The path for animated short films

Short Way which is a training and networking strategy for Latin American artists is looking for animated short film projects with artistic value in order to promote and develop the artists participating in the call that normally don’t have access to markets because their art normally doesn’t receive funding from TV networks of film producers. This strategy includes a bootcamp in Mexico in early 2020 with at least 10 projects and the presentation of the best in Annecy Festival 2020.

The articulating mechanism of the strategy is a contest of animated short projects in which creators from Latin America can participate. The call will benefit original and artistic values that are normally neglected from the commercial networks and broadcasters, privileging artistic visions that have no support from television networks or film producers. The strategy includes a Bootcamp with at least 10 selected projects to be carried out in Mexico in early 2020, as well as the presentation of 1 winning project at the Annecy Festival 2020.

The ultimate goal of this program is that the winning project can be developed and produced, also having presentations of work in process and its premiere in Pixelatl 2021.


Key dates

- **Call Deadline:** December 18, 2019
- **Selected Projects Announcement:** January 20, 2020
- **Shortway Bootcamp (Mexico):** 10 - 13 March 2020
- **Winner presentation (France):** June 15-20, 2020

It is important to review the contest’s entire terms and conditions, as it may have elements that you should consider when participating.
Participation Basics

A. Participants and Enrollment

01. Projects of animated short film, developed by animators, illustrators, filmmakers, directors, screenwriters, producers, students or creatives, independently or as a team, may participate only if they are from creators of any country Latin America.

IMPORTANT: Even though the project can be created by several collaborators, the objective of the strategy is to help in the projection and networking of independent creators, so it will be the project manager who will receive the respective awards and supports. Projects from established studios will not be accepted.

02. Up to four different projects can be registered by the same participant. However, the number of submitted projects or the participant’s trajectory won’t be taken under account for the selection; the best projects will be chosen no matter who created them.

03. Those interested in participating need to pay a fee of $500 Mexican pesos, or $25 US Dollars for each project they register.

04. To register a project, artists must fill out properly and submit the form located in http://convocatoriaspixelatl.com/shortway, where they must include in the respective fields of basic data, argument (summary or synopsis) of up to two quarters, as well as the pitch bible of each project, and where they can make the respective payments.

- The “argument or synopsis” document must contain the descriptive summary of what will be shown on the screen, and may not exceed two pages.

- The pitch bible shall include at least: Project title, Logline, Brief synopsis (maximum ten lines), Data sheet (Animation technique, age range targeted, film genre, duration), director’s vision (maximum half page), Sketches and/or samples of the art of the short film and its characters

- Both the argument and the Pitch Bible must be in English and the documents in PDF format, and may not weigh more than 15 Megas, so that they can be reviewed by the international panel that will pick the projects for the bootcamp.

Important: No refunds are allowed after payment.

05. The registration deadline will be on Monday, December 18, 2019 at 23:59 Central Mexico Time (GMT-5). There won’t be any extensions.

B. Selected Projects and Shortway Bootcamp

06. An international panel will select at least 10 projects to participate at no cost in a Bootcamp: a four-day conference to be held at the middle of March with the participation of international artists, advisors, and mentors, who will review and provide feedback about the projects. At the end of the bootcamp, they will announce the finalist.

The event will also have some master classes taught by international advisors and will have no cost for a representative of each selected project.

07. No later than Monday, January 20, 2020, Pixelatl’s social networks will announce the selected projects for the Shortway Bootcamp.

- As mentioned, participation is completely free for one participant per project: it includes access to activities and advisory sessions, as well as accommodation during the event, 2 meals and 2 dinners (does not include drinks or transfers).
- If a project has two or more authors, they must choose one representative who will go to the Bootcamp. If any other author also wishes to participate, they may do so by covering a US$500 cost (including stay, meals, and access to activities). The author must write to info@pixelatl.com requesting his additional accreditation. This payment will not entitle you to submit a different project than the one selected.

08. Participation in the Bootcamp is essential to claim the first prize, since during the congress international advisors will pick the winning project.

C. The winning project

09. At the end of Bootcamp Shortway, the winning project of the contest will be announced. Once the announcement is made in person during the event, it will communicate through Pixelatl and Annecy’s social networks.

10. The winning project will participate in Animation Du Monde of the International Market of the Annecy 2020 Animation Festival, to be held from June 5th to 10th.
11. The purpose of the presentation in Animation Du Monde in Annecy, is to find partners for the production of the short film, among the pitch-goers, producers and/or studio owners, who will come specifically for it.

12. Also, the winning project will receive a trip to Mexico to participate as a guest at the Pixelatl Festival 2020, to showcase the project as work in process within the Forum of Shortway Bootcamp and in meetings with market producers.

13. In the case that there is a lack of quality in projects, the first place may be declared deserted. The jury’s decision will be final.

D. Additional considerations

14. All the development of the competition will be handled confidentially, but it is the responsibility of the authors of the projects, to protect their rights, the registration of their work before submitting it. In the case of Mexico, the process is very simple to be done at the National Copyright Institute: the data and requirements for obtaining registration can be found online at www.diacentro.com. In the case of international participants, it is important to have equivalent author’s registrations with the equivalent body in their respective country.

15. Shortway is an effort to give Latin American creators a new way to present themselves and their projects globally to producers and artists from the international animation industry community. Specifically, it seeks that the best projects can find partners to be realized, either in co-production figure and/or artistic residence of the creator in the studio in France, specifically during their presentation in the Animation du Monde section of the Annecy Festival, referred to in point 11.

However, participants understand and agree that neither Pixelatl nor Annecy Festival can guarantee that any of the producers decide to invest in the projects, and exclude both Pixelatl and Annecy Festival from any responsibility in this regard.

However, even if no production agreement was signed, we believe in the great value that this process brings, not only because of the training content and the marketing that is involved in both the Shortway Bootcamp and Animation du Monde, but above all for the networking possibilities that are involved and the international promotion for the creators.

16. If any of the finalist projects succeeds in obtaining a commercial agreement and is produced for display, the author agrees to include the on-screen credit to Shortway, Pixelatl and Annecy Festival.

17. Participation in the competition presupposes full acceptance of the rules, as well as all that is stated in this call. Failure to comply with any of the points will determine the immediate disqualification of the contestant.

18. Any situation not provided for in these bases, will be resolved by the organizers and informed to all participants by email.

For any questions or queries regarding this call, write to: info@pixelatl.com