Washington State Department of Commerce

2024 Motion Picture Competitiveness Report

Annual Report to the Washington State Legislature Pursuant to Chapter 43.365. RCW.

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Report to the Legislature

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OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETITIVENESS

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Executive summary

Overview

Washington's Motion Picture Competitiveness Program (MPCP) was established in 2006 (Chapter 43.365. RCW) to attract and retain film industry investment in Washington. Chapter 270, Laws 2022 extended the program through 2030, provided enhanced incentives, established workforce development initiatives, and increased the funding cap for the MPCP to $15 million a year.

This report reflects the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, includes an annual list of recipients awarded financial assistance from the prior year, and the board's progress towards the goal of funding assistance provided to motion picture productions located or filmed in rural communities and to motion picture productions that tell stories of historically underrepresented communities. It also includes information on workforce development, career-connected learning, and business development activities. Washington Filmworks, the private non-profit organization that manages the MPCP, provides the data and certified and complete statistics required for this report.

Key findings or highlights

National industry impacts

The Writers Guild of America strike (May 23, 2023 - September 27, 2023) and the SAG-AFTRA strike (July 14, 2023 - November 9, 2023) continued into this fiscal year and had devastating impacts on film production in the United States. The University of Michigan Journal of Economics suggests that the strikes cost the entertainment industry $5 billion nationwide, while Moody's reported that the new union contracts will cost studios an additional $450M - $600M annually.

Washington's film market assets

Despite national and international challenges in the film industry, Washington has significant marketable film industry assets. Our state's Motion Picture Competitiveness Program includes incentives that are unique to the industry, including our Small Budget Production Initiative (SBPI), and enhanced incentives for filming in rural Washington or telling the story of a historically underrepresented community.

Washington invests in film workforce development, focusing on historically underrepresented communities and building a future pipeline of job creators in the creative economy.

Like many businesses across the United States, Artificial Intelligence is impacting the global film industry. Given Washington State's unique technology assets, the state is well positioned to capitalize on the opportunity.

Recommendations

Significant progress has been made in the Above-the-Line program to support emerging Washington filmmakers through educational and mentorship opportunities. Similar investments of time and workforce development dollars focused on Below the Line training (i.e., crew members) will be essential moving forward. Additionally, more direct marketing to projects that are focused on telling the story of underrepresented communities is necessary.

Background



Photo courtesy of Washington Filmworks, Motion State / Ryan Brien 2024

The Motion Picture Competitiveness Program (MPCP) was authorized in 2006 to attract and retain film industry investment in Washington (Chapter 43.365. RCW). Chapter 270, Laws 2022 increased the funding cap for the MPCP to $15 million a year. The legislation includes several other provisions that expand and strengthen the statewide film industry, including:

- Additional incentives for projects filming in rural jurisdictions and for films that tell stories of historically underrepresented communities
- A workforce development mandate to better support people from underrepresented communities
- Support for small budget productions creatively driven by Washington residents
- Extended sunset date of the program to 2030

This report reflects the period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and is required annually to the Legislature pursuant to RCW.43.365.020 (12):

> By December 31, 2022, and annually thereafter, the department on behalf of the board, must report to the legislature on the approved MPCP. This report may include information required in the survey established in RCW 43.365.040. At a minimum, the report must include an annual list of recipients awarded financial assistance from the prior year with total estimated production costs, locations of each production, and the board's progress towards the goal of at least 20 percent of its funding assistance provided to motion picture productions located or filmed in rural communities and 20 percent of its funding assistance provided to motion picture productions that tell stories of historically underrepresented communities. The report must also include information on workforce development, career-connected learning, and business development activities, including whether they have been scaled up in size from the previous year and how they are meeting the goal of supporting people from historically underrepresented communities.

Washington Filmworks is the private non-profit that manages the MPCP and an array of resources supporting the creative industries. Its mission is to create economic development opportunities by building and enhancing the competitiveness, profile, and sustainability of Washington's film industry. Washington Filmworks provides the data, and the certified and complete statistics required for this report by RCW 43.365.030(12), which must include at minimum:

- Annual list of recipients awarded financial assistance from the prior year with total estimated production costs, locations of each production.
- The board's progress towards the goal of at least 20 percent of its funding assistance provided to motion picture productions located or filmed in rural communities and 20 percent of its funding assistance provided to motion picture productions that tell stories of marginalized communities.
- Information on workforce development, career-connected learning, and business development activities, including whether they have been scaled up in size from the previous year and how they are meeting the goal of supporting people from marginalized communities.
- Must allocate funds for training and job placement for marginalized communities as follows:
  - (a) For fiscal years 2023 and 2024, a minimum of $500,000 for each fiscal year; and
  - (b) For each fiscal year on or after July 1, 2024, a minimum of $750,000.

2024 Motion Picture Competitiveness Program

Washington Filmworks funding assistance

The mission of Washington Filmworks is to create economic development opportunities by building and enhancing the competitiveness, profile, and sustainability of Washington's film industry. Washington Filmworks offers two funding assistance programs:

1) Production Incentive Program (PIP) This program is designed to support larger budget productions that provide health and retirement benefits for Washington cast and crew. To qualify for funding assistance, a production must meet the following in-state spending minimum thresholds:

   $500,000 for motion pictures

   $300,000 for episodic series

   $150,000 for commercials (filming in rural counties)

2) Small Budget Production Initiative (SBPI) Designed to invest in emerging Washington filmmakers by providing an early-stage funding commitment and funding assistance for motion picture content. The motion picture budget must be between $20,000 and $1,000,000 and have a minimum of two Washington residents in the positions of director, producer, screenwriter, or lead actor.

If a qualified production meets spending thresholds of $500,000 for motion pictures, $300,000 per episode for episodic series, and $150,000 for commercials, and if filming in a rural county or if the production tells the story of a historically underrepresented community, then the production may qualify for Enhanced Incentives.

Washington Filmworks also provides the services of the statewide Film Office, support for filming in rural Washington, and several workforce development programs for the film industry.

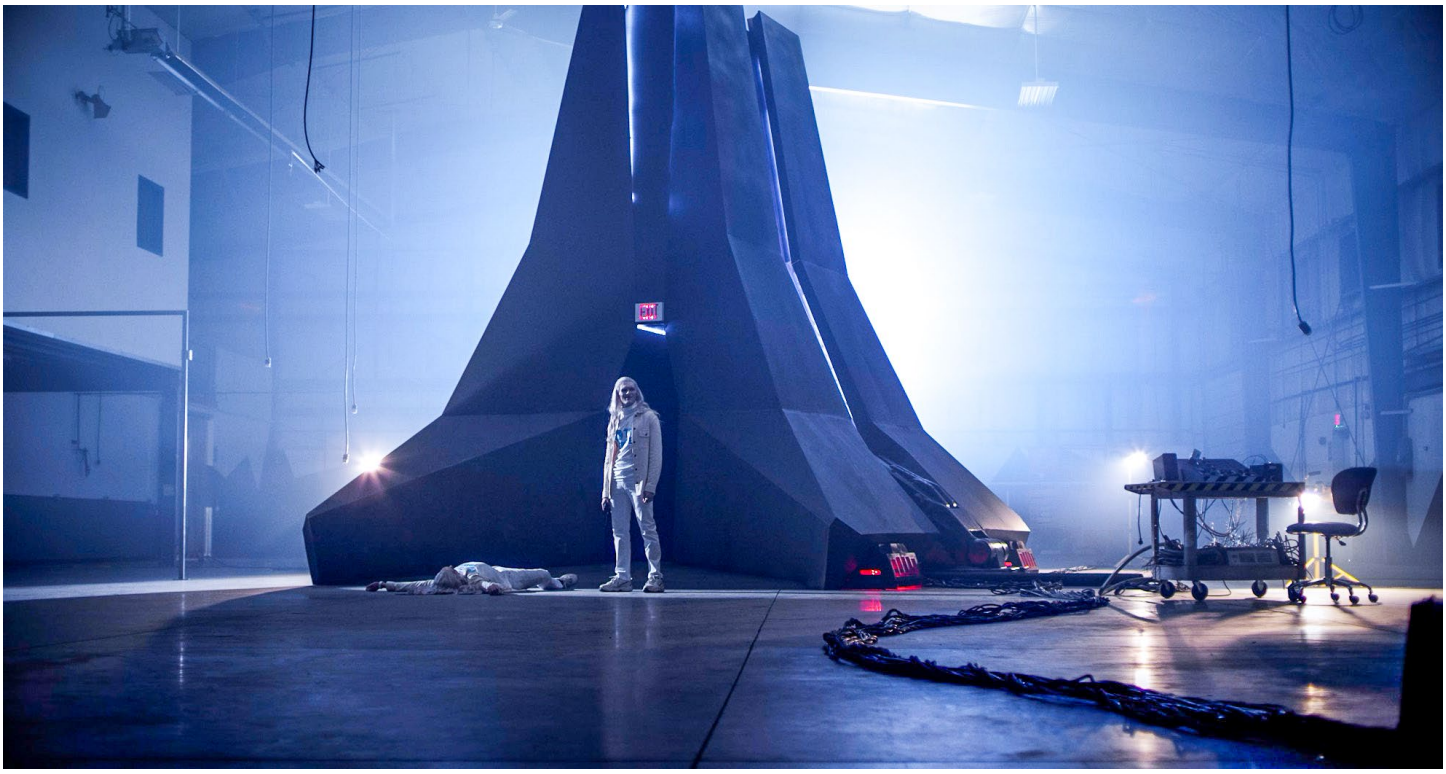


Photo courtesy of Washington Filmworks, Tim Travers and the Time Travelers Paradox, 2024

Certified and complete statistics

RCW 43.365.040 requires Commerce to provide specified summary statistics as follows:

> (6) The department must use the information from this section to prepare summary descriptive statistics. The department must report these statistics to the legislature each even-numbered year by September 1st. The department must provide the complete annual surveys to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee, which shall perform a review as required under RCW 43.365.050.

During this reporting period of July 2023 - June 2024, Washington Filmworks provided $2,727,807 in funding assistance to five PIP projects and two SPBI projects, resulting in over $7.8 million in qualified spending within local communities. These productions also hired 1,034 Washington residents.

Enhanced incentives

Of the funding assistance paid out in this period, 7.85% of the funds went to projects qualifying for the enhanced incentive for filming in a rural community as defined RCW 43.365.010. These projects filmed in Clallam, Grant, Grays Harbor, Kittitas, Mason, Pacific Skamania, Whitman and Yakima counties, reaching 30% of rural counties in Washington.

Two projects approved for funding assistance indicated that they were telling the story of an underrepresented community. However, neither of these projects completed principal photography during this reporting period. Additionally, four features that identified as telling the story of an underrepresented community were conditionally approved under the SBPI, but did not raise their full funding and are currently on hold.

Film office / rural economic development

Washington Filmworks provides the services of the statewide Film Office, and the newly established Rural Economic Development Department, which supports filming in rural jurisdictions. These services continue to

drive significant economic development opportunities across the state that are not included in the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program reporting.

The following are examples of the variety of projects that Washington Filmworks has supported within this reporting period that did not receive funding assistance from the organization:

- Toyota Commercial (Location Managers Guild Award Winner for Best Commercial)
- Washington State Lottery Commercial
- Beach Front Bargain Hunt (HGTV)
- Wild Crime (ABC News)
- Station 19 (ABC)
- Army Commercial
- Hoka Commercial
- Netflix Documentary

The total economic impact of both incentive and non-incentive driven projects can be difficult to quantify, as non-incentive driven projects are not required to provide budget information. Last year, the film office launched List Your Project, an online tool that will help the organization better understand the impact of these non-incentive driven projects. Washington Filmworks continues to develop the tool to collect more impactful data to share in the future.



Photo courtesy of Washington Filmworks, Bottlecap / Barbara Brown, 2024

Washington Filmworks' Rural Economic Development Department works with rural jurisdictions to identify key assets necessary to support film in their community. This includes identifying key locations for filming, designing a film permit, and working with local elected officials to better understand the positive economic impact of film in their community. In addition to presentations at the Associations of Washington Cities and the Washington Association of Chamber Executives, Washington Filmworks staff also visited Port Townsend, the Cascade Loop, Kittitas County, and the Tri-County Economic District.

The Film Office and the Rural Economic Development Department work together to ensure that both communities in the state and production companies benefit from their services. As part of their work, they

facilitate quarterly meetings from the film liaison network. With more than 150 film liaisons across the state (and growing), this group is committed to serving as a bridge between Washington Filmworks, the local community, and film productions. Quarterly meetings focus on topics such as how to work with a professional location manager, a discussion on best practices, and a presentation on how to engage your community in the film industry.

Additionally, the Film Office and Rural Economic Development Department convene local professional location scouts for quarterly meetings with key Washington State agencies that often work with high-impact productions, for example, the Department of Corrections. And for the first time in its history, Washington Filmworks partnered with film liaisons in Walla Walla to co-host a familiarization tour where location managers were able to meet local leaders and tour a variety of locations, including Waitsburg, the Palouse, and some private homesteads.

Dedicated staff time and resources were employed during the reporting period to expand the Location Database, a publicly searchable resource for filmmakers around the globe. Washington Filmworks added 150 new locations; 51% of which were in rural counties. There are now more than 3,000 locations in the database. The film office used these assets to create over 53 location packages for potential clients such as Amazon, MAX, NBC Universal, and Tyler Perry Studios.

This fiscal year Washington Filmworks also enhanced its Production Directory, an important tool used by the Film Office to demonstrate to potential clients the depth of local crew and production resources in the region. During the reporting period, Washington Filmworks added 97 local crew and 36 local businesses to the Production Directory, a free resource for all resident crew and businesses.

Washington Filmworks received grants this fiscal year from the State of Washington Tourism, the Port of Seattle, and the Department of Commerce to develop additional marketing assets to showcase the diversity of locations in Washington. Using the dollars to hire professional drone operators, still photographers, a videographer, and a film editor, Washington Filmworks captured over 50 locations in all seven regions of the state, which will be used as the centerpiece for a national marketing campaign next fiscal year.

Implementing the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program

Chapter 270, Laws of 2022 enables Washington Filmworks to better support the film industry by providing career-connected learning opportunities and workforce development initiatives. To meet the program's goals, Washington Filmworks initiated a business plan to market the state as a destination for motion picture content. Washington Filmworks continues to work with the film industry and community partners to design impactful new programs that will set the industry up for success and help build the future of film in Washington.

Small Budget Production Initiative

The SBPI is designed to support emerging resident filmmakers with early-stage funding commitments and funding assistance on projects budgeted between $20,000 - $1 million. These smaller budget productions provide an excellent training ground for emerging above-the-line talent (cast, director, producer, screenwriter) and below-the-line crew who work in collaboration on a professional film set.

Between May 2023 and June 2024, 30 projects were approved for funding assistance. Of those projects, 16 went into principal photography and two have already completed production. These projects include short films, narrative and documentary features, and episodics. There were 14 conditionally approved projects that did not raise the required funds within the allowable six-month window, so funds held in reserve were relinquished, and funding assistance was made available to other eligible applicants per RCW 43.365.020. Details about the two completed projects can be found below under Projects Funded.

Workforce development



Photo courtesy of Washington Filmworks, Jess Schwab, 2024

Statute requires that Washington Filmworks invest a minimum of $500,000 in workforce development opportunities focused on underrepresented communities in FY 2024. These workforce development funds have been transformative for the film industry as emerging and professional creatives are often categorized as non-traditional workers and as such do not qualify for traditional funding models supported by the Workforce Development Board.

As it relates to the statute, Washington Filmworks has adopted the definition of career-connected learning to guide the workforce development initiative, which includes career awareness and exploration, career preparation (e.g., training), and career launch (e.g., job placement).

To support this new initiative, Washington Filmworks launched its workforce development department, FWD (pronounced 'forward'). FWD is a community-informed approach to creating statewide plans, programs, and resources to build the depth and breadth of the Washington film industry workforce while supporting and amplifying efforts to ensure the workforce is diverse and inclusive and that pathways are equitable and accessible.

Above-the-Line Education Forum (Narrative Film)

Washington Filmworks strategically chose to launch an above-the-line workforce development program to train directors and producers as these individuals will be Washington State's future job creators in the motion picture industry. Launched in September 2023, the above-the-line education forum for narrative filmmakers focused on job training. There were 112 applicants from 49 cities across Washington State. A cohort of 30 emerging Washington State directors and producers representing 17 unique cities across the state participated in a 12-week educational forum. Over the course of the program, 30 film industry professionals presented on topics such as working in Washington, legal basics, financing, and marketing / distribution.

A post program survey taken by every participant reflected the following:

- 100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that the program will help them move their film career forward
- 100% increased their financing skills and knowledge

- 97% increased their legal basics skills and knowledge
- 97% increased their production skills and knowledge
- 97% increased their marketing & distribution skills and knowledge
- 83% increased their budgeting skills and knowledge

Film is well known to be an industry in which careers rely on relationship networks, and as such, relationship building between participants proved equally valuable during the 12-week program. Cohort participant Ronnie Kabuika shared this:

> The practical insights and learning experience have significantly enhanced my skills and knowledge, making me feel more equipped to tackle the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in my filmmaking journey. The connections I've made with like-minded and talented filmmakers have been profoundly impactful.

Above-the-Line Mentorship Program (Narrative Film)

Participants that successfully completed the education forum were invited to apply for one of five mentorships to further develop a long-form, live-action narrative project by working with a film professional in Washington State and a film professional from a major production market such as Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Mentorships are six months long and participants selected for the program were able to invite a creative partner working on their project to participate.

Director of Workforce Development, Audra Laymon, talked to dozens of people when Washington Filmworks was designing the program, and remains deeply committed to mentorship opportunities for the film industry, stating:

> There is not one person I have spoken to in the film industry that has not told me about the mentor that helped them. This is how this industry works. It works from folks helping each other by passing it on, by paying it forward. We need mentorship programs like this because it's the lifeblood of the industry.

Five filmmakers were selected in May 2024 for the mentorship representing Clark, King, and Spokane counties.

FWD Funding Initiative - Round 1

In direct response to community feedback, Washington Filmworks launched the FWD Funding Initiative, a program designed to invest in film industry workforce development efforts servicing historically underrepresented communities through the disbursement of funds to Washington-based businesses.

In the inaugural round of funding, 26 proposals representing 11 cities across Washington were considered. The total requested funding for all proposals was $570,410. Five businesses (or 19% of applications) were funded, and $49,000 was distributed in four counties. The applications awarded funding in Round 1 were focused on industry job training and job placement opportunities:

Film Crew Academy, Seattle | Power P.A. Course Scholarship Program

> This program offers job training, resources, and support to individuals from historically underrepresented groups. The Power P.A. Course delivers comprehensive virtual training modules covering various aspects of production assistant roles, empowering participants to launch their careers in the film industry.
>
> In fiscal year 2024, funding helped sustain the scholarship program for the virtual Power P.A. Course.

Northwest Film Forum, Seattle | ACTION! Narrative Apprentice Program

This program targets emerging filmmakers who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and/or living with disabilities, providing them with one-on-one job training and mentorship from industry professionals. Through a structured five-phase program, participants gain hands-on experience in film production, culminating in a premiere screening at the local Sightings Film Festival.

In fiscal year 2024, funding supported the Seattle-based ACTION! Narrative Apprentice Program.

Wahkiakum West Television, Rosburg | Rural Quickstart Production Program

This program combines job training and placement with the goal of offering residents of Wahkiakum and Pacific counties paid education in film and television production. Its aim is to tackle the existing worker shortage in the region. Participants will produce seasonal tourism commercials, short form interview programs, and narrative content.

In fiscal year 2024, funding supported the launch of the Rural Quickstart Production Program in Rosburg.

The Shyan Selah Foundation, South King County | Artist Workshop

These workshops raise awareness of careers in the film industry among students aged 14 - 25 in South King County, with a focus on underrepresented communities, including Black and brown youth, and those from low-income households. The workshops aim to expose participants to various career pathways in the film industry.

In fiscal year 2024, funding supported the production and delivery of one virtual Artist Workshop.

Perfect Attendance Productions | We F.E.W! (Filmmakers of Eastern Washington) Training Experiences, Spokane

The training provides weekend workshop experiences determined by community input and led by industry professionals, covering film set skills including grip and electric; lighting theory; and cinema camera operation.

In fiscal year 2024, funding supported one month of training workshops in Spokane.

During fiscal year 2024, Washington Filmworks also opened the submission window for Round 2 of the FWD Funding Initiative.

Washington Filmworks staff participated in several opportunities to raise awareness of film industry career opportunities. The following are examples of places where Washington Filmworks presented or participated in events around the state where career awareness was included:

- Arts & Heritage Day
- AWB Hill Climb (Olympia)
- Creative Districts Annual Gathering (Chewelah)
- Creative Economy Career Day (City of Seattle)
- Educational Institutions (Seattle University, University of Washington, Seattle Film Institute)
- Film Festivals (Seattle International Film Festival, Tacoma Film Festival)
- IATSE 488 Meeting (Statewide)
- Rainier Club (Seattle)

Business development

Washington Filmworks defines business development as pursuing strategic opportunities by cultivating partnerships and other commercial relationships, as well as identifying new markets. During the reporting period, Washington Filmworks made several sales trips to Los Angeles to host filmmaker dinners and meet executives from studios such as Paramount, MGM Amazon, and Netflix. One trip specifically was planned to attract commercial productions to take advantage of the enhanced incentive for filming in rural Washington.

This year, Washington Filmworks also joined the Location Managers Guild International, presented to its members about the incentive, locations, and crew, and connected with the Washington State chapters of the American Advertising Federation.

Please also refer to the section titled Film office / rural economic development for further information about business development strategies employed in Washington State.

Projects funded: July 2023 - June 2024

Title: Model Year Production Release for CFMOTO (Commercial)

Official Website

Filming Dates: August 2, 2024 - August 8, 2024

Where to See: NA

Filming Locations: Elma, Olympia, Shelton, Tacoma, Twin

Synopsis:

Whether you're a new rider or season vet, CFMOTO creates a scene and story for you and your team. How We Ride is an epic journey through the world of CFMOTO. In this adventure we take potential customers to the edgy world of the NK underground, to the bright and colorful culture of Papio Moto Mob.

This Journey will be like no other CFMOTO experience. Model Year 2024 will encompass 12 different motorcycles. Capturing stunning footage from the city of Tacoma to the mountain roads of Lake Cushman, up to the ocean highways in Neah Bay, and finally to the unique looks of Ridge Motorsports Park and Satsop Business Park.

Notable:

The Minneapolis based Rally Studios was looking for a state that could provide a wide array of different terrain to showcase the new line of motorcycles. While Rally Studios had never filmed in Washington State, the crew, locations and incentive helped pave the way for the production.

Director and Owner of Rally Studios Anthony Jaska set a high bar suggesting that, "We came up to Washington to attempt to create something that's never been done for CFMOTO America. We wanted to find a place that had multiple themes and looks and styles for each of their models."

Producer Matt Roussin shared, "Trying to find a lot of (location) diversity in one place was hard but when we looked at Washington we found a lot of different diversity. Finding the locations was fun. We went to the Filmworks website. They had a database that made it really easy to choose."

CFMOTO - Behind the Scenes

Title: Going Home - Season 2 (Episodic Series)

Official Website

Filming Dates: February 2023 - April 2023

Where to See: Pure Flix

Filming Locations: Airway Heights, Rosalia, Spokane

Synopsis:

Charley Copeland is a hospice nurse who sees her role as a gift from God as she helps shepherd people from this life to eternity. In season 2, work takes a more personal turn for Charley and the other hospice nurses as Charley explores GriefShare to manage her own loss, Janey finds a new love interest, and Tamara manages serious health issues.

Reviews:

“Going Home stands alone in the annals of medical programs.” — The Spokesman-Review

“Will tug at your heartstrings as well as lift your spirits” — FOX 13

Notable:

Pure Flix is a streaming service that offers faith-based, family-friendly shows and returned to Spokane for the second season of Going Home. The online streamer suggests that the show portrays dynamic, relatable relationships that are focused on healing and forgiveness and also helps audiences understand that there is no ‘right’ way to grieve.

Show Runner / Creator Dan Merchant believes that “One of the things that is hard about facing death is that it begs the questions of what are you doing with your life. And that’s a hard one for people.” Washington's own Cynthia Geary (Northern Exposure) stars in the series as Charley Copeland and suggests that this level of authenticity plays a lead role in the series saying to the Seattle Times, “All of the hospice stories (in Going Home) come from stories that people have told our creator. Dan is very meticulous about making sure we’re portraying real stories and things that have really happened…What we do in the show is we really make an effort to make it real and positive but also an entertaining show.”

Going Home: Season 2 - Behind the Scenes Video



Image courtesy of Washington Filmworks, Duplass Brothers Productions, 2024

Title: Penelope (Episodic Series)

Official Website

Filming Dates: September 14, 2022 - October 31, 2022

Where to see: Netflix

Synopsis:

A 16-year-old girl who feels alienated from contemporary civilization is pulled into the uncharted wilderness and starts to build a new life for herself there.

Locations for filming: Arlington, Index, Kenmore, Kirkland, Monroe, North Bend, Seattle, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie

Reviews:

“Penelope paints a stunning picture of Washington State’s exquisite terrain, a testament to Nathan M. Miller’s cinematographer.” Variety (Miller is also a longtime Washington Resident.)

“It’s refreshing to see an indie TV series forge its own identity” IndieWire

“The Breathtaking Penelope Is Like Nothing Else on TV” TIME

Notable:

Megan Stott (Little Fires Everywhere) has the title role in the independently made episodic series Penelope which was picked up by Netflix after its debut at the 2024 Sundance Film Festival's Episodic Pilot Showcase. The project is a Duplass Brothers Production and played as an Official Selection at SXSW Film Festival in Austin and SeriesFest in Colorado.

When Writer, Director, Producer and Washington resident Mel Eslyn was asked why the story needs to be told now, she shared, "We are living in an age of technology, and I'd argue too much of a reliance on technology. There is a collective longing for a simpler time. I think so many of us have escape fantasies, to leave it all behind. There is a primal calling in all of us to go back to nature. Technology, social media, collective depression, and the pandemic — I believe all have played into this calling. (Give me the Backstory: Sundance Film Festival 9/24/24)

Megan Stott has been nominated for a 2025 Independent Spirit Award for Best Breakthrough Performance in a New Scripted Series.

Penelope - Behind the Scenes Video

Title: Tim Travers & The Time Traveler's Paradox (Feature Film)

Official Website

Filming Dates: November 30, 2022 - December 21, 2022

Synopsis:

It is called the Time Travelers Paradox. In which a scientist creates a Time Machine and kills their younger self. So now a man who should not- cannot- exist, somehow does. That is the Paradox, and Paradoxes are impossible. And the man who has created it, is Tim Travers. A reclusive mad scientist whose stated mission in life is to stand alone with God at the end of time and tell the bastard off. In the course of his adventure, Tim Travers will take on the mercenary gang whose stolen plutonium powers his machine, challenge an Alex Jones-esk podcast er to a battle of wits, create a black hole, meet the one woman alive crazier than him, clone himself, destroy the universe, Make a new one, and maybe- Just Maybe- learn to love himself at last.

Locations for filming: Spokane

Reviews:

"A wild ride that consistently punches above its weight" The Mercury News

"Most sci-fi could only hope to kill so many doubles with such verve" The Seattle Times

Notable:

Tim Travers has been celebrated as an independent film success winning awards at the Cinequest San Jose Film Festival (Best Feature Comedy) and Phoenix International Horror & Sci-Fi Film Festival (Best Sci Fi Feature) as well as being nominated for a Golden Raven at the Brussels International Festival of Fantasy Film. It also played at seven additional film festivals including the Seattle International Film Festival.

Spokane has long been a supporter of independent film in part because of its ability to help train emerging talent on these lower budget film sets. Spokane resident Jason McKee is a product of that environment as he

came up through the ranks over the years. "I started as a PA and I've worked my way up and now I am directing and editing and doing visual effects. I have my own company, Modefx, because of it," said McKee. "We would not have that without low budget to medium budget filmmaking, it allows the people from the ground level to rise through the ranks and continue to make future projects and employ other people."

The commitment to both studio and independent projects has helped Spokane emerge as one of two production centers in Washington State. Director Stimson Snead remarked to Washington Filmworks on set, "We are doing a film that for all rights should be a 35-day shoot and we are doing it in just 16 days, and incredibly we are on budget and schedule. I have spent this entire production process in shock at the speed at which they get stuff together, the efficiency of it. I am not here to help them; I am here because they are helping me."

Tim Travers - Behind the Scenes Video

Title: True to Nature (Commercial)

Official Website

Filming Dates: September 16, 2024 - September 20, 2024

Where to See: NA

Locations: Bainbridge Island, Chimacum, Coupeville, Langley, Mt. Vernon, Poulsbo, Port Townsend, Sedro-Wooley, Suquamish,

Synopsis:

True to Nature is a campaign for State of Washington Tourism aimed at attracting out of market tourism into under visited areas in the state.

Notable:

Produced by Seattle based production company Wondercamp, this project received a bronze Adrian Award honoring excellence in travel marketing.

This project took advantage of the rural enhanced incentive with 80% of their principal photography days taking place in Island, Jefferson, Kitsap and Skagit counties.

True to Nature - Behind the Scenes

Small Budget Production Initiative

Title: Inheritance (feature film)

Official Website

Filming Dates: October 4, 2023 - October 29, 2023

Location: Bainbridge Island

Synopsis:

Estranged sisters Lucy and Paige reunite to bury their father, becoming entangled in the complicated web of their past as they realize that they have inherited more from their father than just money.

Reviews:

“An authentic indie drama that tackles the messy realities of family, betrayal, and redemption” — Film Threat

“A powerful narrative that delves into the core of human relationships and emotional resilience” — Overly Honest Reviews

Notable:

Director, producer, writer Rachel Noll James joined Washington Filmworks at their Annual Industry Update in 2023 to talk about the SBPI. “It’s the first time I’ve applied for a program like the SBPI here – or anywhere actually – for a feature film. It was really wonderful to get not only the financial support but then the connection with Washington Filmworks. The support I felt from this new community that I’ve been joining as an artist in Bainbridge AND THEN having that extra money. The funding just gave us a little bit more breath to bring on that extra crew person or to make sure we had that extra week of post to really make the film be what it needs to be. I think it’s a fantastic program.”

The film has played at 6 film festivals in the United States and won the Skallywag Award for Best Narrative Film at the Lake Charles Film Festival and also won the Audience Choice Award at the Poulsbo Film Festival.

Title: Bottlecap (short film)

Official Website: NA

Filming Dates: September 20, 2023 - September 21, 2023

Synopsis:

Bottlecap A dedicated teacher finds herself entwined in the lives of two of her students with life altering results.

Locations: Gold Bar

Notable:

A veteran script supervisor in Hollywood, Barbara Brown needed something to do during the union strikes of 2023/2024 and discovered the script for Bottlecap when participating in the Cascadia International Film Festival in Bellingham, Washington. At a Washington Filmworks event, she told us about the journey of making the film: “I was going crazy when we had two strikes going on in Hollywood, so none of us were really working. And I just needed to do something creative. And so, the Bottlecap story stuck in my head, and I just thought, well, life is a risk and I'm just going to produce and write and direct this myself. I have really fallen in love with shorts. I'm used to telling stories in a longer format, so it was a challenge, but it was a good one.”

Bottlecap played at several national and international film festivals including:

Official Selection, Korea International Short Film Festival

Official Selection, The Women’s Film Festival

Official Selection, International New York Film Festival

Official Selection, Manhattan Film Festival

Official Selection, Post Alley Film Festival

Between July 2023 and June 2024, Washington Filmworks approved an additional two feature films, 213 Bones and Train Dreams as well as two commercials. Because these productions had not yet finished with the completion package review process, the descriptive statistics and additional information is not included in this report.

Descriptive statistics

Certified and complete statistics

Attached as Appendix A are summary descriptive statistics for all productions that have been approved for funding assistance, completed principal photography, and been reviewed by Washington Filmworks through

June 30, 2024.

Projects surveys

In order to recognize the accountability and effectiveness of tax policy, the Legislature requires that each qualified production approved for funding assistance submit a survey detailing the economic impact of the production. In cases where the qualified production submitted a post-production completion package, a second survey was submitted. Attached as Appendix A are summary descriptive statistics for all productions that have been approved for funding assistance, completed principal photography, and have been reviewed by Washington Filmworks through June 30, 2023. Below is a list of projects by fiscal year that have submitted surveys, and the following are definitions for terms referenced in the project list:

- **Feature** refers to a feature film.
- **Commercial** refers to a commercial advertisement.
- **MOW** refers to a Movie of the Week/episodic series.
- **Episodic** refers to a series for television or streaming media that consists of a season of episodes.
- **Post** refers to the post-production survey to capture post-production expenditures.
- **Innovation Lab Project** refers to projects approved through the Filmworks Innovation Lab program.
- **SBPI** refers to projects approved through the Small Budget Production Initiative
- **Short** refers to a single project with a running time of less than 40 minutes

Projects by fiscal year

2007

Project name	Project type
“The Holidays”	Feature
Lipitor	Commercial

2008

Project name	Project type
“Diamond Dog”	Feature
“Little Dizzle”	Feature

Project name	Project type
Mervyn's	Commercial
"Letter to Bill Gates"	MOW
"The Golden Door"	Feature
"True Adolescents"	MOW
"Travelling"	Feature
WA Lottery Tumbling	Commercial

2009

Project name	Project type
"Finding Bliss"	Feature
"Alicia's Book"	Feature
"Norman"	Feature
"The Whole Truth"	Feature
"World's Greatest Dad"	Feature Commit/Commercial
"Dear Lemon Lima"	MOW
"Give 'Em Hell, Malone"	Feature
Hyundai	Commercial
Mervyn's LP	Commercial
"Oy Vey My Son Is Gay"	Feature
BECU	Commercial
"Wrong Turn at Tahoe"	Feature

Project name	Project type
WA Lottery Frisbee	Commercial
“The Whole Truth”	Feature

2010

Project name	Project type
Banner Bank	Commercial
“$5 Cover”	Feature
Target	Commercial
“The Ward”	Feature
Campbell’s	Commercial
Chevrolet	Commercial
“The Details”	Feature
“The Joneses”	Feature
“The Big Bang”	Feature
MS in Store	Commercial
MS Sherlock	Commercial
Xbox360 Lips	Commercial
“The Hit List”	Feature
Coors	Commercial
“Late Autumn”	Feature
Catch 22	Commercial

2011

Project name	Project type
MS Natal	Commercial
“Knights of Badassdom”	Feature
Toyota Running Footage	Commercial
Evergreen	Commercial
“Grassroots”	Feature
“The River Sorrow”	Feature
Xbox	Commercial
Bank of America	Commercial
WA Lottery Celebration	Commercial
Chevy Silverado	Commercial
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance	Commercial
Bridgestone	Commercial
Ben Bridge	Commercial
Green Squirrel	Commercial
“Camilla Dickinson”	Feature
Navy Spirit Lake	Commercial
Chevy Crossroads	Commercial
WA Lottery Beneficiary	Commercial
WA Lottery How to Play	Commercial
WA Lottery Joust	Commercial

Project name	Project type
“Thunderballs”	MOW
Xbox Play	Commercial

2012

Project name	Project type
“Safety Not Guaranteed”	Feature
Humira	Commercial
Cathay Pacific	Commercial
MS Xbox Kinect	Commercial
“Fat Kid Rules the World”	Feature
“21 and Over”	Feature
“Mine Games”	Feature
“Eden”	Feature
Xbox 360 (042012)	Commercial
“Safety Not Guaranteed”	Feature
Humira	Commercial
Cathay Pacific	Commercial
MS Xbox Kinect	Commercial

2013

Project name	Project type
“You Can’t Win”	Feature
“Touchy Feely”	Feature
“One Square Mile”	Feature
Ford Summer Sales Event	Commercial
Xbox (062012)	Commercial
99 Tigers	Commercial
“Admissions”	Feature
Glad	Commercial
Bank of America	Commercial
“A Bit of Bad Luck”	Feature
“Deep Burial”	Feature
“Lucky Them”	Feature
Green Mountain Coffee	Commercial
American Family Insurance	Commercial
“One Square Mile”	Post

2014

Project name	Project type
“Different Drummers”, Prod/Post	Feature
“Laggies”, Prod/Post	Feature

Project name	Project type
“Seven Minutes”, Prod/Post	Feature
“The Architect”	Feature
“West of Redemption”	Feature
KIA	Commercial
Sugar Plum	Commercial
WA Lottery (Royale)	Commercial
Samsung	Commercial
WA Healthplan Finder	Commercial
“The Maury Island Incident”	Innovation Lab Project
“Touchy Feely”	Post
“A Bit of Bad Luck”	Post
“You Can’t Win”	Post
“Deep Burial”	Post

2015

Project name	Project type
“Z Nation,” Season Episodes 1-13	Episodic
“Captain Fantastic”	Feature
Toyota Running Footage	Commercial
Alaska Airlines	Commercial
JP Morgan-Chase	Commercial

Project name	Project type
Subaru	Commercial
“The Architect”	Post
“Box Walk”	Innovation Lab Project
“Rocket Men”	Innovation Lab Project

2016

Project name	Project type
Nissan	Commercial
Bank of America	Commercial
Ford	Commercial
“Z Nation,” Season 2 Episodes 1-15	Episodic
“Rancho Rosa”	Episodic
“West of Redemption”	Feature Post
“Salish Seas”	Innovation Lab Project
“Salish Seas”	Innovation Lab Project Post
“War Room”	Innovation Lab Project
“Strowlers”	Innovation Lab Project
“Automata”	Innovation Lab Project

2017

Project name	Project type
“Z Nation,” Season 3 Episodes 1-15	Episodic
“Polae”	Innovation Lab Project
“Wallflower”	Innovation Lab Project
“This Brute Land Virginia”	Innovation Lab Project

2018

Project name	Project type
“Z Nation,” Season 4 Episodes 1-13	Episodic
“Tabitha Witch of the Order”	Innovation Lab Project
Untitled “Grey’s Anatomy” Spinoff	Episodic

2019

Project name	Project type
“Z Nation,” Season 5 Episodes 1-13	Episodic
“Language Arts”	Feature

2020

“East of the Mountains”	Feature
“Home Sweet Home”	Feature
“Three Busy Debras,” Season 1 Episodes 1-6	Episodic
“All Those Small Things”	Feature

“East of the Mountains”	Feature
“Language Arts”	Post Production

2021

Project name	Project type
“All Those Small Things”	Post Production

2022

Project name	Project type
“Boon”	Feature
“Three Busy Debras,” Season 2 Episodes 1-10	Episodic
“Midday Black Midnight Blue”	Feature
“Year of the Fox”	Feature (Partial) †
“Going Home” Season 1 Episodes 1-6	Episodic

2023

Project name	Project type
“Dreamin’ Wild”	Feature
“Penelope” Episode 1	Episodic
“Year of the Fox”	Feature (Part 2 of 2)

2024

Project name	Project type
“Penelope” Episodes 2	8 Episodic

Project name	Project type
“Tim Travers and the Time Travelling Paradox”	Feature
“Going Home Season 2” Episodes 1-6	Episodic
“True to Nature”	Commercial
“Model Year Product Release CFMoto”	Commercial
“Inheritance”	SBPI Feature
“Bottlecap”	SBPI Short

† This survey encompasses only Fiscal Year 2022 project expenses. The balance of the project was reported in Fiscal Year 2023.

Appendix A: Summary descriptive statistics

Appendix A includes summary descriptive statistics for all productions that have been approved for funding assistance, completed principal photography, and been reviewed by Washington Filmworks through June 30, 2024.

Summary descriptive statistics 2007 - 2013

Category	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Projects That Have Completed Principal Photography and Completion Packages Have Been Reviewed	2	8	14	16	22	9	14
Verified Total Qualified Spend Per Review	$1,047,031	$6,704,051	$15,808,957	$18,387,627	$13,465,933	$10,899,713	$9,435,555
Total Funds Distributed	$203,665	$1,337,810	$3,205,607	$5,516,288	$3,992,689	$3,119,780	$2,570,383
Total Washington Hires	94	1,162	2,590	1,804	2,048	1,868	1,470
Total Non-Washington Hires	40	141	575	311	332	250	229

Salary range totals for Washington residents

Category	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Up to $30,000; starting 2013, up to $15 per hour	93	493	364	843	211	223	765
From $30,000 to $60,000; starting 2013, from $15 to $30 per hour	1	54	412	488	512	354	287
Over $60,000; starting 2013, over $30 per hour	0	145	270	209	316	221	418

Benefits jobs

Category	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Up to $30,000	46	315	138	2	52	160	126
From $30,000 to $60,000	1	41	324	155	244	247	278
Over $60,000	0	138	111	85	182	221	360

Summary descriptive statistics 2014 - 2020

Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Projects That Have Completed Principal Photography and Completion Packages Have Been Reviewed	11	8*	9**	4***	3****	2†	
Verified Total Qualified Spend Per Review	$9,688,254	$11,109,475	$12,450,689	$8,689,410	$7,600,534	$8,857,697	4††
Total Funds Distributed	$2,649,530	$3,366,665	$3,366,763	$2,943,560	$2,572,400	$2,999,472	$6,290,396
Total Washington Hires	1,294	2,491	2,696	2,025	1,806	2054	$1,977,847
Total Non-Washington Hires	211	429	748	542	530	663	859

Salary range totals for Washington residents

Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Up to $30,000; starting 2013, up to $15 per hour	619	1,023	963	722	340	577	272
From $30,000 to $60,000; starting 2013, from $15 to $30 per hour	270	831	995	726	513	519	353
Over $60,000; starting 2013, over $30 per hour	240	637	738	577	953	958	234

Benefits jobs

Category	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Up to $30,000	118	60	17	3	10	1	9
From $30,000 to $60,000	256	744	755	654	289	277	139
Over $60,000	378	500	668	549	936	927	225

* For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Z Nation” Season 1 with 13 individual episodes as one project.

** For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Z Nation” Season 2 with 15 individual episodes as one project.

*** For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Z Nation” Season 3 with 15 individual episodes as one project.

**** For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Z Nation” Season 4 with 13 individual episodes as one project.

† For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Z Nation” Season 5 with 13 individual episodes as one project.

†† For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Three Busy Debras” Season 1 with 6 individual episodes as one project

Summary descriptive statistics 2021 - 2024

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Totals
Projects That Have Completed Principal Photography and Completion Packages Have Been Reviewed	0	5†††	2††††	6	139
Verified Total Qualified Spend Per Review	$116,212	$11,428,202	$8,449,173	$7,808,259	$168,237,168
Total Funds Distributed	$31,241	$3,751,735	$2,561,020	$2,727,807	$48,894,262
Total Washington Hires	4	1,676	921	1,034	27,896
Total Non-Washington Hires	0	196	183	242	5,748

Salary range totals for Washington residents

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Totals
Up to $30,000; starting 2013, up to $15 per hour	0	31	44	20	7,603
From $30,000 to $60,000; starting 2013, from $15 to $30 per hour	0	575	589	283	7,742
Over $60,000; starting 2013, over $30 per hour	4	1070	308	731	8,029

Benefits jobs

Category	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	Totals
Up to $30,000	0	4	3	2	1,066
From $30,000 to $60,000	0	156	52	30	4,642
Over $60,000	4	1020	250	669	7,223

††† For reporting practices, Washington Filmworks counts “Three Busy Debras” Season 2 with 10 individual episodes as one project and “Going Home Season 1” with 6 individual episodes as one project.

†††† Penelope is being counted as one project but had 8 episodes across two reporting periods.