

Fellowship Guidelines

The Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE), The City of New York Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS), and Workforce Development Corporation (WDC) have partnered to launch the Made in NY Writers Room, a new fellowship program designed to assist in the professional development of writers based in New York City (the “Fellowship”). The program aims to identify emerging talent whose work offers new and diverse points of view. In this regard, women, people of color, and individuals from other groups underrepresented in the television writing profession, are encouraged to apply. In addition, the Fellowship seeks to increase the number of television productions written and produced in New York.

Fellowship Overview: Through a competitive application process, up to 12 writers, either applying as an individual or a team of two (each individual and team referred to as a “Writer”), will participate in a six-month Fellowship during which they will be assigned a dedicated mentor who is a New York City-based showrunner. The goal of the Fellowship is for the mentors to help propel the careers of the Writers, whose viewpoints may be under-represented in television. Selected fellows will receive professional development opportunities and industry feedback to develop either an original drama or comedy pilot that is ready for production. Within the first month of the Fellowship, the mentors and fellows will jointly submit a calendar detailing at least two, one-hour meetings per month (by video or phone conferencing if necessary) for the duration of the Fellowship. The calendar will also outline how the following objectives of the fellowship will be met:

- Completion of a minimum of two script re-writes;
- Attendance at three WGAE educational craft/career programs;
- Production of a table read of the fellow’s script by union actors;
- Attendance at two, one-hour career coaching sessions provided by WGAE;
- Additional milestones as defined by WGAE and WDC; and
- Additional milestones as defined by the mentor and fellow.

Fellows will receive a stipend commensurate with the number of hours spent participating in Fellowship activities, including developing their pilots, attending programs, and working with their mentor.

Number of Writers selected: Up to 12 fellows (this includes individual and team based submissions for a maximum cohort of 24 fellows)

Eligibility Requirements:

Criteria A (all applicants, *i.e.* each individual or team member applying, must meet these requirements)

- Be age 18 or older; and
- Eligible to work in the U.S.; and
- Reside in one of New York City’s five boroughs.

Criteria B (at least one criterion must be met by each individual applicant or by one team member)

- Be a member of the WGAE, or be recommended by a member of the WGAE Diversity Coalition; or
- Be an alumnus(a) of the Ghetto Film School, Tribeca All-Access Program, NALIP (National Association of Latino Independent Producers) programs/incubators; or

- Be recommended by New York Women in Film and Television; or
- Be recommended by the Alliance for Inclusion in the Arts; or
- Be recommended by Asian CineVision; or
- Be recommended by a Blackhouse Foundation Board Member; or
- Be recommended by the Black Filmmakers Foundation; or
- Be recommended by the Black List; or
- Be recommended by a member of the Interguild Diversity Coalition.

Application Requirements:

- Writing submissions entered for consideration must be either a comedy or a drama pilot written for television in standard screenplay format. Submissions must be original works by the Writer and capture the Writer’s unique tone, style and perspective.
- Each Writer or team must submit an essay (no more than 300 words) describing how the writer(s) reflects the mission of the fellowship.
- A brief bio (no longer than 150 words per writer) should be submitted. Writing teams should submit a bio for each member of the team.
- Applications must be completed by the Writer and not a representative.
- Only online submissions in PDF format will be accepted. A receipt will automatically be sent to the email address of the entrant upon successful completion of the submission process. We will not accept email or mail submissions.
- Pilots must be registered with the WGAE at the time of submission (https://www.wgaeast.org/script_registration).

Note on writing teams: Teams of no more than two people are eligible to apply. **Writing teams should submit one application and not apply as two separate applicants.** Each member of the writing team must meet all of the requirements identified in Criteria A. However, only one member of the writing team must meet requirements identified in Criteria B. Each member of the writing team will receive a stipend reflective of the numbers of individual hours they have spent developing the pilot. Writing teams consisting of more than two people will not be considered.

Submission Period: The submission period will open on **September 15, 2016** and close **October 20, 2016**. The deadline for submissions is **11:59 p.m. ET on October 20, 2016**. Late or incomplete submissions may not be accepted. No more than 500 applications will be reviewed for the Fellowship, and the submission period will close at either the 500-application capacity or at the submission deadline, whichever occurs first. Applicants may only submit one application for consideration, whether as an individual or part of a team. Multiple submissions will be disqualified.

Criteria and Selection Process: In considering submissions for the Fellowship, applicants will be evaluated on overall strength of all application materials including personal essay, script and interviews with program partners and mentors. WGAE members who write for television will review all scripts through a blind review process. Each script will be scored based on quality, originality, character development and resonance with the mission and spirit of the Fellowship. The submission assessment process will consist of three rounds of review. All submissions reviewed by WGAE members will be read, scored and provided with written feedback.

1. Round 1: Applicants will be notified if they have been selected as one of up to 200 semi-finalists by December 2016.
2. Round 2: Applicants will be notified if they have been selected as one of up to 30 finalists by January 2017.
3. Round 3: Up to 30 finalists will be invited to interview with staff representatives of SBS, WGAE, WDC and showrunner mentors. Interviews will take place from January 2017 through March 2017.
4. Finalists will receive written notice of Fellowship selection or non-selection by April 2017.

Dates of Program: The 6-month fellowship is expected to begin in June 2017 and continue through December 2017. However, final dates will be dependent on various factors including mentor schedules.

Stipend: During the 6-month fellowship, fellows will be compensated for all time spent working on Fellowship activities, including time spent re-writing their scripts, attending Fellowship events and meeting with their mentor at the rate of fifteen dollars an hour, up to \$15,600.

Prizes:

1. Five finalists with the highest scoring comedy scripts will be nominated by the WGAE to the Screenwriters Colony Episodic Comedy in partnership with the Nantucket Film Festival, a two-week residency at Almanack Arts Colony in Nantucket, Massachusetts. The program is an all-expense paid residency and mentorship experience for selected emerging comedy writers.
2. Two finalists with the highest scoring respective scripts in comedy and drama will be performed at a professionally cast and directed live reading at Lincoln Center.
3. Writers selected for the Fellowship will be matched with showrunners based on their career interests. During the 6-month Fellowship period, fellows will have access to educational and professional development programs offered by the WGAE, industry feedback and guidance from their respective mentors and the opportunity to produce a live table read of their script by union actors.

Contact information: Questions regarding the program and application guidelines should be directed to Jenna Bond, WGAE Member Services Manager, at jbond@wgaeast.org.

The Fellowship administrators reserve the right to amend these Guidelines at any time, without advance notice, and to deviate from these Guidelines when such deviation is deemed to be in the best interests of the Fellowship.

Partner Overview:

Department of Small Business Services (SBS): The Department of Small Business Services (SBS) helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses and building a fairer economy in neighborhoods across the five boroughs. For more information, please visit: www.nyc.gov/sbs

Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME): The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) is comprised of two divisions. The Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting encompasses film, television, radio, theatre, music, advertising, publishing, digital content and real estate as it relates to the creation of creative content. It serves as a one-stop shop for the entertainment industry, which has seen explosive growth over the last year in New York City, contributing nearly \$9 billion and over 130,000 jobs. The Office promotes New York City as a thriving center of creativity, issuing permits for productions filming on public property, and facilitating production throughout the five boroughs. The Agency also oversees NYC Media, the City's official broadcast network and media production group, which has a reach of over 18 million people and provides programming for six local cable stations, including award-winning programs on the popular NYC Life (channel 25), as well as one radio station. For more information, please visit: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/mome/index.page>

Workforce Development Corporation: The WDC is an independent not-for-profit created by the City of New York (the "City") specifically for the purpose of assisting the City in developing and funding workforce initiatives. In furtherance of this purpose, the WDC and SBS work in a partnership consisting of, among other things, jointly developing, funding and managing workforce and training initiatives, and resource sharing.

Writers Guild of America, East (WGAE): The Writers Guild of America, East, (WGAE) is a labor union of thousands of professionals who are the primary creators of what is seen or heard on television and film in the U.S., as well as the writers of a growing portion of original digital media content. Our members write everything from big budget movies to independent films, late night comedy/variety shows to daytime serials, broadcast and radio news, web series, documentaries, and animation. The WGAE works on their behalf to promote and protect the professional and artistic interests of this diverse community. On joining the Guild, writers from an extraordinarily vast range of backgrounds and abilities unite to promote, protect, and maintain important artistic and professional principles. The Guild's assistance is provided regardless of the writers' degree of success. For more information, please visit: www.wgaeast.org