GOLDSMITH
PRODUCTION SERVICES

Who to call about shooting in Texas.

The Texas Film Commission, the eleven regional film commissions, and the 218 Film Friendly Texas certified communities. What each one does, who to call, and which questions belong where.

CHECKED SEPTEMBER 5, 2026

Every entry read off the organization's own website on that date. Re-verified quarterly.

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How this is organized.

There are about two dozen organizations in Texas with the word “film” in the name. They do three different jobs, and calling the wrong one costs a week.

One state office runs the money. The Texas Film Commission administers the grant, the sales-tax exemptions, the statewide crew and locations databases, and the community certification program. It has no regional branches. Every state-level question in Texas arrives at the same building in Austin.

Eleven regional commissions run the ground. City departments, convention and visitors bureaus and chambers, funded locally. Permits, local locations, crew lists, and the call to the police department about a street closure. Three of them run their own incentive on top of the state grant.

218 certified communities have a named local liaison. Film Friendly Texas certifies towns, not productions. Certification has no effect on your grant. What it gets you is a person whose job includes your call and written filming rules instead of an improvised answer.

Every entry was read off the organization’s own website on September 5, 2026. Where an office’s own site and the Texas Film Commission’s directory disagree, both are shown and the disagreement is noted. Nothing here was taken from a directory aggregator, a news story, or a professional networking profile.

This guide does not interpret the incentive program, and neither does the company that publishes it. Every interpretive question routes to the Texas Film Commission at 512-463-9200. In April 2026 the Commission put it plainly: “the Texas Film Commission is the first, last and only source you should trust when it comes to anything TMIIIP-related.” That is the rule this guide follows.

> This document goes stale. Rates change, staff move, and two of the pages cited here were already out of date on the day they were read. Re-verify anything you are about to put in a budget. The online edition is corrected quarterly.

The Texas Film Commission.

A division of the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism. Serving the public since 1971.

PHYSICAL	400 W 15th St, Austin, TX 78701. By appointment; call first.
MAILING	P.O. Box 12428, Austin, TX 78711
PHONE	(512) 463-9200
FAX	(512) 463-4114
WEB	gov.texas.gov/film
CONTACT	Routed by topic through a dropdown at gov.texas.gov/film/page/about, not a single inbox. Topics include Production, Incentives (TMIIIP), Texas Production Directory, Film Friendly Texas, Digital Media Friendly Texas, Media Production Development Zone, Production Registration, and Press.

Staff, as published on the Commission's About page.

Sixteen people, no regional offices. Titles are given because they tell you which department your question belongs to. Direct lines are not published; the main number routes.

ADMINISTRATION

Stephanie Whallon, Director
Ali Stintzi Nichols, Deputy Director
Sophia Santos, Intake Coordinator

INCENTIVES

Will Zech, Incentive Program Manager
Ashley Robinson, Production Incentives Specialist
Cassandra Ariztegui, Production Incentives Specialist
Devin Jones, Production Incentives Specialist
Taehee Kim, Production Incentives Coordinator

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

Leigh Davis, Production & Marketing Program Manager
Alex Payne, Production Specialist
Steven McCaig, Marketing Team Lead
Robert Rodriguez, Senior Marketing Specialist
Meagan McCrary, Marketing Specialist

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS

Michelle Habecker, Community & Industry Relations Program Manager
Matt Miller, Senior Digital Media Industry Specialist
Willita Mahone, Community & Industry Relations Specialist

What the Commission runs.

1. The Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIIP).

A cash grant paid after the production ends and the spending is verified. It is not a transferable tax credit. It cannot be sold and it cannot be financed against.

	FILM AND TV	COMMERCIALS	VIDEO GAMES	REALITY TV
Base rate	5% to 25%	5% to 10%	5% to 25%	5% to 10%
Minimum in-state spend	$250,000 at 5% $1M at 10% $1.5M+ at 25%	$100,000 at 5% $1M+ at 10%	$100,000 at 5% $1M at 10% $1.5M+ at 25%	$250,000 at 5% $1M+ at 10%
Residency test	35% of paid crew AND 35% of paid cast (two separate tests)	35% of combined crew and cast	35% of combined paid employees and contractors	35% of combined crew and cast
In-state filming	60% of total production	60%	60%	60%
Qualified labor cap	First $1M of each Texas resident	Same	Same	Same
Per-project cap	None	None	None	None

Read off gov.texas.gov/film/page/tmiiip on September 5, 2026. Animation and VFX follow the film/TV or commercial column by project type. Cast and crew figures include extras.

> The 35% is a scheduled figure, not a constant. Under Texas Government Code §485.023(2) the residency requirement steps to 40% for projects beginning principal photography on or after September 1, 2027, then 45% on September 1, 2029, then 50% on September 1, 2031. The trigger is the date principal photography begins, not the application date. The Commission's own program page shows 35% with no staircase on it.

Additional grant awards, and the trap in them.

The Commission's Additional Grant Awards page states that a project may be eligible for multiple additional grants, that the total may not exceed 31% of eligible in-state spending, that the selections must be made on the project application, and that awards will not be granted retroactively. An uplift you did not select at application is gone, however well you documented it.

- Veteran percentage, 2.5%. Texas resident veterans as 5% of combined paid crew and cast including extras. Needs a Declaration of Texas Residency plus discharge documentation, DD214.
- Postproduction, 1%. 25% of total eligible in-state spending during postproduction. Labor, vendors and music costs count.

- Rural filming, 2.5%. At least 35% of filming days or man hours in a Texas county of 300,000 people or fewer.
- Workforce development, 2.5%. Partner with a Texas institution of higher education for workforce development during production.
- Texas historic site, 2.5%. Use historic sites in Texas as filming locations.
- Texas heritage, 2.5%, and faith-based, 2.5%. Both read “according to rules adopted by the office.” The February 2026 proposed rules said both would be addressed in a future rulemaking, and the page lists them as selectable anyway. Ask the Commission before counting either.

Do not model off 31%. It is a ceiling, not an entitlement, and each uplift carries its own test. Quote the base rate and confirm with the Commission before anything reaches a budget.

2. Film Friendly Texas.

Certifies communities, not productions. Established 2007. See the community list later in this guide.

3. The Texas Production Directory.

Crew and support services in two separate searchable databases, free to list. Requires one paid, verifiable credit per category. As of February 2026 it carries veteran status, which connects directly to the veterans uplift. tpd@gov.texas.gov.

4. Location services.

A statewide locations database, open to property submissions from anyone. This is the library staff search when a production asks what Texas has.

5. The Media Production Development Zone Act.

A sales and use tax exemption for constructing, expanding, improving or renovating a production facility at a designated location, for up to two years. Sound stages, post houses, animation and CGI studios, game studios, production offices. Established 2009, administered by the Commission.

Five approvals in order: the local municipality or county certifies the project for local benefits and forwards it; the Comptroller certifies a positive impact on state revenue; a Comptroller-appointed advisory committee recommends the exemption; the Commission designates the location and certifies the project.

6. Sales tax exemptions and refunds.

Separate from the grant and stackable with it. Covers items and services necessary to and used or consumed directly during production of a project intended for commercial distribution. Not available for productions not sold to the public, which the Commission illustrates with wedding videos and social media. The Commission’s own page says taxes are administered by the Comptroller and that its summary is not the complete text of the law.

The eleven regional film commissions.

These are not branches of the state office. They are city departments, convention and visitors bureaus and chambers, funded locally. Contacts below are as the Texas Film Commission publishes them, cross-checked against each office's own site on September 5, 2026.

> Almost none of them issue your permit. Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and Houston coordinate; a city department issues. Austin states it twice on its own site. San Antonio and El Paso are the exceptions and handle permits directly. Assuming the film office is the permitting authority is the most common way to lose a week.

Greater Amarillo Film Commission

Visit Amarillo

CONTACT	Sherman Bass, Film Commissioner
PHONE	(800) 692-1338 office · (806) 414-2576 cell
EMAIL	sherman@visitamarillo.com
ADDRESS	1000 S. Polk, Amarillo, TX 79101
WEB	visitamarillo.com/film

The office's own page quotes the state grant as "up to 22.5%." That is pre-2025 language. Use the Commission's figures, not this page's.

Arlington, TX Film Commission

City of Arlington, Communication and Legislative Affairs

CONTACT	No named contact published
PHONE	(817) 459-6777
EMAIL	film@arlingtontx.gov
ADDRESS	101 W Abram Street, Arlington, TX 76010
WEB	arlingtontx.gov/Business/Arlington-TX-Film-Commission

Separate permitting process from both Dallas and Fort Worth. If your project crosses the metroplex you are dealing with three cities, not one.

Austin Film Commission

Visit Austin

CONTACT	Brian Gannon, Director
PHONE	(512) 583-7230 · (800) 926-2282 ext. 7230
EMAIL	bgannon@visitaustin.org · film@visitaustin.org
ADDRESS	111 Congress Avenue, Suite 700, Austin, TX 78701
WEB	austintexas.org/film-commission

Also published: Kim LeBlanc, Film Marketing Manager, (512) 583-7263, kleblanc@visitaustin.org. The Commission's directory lists austinfilmcommission.com; Visit Austin uses austintexas.org. Locations and crew on Reel-Scout at austin.reel-scout.com. Crew listing requires one paid verifiable credit and residence in Travis or a surrounding county. Local incentive: the City of Austin's Creative Content Incentive Program, wage-based, administered by the City's Economic Development Department and not by the commission. Contact Briggs Jackson, (512) 974-6423. Application windows are not published.

Brownsville Border Film Commission

Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau

CONTACT	Eva Millan, Film Commissioner
PHONE	(956) 551-6025
EMAIL	eva.millan@brownsvilletx.gov
ADDRESS	1312 E. Adams St., Brownsville, TX 78520
WEB	filmbtx.com

The Rio Grande Valley's only listed regional commission. Certified communities nearby: Edinburg, Hidalgo, McAllen, Mercedes.

Conroe Film Commission

Visit Conroe

CONTACT	No named contact published
PHONE	(936) 522-3503
EMAIL	info@visitconroe.com
ADDRESS	300 West Davis St., Suite 520, Conroe, TX 77301
WEB	visitconroe.com/plan/conroe-film-commission

Present on the Commission's page but missing from its dropdown menu. If you are looking for Conroe in the state's list, scroll rather than use the selector.

Corpus Christi Film & Music Commission

Visit Corpus Christi

CONTACT	Drew Mayer-Oakes, Film and Music Commissioner
PHONE	(361) 561-2000 · (361) 881-1888
EMAIL	film@visitcorpuschristi.com · filmmusic@visitcorpuschristi.com
ADDRESS	Corpus Christi, TX
WEB	filmcorpuschristi.com

Selecting Corpus Christi in the state page's dropdown jumps nowhere; the anchor is broken. The contact block itself is on the page and is correct.

Dallas Film Commission

Visit Dallas

CONTACT	Katie Schuck, Executive Director and Film Commissioner
PHONE	(214) 571-1050
EMAIL	katie.schuck@filmdallas.org
ADDRESS	1807 Ross Avenue, Suite 450, Dallas, TX 75201. By appointment only.
WEB	filmdallas.org

Also published: Austin Flores, Location Specialist, austin.flores@filmdallas.org. The office goes by the Dallas Film Commission and Film Dallas names, and everything from permits to contacts runs through its own site, filmdallas.org. Do not use dallasfilmcommission.com. *Its TLS certificate is expired or mismatched. No local production incentive is published. Permits go through the City; see the permits section. Locations and crew on Reel-Scout at dallas.reel-scout.com. Screen Dallas gives one feature documentary a sponsored week-long theatrical release each year.*

El Paso Film & Creative Industries Commission

Destination El Paso (ASM Global)

CONTACT	No named contact published; the Film Commissioner post is advertised as open
PHONE	(915) 534-0698 office · (915) 892-2783 cell · (915) 534-0647 visitor center
EMAIL	film@destinationelpaso.com
ADDRESS	One Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, TX 79901
WEB	visitelpaso.com/creativelpaso

Issues permits directly; see the permits section. Covers music, design and photography as well as film. No Reel-Scout; a custom directory with access by emailed link, plus a location photograph collection. Its incentives page is a year out of date, *still describing the pre-2025 state program as current. Use the Commission's pages for numbers and this office for the ground.*

Fort Worth Film Commission

Visit Fort Worth

CONTACT	Taylor Hardy, Film Commissioner
PHONE	(817) 709-7601 · (800) 433-5747
EMAIL	taylorhardy@fortworth.com · Film@FortWorth.com
ADDRESS	111 W. 4th St., Suite 200, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The office's own site gives PO Box 189, Fort Worth 76101.
WEB	fortworth.com/film

The phone number comes from the state directory. *Fort Worth publishes no phone number anywhere on its own film pages. Its production guide page still lists the previous commissioner and is stale; the about page and Visit Fort Worth staff page are current. No local production incentive is published; the page invites a custom package conversation. Right-of-way permits issue from the City, on the longest published lead time of the eleven; see the permits section. Workforce program with Tarrant County College.*

Houston Film Commission

Houston First Corporation

CONTACT	Alfred Cervantes, Executive Director
PHONE	(713) 853-8957 · (713) 853-8386 main
EMAIL	acervantes@houstonfilmcommission.com
ADDRESS	Partnership Tower, 701 Avenida de las Americas, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77010
WEB	houstonfilmcommission.com

Also published: Monica Monroy, Project Manager, (713) 853-8386, mmonroy@houstonfilmcommission.com. The commission's registration form is explicitly not a permit, *and each department is a separate approval; see the permits section. Local incentive: the Houston Feature Film Incentive Program, application shared project by project after a meeting. Its published requirements set a Texas-resident threshold above the state program's and a Houston-resident threshold on top, and its application window closes at the midpoint of principal photography. Confirm current terms with the office before modeling.*

San Antonio Film Commission (Film San Antonio)

City of San Antonio, Department of Arts & Culture

CONTACT	Christine Hill, Film Commissioner & Music Program Manager
PHONE	(210) 207-6730 · (210) 207-6777
EMAIL	christine.hill@sanantonio.gov · filmsa@filmsanantonio.com
ADDRESS	P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio, TX 78283-3966. Meetings by appointment.
WEB	filmsanantonio.com · sa.gov/Directory/Departments/Arts/FilmSA

Also published: Joshua Lankford, Film & Music Coordinator. Issues permits directly *through the FilmApp portal; see the permits section. Local incentive: the San Antonio Film Incentive, expanded by City Council in November 2025 with a higher base rebate, local-hire and veteran bonuses, commercials added, and a workforce-development requirement. Terms and cap are on the City's SAFI page.*

Two things the state page gets wrong.

The Commission's regional film commissions page carries a dropdown offering twelve commissions above a page listing eleven, and they are not the same eleven. Northeast Texas Regional Film Commission is in the dropdown and appears nowhere on the page. South Padre Island Film Commission is in the dropdown and its anchor on the page is an empty heading with no contact information. Conroe is on the page but not in the dropdown. Selecting Corpus Christi jumps nowhere because its anchor does not exist, though its contact block is present further down.

South Padre Island does exist and is reachable: it runs a film page through the City's convention and visitors bureau at visitsouthpadreisland.com/film, info@sopadre.com. The Northeast Texas Regional Film Commission is harder to pin down. The domain associated with it, netexasmovies.com, did not respond when it was checked on September 5, 2026, and no phone or email for the commission was found on any page. If you need northeast Texas, go to the individual certified communities instead: Atlanta, Bonham, Carthage, Farmersville, Greenville, Kilgore, Marshall, Mineola, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Paris, Pittsburg, Quitman, Terrell, Texarkana, Tyler and Winnsboro are all in the Film Friendly network.

Five cities, one locations platform.

Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio all run Reel-Scout. The search behaves the same way in five cities, and a crew or vendor listing has to be entered five separate times. The Texas Film Commission runs its own statewide instance at tx.reel-scout.com, which is where the Film Friendly community liaison records and community location photos live. El Paso runs a custom directory and issues access by emailed link.

Permits, city by city.

There is no statewide film permit in Texas. Permission is municipal, it is issued by whoever owns the ground you are standing on, and the rules change at the city line. A production crossing the Metroplex deals with Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington as three separate applications with three different lead times.

> The film office usually does not issue your permit. Of the eleven regional commissions, three issue directly: San Antonio, El Paso and Corpus Christi. Arlington and Brownsville take the application and route it inside the city. The rest coordinate while a city department issues, and two of the eleven publish no film permit at all. Austin says it twice on its own site, in bold: “The Austin Film Commission does not issue permits.” Houston’s registration form says in its own words that it “is NOT a permit to film on City, County, State, Federal or Private property.”

The short version.

CITY	WHO ISSUES	HOW TO APPLY	LEAD TIME	FEE
Austin	City departments; the commission coordinates	Streets: Office of Special Events portal. Parks: PARD	Streets 3 business days. Parks 7 days, 14 for large impact	Not published
Dallas	City Office of Special Events	Register with the commission first, then the City	Not published	Not published
Fort Worth	City Transportation and Public Works	Right-of-way street use permit, city portal	“A minimum of 3 weeks”	$250 street use permit
Houston	No single city film permit published	Commission registration first; it is not a permit	Not published	Not published
San Antonio	Film San Antonio	FilmApp portal	“At least 10 business days”	Free
El Paso	The commission processes the city permit	Email for the current application	Submit 5 working days ahead; 3 to 5 to process	$40 for up to 5 city locations
Arlington	City Communication and Legislative Affairs	FilmApp portal	“At least 10 business days”	Application free; permits extra

CITY	WHO ISSUES	HOW TO APPLY	LEAD TIME	FEE
Brownsville	City; the commission takes the application	Online form on filmbtx.com	“At least 10 business days”	Free
Corpus Christi	The commission, per the city ordinance	Contact the commission; no form published	3 business days; 5 for features	$25
Amarillo	No film permit published	Special event application for street closures	Not published for film	Not published for film
Conroe	No film permit published	Special event application via the city	Not published for film	Not published for film

Read off each city’s own pages on September 5, 2026, except Corpus Christi, whose figures come from the city’s filming ordinance as adopted in October 2021. “Not published” means the city does not state it, not that it is free or instant. Call before you plan around a blank.

Austin

WHO ISSUES	City of Austin departments. The commission coordinates and does not issue.
HOW TO APPLY	Streets and sidewalks: Office of Special Events, Transportation and Public Works, through the city portal at abc.austintexas.gov. Parks and waterways: Parks and Recreation Department Office of Special Events.
LEAD TIME	Streets: submit at least 3 business days ahead, payment due 2 business days before filming. The commission’s FAQ says right-of-way permits are “typically processed within 3-5 business days.” Parks: 7 days standard, 14 days for large impact.
FEE	Not published on the pages read.
INSURANCE	Not published on the commission’s permit page.
ALSO NEEDS	Texas Capitol grounds go to the State Preservation Board, (512) 463-3051. Other state property goes to the Texas Film Commission, (512) 463-9200. State highways go to TxDOT at AUS_events_film@txdot.gov. University of Texas property is utfilming@utexas.edu. LCRA parks are filming@lcra.org, (512) 300-4031. CapMetro handles transit property. Drone rules are published separately by the commission.
CONTACT	Streets: (512) 974-6501, tpwfilmpermits@austintexas.gov. Parks: (512) 974-1000, film@austintexas.gov.

Dallas

WHO ISSUES	City of Dallas Office of Special Events. The commission coordinates.
HOW TO APPLY	Register the project with the commission first; the commission then points you at the City to start the permit.
LEAD TIME	Not published on the City or commission pages read.
FEE	Not published.
INSURANCE	Not published on the pages read.
ALSO NEEDS	Arlington, Fort Worth and DFW International Airport are separate processes. Drones over the metroplex sit in FAA Class B airspace and need airspace approval.
CONTACT	City Office of Special Events, (214) 939-2701, CCTSpecialevents@dallascityhall.com, 650 S. Griffin St. Commission: (214) 571-1050.

Fort Worth

WHO ISSUES	City of Fort Worth Transportation and Public Works, right-of-way team. The commission coordinates.
HOW TO APPLY	Street use permit through the city permitting portal at cfwpermit.fortworthtexas.gov. The commission links a film permit application PDF.
LEAD TIME	“A minimum of 3 weeks is required to accommodate notices and processing.” This is the longest published lead time of the eleven, and the one most likely to catch a production that assumed a few days.
FEE	$250 street use permit fee.
INSURANCE	Certificate naming the City of Fort Worth as additional insured, $1,000,000.
ALSO NEEDS	The Stockyards has its own insurance requirement and filming kit. City parks, DFW Airport and Fort Worth ISD schools are separate. Drones need FAA approval.
CONTACT	Right of way: (817) 392-8557, zz_TPWROWMPermits@fortworthtexas.gov. Commission: (817) 709-7601, Film@FortWorth.com.

Houston

WHO ISSUES	No single City of Houston film permit is published. The commission runs a registration that is explicitly not a permit.
HOW TO APPLY	Submit the commission's Motion Picture/TV Registration form before production, with a certificate of insurance. Then handle each department separately.
LEAD TIME	Not published. The registration asks for it "prior to production."
FEE	Not published.
INSURANCE	"The use of general public property requires that the production company supply the City of Houston with a liability insurance certificate in the aggregate amount of one million dollars per incident."
ALSO NEEDS	Parks go to Houston Parks and Recreation. Traffic and pedestrian control goes to the Houston Police Department. Pyrotechnics and special effects go to the Houston Fire Department. Which department handles a street closure is not stated on either the commission's or the City's pages; ask the commission.
CONTACT	mmonroy@houstonfilmcommission.com and acervantes@houstonfilmcommission.com, (713) 853-8386.

San Antonio

WHO ISSUES	Film San Antonio issues the permit itself, for city-owned property.
HOW TO APPLY	FilmApp portal, linked from the commission's film permits page.
LEAD TIME	Submit at least 10 business days before filming.
FEE	Permits are free of charge.
INSURANCE	Certificate naming the City of San Antonio Film Commission as additional insured.
ALSO NEEDS	Drones are not permitted over the River Walk. Separate approvals for the Alamo, the San Antonio Missions, Confluence Park, the Japanese Tea Gardens, the McNay, Pearl, Main Plaza and the Botanical Gardens. The commission coordinates street closures, police rentals and fire and safety services, but does not set rates or availability for private locations.
CONTACT	(210) 207-6730, filmsa@filmsanantonio.com.

El Paso

WHO ISSUES	The commission processes the City of El Paso permit.
HOW TO APPLY	Email film@destinationelpaso.com for the current application. The certificate of insurance must accompany the permit before the commission can process it.
LEAD TIME	“The permit process takes 3-5 working days to complete, so please submit your permit application a minimum of 5 working days prior to your first requested day to film.”
FEE	“The cost is $40.00 for up to 5 city locations.”
INSURANCE	Certificate naming the City of El Paso as additional insured. Published minimums vary by activity: general liability $250,000 to $3,000,000, automobile $500,000 to $3,000,000, aircraft $5,000,000, plus workers’ compensation.
ALSO NEEDS	Not published beyond the city permit.
CONTACT	film@destinationelpaso.com, (915) 534-0698.

Arlington

WHO ISSUES	City of Arlington, Communication and Legislative Affairs. The film commission is the front door and sits inside the city.
HOW TO APPLY	FilmApp portal for the Application for Commercial Filming.
LEAD TIME	“Request must be submitted at least 10 business days before principal day of filming.” The city renders a decision “within fifteen (15) days of receiving a fully and technically complete application.”
FEE	“While the City’s Application for Commercial Filming is free, please note that some permits require the payment of associated fees.” Those amounts are not published.
INSURANCE	$1,000,000 general liability and, where applicable, $1,000,000 automobile liability, naming the City of Arlington and its agents, officers, elected officials, employees and assigns as additional insured. Workers’ compensation or an umbrella policy may also be required.
ALSO NEEDS	Parks need a separate Photography/Filming Permit from Parks and Recreation. Street closures need a Temporary Traffic Control Permit from Public Works. Pyrotechnics and open flame go to the Fire Prevention Division. Drones need a commercial pilot license, certificate of registration, insurance and FAA airspace approval.
CONTACT	film@arlingtontx.gov, (817) 459-6777.

Brownsville

WHO ISSUES	A City of Brownsville permit. The Brownsville Border Film Commission is a city body and takes the application directly. The issuing department of record is not published.
HOW TO APPLY	Online application form on filmbtx.com.
LEAD TIME	Submit at least 10 business days before the project start date.
FEE	None. The commission confirmed in November 2026 that the application is free.
INSURANCE	General liability required, with the City of Brownsville listed as an additionally insured party. The dollar amount is not published.
ALSO NEEDS	Drone operators must supply a pilot name and FAA Remote Pilot License number on the application. The Port of Brownsville is a separate authority and is not covered by the city process.
CONTACT	(956) 551-6025, eva.millan@brownsvilletx.gov.

Corpus Christi

WHO ISSUES	The Film Commission issues the permit, which the city's filming ordinance states directly. This is unusual in Texas and it is the shortest route of the eleven.
HOW TO APPLY	No application form or portal is published. Contact the commission. A permit is required only for filming that takes exclusive use of public property; filming that does not exclude the public does not require one.
LEAD TIME	A minimum of 3 business days for commercials and episodic television, 5 business days for feature films.
FEE	$25.
INSURANCE	$1,000,000 general liability and not less than $500,000 automobile liability, naming both the City of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Film Commission as additional insured. The ordinance allows insurance to be waived case by case.
ALSO NEEDS	No separate beach filming permit is published. The city's special event, beach vendor and beach parking permits are for other activities and do not cover filming.
CONTACT	film@visitcorpuschristi.com, (361) 561-2000. Figures here are from the city's filming ordinance, Chapter 36 Article III, as adopted in October 2021. Confirm current terms with the commission when you apply.

Amarillo

WHO ISSUES	No City of Amarillo film permit is published. The Greater Amarillo Film Commission coordinates and routes you outward.
HOW TO APPLY	For a street or sidewalk closure, a special event application goes to the city's Traffic Engineering Department. There is no film-specific form.
LEAD TIME	Not published for filming.
FEE	Not published for filming. The special event permit has its own fee, which is not a film figure and should not be planned around as one.
INSURANCE	Not published for filming. The special event process asks for the City of Amarillo as certificate holder, which is a weaker requirement than additional insured.
ALSO NEEDS	This is the best-routed of the eleven for surrounding jurisdictions. Potter County roads (806) 379-2900. Randall County roads (806) 468-5800. Palo Duro Canyon State Park goes to Texas Parks and Wildlife. Alibates Flint Quarries and Lake Meredith go to the National Park Service. Interstates and Farm-to-Market roads go to the Texas Film Commission. Cadillac Ranch is privately owned and booked separately.
CONTACT	Traffic event permits: trafficeventpermits@amarillo.gov. Commission: Sherman Bass, (806) 414-2576, sherman@visitamarillo.com.

Conroe

WHO ISSUES	No City of Conroe film permit is published. The Conroe Film Commission sits in the CVB and coordinates only.
HOW TO APPLY	The city's special event process is the nearest published route, by email to the permits department. Whether a shoot actually goes through it is not stated anywhere the city publishes.
LEAD TIME	Not published for filming.
FEE	Not published for filming.
INSURANCE	Not published for filming. The special event process requires additional insured status.
ALSO NEEDS	Nothing film-specific published.
CONTACT	Call the commission first, (936) 522-3503, info@visitconroe.com. This is the one city of the eleven where the route genuinely has to be established by phone.

Past the city line.

A location that is not city property has its own owner, and the city permit does not reach it. The routes that come up most often:

- State property and state highways. The Texas Film Commission handles state property at (512) 463-9200. TxDOT handles state highway right-of-way.
- The Texas Capitol and its grounds. The State Preservation Board, (512) 463-3051.
- State parks. Texas Parks and Wildlife, through its own park use application. Palo Duro Canyon, Big Bend Ranch and the rest all run through TPWD, not the nearest city.
- National parks and monuments. The National Park Service commercial film and photo permit process. Big Bend, Lake Meredith and Alibates all sit here.

- County roads. The county, not the city. Amarillo's film office publishes both Potter and Randall county numbers; most do not, so start with the county judge's office.
- Airports. DFW International, and every commercial field, permit separately from the city they serve.
- Universities. Campus filming is the university's call. The University of Texas runs utfilming@utexas.edu; other systems have their own.
- River authorities and utilities. LCRA parks are filming@lcra.org, (512) 300-4031.

> Two things to settle on the first call, before the location scout. First, who actually signs: the film office, a city department, or a landowner who is not the city. Second, the certificate of insurance, because the named additional insured differs city to city and a certificate naming the wrong entity is the most common reason a permit sits. Corpus Christi wants two parties named. Amarillo's special event process asks only for a certificate holder. Arlington wants the city plus its agents, officers, elected officials, employees and assigns.

Film Friendly Texas.

When people ask which cities are “in the Texas Film Commission program,” this is almost always the program they mean, and it is not the grant.

Film Friendly Texas, established in 2007, certifies communities. A town certifies by doing four things, in the Commission’s own words:

1. Establish an official Film Friendly Texas liaison within the community who is affiliated with a local government organization and will facilitate requests for on-location filming.
2. Attend a “How to Become a Film Friendly Texas Certified Community” workshop hosted by the Texas Film Commission.
3. Pass administratively enforceable filming guidelines that promote media production in a way that is mutually beneficial for residents and industry professionals.
4. Submit photos of a minimum of five filming locations in the community for the Texas Film Commission location database.

The liaison must be employed by a division of the city or county government. The Commission advises sending someone from a city or county office, the CVB, the chamber, or the EDC.

What certification does and does not do.

What it gets a production: a named local person whose job includes your call, written filming rules rather than an improvised answer, and inclusion in the network the Commission reaches in one email with a location request or a casting call.

What it does not get you: money. Certification has no effect on your grant, your rate, or whether your project qualifies. A production shooting in an uncertified town is just as eligible.

> There are currently no workshops scheduled. The Commission’s workshops page reads “Upcoming Film Friendly Texas Workshop dates to be announced.” Attendance is a required certification step, so a community that wants to certify cannot finish until dates are posted. If you are advising a town on this, that is the blocker.

Finding the liaison for a specific town.

The Commission’s certified-communities map is the maintained source. Each pin links through to that community’s contact record and location photographs on the Commission’s statewide system at tx.reel-scout.com. Liaison names are not reproduced here: 218 of them go stale faster than any PDF can track, and the map is corrected when they change.

The 218 certified communities.

The 206 communities below are grouped by the region the State of Texas assigns each one in its open data portal, so the grouping is the state's and not ours. Twelve more are on the Commission's map without a region in the dataset yet; they are listed at the end.

> The count is a moving number. The Commission's map carried 218 communities when it was read on September 5, 2026. The State of Texas open data portal lists 206, and the graphic on the Commission's own page is captioned through May 2025. The map is the newer source, and towns keep certifying. Treat any total here as a snapshot with a date on it, and check the map before you rely on a count.

AMARILLO AREA (5)

Amarillo, Borger, Canyon, Dumas, Fritch.

PANHANDLE (4)

Canadian, Childress, Dalhart, Shamrock.

SOUTH PLAINS (7)

Andrews, Big Spring, Levelland, Lubbock, Muleshoe, Plainview, Tahoka.

WEST (2)

Odessa, San Angelo.

WEST CENTRAL (9)

Blanco, Boerne, Eden, Fredericksburg, Harker Heights, Kerrville, Killeen, Lampasas, Llano.

TRANS PECOS (10)

Alpine, Fort Davis, Lajitas, Marathon, Marfa, Pecos, Presidio, Study Butte, Terlingua, Valentine.

EL PASO AREA (1)

El Paso.

NORTH CENTRAL (38)

Albany, Archer City, Baird, Bluff Dale, Bowie, Breckenridge, Clairette, Clifton, Corsicana, Decatur, Denison, Dublin, Dundee, Eastland, Fairfield, Glen Rose, Graham, Granbury, Hamilton, Henrietta, Hico, Hillsboro, Mankins, Mexia, Miles, Mineral Wells, Morgan Mill, Nocona, Robinson, Roscoe, Saint Jo, Seymour, Stephenville, Sweetwater, Vernon, Waco, Whitewright, Wichita Falls.

DALLAS / FORT WORTH AREA (26)

Arlington, Azle, Cedar Hill, Celina, Dallas, Denton, Fate, Forney, Fort Worth, Frisco, Grand Prairie, Kaufman, Lancaster, Lavon, Little Elm, Mansfield, McKinney, Mesquite, Midlothian, Pilot Point, Roanoke, Rowlett, Sanger, Sunnyvale, Waxahachie, Weatherford.

NORTH EAST (17)

Atlanta, Bonham, Carthage, Farmersville, Greenville, Kilgore, Marshall, Mineola, Nacogdoches, Palestine, Paris, Pittsburg, Quitman, Terrell, Texarkana, Tyler, Winnsboro.

EAST CENTRAL (19)

Brenham, Bryan, Burton, Caldwell, Cameron, College Station, Columbus, Cuero, Flatonia, Giddings, Gonzales, La Grange, Marlin, Rockdale, Shiner, Temple, Victoria, Yoakum, Yorktown.

AUSTIN AREA (24)

Austin, Bastrop, Buda, Cedar Park, Dripping Springs, Elgin, Florence, Granger, Hutto, Kyle, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Leander, Liberty Hill, Lockhart, Manor, Marble Falls, McDade, Pflugerville, Round Rock, San Marcos, Smithville, Taylor, Wimberley.

SAN ANTONIO AREA (8)

Bandera, Castroville, Floresville, Hondo, New Braunfels, Pleasanton, San Antonio, Seguin.

HOUSTON AREA (15)

Alvin, Anahuac, Baytown, Conroe, Houston, Jersey Village, Lake Jackson, Missouri City, Mont Belvieu, Nassau Bay, Pearland, Rosenberg, Seabrook, Sweeny, The Woodlands.

SOUTH EAST (8)

Corrigan, Crockett, Huntsville, Jasper, Jewett, Livingston, Navasota, Onalaska.

COAST (8)

Bay City, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Galveston, Palacios, Port Arthur, Rockport, South Padre Island.

VALLEY (5)

Brownsville, Edinburg, Hidalgo, McAllen, Mercedes.

ON THE MAP, NOT YET IN THE STATE DATASET (12)

Archer County, Bartlett, Bastrop County, Fulshear, Garland, Haltom City, League City, Luling, Port Lavaca, The Colony, Van, Willow Park.

Other city and county film offices.

Beyond the eleven regional commissions, dozens of Texas towns run a film page with a real contact behind it. Some are staffed film offices; most are one person in a city department, a chamber, or a convention and visitors bureau who has the filming guidelines on their desk. For a location outside the big cities, this is usually a faster route than the state office.

Each entry below was read on September 5, 2026. “Not published” means the office’s own site does not show it. Where a page hides an email behind a form or an obfuscator, the phone number is the working route.

Central Texas

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Film Bastrop County filmbastropcounty.com	Bastrop County	(512) 581-4011	Adena.Lewis@co.bastrop.tx.us
City of Bastrop film permit cityofbastrop.org	City of Bastrop	(512) 332-8984	kdanielson@cityofbastrop.org
Smithville Film Committee smithvilletx.org	Smithville Area Chamber	(512) 237-2313	chamber@smithvilletx.org
Filming in Elgin elgintexas.gov	City of Elgin	(512) 229-3227	community@elgintexas.gov
Film in Lockhart lockhartedc.com	Lockhart EDC	(737) 357-7458	Form on site
San Marcos filming visitsanmarcos.com	City of San Marcos CVB	(512) 393-5930	filmfriendly@sanmarcostx.gov
Round Rock roundrocktexas.gov	City of Round Rock, Arts and Culture	(512) 218-3230	bgillis@roundrocktexas.gov
Georgetown georgetowntexas.gov	City of Georgetown	(512) 930-8471	Amanda.still@georgetowntexas.gov
Kyle kyleed.com	City of Kyle Economic Development	(512) 262-3932	Form on site
Filming in Taylor taylortx.gov	City of Taylor	Not published	Not published
Film Friendly Temple discovertemple.com	City of Temple	(254) 298-5900	cjones@templetx.gov
Film-Friendly Bryan bryantx.gov	City of Bryan	(979) 209-5528	mminahan@bryantx.gov
Dripping Springs drippingspringstx.gov	City of Dripping Springs	(512) 858-4725	Not published

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Film in Waco destinationwaco.org	Waco CVB	(254) 750-8696	Form on site
Clifton cityofclifton.org	City of Clifton Main Street	(254) 675-8337	Form on site
Visit Brenham visitbrenhamtexas.com	City of Brenham	(979) 337-7580	info@visitbrenhamtexas.com
Kerrville kerrvillecrafted.com	Kerrville CVB	(830) 792-3535	Form on site
Visit New Braunfels visitnbtx.com	Greater New Braunfels Chamber	Not published	sammie@innewbraunfels.com

North Texas

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Irving Film Commission irvingtexas.com	Irving CVB	(972) 252-7476	info@irvingtexas.com
Film Friendly Denton cityofdenton.com	City of Denton Economic Development	(940) 349-7732	Form on site
Frisco special event permitting friscotexas.gov	City of Frisco	(972) 292-6651	Form on site
Visit Granbury visitgranbury.com	City of Granbury	(817) 573-5548	pio@granbury.org
Weatherford film permits weatherfordtx.gov	City of Weatherford	Not published	Not published
Mineral Wells visitmineralwells.org	Mineral Wells Area Chamber	(940) 325-2557	tourism@mineralwellstx.com
Visit McKinney visitmckinney.com	City of McKinney	(972) 547-2061	Contact-SpecialEvents@McKinneyTexas.org
Visit Mesquite visitmesquitetx.com	City of Mesquite	(972) 204-4927	jgonzalez@cityofmesquite.com
Waxahachie CVB waxahachiecvb.com	City of Waxahachie	(469) 309-4040	info@waxahachiecvb.com
Richardson film permit cor.net	City of Richardson	(972) 744-4218	AskRichardsonCommunications@cor.gov
Stephenville Main Street stephenvilletx.gov	City of Stephenville	(254) 552-1222	mainstreet@stephenvilletx.gov

Gulf Coast and Southeast Texas

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Galveston Island CVB film pressroom.galveston.com/film.aspx	Galveston Park Board	(409) 797-5145	Not published
Beaumont beaumonttexas.gov	City of Beaumont	(409) 880-3749	Not published
Port Arthur CVB visitportarthurtx.com	City of Port Arthur	(409) 985-7822	Not published
Visit Baytown visitbaytown.com	City of Baytown	(281) 691-6710	tourism@baytown.org
Visit Pearland visitpearland.com	Visit Pearland	(281) 997-5970	Form on site
Seabrook film permits seabrooktx.gov	City of Seabrook	Not published	Not published
Victoria CVB discovervictoriatexas.com	City of Victoria	(361) 485-3116	discovervictoriatexas@victoriatx.gov
Port Aransas media permit portaransas.org	Port Aransas Chamber and Tourist Bureau	Not published	Not published
Huntsville huntsvilletx.gov	City of Huntsville	Not published	Not published

South Texas

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
South Padre Island Film Commission visitsouthpadreisland.com	City of South Padre Island CVB	Not published	info@sopadre.com
Film Boerne filmboerne.com	City of Boerne	(830) 248-1617	info@filmboerne.com
Film in Seguin visitseguin.com	Visit Seguin	Not published	Not published

West Texas and the Panhandle

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Discover San Angelo discoversanangelo.com	San Angelo CVB	Not published	discover@sanangelo.org
Miles milestexas.com	City of Miles	(325) 468-3151	Form on site

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Marfa film permit cityofmarfa.com	City of Marfa, Code Enforcement	(432) 729-4315	Form on site
Lubbock Cultural Arts Foundation lubbockculturalarts.org	City of Lubbock's designated liaison	(806) 368-9039	stacy@lubbockculturalarts.org
Canyon canyontx.gov	City of Canyon	Not published	Not published
Plainview plainviewtx.org	City of Plainview	Not published	Not published

East Texas

OFFICE	PARENT	PHONE	EMAIL
Film Tyler cityoftyler.org	City of Tyler	Not published	Not published
Nacogdoches CVB visitnacogdoches.org	Nacogdoches CVB	Not published	Not published
Film Friendly Texarkana texarkanatexas.gov	City of Texarkana	Not published	Not published
Northeast Texas Regional Film Commission netexasmovies.com (did not respond)	Not published	Not published	Not published

If your production isn’t on its feet yet.

That is the part we do. Goldsmith Production Services is a production services company in Austin. We sell the plan, the paperwork, the crew, and the system that runs a shoot in Texas, for productions that are not from here and for filmmakers who are. We do not sell incentive advice. We produce the show, execute the compliance work as part of producing it, and hand over the file at the end. If the honest answer is that you don’t need us yet, that is the answer you will get.

goldsmithpictures.com/for-producers · info@goldsmithpictures.com

Corrections.

Every phone number, email address and program term in this guide was read off the organization’s own website on September 5, 2026. Offices move, staff change, and published pages fall behind. If you call a number here and it does not work, or an office tells you something in here has changed, email info@goldsmithpictures.com and the online edition gets corrected, with your name on the correction if you want it there. The guide is re-verified quarterly.