

Film Production Design :

BUDGET

Budgeting

The key to financial control of the project is the establishment of a line budget that covers all aspects of the production design. A detailed budget is drawn up so each department will be fully supported and the producer can monitor where and how the money is being spent.

Projecting the Production Design Budget

- Production designer—salary, per diem expenses, transportation, meals, housing.
- Art department operating costs.
- Art director—salary, per diem, etc.
- Set designers: how many are needed? What are their salaries and expenses?
- Illustrators: how many? Will they work freelance per drawing or on staff?

- Production assistants: How many are needed for the art department? PA's are paid at the standard daily rate the production pays out.
- Purchases: A detailed accounting of all items purchased for the art department.
- Rentals: A detailed accounting of all equipment, supplies, materials, and facilities.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Always build in a contingency for Murphy's Law.

SET CONSTRUCTION

- Construction coordinator: salary, expenses.
- Labor costs, salaries for carpenters and construction crew. Will the crew be getting union or nonunion wages?
- Loss and damage: in every construction project there are unexpected and unwanted mistakes and accidents that must be absorbed by the budget.
- Set striking: salaries, fees, and carting costs paid out for the set to be taken down after the filming is complete.
- Set restoration: materials and equipment fees to restore a location or set.
- Fees to store sets if necessary.
- Purchase of materials: the cost of lumber, nails, etc.
- Greens purchase: cost of plants, sod, and other landscaping materials.
- Platforms: cost of building, buying, or renting platforms for building sets.
- Miscellaneous.

SET DRESSING

- Salaries for the set decorator, lead man, and/or buyer
- Labor and material costs to install carpet and drapery
- Labor and material costs to create and manufacture décor items
- Fixtures: cost for practical lighting, lamps
- Rentals: cost for rental of décor items
- Miscellaneous

PROPS

- Property master and assistant salaries
- Loss and damage expenses
- Labor and materials cost, for manufacturing props
- Miscellaneous

WARDROBE

- Costume designer and dresser salaries
- Cleaning and fabric dying costs
- Loss and damage
- Manufacturing: labor, materials costs
- Purchase of costumes/clothes
- Rental of costumes/clothes
- Miscellaneous

MAKEUP AND HAIRDRESSING

- Makeup and hairstylists salaries
- Makeup and hairdressing supplies
- Wig purchases/rentals
- Prosthetic makeup appliances
- Miscellaneous

LOCATIONS

- Location fees and rentals
- Police/firemen/security
- Travel fares
- Hotel costs
- Living expenses
- Mileage and parking
- Location restoration
- Purchases
- Rentals
- Phone/postage/delivery services
- Miscellaneous

FACILITIES EXPENSES

- Stage rentals
- Back lot rentals
- Parking
- Telephone
- Postage/messengers/delivery services
- Miscellaneous