

SELECTION PROCESSES

The programming process at California's American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival (CAIIFF) is an involved and challenging one, and we wish to share with submitting artists that many factors are considered when selecting works. Decisions are made by consensus, with considerable thought and discussion during programming deliberations. All programming decisions are confidential as we receive hundreds of submissions and the process of accepting and declining works is a necessary, but emotional, experience for everyone involved. If a film is not programmed, it is not a comment on individual achievements, nor does it reflect the artistic value of the work. Outside of our eligibility terms, artistic and programming policies, the programming process also includes considerations such as available programming slots, scheduling, thematic arcs, and representing the diversity of artistic and cultural perspectives from American Indian and Indigenous nations around the world.

CAIIFF is committed to a fair and democratic selection process. All works that meet eligibility requirements detailed in our submission process are considered, short-listed, and selected by the Programming Team's Selection Committee (Programmers). The Selection Committee for CAIIFF works with Programming Advisors who provide additional perspectives on individual titles as requested by the Programmers.

Priority is given to works that have not yet been broadcast in Southern California. International, United States, and California premiere status is also a consideration; however, as the American Indian and Indigenous film industry grows, Indigenous film makers are becoming more prominent and premiering at mainstream festivals such as Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival and imagineNATIVE, CAIIFF has unique audiences for American Indian and Indigenous filmmakers, therefore works should not be excluded from CAIIFF based on premiere status.

Selection of award winners are determined by individual jury members. Juries consist of industry and community peers and are majority American Indian and Indigenous representation; these independent juries choose winners for the Festival's annual awards. CAIIFF's Jury Guidelines state: "We especially support works that are innovative in form and content – ones that are creating a new aesthetic language and that contain new ways of telling stories, specifically from an American Indian and Indigenous perspective."