



**Minnesota Film and TV Board**  
FY2012 ACHF Grant Report  
**Contracts 37842/300-489 SB and 411/300-786**  
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**Minnesota Film and TV** is a 501(c)3 public-private partnership governed by a board of directors comprised of professionals from the Minnesota business community. Since 1983 our office has functioned as Minnesota's film commission. Our mission is to advance Minnesota's economy and enhance its robust cultural environment by promoting and supporting the state's production industry.

During the 87<sup>th</sup> legislative session Minnesota Film and TV was allocated \$1,000,000 for FY12 and FY13 from the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, MN Laws, 2011, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Articles 4 and 5. The appropriation of \$500,000 in FY2012 and \$500,000 in FY2013 is for grants to Minnesota residents to create film or television productions that promote Minnesota's cultural heritage and for the film production jobs program (Snowbate) under Minnesota statutes, section 116U.26. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2015.

This is our organization's first Legacy allocation, so the first half of FY2012 was spent developing filmmaker grants that maximize the positive impact of the allocated dollars

as defined by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Principles and Outcomes. Minnesota Film and TV is pleased to provide the following year-end report on the two programs funded by this generous allocation.

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**The Minnesota Film Production Jobs (Snowbate) Program**  
**Contract 37842/300-489**  
**\$300,000 in funding for the contract period (7/1/11-6/30/12)**

Snowbate is a reimbursement of up to 20% of qualifying Minnesota production costs available to producers of Feature Films, Television Pilots, Documentaries, Post Production and Internet programs for those categories of production. The program is designed to stimulate and support film and TV production in Minnesota, with the highest percentage of reimbursement (20%) reserved for productions that most closely align with ACHF Guidelines and Principles.

**FTEs and Costs**

MN Film and TV staff FTEs for contract period (7/1/11 -6/30/12)	0.37
Actual direct support cost for contract period	\$15,975
Office of Grants Management Fiscal Agency Fee	\$3,000

**Measurable Outcomes**

The Snowbate Program's impact and outcomes are based on data tracking of the total number of projects reimbursed and the total number of full-time equivalent jobs created (calculated using the Legacy reporting formula) in the project period. We also track the total production dollars spent by Snowbate incentive recipients in Minnesota.

Four projects were certified by the Snowbate program during fiscal year 2012. As of July 1, 2012 only one of those projects has been completed and has received Snowbate reimbursement. The remaining three projects are currently in process.

**Summary of All Applications**

Total Certified Project Applications through 6/30/12:	4
Total Projects denied/withdrawn through 6/30/12:	0
Total Reimbursed Projects through 6/30/12:	1
Total Projects in Process/Pending through 6/30/12	3

## **Breakdown of Certified Projects by category through 6/30/12**

Feature Films 1  
*Death to Prom*: Rene and Frankie, two best friends, make the best of going to high school by dreaming up high-fashion photo shoots and bribing their siblings to model for them. Rene loves his fashion magazines and designing clothes. Frankie lives for her camera and punk rock. The drama they dream up in their fashion shoots becomes very real when they end up fighting over their classmate Sasha, a shy soccer player with a soft spot for poems by Pushkin. *Death to Prom* (a McKnight Screenwriting Fellowship & Francis Ford Coppola's Zoetrope Screenplay Competition Finalist) is a bizarre love triangle loaded with enough glamour and attitude for "Project Runway" & Vogue, but with enough heart to make Molly Ringwald bite her lip with anticipation.

TV Pilots 1  
*America Unearthed*: America is a burial ground for ancient secrets. Ancient symbols, religious relics, cryptic messages and a plethora of unexplained artifacts and sites suggest cultures from around the world left their mark on what is now U.S. soil – long before the official "discovery" of the New World. Scientist Scott Wolter insists there's a lot we don't know about our distant past and a lot that some have gone to great lengths to cover up.

Documentaries 1  
*Twilight Tear*: Tucked away in a small airplane hangar in Granite Falls, sits a piece of American history, the "Twilight Tear." This documentary taps into the Herculean efforts of "warbird" enthusiasts who devote their lives to lovingly restoring the aircraft of WWII.

Post Production 1  
*The Flightline* is a fast moving 30-minute aviation magazine TV show that brings the viewer into the cockpits of some of the world's greatest aircraft.

Internet: 0

## **Total FTEs and MN Production Dollars Spent 7/1/11 to 6/30/12**

Snowbate Project FTEs to date*	.20
*Completed and Reimbursed Projects Only	
Cost per job (Total reimbursement divided by FTE)	\$8,556
Production \$ spent in MN by reimbursed projects through 6/30/12:	\$85,568
Pending MN production \$ by projects in process:	\$781,899
Total Production Expenditures in MN:	\$867,467

## **Film Production Jobs (Snowbate) Fund Expenditures from 7/1/11 to 6/30/12**

Total Project Reimbursement	\$17,113
Total Direct Support	\$15,976
Total State Funds Expended*	\$36,089
*(Project reimbursement, direct support, OGM fee)	
Total Pending Project Reimbursement	\$156,380

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**The Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Program**  
**Contract 41132/300-786**  
**\$200,000 in funding for the contract period (7/1/11-6/30/12)**

The Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Fund is a competitive grant program established to support Minnesota filmmakers in the creation, production and post-production of film and television projects that illuminate Minnesota's cultural heritage.

In February 2012, the Minnesota Film and Television Board put out a statewide request for proposals (RFP) for the inaugural funding cycle of the Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Fund. By the March 30, 2012 deadline, the Minnesota Film and Television Board received 25 project applications from across the state (list of projects attached).

Proposals were reviewed on April 20, 2012 by a volunteer panel of industry professionals representing film and television programs at educational institutions, foundations, private businesses and advocacy organizations from around the state. Members of this grant cycle's panel included:

**Patrick Coyle**

Patrick Coyle is a Minneapolis filmmaker, playwright and actor. His two award-winning feature films were shot in the Twin Cities. He is developing a new project that he plans to shoot in Minnesota in the spring of 2013.

**Kathy Ferrey**

Kathy Ferrey has worked in film and video production for sixteen years. Her career began in Vancouver, BC where she primarily worked on features and television series. In 2002, she moved to the Twin Cities and began working on commercials and corporate videos but continued producing Independent Features. She spent a year at Twin Cities Public Television as the Series Producer for a PBS Kids television show. Kathy is a founding member of Minnesota Women in Film and Television and a current Board Member of MN AICP.

**Robin Hickman**

Robin Hickman is CEO and Executive Producer of SoulTouch Productions. Her media career spans 30 years in television, film and radio. Her film work includes HBO Productions *Half Past Autumn*, *The Life and Work of Gordon Parks*, and mini-series *Laurel Ave*. She worked for many years in public television production, programming and community outreach.

**Craig Rice**

Craig Laurence Rice is an entertainment executive, with a distinguished career in television, film, theater and music, an educator and an award-winning producer and director. In addition to his extensive work in the arts he has served on over a dozen not-for profit boards including, IPF/MN, Minnesota Film and TV Board, Minnesota Independent School Forum and Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Barbara Wiener

Barbara Wiener has been working as a filmmaker for 27 years. Her cultural documentary and arts films have traveled the world and garnered 6 Emmy awards, A Cine Golden Eagle, a Robert Bennett AFI award and a trip to the Sundance Film Festival. She is a founder, executive director and mentor of TVbyGIRLS. She teaches in the new film department at the Arts Institute International and most recently has been working with the MPR storycraft workshop to experiment with film and live storytelling.

### **Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Fund Cycle One Awards**

The review panel selected four projects by Minnesota filmmakers to receive grant funds.

*Betty Wall: Girls Don't Fly* Steve Cloutier \$10,000

In 1942 the U.S. military sent out a call asking women to apply for flight training. The object was to use women in the non-combat positions filled by men who were needed in the war. Minnesotan Betty Wall jumped at the chance, as did 25,000 others. She was ultimately among the chosen few who earned their wings as a Women's Air Force Service Pilot (WASP).

*Bahamian Son* Reginald Henderson \$50,000

*Bahamian Son* is an independent feature film based on true events from the life of Minnesota writer Reggie Henderson. The film follows Kevin as he sets out to find his father, a man he hasn't seen in more than thirty years. During his journey, he examines his own life, the family he has built, and his childhood growing up in the projects of North Minneapolis. When Kevin does finally track down his father in the Bahamas, he decides to follow through and meet him face to face. What transpires is less than fairytale. As Kevin unearths his own complicated heritage, everything in his life is tested-his loyalty to his family, his understanding of his own identity, and his personal values as a man.

*Red Barn Inc. vs. Dinkytown, USA* Al Milgrom \$21,000

It was one of the biggest anti-war demonstrations in Minnesota history, this story of the two-month occupation of the Dinkytown neighborhood at the edge of the University of Minnesota campus, from March through May 1970. With the Vietnam War in full swing, longtime national student unrest was erupting. In Minneapolis, long simmering protests over the war overlapped with plans of a national food chain, The Red Barn System, Inc., to move into and remake this area into a shopping center where already its residents claimed there were enough hamburger joints. It was Vietnam all over again, many said, but in a different way

*American Heart* Chris Newberry \$40,000

A primary care clinic in St. Paul becomes a crossroads for perseverant refugees and their devoted doctors. In *American Heart*, we get an intimate look at the failing health and remarkable lives of Lem Thor, a former political prisoner from Cambodia; Patrick Junior, a member of an embattled ethnic minority in Burma; and Alex Gliptis, an Ethiopian refugee suffering from PTSD, diabetes and HIV. The healthcare challenges they face are daunting, made more complicated by the trauma they carry from the past.

Throughout the course of the film, they all face life-threatening health emergencies, and their trajectories prove surprising even to their doctors.

**FTEs and Costs**

MN Film and TV staff FTEs for contract period (7/1/11 -6/30/12)	0.46
(Project FTEs will be measured when projects are completed)	
Actual direct support cost for contract period	\$28,821
Office of Grants Management Fiscal Agency Fee	\$2,000

**Measurable Outcomes**

The Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Grant Program’s outcomes are measured based on data tracking of the total number of projects awarded grants during the contract period and the total number of full-time equivalent jobs created (calculated using the Legacy reporting formula) by those projects. We will also tracking the total production/post production dollars spent by the awarded projects and the estimated Minnesota audience numbers and viewing opportunities in the contract period. Each grantee is required to have a midpoint check-in with the Minnesota Film and Television Board later this fall to review progress benchmarks and expenditures for their projects to date.

**Minnesota Filmmakers Legacy Fund Total Expenditures 7/1/11-6/30/12**

Total Project Reimbursement*	\$60,500
*Grantees received 50% of award up front. Remaining funds will be paid upon project completion.	
Total Direct Support	\$28,822
Total State Funds Expended	\$91,322
(Project reimbursement, direct support, OGM fee)	
Total Pending Project Reimbursement	\$60,500