



TELEVISION'S INDEPENDENT VOICE.

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CONTACT

Lisa Tawil, ITVS
Mary Lugo
Cara White

415-356-8383
770-623-8190
843-881-1480

lisa_tawil@itvs.org
lugo@negia.net
cara.white@mac.com

ITVS Announces Digital Open Call, a New Funding Initiative for independently-Produced Web Series for Public Media

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, MARCH 17, 2015 — Independent Television Service (ITVS) announced today at SXSW the launch of Digital Open Call, a new funding initiative for independent film and media makers designed to develop and pilot independently-produced web series for production funding and distribution on public media's digital platforms and beyond. Proposals submitted may include web series in any genre, nonfiction or fiction, episodic or anthology in structure, and may even incorporate interactive or immersive elements, such as those found in the final season of the ITVS series [FUTURESTATES](#) distributed last summer.

"We have worked with indie film and media makers to develop and co-produce numerous web series," said Karim Ahmad, Senior Digital Content Strategist at ITVS. "And now the digital space has become the critical place to engage younger viewers and viewers of color. ITVS, as stewards of diversity in public media, want to do so much more. We want to support makers of digital series who will invite those voices into the public discourse around current social issues with envelope-pushing, innovative, genre-bending stories designed specifically for online and mobile audiences."

Funded applicants will contract with ITVS to receive \$10,000 to \$50,000 in R&D funding to develop and pilot their web series over the course of a six-month term. Series pilots will then be considered for production funding, with an eye toward distribution on public media's digital channels, such as [PBS.org](#), *Independent Lens* platforms, PBS-related YouTube channels, and other digital partnerships currently in development.

The deadline to apply for Digital Open Call is **JULY 1, 2015**. More information about how to apply, and what ITVS is looking for, can be found at itvs.org/funding.

About ITVS

[Independent Television Service \(ITVS\)](#) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning documentaries on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series [Independent Lens](#) on Monday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. Mandated by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS has brought thousands of independently produced programs to American audiences. For more visit itvs.org.

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651 BRANNAN STREET, SUITE 410 / SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107 / T. 415 356 8383 F. 415 356 8391 / WWW.ITVS.ORG