



Submission Guidelines

Melbourne Planetarium February 3 - 4, 2024

How to participate in the festival

The *Dome Under Film Festival* (Festival) is the only fulldome film festival in Australia. It will showcase recent fulldome productions from around the world to an audience comprising planetarium professionals, fulldome filmmakers and the public. This Festival will be a celebration of the fulldome film format, and it will promote the medium to a wider audience. The Festival is independent and open to contributions from all around the world.

Filmmakers, producers and distributors may apply to present full-length feature shows or short films (including student works). All films entered into the Festival must have been completed on or after 1 January 2022 to be eligible for entry into the festival.

All eligible films submitted to Museums Victoria by the Submissions Close date will be considered and entries will be selected by Museums Victoria for screening at the Festival. A Pre-Selection Committee comprising at least three Museums Victoria employees will determine which films will be screened at the Festival and included into the Festival Competition. Without limiting the Pre-Selection Committee's discretion, in selecting films for screening at the Festival the Committee will take into account factors including educational value, quality of production, quality of narrative / screenwriting, and overall entertainment value.

A Festival Jury will also be appointed by Museums Victoria, which may comprise Museums Victoria staff, members of the planetarium / film industry and/or members of the public to consider the entries selected for the Festival and award the following prizes: Best Astronomy, Best Childrens, Best Narrative, Best Art and Best Short. Films that win a prize will also be screened at the Australasian Planetarium Society conference which is taking place in Bendigo on February 6-7, 2024.

The Dome Under Film Festival is a member of the International Cooperative of Fulldome Festivals (ICoFF). The ICoFF is made up of the *Jena Fulldome Festival* (Jena, Germany), *Fulldome UK* (Plymouth, England), *Dome Fest West* (Los Angeles, USA) and the *Dome Under Festival* (Melbourne, Australia). The ICoFF will present *The Best of Earth Awards* at a ceremony in February 2025 which will be held at the prestigious Zeiss-Großplanetarium Berlin.

Any film screened at the Dome Under Festival will automatically qualify for submission into [The Best of Earth Awards](#).

Dome Under Festival – Key Dates

06 November 2023	Announce Dome Under Festival – Film submissions open
24 November 2023	Film submissions close
11 December 2023	Announcing Festival program line up Festival tickets go on sale
12 January 2024	Final Delivery of all show files due
03 February 2024	Festival begins

FESTIVAL SUBMISSION AND COMPETITION TERMS

By submitting an entry to the Festival for consideration, each participant will be taken to have accepted these terms.

1. Participants

Participation is open to all filmmakers, producers and distributors of fulldome content worldwide. The terms below must be complied with for entry into the Festival. Participants may enter more than one contribution in one or multiple categories: the student film, the short film and full-length film categories.

2. Copyright

By submitting an entry to the Festival, each participant will be taken by Museums Victoria to:

- irrevocably and unconditionally grant to Museums Victoria a non-exclusive and royalty-free licence to do all things necessary to consider the relevant film for screening at the Festival and (if selected by Museums Victoria) screen the film at the Festival and the Australian Planetarium Society Conference (for films that win an award at the festival) and for *The Best of Earth Awards*, including but not limited to making a copy of the film if required, causing the film to be seen and/or heard in public and communicating the film to the public;
- represent and warrant to Museums Victoria that it is entitled to use and deal with any intellectual property rights in the film, including grant the licence to Museums Victoria described above, and that the use by Museums Victoria of the film (including screening at the Festival and for *The Best of Earth Awards*) will not infringe the third-party rights of any person, including but not limited to copyright and/or moral rights;
- indemnify Museums Victoria and its personnel from and against all liabilities, losses, damages, costs, expenses, claims, demands, actions, proceedings, or prosecution which may be brought, commenced or prosecuted against Museums Victoria or its personnel or in which any of them may be involved in as a result of the use by Museums Victoria of the film in accordance with these terms or a breach by the participant of the above warranty.

3. Usage Rights

Without limiting the above, participants will be taken to consent to Museums Victoria advertising the screening of the film on its website, social media and in publicity materials. Each production will be credited to the copyright holder (as advised by the participant) during any screening at the Festival.

4. Selection of Festival Films

The Pre-Selection Committee will decide which of the entries will be screened and included in the official Festival program. Without limiting the Pre-Selection Committee's discretion, the criteria for approval are the quality of content and treatment, technical production, artistic interpretation, sound design, creativity, narration, entertainment, and educational values.

5. Preview

Participants must supply a 1K or 2K preview file of their film. The file must be provided via a downloadable link.

6. Presentations

All selected contributions will be presented during the Festival at the Melbourne Planetarium in Australia. The productions will be displayed with six Sony GTZ280 projectors, Evans & Sutherland Digistar 6 system with 6.9K resolution. Sound will be presented in stereo, or 5.1 surround.

Films that win an award at the Dome Under Festival, will also have one additional screening at the Australasian Planetarium Society (APS) conference. The APS conference will take place at the Bendigo Planetarium on 6-7 February 2024.

7. Full Length Films

Entries of full-length films must satisfy the following conditions:

- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2022.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 60 minutes.
- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

8. Short Films

Entries of short films must satisfy the following conditions:

- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2022.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 1 minute and no more than 15 minutes.
- Trailers and excerpts cannot be admitted.
- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

9. Student Films

Entries of student films must satisfy the following conditions:

- Entrants must be students enrolled at professional schools or universities at the time the film was produced.
- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2022.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 1 minute and no more than 15 minutes.
- Trailers and excerpts cannot be admitted.

- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

10. Festival Awards

The Festival will present a number of awards at the Awards Ceremony on 4 February 2024. A Festival Jury appointed by Museums Victoria will determine the awards. The award decisions of the jury are final and cannot be contested.

11. Promotion

All participants will be taken to permit the Festival to use stills and trailers (including visuals and audio) on the Internet and in print and other media for the purpose of advertising or otherwise promoting the Festival.

12. Liability

Museums Victoria accepts no liability for damage to the materials and Data Carriers entered into the Festival.

13. Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that unforeseen circumstances (including pandemics such as COVID-19 or government restrictions in response to COVID-19) prevent the Festival from proceeding on the scheduled dates, Museums Victoria reserves the right to:

- postpone the holding of the Festival on the set dates, and hold the Festival on other dates as near to the original dates as practicable; or
- close the Festival on any day(s) or to vary the hours the Festival is open or cancel the Festival;

at its sole discretion and without any liability to Museums Victoria.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Upon entry, participants must complete the Film Submission Application Form below providing the following information:

- Title of show (original title and English title)
- Names of relevant producers and/or directors
- Name of production company or institution
- Date of show completion
- Length of the show
- Name & delivery address of the entrant
- Telephone number & email address of the entrant
- Link to a downloadable full-length screener of the film (Minimum 1K, Maximum 2K)
- Synopsis of the shows (100 words or less)

and submit it to melbplano@museum.vic.gov.au during the application period.

If a show is pre-selected for entry into the Festival, then the show files must be delivered either via downloadable link, or by a Hard Disk Drive or USB drive (Data Carrier).

The Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive must include the following information:

- Title of show
- Name of company or institution
- Postal Address
- Telephone number & email address
- A completed Registration Form

Hard Disk Drive and USB drives will be returned to the entrants.

Hard Disk Drive and USB drives must be sent to:

Dome Under Film Festival
Melbourne Planetarium
2 Booker Street
Spotswood VIC 3015
AUSTRALIA

Customs Declaration: Data Carriers from other countries must contain the following information:

Content Description – Hard Drive / USB Drive containing educational film.

Museums Victoria accepts no liability for any taxes or duties whatsoever arising in relation to the exportation or importation of any Data Carrier or film by participants.

DATA FORMATS

If your film is accepted into the Dome Under Festival, then you will need to send the final version for screening (Final Delivery). You have two options for doing so:

1. Make available a high-quality full resolution MPEG-4 file available for download; or
2. Provide an image sequence and audio files on a Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive.

Content must meet the following format specifications:

OPTION 1 – High Quality Video Files

We will accept files encoded using either the h.265 (HEVC) codec or the older h.264 (AVC) codec, but please note the different bitrate requirements for the two codecs.

- **MPEG-4 / h.265**

Resolution: 4k (4096 x 4096 pixels)

Frame Rate: 30 or 60fps

Video Format: MPEG-4 using the HEVC (h.265) codec.

Video Bitrate: 60Mbit/s (for 30fps content) or 120Mbit/s (for 60fps content)

Audio Format: Two-channel (stereo) embedded in the MPEG4 file.

Multi-channel (5.1) supplied as separate mono uncompressed WAV or AIFF.

- **MPEG-4 / h.264**

Resolution: 4k (4096 x 4096 pixels)

Frame Rate: 30 or 60fps

Video Format: MPEG-4 using the HEVC (h.264) codec.

Video Bitrate: 100Mbit/s (for 30fps content) or 200Mbit/s (for 60fps content)

Audio Format: Two-channel (stereo) embedded in the MPEG4 file.

Multi-channel (5.1) supplied as separate mono uncompressed WAV or AIFF.

Here are some more recommended encoding settings for your Final Delivery MPEG-4 file:

- Square Pixels
- Main Profile, Level 6.2
- CBR (constant bitrate)
- Higher or Highest Quality

OPTION 2 – Images Sequence and Audio Files provided on a Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive

Hard Disk Drives must be USB powered, USB2.0 / 3.0, NTFS formatted.

- **Image Files**

Dome Master Format 24-bit RGB, 180° equidistant image field

Dome Orientation Bottom = Front, Left = Dome Left, Right = Dome Right, Top = Rear

Resolution Preferred 4K (4096 x 4096 square pixels)
Minimum 3K (3072 x 3072 square pixels)
Maximum 8K (8192 x 8192 square pixels)
Student works Minimum resolution 2K (2048 x 2048 pixels)

File Format PNG, JPG, TIF or uncompressed TGA

Frame Rate Preferred 30fps. 24, 25, 29.97 & 60 fps will also be accepted.

File Names Title + Underscore + 5-digit frame number. Eg: **Title_00000.png. Title_00001.png** etc.
File names must not include umlauts, special characters or symbols. Frame numbers must start at 0 or 1.

Metadata Each frame should include the name of the film, timecode & frame number outside the dome viewable region

- **Sound Files**

Sound files may be delivered as Stereo or 5.1 Surround. Sound files must be the exact same duration as the image sequence. To ensure synchronization, the sound file must begin with the first frame. Please include any black frames in the image sequence or silent sections in the audio files as necessary in order to ensure audio-video sync.

Stereo Uncompressed WAV format

5.1 Surround (Left, Right, Centre, LFE, Left Surround, Right Surround) abbreviated as L,R,C,Lfe,Ls,Rs
24bit 48Khz Uncompressed WAV format as 6 discrete files using the following naming convention: name+undersore+channel name. Eg: **Title_L.wav, Title_R.wav** etc.

Dome Under Film Festival
Film Submission Application Form

Title of Film	
Name of Producer	
Name of Director	
Production Company / Institution	
Date of Show Completion	
Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Film <input type="checkbox"/> Short Film <input type="checkbox"/> Full length Film
Resolution	
Length of show	
Name & Address of Entrant	
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Link to a downloadable full length screener	

Synopsis (100 words maximum)	
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I confirm that I have read the Dome Under Fulldome Film Festival Submission Guidelines, including the Festival Submission and Competition Terms, and hereby accept those terms.

Please sign below and email this form to melbplano@museum.vic.gov.au by 24 November 2023.

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Signature

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Name

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Date

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Film title

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Company name (if producer of film is a company)