

Focus Finder Application

Thank you for your interest in the Focus Finder Accelerator. Complete this form in its entirety to submit your application. You may move through the pages of this application *without* completing the fields -- and we recommend that you do so to familiarize yourself with the parts of the application -- but you will not be able to submit the application until all required fields are complete.

On subsequent pages you will be asked about your film experience as well as your goals within the film industry. Are you a writer/director looking for dedicated time to draft that next project? Or a cinematographer itching for a collaborator who shares your vision? Or a filmmaker eager to make the shift to full time freelancing? The Focus Finder Accelerator will host two career development tracks: *Creative Producing* and *Technical* (examples of projects for each track below)

By the end of the cohort's two years, each member should expect to have produced something to help advance their career, business, or filmmaking skills.

- **Creative Producing** - This track is for directors, producers, writers, and multi hyphenate media creatives who have a specific project (i.e. a short film) to advance or complete (i.e. ready for screenings, public presentations, or festival submissions).
- **Technical** - This track is for focused "technicians" (i.e. cinematographers, editors, production designers) who aim to advance their careers by developing an expertise-based business proposal or who have clear advancement benchmarks and timelines for a freelance specialization toward a sustainable career.

Additional details on the tracks and their associated outcomes can be found in the project section below.

We have created a PDF of the application questions, [which you can find here](#). We recommend that you work on your answers offline (in a word processing document) and then transfer them to this online form to reduce errors.

Applications will be evaluated by an independent, external jury of nationally recognized film industry members (and not Milwaukee Film Staff or Board members) on the basis of:

- Artistic merit, strength, originality, and vision of the applicant
- Storytelling and technical skills as demonstrated in the application and work samples
- Aspirations of the applicant and the value of the program components to propel their career forward
- Impact of program on their project/proposal at its current stage

Upon submission of a completed application, you will receive a confirmation email containing all of your submitted application information. That email will serve as your "receipt" for your submitted application.

The 2024-2026 cohort application window will close on Friday, July 26 at 11:59 PM. During jury deliberations, finalists may be invited to meet the jury for a brief (30-45 min) interview to expand upon this application and their candidacy. Interview invitations will be sent via email during the week of September 9 and all applicants should hold time on September 12, 13 and 14 for possible interviews. Following interviews, all applicants will be notified by email on or before September 16 as to if they have been selected for the cohort. Announcement of the new cohort is expected to occur via press release the week of September 23.

If you have any questions about the application process, we encourage you to first look at the [FAQ's here](#). If you have further questions, please email them to brighid@mkefilm.org.

Award Eligibility Verification

Prior to beginning an application, please review the following rules and regulations governing eligibility and certify your acknowledgement of them below. Applicants must:

- Be an individual filmmaker* from an underrepresented community** (as defined by the filmmaker).
- Be in the emerging phase of their filmmaking career.
- Have experience or work history that demonstrates their commitment to independent film, including but not limited to documentary, fiction, web series, or experimental work.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Not be enrolled in a full-time academic program.
- Demonstrate a commitment to making a career in the film industry.
- **Be able to commit to the full 24-month program and attend 75% of bi-weekly cohort meetings. Preference will be given to Wisconsin-based filmmakers.**
- Current full-time, year-round Milwaukee Film employees, Board members, and major funders or the immediate families of such individuals are ineligible to apply for this accelerator.

**Individual filmmaker is defined as a singular person who creates original video, film, or motion media content of any genre. No team applications will be accepted at this time. Eligible team members are encouraged to apply as separate individuals.*

***Underrepresented communities may include - but are not limited to - race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, mental abilities or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, etc.*

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the above eligibility requirements are met by this accelerator application. *

Yes

Contact Information

First Name*

Last Name*

Pronouns*

Email*

Phone*

Address*

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

City

State

ZIP Code

United States Country

Where did you hear about Milwaukee Film's Focus Finder Accelerator?*

- Milwaukee Film's Website
- Milwaukee Film's Newsletter
- Facebook
- Twitter
- From a friend
- Story in the media (TV, radio, print, online)
- Other:

Are you a Milwaukee Film Member?*

- Yes No

Background + Experience


In this section, please describe your background in filmmaking and any relevant experience to storytelling broadly.

Up until this point, what experience have you had with independent filmmaking? *



300 words minimum

What are your long-term career goals as they relate to film? *




300 words minimum

Noting that this accelerator aims to elevate underrepresented* voices in film, why do you believe you would be a strong candidate for this program?*



*Underrepresented includes - but is not limited to - race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, mental abilities or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, etc.

What do you expect this accelerator program might allow you to do that otherwise would not be possible? *

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300 words minimum

Project Description

At the end of the cohort's two years, each member should expect to have produced something to help advance their career, business, or filmmaking skills. Examples of projects can be found below:

Creative Producing - This track is for directors, producers, writers, and multi hyphenate media creatives who have a specific project (i.e. a short film) to advance or complete (i.e. ready for screenings, public presentations, or festival submissions).

Technical - This track is for focused “technicians” (i.e. cinematographers, editors, production designers) who aim to advance their careers by developing an expertise-based business proposal or who have clear advancement benchmarks and timelines for a freelance specialization toward a sustainable career.

Below, you will select which track you would like to apply for. Applicants may only select one track per application.

Which track are you applying for? *

- Creative Producing Technical

CREATIVE PRODUCING:

Film Type (Select all that apply.) *

- Fiction
 Documentary
 Experimental
 Animated
 Live-action
 Archival
 Scripted
 Unscripted
 Other:

Include your project logline here. *

2 sentence maximum

Now describe your project in more length. *



300 words minimum

How would you define success for this project? *



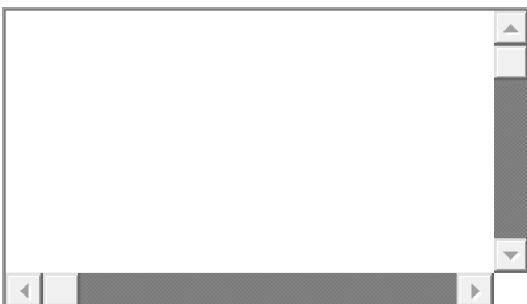
300 words minimum

Noting that this accelerator aims to elevate underrepresented* voices, why is this film important to make? Why do you have to be the one to make it?



**Underrepresented includes - but is not limited to - race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, mental abilities or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, etc.*

Why is it important for you to join the cohort at this time? What do you hope to bring and gain from these new collaborations?*



300 words minimum

TECHNICAL:

Why did you choose the technical track? Tell us more about your technical expertise and career aspirations furthering one or more of these areas.

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300 words minimum

What does career growth and/or advancement look like to you?*

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300 words minimum

How would you define success for yourself? *

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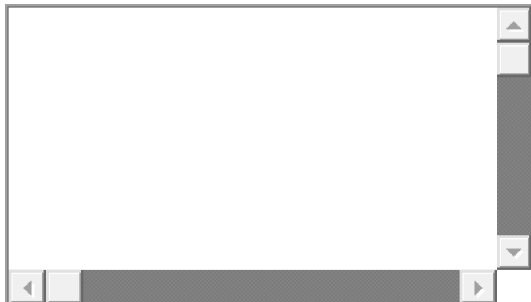
300 words minimum

Why is it important for you to join the cohort at this time? What do you hope to bring and gain from these new collaborations?

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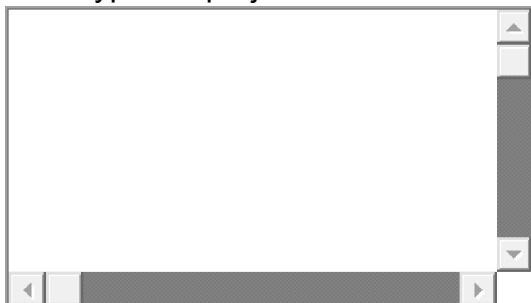
300 words minimum

Noting that this accelerator aims to elevate underrepresented* voices, why is your voice essential to the Milwaukee area film industry in the short or long term?



**Underrepresented includes - but is not limited to - race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability or attributes, mental abilities or attributes, religious or ethical values system, national origin, etc.*

What types of projects and/or what sorts of clients do you hope to work on/with in the future?



300 words minimum

Application Materials

All applications must include a resume/CV and a film-related work sample that showcases your skill and voice as a visual storyteller.

Applicants may also include supporting materials to strengthen their application. For example, a script is particularly helpful for fiction projects and filmmakers. Additionally, you may add links to *professional or artistic* websites, Vimeo links, Facebook pages, Instagram accounts, etc.

NOTE: These do not replace the resume OR work sample submission but may be used to supplement your application.

In order to distribute samples to our jurors, please provide online link(s). Password protected links are acceptable. **Passwords and links must be stable through Monday, September 16.** If your link becomes inaccessible, Milwaukee Film reserves the right to void your application without notice. Jurors will watch up to 10 minutes of material, starting at the beginning of the piece submitted. Committee members may stop watching after 3 minutes. Work samples should include no more than 10 minutes of material.

Upload your resume or CV here. *

Work Sample Link*

Application Project Work Sample Password (if applicable)

Contextualize the work sample submitted above: *

250 words maximum

Are you submitting additional materials? If so, please select all that apply. *

- Additional Work Sample
- Script
- Website/Other Source
- None

Additional Work Sample Link

Additional Work Sample Password (if applicable)

Contextualize the work sample submitted above:



250 words maximum

Script Upload - 10 pages maximum

PDF files only

If you opted to submit a script sample above, please contextualize this portion of the script:



250 words maximum

If you would like to submit a professional or artistic website, link, account, etc., you may do so here:

If you opted to submit a website, please contextualize the included link and its work:



250 words maximum

Finalist Interviews

I understand and acknowledge the following:

- If I am invited to interview as a finalist, I will receive an email to schedule the week of September 9 and will promptly confirm or schedule the interview date/time.
- I have held on my calendar the dates of September 12, 13 and 14 for a possible interview (e.g. plan to be available for several hours on several days with access to reliable video conferencing equipment).
- The interview will explore these application questions further and is intended to be conversational. No preparation is required and this is not a pitch session to share a reel, deck or other portfolio materials.

Personal Identity

Milwaukee Film is committed to supporting and elevating diverse voices in film. We are seeking additional demographic information in order to evaluate how we may use our resources to strengthen that commitment, particularly through funding and educational sources.

The following demographic questions are entirely optional.

Age:

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65 or older

Gender Identity:

Sexual Orientation:

Racial or Ethnic Identity(ies):

Household Income:

- Less than \$25,000
- \$25,000 to \$34,999
- \$35,000 to \$49,999
- \$50,000 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$99,999
- \$100,000 to \$149,999
- \$150,000 to \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more

Submission Verification

I represent and warrant that:

- This application and all of the information submitted herein is accurate.
- I grant Milwaukee Film the right to use, duplicate, and disseminate the application and all other materials submitted herewith for the purposes of evaluation, review, research, and future education.

By selecting "Yes" below I verify that the above is, to the best of my knowledge, true and that I agree to the terms outlined above. *

- Yes