

2010 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Screenwriters



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

WHO: Mid-career screenwriters in Minnesota. Are you “mid-career?” See [Eligibility Requirements](#), below.

WHAT: Two \$25,000 Fellowships for Minnesota screenwriters. The Fellowships honor the professional and artistic accomplishments of Minnesota artists writing for the screen as demonstrated by one completed feature-length screenplay. Fellows are selected by industry professionals from outside the state of Minnesota. Jurors will evaluate and rate the following aspects of each screenplay: originality of ideas, uniqueness of writer's voice, skillful story structure, talent with creating dialogue, and talent with character development.

WHEN: Deadline for submission: **Monday, February 1**, 2010 at 4:00pm. Fellowships are awarded in June 2010.

WHERE: All written application materials, including your screenplay, must be E-MAILED to IFP at grants@ifpmn.org. Supporting documentation may be faxed to 651-644-5708, or mailed to IFP Minnesota, 2446 University Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55114.

WHY: To support excellence in screenwriting in Minnesota.

HOW: After determining your eligibility to apply, submit the required written materials and screenplay by e-mail.

For questions about the Fellowships or the application process, contact Lu Lippold, Director of Funding Programs at IFP MN, 651-644-1912 x106, llippold@ifpmn.org.

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered a “mid-career” screenwriter, you must fulfill at least one of the following three criteria. Please provide documentation that you have:

1. A feature-length, narrative screenplay produced or optioned for production by a person or a company with at least one produced feature film credit, **OR**
2. At least three feature-length, narrative screenplays copyrighted or registered with the Writers Guild of America, **OR**
3. A screenwriting degree or a film production degree with a screenwriting major from an accredited college or university program.

Please note that the screenplay that you are submitting for the McKnight counts as one of your three registered screenplays.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Fellowship program is open only to individuals and to writing partnerships of no more than two. If a writing partnership applies, both writers must fulfill all the requirements of individual applicants. Organizations and companies are not eligible to apply.
2. The applicant(s) must be the sole creator(s) of the screenplay. The screenplay must be copyrighted or registered with the WGA under the name(s) of the writer(s).
3. The screenplay may not be an adaptation of any previously written, performed, or filmed work by another artist.
4. The screenplay may not have been submitted to the Fellowship more than three times previously, under any title.
5. Applicants must be current Minnesota residents who have resided in the state continuously for a minimum of one full year before the application deadline. Applicants may be required to provide documentation in addition to a driver's license if residency is in question.
6. Fellows must remain in residence in Minnesota during the Fellowship year, or forfeit the award.
7. The Fellowship allows only one application (for a single screenplay) per individual per year.
8. Full-time and part-time students in any film, video, or screenwriting-related degree programs are not eligible to apply, and Fellows may not attend school full-time during the Fellowship year.
9. Screenplays associated with a degree-granting program are not eligible.
10. Employees of IFP MN and the McKnight Foundation are not eligible to apply.

11. Artists may apply to only one McKnight Artist Fellowship program per year in any discipline (i.e., Screenwriter or Filmmaker or Playwright, etc.).
12. An artist may not win more than \$50,000 in McKnight Fellowships in three years.
13. Fellows may not submit the same screenplay that won the award previously.
14. Fellows may apply again to the program four years after receiving the award. The 2006 Fellows are eligible to apply to the 2010 program. The 2007 Fellows will be eligible in 2011, etc.

Screenplay Format

- Required page length range is 90 pages minimum to 130 pages maximum.
- Screenplay must use Courier 12 pt. with standard screenplay spacing and margins.
- No illustrations or photographs on the inside pages or the cover page of the screenplay.
- Screenplay must be written in the English language.
- **You must submit your screenplay as a PDF file.**
 - The title page should NOT contain your name or contact information. It should contain the title and nothing else.
 - The name of the PDF should be the title of your screenplay.
 - Send it with your other written materials as an e-mail attachment to grants@ifpmn.org.

Application Materials

Submit the following documents as e-mail attachments.

- ⇒ The subject line of your e-mail should include your name and the words "McKnight Screenwriting Application."
- ⇒ Include your screenplay's title and your contact information (name, address, e-mail address, and phone number) in the body of the e-mail.

1. Application Cover Sheet
2. PDF of one feature-length, narrative screenplay, per format criteria (see *Screenplay Format* section above)
3. Résumé: Maximum two pages
4. Artist's Statement: Maximum one page, describing your screenwriting background and your artistic vision

5. Fellowship Plan: Provide a written discussion of no more than one page describing your artistic and professional plans for the Fellowship year. Include activity connected with completion of recent work and development of future work. You are not required to discuss specific plans for Fellowship money.

You may submit the following four documents via e-mail, fax, or U.S. mail:

1. Photocopy of Copyright or WGA Registration Receipt for Submitted Screenplay
2. Professional Accomplishment Documentation, per eligibility criteria
 - a. Photocopy of option agreement **or**
 - b. Photocopies of copyright or WGA registration receipts for 3 screenplays **or**
 - c. Photocopy of Screenwriting Major transcript from accredited college or university
3. Property Release Form: Download at www.ifpmn.org/mcknight.html
4. Photocopy of MN Driver's License or MN-Issued Picture ID: If you applied last year and have not moved from your address at that time, you do not need to re-send your driver's license.

Here's what your application e-mail should look like:

From: Your Name

To: grants@ifpmn.org

Subject: **Your Name – McKnight Screenwriting Application**

Attachments: Your Name Application Cover Sheet.doc (or pdf)

Your Name Resume.doc (or pdf)

Your Name Artist Statement.doc (or pdf)

Your Name Fellowship Plan.doc (or pdf)

SCREENPLAY TITLE.pdf (pdf file name = screenplay title)

(Your Professional Accomplishment Documentation, WGA/Copyright, Property Release form, and Driver's License, if you're scanning and e-mailing them)

Body of E-mail:

Screenplay Title

Your Name

Your Address

Your E-Mail Address

Your Phone Number

NOTE: If you are unable to send all the attachments in a single e-mail, you may send two separate e-mails, one with the written application materials and one with the screenplay and supporting documentation.

Important Dates and Mailing Address

Completed applications must be received at the IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts no later than 4:00 PM on **Monday, February 1, 2010**. This is an in-office deadline. E-mail your completed application to:

grants@ifpmn.org

You may fax or mail your supporting documentation to Lu Lippold at:

Fax #651-644-5708

or

McKnight Screenwriting Fellowship
IFP Minnesota
2446 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55114

"How to Apply" Info Sessions

Free "How to Apply" workshops will be offered in November and December to answer questions about the application process and the Fellowship program. **Both screenwriters and filmmakers are welcome to attend either session.**

TWIN CITIES

Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 6:00 PM

OR

Monday, December 7, 2009 6:00 PM

IFP MN Center for Media Arts

2446 University Ave. West

St. Paul

DULUTH

Saturday, November 7

4:00 PM "How to Apply"

5:00 PM Cinema Lounge

Zinema 2 Theater

222 E. Superior Street, Duluth

McKnight Screenwriting Fellows

1997	Karl Gadjusek, John Olive, Jeffrey Williams
1998	Jim Berg, James Byrne, Jim Christensen
1999	David Grant, Shawn Lawrence Otto
2000	William Eigen, Jeane Moore
2001	Jane O'Reilly, Doug Pfeifer
2002	Steven Larson, Ron Stover
2003	Michael Starrbury, Bob Yates
2004	Susan Arakawa, Brad Pecelj
2005	Patrick Coyle, Bob Yates
2006	Steven Larson & Gary Jenneke, Zach Hammill
2007	Michael Starrbury, Wenonah Wilms
2008	Daniel Laurence, Alan W. Porter
2009	Nicole Brending, Karen Frank

Questions? Contact Lu Lippold, Director of Funding Programs at IFP MN. Phone: 651-644-1912, x106. E-mail: llippold@ifpmn.org.

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