

1. WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FILM COMMISSION/FILM, ANIMATION AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT?

- **Facilitate and Advise on Film Production**
 - Process film registration applications
 - Submit bond waiver applications on behalf of local and international companies importing equipment temporarily and Productive Input Relief (PIR) requests for local companies importing equipment permanently.
 - Support applications for work permits and work permit exemptions, as well as applications for licenses, permits and exemptions for regulated/restricted/banned items (such as firearms, explosives, animals, aerosols, motor vehicles, drones, fresh foods and meats).
 - Accelerate applications for special permits for the use of public roads, underwater photography and other distinct arrangements by liaising between government entities and production project leaders.
 - Assist local and international productions that require unique forms of facilitation with government entities.
 - Collect and provide contact information for local production companies, managers, coordinators, and other audio-visual production professionals, as well as equipment rental houses, customs brokers, transportation providers, caterers, hotels, security services and other vendors.
- **Promote Jamaica as a Filming Business Location**
 - Maintain a locations gallery.
 - Represent Jamaica at international festivals, trade shows and content markets to promote Jamaica as a premier location for filming and to position business linkages for Jamaican industry participants.
 - Attend and promote film events in Jamaica and arrange consultation and development meetings that enable eligible local practitioners to advance their businesses. Eligibility is determined based on significance of potential impact on the primary dimensions of the Film Commission's mandate.
- **Facilitate Export and Investment Opportunities in Priority Sectors**
 - Coordinate with government ministries to pursue, establish and implement bilateral trade agreements (i.e. co-production treaties) across the global film industry, so as to provide increased opportunities for



funding to the local industry.

- Circulate regional and international export and investment opportunities to local industry stakeholders.
- Arrange meetings with select international and local stakeholders where viable trade, partnerships, or business opportunities are identified.
- Pursue investor progression for eligible international projects that will result in employment of Jamaicans in the film industry.
- **Advance Sector Development Initiatives in Priority Sectors**
 - Advance sector development opportunities (e.g. JAFTA Propella, Film Lab, BOSS Programme) which facilitate business matchmaking and access to market and distribution avenues for film and animation.
 - Engage directly with film and animation industry associations to support their development and sustainability.
- **Advocate for Film, Animation, Music priority sectors**
 - Advocate for funding, incentives, and policies to support the business environment and the development of local creative industries.
 - Participate in national and regional creative industry policy-development consultations and research

2. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FILM COMMISSIONER?

The Film Commissioner directs the activities and leads the team of the Film Commission and the Film, Animation and Music Dept at JAMPRO. The Film Commissioner is responsible for:

- Serving as an advocate for the film industry to government ministries, departments and agencies, private sector companies, and local and international production

companies. This includes advocating for incentives, funding, and other national support mechanisms. As well as, maintaining international networks to advance trade opportunities, treaties, grants, and market attendance within the global film industry.

- Representing a national presence at film festivals, trade markets, and industry conferences in order to promote the island as a premier location for film business, and represent Jamaica as a regional knowledge leader in the film industry.

3. WHAT ARE THE CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES?

UNESCO defines cultural and creative industries as “sectors of organised activity whose principal purpose is the production or reproduction, promotion, distribution and/or commercialisation of goods, services and activities of a cultural, artistic or heritage-related nature.” This approach emphasizes more than just the industrially made products of human creativity, it makes relevant the entire productive chain, as well as the specific functions of each sector involved in bringing these creations to the public.

As a whole, this includes music, craft, cuisine, fashion, fine arts, publishing, film and video, advertising, architecture, and a host of other sectors. At JAMPRO, we are mandated to drive economic development through growth in investment and exports, in the national priority sectors of film, animation, and music.

4. WHAT SERVICES ARE NOT PROVIDED BY THE FILM, ANIMATION AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT?

We **DO NOT**:

- provide script consultation services or feedback on your film
- match individual writers, producers, or filmmakers to each other or to private investors or financiers
- provide training for creative or technical practitioners in entrepreneurship or business management. We recommend you seek training through the educational institutions, industry associations, or business development agencies.
- provide unique responses for individual requests for research or opinions, however we may point you to industry reports, published documentation, or other sources for public data; or conduct presentation or speaking engagements to the requesting institutions or companies
- host, plan, or fund screenings of your film
- fund your attendance at film festivals or industry trade markets
- fund your film, or sponsor private events

- replace any local private service provider who you may need to hire in order to conduct your business

5. WHAT INCENTIVES DOES THE GOVERNMENT OFFER FOR LOCAL PRODUCTIONS?

Registered companies in the Film, Animation and Music Sectors can benefit from the following national incentives under the Fiscal Incentive Act:

- **Employment Tax Credit (ETC)**, which reduces Corporate Income Tax liability. ETC provides for a maximum of 30 percent credit for local companies' Pay As You Earn (PAYE) obligations, which can reduce income tax liability to as low as 17.5 percent. Local companies registered on the Entertainment Registry are allowed to deduct ETC when determining their taxable income. Please consult a tax specialist or the Tax Authority of Jamaica (TAJ) for details.
- **Capital Allowances** cover, among other things, a broadened definition of 'industrial buildings'. Please consult a tax specialist or the Tax Authority of Jamaica (TAJ) for details.
- **Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs)**, which govern the levying of taxes, by two or more jurisdictions, on the same asset or income. In order to most effectively benefit from a DTAA, we recommend hiring a specialist in international taxation, as this can be a complicated process. The list of existing double taxation avoidance agreements is posted on TAJ's website.
- **Productive Input Relief (PIR)** that allows the musicians and film-makers to import industry-related items, where they are registered under the Entertainment Registry, which is managed by the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. Forms can be requested and submitted via email to the Entertainment Division at the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport. Request and return via email at registry@mcges.gov.jm Once registered the companies will be required to pay the Customs fees and the Additional Stamp Duty (ASD), but import duty is waived when equipment/tools of trade are purchased for productive use

This is done through registration on the Entertainment Registry.

6. HOW DO I GET STARTED TO SHOOT MY FILM?

The first step in this process is to register your film with the Film Commission. The film registration application may be completed and submitted online at <http://filmjamaica.com/forms/film-registration>.

The registration fee is waived for local production companies that are registered with the Entertainment Registry of the Ministry with portfolio responsibility for Entertainment.

You will be required to provide:

- A synopsis of the project
- Company profile
- Proof of Insurance
- Crew List
- A list of potential locations and any special permits required
- Date and port of entry for any equipment arriving on the island

7. HOW DO I GET PERMITS TO CLEAR SPECIALIZED ITEMS TO ENTER THE COUNTRY AND/ OR TO USE SPECIALIZED ITEMS FOR PRODUCTION?



Drones / Radios

- An application will have to be made to the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) for drones only and the Spectrum Management Authority (SMA) for drones and radios.
- 5 business days is required by both the JCAA (includes the time needed to submit notices to air men i.e. NOTAM) and the SMA.
- The application may be submitted by your Production

Manager/Fixer and should include details of locations, altitude, day and time of operation and the specification (make model etc), and Class License for SMA.

- Please contact the following agencies for full application instructions:
 - Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority: Tel: 876-960-3948 or 876-960-3965; Email: info@jcaa.gov.jm
 - Spectrum Management Authority: Tel: 876-922-8884 or 876-967-7948; Email: info@sma.gov.jm

Firearms, Ammunition, and Fireworks

- The importation of firearms (real or imitation), ammunition including blanks, and fireworks are restricted and will require a special permit issued by the Ministry of National Security AND a Restricted Items Importation /Clearance Form. You must include this on the Film Registration form.
- The Film Commission can prepare a letter of endorsement, in relation to your production, making reference to the date, time frame of use and specific items to be imported. The letter and the form can then be submitted by your production manager to the Ministry of National Security along with supporting documentation which you will be asked to provide. The application processing time is at least ten (10) business days.

8. HOW DO I SEEK APPROVAL TO FILM IN PRIVATE OR PUBLIC LOCATIONS?

- Complete the film registration form and include all locations you will be using.
- Your production manager will need to liaise with all the relevant ministries, departments, agencies and private residence representatives to request approval for filming. The Film Commission will provide you with a registration letter and/or letter of support where needed to facilitate your requests.

9. I HAVE DEVELOPED CREATIVE CONTENT / CREATIVE CONTENT INFRASTRUCTURE / A CREATIVE CONTENT PLATFORM. HOW CAN THE FILM, ANIMATION AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT SUPPORT ME?

As part of the Film Commission's efforts to promote Jamaican content to the region and wider international markets, we develop a comprehensive catalogue of all local series, features, short films, documentaries and animated projects seeking financing for development and/or distribution. If you have developed or are developing local content which is investment-ready and commercially-viable, you can submit for possible inclusion in the national catalogue of local content. The

catalogue will be made publicly available to potential investors, funders, distributors and producers, but exhibition of content will be based on the nature of the promotional activity and subject to approval of the rights holder.

To be included in this catalogue, please [click here](#).

For the promotion of investment projects that are ready for promotion and implementation, JAMPRO requests that potential clients fill out the following form located at <http://www.jamaica-tradeandinvest.org/forms/submit-project>

Basic requirements:

- a. **A business plan** – support is provided by Jamaica Business Development Company
- b. **Proof of legal ownership of content** – support is provided by Jamaica Intellectual Property Office



- c. **If your application meets the requirements we will set up a meeting to discuss how best to create export and investment opportunities for your creative venture and/or to discuss the best way forward to attract investment and/or export content.** Examples of investment project opportunities in the film, animation, and music sectors that would be eligible may include the development of physical infrastructure studios, cinemas, recording spaces, or production expansions, as well as digital investments in distribution platforms etc.

10. DOES JAMAICA HAVE ANY CO-PRODUCTION TREATIES?

In 2007, Jamaica signed a co-production treaty with the United Kingdom, and we continue to be the only Anglophone Caribbean

country with whom the associated benefits are available. British producers working with Jamaican producers have access to incentives, new sources of joint project funding, and easier movement of production equipment and personnel across borders. Simultaneously, co-produced films qualify as national films, so Jamaican producers are able to take advantage of domestic fiscal benefits and other business opportunities for which they are uniquely positioned.

In particular, co-productions must demonstrate a minimum 20% financial contribution by the Jamaican co-producer to the full production budget. For an outline of the eligibility requirements and how producers can apply for co-production status, you can read the full co-production agreement between the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Jamaica [here](#).

11. WHAT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS EXIST FOR THE FILM, ANIMATION AND MUSIC INDUSTRIES?

- JAFTA – Jamaica Film and Television Association, Phone: 876-859 7590
- JANN – Jamaica Animation Nation Network, Phone: 876-467-1663
- JARIA – Jamaica Reggae Industry Association, Website: <http://www.jariajamaicamusic.com/contactus/>
- JFM – Jamaica Federation of Musicians, Phone: 876-926-8029 and 876-929-0485

12. WHAT SIGNATURE INITIATIVES ARE CURRENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE JAMPRO FILM, ANIMATION AND MUSIC DEPARTMENT TO SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRY PRACTITIONERS?

JAMPRO Propella

Since 2016 JAMPRO has partnered with the Jamaica Film and Television Association (JAFTA) and the CHASE Fund to deliver JAFTA PROPELLA, a script to screen programme which nurtures Jamaican content creators and enables them to tell and exhibit their stories cinematically by providing funding and in kind support. The funding is a J\$500,000 grant provided by the CHASE fund for production, and support is for the filmmakers' attendance at workshops in script writing, directing, producing and festival strategy, as well as the Trinidad and Tobago film festival – where the films are premiered – and the Clermont Ferrand Film Festival in France.

FilmLab JA

FilmLab JA is a 3-year signature program administered in partnership with JAMPRO, The British Council, and JAFTA. Year 1 was completed as a pilot in 2017. The initiative aims to increase the quality and quantity of investment-ready commercially-viable local content, resulting in export lead generation and ultimately financing and distribution contracts for local content. The key activations for 2018 include financing / distribution training and market attendance in the UK. Each cohort comprises 15 participants - screen editors, producers and directors, who will benefit from extensive training and have the opportunity to pitch and develop a feature film by the end of the 3 year program.

Business of Sustainability for Studios (BOSS) Programme

The BOSS Programme is an enterprise development initiative to groom production studios and creative entrepreneurs to grow their businesses into sustainable and profitable animation studios. This initiative was launched in 2016, as part of the Youth Employment in Digital and Animated Industries (YEDAI) project, under the Office of the Prime Minister and funded by the World Bank. JAMPRO is the implementing agency for the BOSS Programme. BOSS is a 'mini MBA' for creative executives which covers a broader set of business principles beyond the technical craft of animation. Key activations include professional development modules on scaling creative businesses as well as market attendance initiatives and investor preparedness initiatives.

For additional information on the Film Commission/Film, Animation and Music Department, please contact:

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