utilizing technologies such as virtual reality, digital animation, and artificial intelligence, with exhibition methods including screenings, VR headsets, and streaming platforms.

This year, with its eleventh edition, we will celebrate the different forms and techniques of cinematic expression that we have brought to the public during these 11 years, incorporating new projects that drive the future of audiovisual media.

FICMA will take place from November 19 to 28, 2026 in Mexico City.

**THE REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF A FILM OR PROJECT
IMPLIES FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES, CONDITIONS AND
REGULATIONS OF THE FESTIVAL WITHOUT EXCEPTION.**



FICMA CALL 2026

RULES AND TERMS

- **Participation:** Filmmakers, producers, collectives and distributors of any nationality may participate, without age limit.
- **Registration period:** Registration will be open from Monday, April 6th until 11:59 PM on Friday, July 31st, 2026 (Mexico City time). Projects submitted outside of this deadline will not be accepted.
- **Production date:** Film works and audiovisual projects produced between 2024 and 2026 will be accepted.
- **Official platforms:** Registration will be done exclusively through FilmFreeway and Festhome. Projects will not be accepted through any other means.
- **Use of Alternative Media:** FICMA is a festival dedicated to exploring new tools. Therefore, the call for entries is open to projects that use unconventional devices or emerging technologies as a creative engine.
- **Works made entirely with high-end cinema cameras or traditional analog formats, such as: Red One, Scarlet X, Epic, Arri Alexa, Sony F6, 35mm or 16mm, will not be accepted unless their use is integrated or intervened by some alternative means or advanced digital technology.**



FICMA CALL 2026

- **When registering, participants must clearly specify what devices, software, or creative media they used.**
- **It is mandatory to have supporting material (photographs, stills or behind-the-scenes/making-of videos) that prove the use of said media, which may be requested in the second stage of the process.**
- **Language and Subtitling: In order to guarantee accessibility and correct understanding of the works in all our venues, it is mandatory that all registered works, regardless of the original language of the dialogues (including projects in Spanish), must have Spanish subtitles.**
- **Selection Process: Participation consists of three mandatory stages: 1. Registration, 2. Consideration, and 3. Official Selection. Failure to meet the requirements in any of these stages will result in the project's exclusion.**
- **SCREENINGS WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND/OR ONLINE. THE FESTIVAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PROGRAM FILMS IN ONE OR BOTH FORMATS, AS WELL AS TO DETERMINE THE VENUES AND TIMES ACCORDING TO THE FESTIVAL'S NEEDS.**

ANY VIOLATION OF THE REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE WILL RESULT IN THE FESTIVAL RESERVING THE RIGHT TO DISQUALIFY THE PARTICIPANT FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS.



FICMA CALL 2026

CATEGORIES

1) WORLD QUADRANTS

- **International Feature Film:** Productions with a minimum duration of 60 minutes and a maximum of 120 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.
- **International Feature Documentary:** Productions with a minimum duration of 60 minutes and a maximum of 120 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.
- **International Fiction Short Film:** Productions with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.
- **International Short Documentary Film:** Productions with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.



FICMA CALL 2026

2) NEW MEDIA

- **Experimental Short Film:** Projects created using unconventional and/or abstract narrative methods, seeking expression through new symbolism and alternative resources to convey concepts and experiences that meet the Festival's requirements. A minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.
- **The following will not be accepted:** video dance, performance art, or filmed theatre.
- **VR Projects and/or 360° Videos:** Projects created using virtual reality technologies and 360° videos, with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 20 minutes, including credits. Fiction, documentary, or general entertainment are acceptable. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. The theme is open. Trailers and reviews are not accepted; only the complete project must be submitted.
- **Artificial Intelligence Projects:** Projects created using artificial intelligence applications and techniques. A minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.
- **Digital Animation Short Film (Non-Stop Motion):** Projects created using digital animation methods. Minimum duration of 1 minute and maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.



FICMA CALL 2026

3) MEXICAN STORYTELLERS

- **Mexican Feature Film:** Mexican productions with a minimum duration of 60 minutes and a maximum of 120 minutes, including credits. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **Mexican Feature-Length Documentary:** Mexican productions with a minimum duration of 60 minutes and a maximum of 120 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **Mexican Fiction Short Film:** Mexican productions with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Subtitles in Spanish are required, regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **Mexican Documentary Short Film:** Mexican productions with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes, including credits. Must have Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **University Fiction Short Film:** Mexican productions made by students of film, communication, or related fields. Proof of university enrollment or institutional endorsement is required. Films must be between 1 and 30 minutes long, including credits. Spanish subtitles are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.



FICMA CALL 2026

- **University Documentary Short Film:** Mexican productions made by students of film, communication, or related fields. Proof of university enrollment or institutional endorsement is required. Films must be a minimum of 1 minute and a maximum of 30 minutes in length, including credits. Spanish subtitles are required, regardless of the original language. Open theme.

4) DIGITAL VISIONS

- **Vertical Narrative:** Projects optimized for vertical format (fiction, documentary, animation, web series, among others). Length: 1 to 15 minutes. Productions from 2024 to 2026. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **Advertising spots:** Digital commercials and spots targeted at the internet and social media. Length: 10 to 90 seconds. Vertical or horizontal format. Productions from 2024 to 2025. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.
- **Video Game Cinematic:** Cinematic or narrative sequences that stand out for their visual and narrative quality. Length: 3 to 10 minutes. Productions from 2022 to 2026. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the original language. Open theme.

Cinematics featuring advanced animation, high-quality VFX, and emerging technologies will be accepted. Productions for PC, consoles, and mobile devices are welcome.



FICMA CALL 2026

- **Music Video:** Musical projects that highlight visual and sound creativity. Length: 3 to 10 minutes. Production year: 2024-2026. Must include Spanish subtitles regardless of the language. Open theme.

FICMA RESERVES THE AUTHORITY TO REASSIGN PROJECTS TO THE CATEGORY IT DEEMS MOST SUITABLE FOR THE OFFICIAL SELECTION

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Each work must be consistent with the festival's identity. Films and projects submitted in all categories must be created using devices such as smartphones, tablets, action cameras, drones, DSLR cameras, Blackmagic Pocket, Osmo, 360° cameras, or other alternative techniques (Zoom, Parkview cameras, surveillance cameras, digital animations, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, among others).

Selection criteria include technological innovation and the use of digital tools such as artificial intelligence, VFX, advanced CGI, virtual production, and blockchain, among others. Overall production quality, formats and media employed, and narrative originality will also be considered. While the theme is open, priority will be given to proposals related to artificial intelligence, transhumanism, science fiction, social media, cyberbullying, digital ethics, dystopias, cyberpunk, the metaverse, and other related topics.



FICMA CALL 2026

Works shot entirely with Red One, Scarlet X, Epic, Arri Alexa, Sony F6, 35mm, or 16mm cameras without the use of any alternative equipment will not be accepted. Behind-the-scenes footage may be requested as technical documentation.

VIDEO FORMATS

- **To ensure the quality of the projections and the correct management of materials, the projects must comply with the following technical standards:**
- **Video format: .MP4 or .MOV (H.264 or ProRes 422 codec).**
- **For VR and/or 360° video projects, APK format or formats compatible with commercial viewers are supported. (A detailed installation and execution guide must be attached.)**
- **Resolution: Minimum Full HD (1920 x 1080). (Or the best quality your device or camera allows.)**
- **Aspect Ratio: Horizontal (16:9).**
- **For the Vertical Narrative and Commercial Spots categories, the vertical format (9:16) will be accepted.**
- **Image Quality: The file must be clean, without watermarks or timestamps**



FICMA CALL 2026

**NO PHYSICAL COPIES OR CHANGES TO THE REGISTERED VERSION
WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHIN THE FESTIVAL.**

SUBTITLING REQUIREMENTS

- Without exception, all works containing dialogue (including those originally in Spanish) must be subtitled to ensure accessibility.
- **Embedded Subtitles:** If subtitles are included in the video, they must be in Spanish.
- **External Files:** Files in .srt or .vtt format are accepted. These can be submitted in Spanish or English.

REQUESTED MATERIAL

- It is essential that, once registered, participants prepare the following information and materials. These will only be requested from projects that advance to the second stage of the process:
- **Full technical specifications:** (Title in its original language and the language that appears on the poster, Synopsis, main credits, specifications of alternative media used, etc.).



FICMA CALL 2026

- **Film stills: (Minimum 3 high-resolution images, 300 dpi).**
- **Photograph of the director.**
- **Official poster: In PNG or JPG format (preferably with a 2:3 aspect ratio).**
- **Trailer: (Optional).**

For any questions or clarifications regarding film submissions, please write to the following email addresses: progficma@gmail.com and/or coordinacionficma@gmail.com

SELECTION AND EXHIBITION PROCESS

Participation in the festival is governed by a three-stage mandatory process. Failure to submit materials or information at any stage will result in automatic exclusion from the project.

To make the selection, the committee will evaluate the projects taking into account the production values of the film (script, direction, theme, photography, editing, image quality), devices used to record, use of alternative technologies, creativity and originality.



FICMA CALL 2026

Selection Stages

Step 1: Registration

- Those interested must register exclusively through the official platforms: Festhome or FilmFreeway. The registration period runs from April 6 to July 31, 2026. Projects will not be accepted through any other means.
- The submitted version must be the final cut of your project; **NO NEW VERSIONS OF THE PROJECT WILL BE ACCEPTED ONCE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL** (color correction, sound design, credits, etc.).

Stage 2: Consideration

- Once the call for entries has closed, the organizing committee will contact the project managers of the shortlisted projects via email. At this stage, they will be asked to complete a Google Forms form with the technical specifications, press materials (mentioned in the previous section), and the final projection file (clean, without watermarks, and with the corresponding subtitles).
- An immediate response is required, with a maximum tolerance of 10 days. Don't forget to check your spam, social, notifications, and promotions folders.



FICMA CALL 2026

Stage 3: Selection

- After verifying that all requirements have been met, the Official Selection and the Competition Team will be determined. The results will be published exclusively on our official social media channels during the last week of October 2026.
- This publication is the only official way to confirm participation in the festival.

EXHIBITION CONDITIONS

- The screenings will be held in person and/or online. The festival reserves the right to program the films in either format or both simultaneously.
- FICMA will define the venues, schedules and exhibition dates according to the individual logistical needs of each venue.
- Once the participation has been accepted and the Official Selection has been published, the work cannot be withdrawn from the festival program.

THE PROGRAMMING MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FOR REASONS BEYOND THE FESTIVAL'S CONTROL.



FICMA CALL 2026

REGISTRATION AND FEES

- **Registration will begin on Monday, April 6th and will close at 11:59 PM on Friday, July 31st of this year, Mexico City time, with no possibility of extension.**
- **Filmmakers will be able to register and pay the registration fees for their projects through the FilmFreeway and/or Festhome platforms.**
- **FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/ficmafest>**
- **Festhome: <https://festivals.festhome.com/>**
- **From April 6 to April 30, submissions will cost \$14 USD for feature films and \$9 USD for all other categories. From May 1 to July 31, submissions will cost \$19 USD for feature films and \$12 USD for short films. The Digital Visions section will have a general entry fee of \$8 USD.**
- **Participants may submit one or more films. Corporate or government videos will not be accepted.**
- **Once a film has been registered with FICMA and subsequently selected for the official selection, the project will become part of the Eleventh Edition FICMA 2026 and cannot be withdrawn or cancelled from the final program.**



FICMA CALL 2026

JURY AND PRIZES

- The jury will be made up of professionals from the film, culture and technology industries, and its decision will be final.
- The winners of the different competition categories and the honorable mentions will be announced at the closing ceremony and via email, website and/or social media of FICMA.
- Jury members will not be allowed to participate in the different competitive categories of the festival.
- No member of FICMA may be part of the jury or compete in the festival.
- The official FICMA award consists of a printed and/or digital recognition with official validity, as well as prizes in some categories from our sponsors, which will be revealed on social media and the official website.
- FICMA reserves the right to award honorable mentions to works it deems worthy of them.



FICMA CALL 2026

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **The person registering the work (director, producer, or distributor) declares that they are the legitimate owner of the intellectual property rights to the project or have the necessary authorizations for its exhibition. FICMA is not responsible for third-party claims arising from the unauthorized use of music, scripts, images, or other protected materials.**
- **FICMA does not grant any type of financial compensation for exhibition rights of the films that participate in the official selection or in competition.**
- **By accepting the selection, participants authorize the festival to use fragments of the work (maximum 10% of its duration or the official trailer) and press materials for promotional, dissemination and archiving purposes of the festival in print, digital and television media.**
- **The films selected for the official selection will become part of the FICMA digital collection, which will be used only for dissemination, cultural and artistic purposes, both in this edition and in future events.**



FICMA CALL 2026

- **If the registered project presents internal conflicts or conflicts with third parties that affect the image or organization of the festival, as well as the interaction between the public and/or other participants (whether in person or digitally), it will be automatically disqualified from the selection.**
- **Any situation not covered in this call for entries will be resolved by the FICMA Organizing Committee. The decision of the committee and the jury will be final.**
- **The festival reserves the right to cancel or modify the program and exhibition formats due to force majeure or causes beyond the organization's control.**
- **Submitting a project implies full acceptance of the terms and conditions described in this document. Failure to comply with any of the above points will invalidate the project's participation at any stage of the festival.**
- **The results of the official selection and competition will be published throughout the last week of October in press outlets, digital platforms, and FICMA's social media. Those selected will be notified by email and/or WhatsApp.**



FICMA CALL 2026

- The films in the official selection will be part of traveling exhibitions and film series in exhibition agreements with other festivals, institutions and digital platforms with the required digital security.

**THE REGISTRATION AND PARTICIPATION OF A FILM OR PROJECT
IMPLIES FULL ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES, CONDITIONS AND
REGULATIONS OF THE FESTIVAL.**

The FICMA organizing committee will resolve any issues not covered in the call for entries. For further information, please write to the following email addresses: progficma@gmail.com / coordinacionficma@gmail.com

**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
WITH ALTERNATIVE MEDIA**

www.ficmafest.org