

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ORDINANCE NO.: **1454-2025**

Project: Greater Cleveland Media Development Corporation dba
Greater Cleveland Film Commission 2025-2026 Operating
Grant

Project Location: Citywide

Ward/Councilperson: Citywide

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Purpose of Financial Assistance

The purpose of this \$300,000 grant contract is to fund the general operating expenses associated with the Greater Cleveland Media Development Corporation dba Greater Cleveland Film Commission and/or designee. The organization's mission and programming is directed at attracting movie production and production-related businesses, jobs, and capital to Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. The agreement will assist with operating expenses between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026.

Background

The Greater Cleveland Film Commission (GCFC) maintains a mission of attracting economic investment and job creation through film and media production in Northeast Ohio. GCFC focuses on three pillars to achieve this mission: advocating for tax incentive policies to capitalize on motion picture investment, attracting motion picture production to Northeast Ohio, and educating a qualified workforce to fill the jobs created by local motion picture production.

GCFC has consistently drawn motion picture investment to nurture and enhance Northeast Ohio's film industry, year after year. In 2024-2025, productions with a total budget of \$256 million were approved for the Ohio Motion Picture Tax Credit to film in NE Ohio. Additionally in 2025, GCFC led the state in the number of productions booked and production budget in comparison to Central and Southwest Ohio. Recent job creation data from 2024 shows 2,926 crew and 2,570 background actors hired across six productions.

In addition to the business attraction, tax revenue generation, and significant ROI per dollar invested by the City, GCFC has shown a commitment to quality

workforce development. They utilize community partnerships and relationships with academic institutions to offer mixers, lecture series, and workshops that attract participants citywide. The “Reel Education, Real Jobs, For All” program exposes participants to tangible opportunities to work on the productions that come to NE Ohio, often with union protection and salaries starting at over \$30/hr.