



2009 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Filmmakers

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

The Fellowships

IFP Minnesota is pleased to announce the 2009 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Filmmakers. The fellowships honor the professional and artistic accomplishments of mid-career Minnesota artists working in the medium of film/video, as demonstrated by two examples of completed, original works in any of the genres and formats of narrative, documentary, experimental, or animation, in feature or short lengths.

IFP Minnesota and The McKnight Foundation will award two \$25,000 fellowships to Minnesota filmmakers in 2009. The Fellows are selected by a panel of jurors who are film artists and professionals from outside Minnesota. Jurors look for consistent artistic excellence and merit, clarity and uniqueness of vision, professional quality in the technical aspects of production, and for demonstrable, sustained growth in the artist's career. Additionally, jurors consider the artist's ability to present his/her application for the fellowship in an articulate and professional manner. Fellows will be announced in June 2009.

Program Support

The Minnesota-based McKnight Foundation provides fellowships for ceramic artists, choreographers and dancers, composers, musicians, photographers, playwrights, screenwriters, filmmakers, theater artists, visual artists, and writers.

About IFP Minnesota

IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts supports and promotes the work of artists who create screenplays, film, video, and photography in the Midwest.

IFP MN envisions a world where expression through images is encouraged and valued. It is the goal of IFP MN to lead the way in supporting the independent media artist by creating a healthy, viable filmmaking and photographic community in the Midwest. IFP MN is the largest media arts organization in the central United States and offers a broad spectrum of education, access, and exhibition services for independent filmmakers and photographers at low cost.

Applying to the Program

General Instructions

Please read the guidelines from beginning to end before starting the application. Allow a reasonable amount of time to complete and assemble the application materials. Submit only the materials that are required. Do not submit additional materials.

Clearly label each of the elements of the application materials (resume, artist statement, etc.) with your name and title of the element. Attach each element as a separate attachment in a single email.

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.

“How to Apply” Info Sessions

Free "How to Apply" workshops will be offered in November and December 2008 to answer any questions you might have regarding the application process and the fellowship program. **Both screenwriters and filmmakers are welcome to attend either session.**

TWIN CITIES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

6:30 PM

OR

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

6:30 PM

IFP MN Center for Media Arts

2446 University Ave. West

St. Paul

DULUTH

Friday, December 5, 2008

6:00 PM “How to Apply” Info Session

7:00 PM Special Cinema Lounge

Duluth Play Ground

Technology Village

11 Superior Street, Main Level

THE MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION

Eligibility

IFP Minnesota and The McKnight Foundation welcome all filmmakers who fulfill the following criteria to apply to the fellowship program. Only the applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be accepted for further consideration and judging. Please review the criteria carefully.

1. 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.
2. Fellows must remain in residence in Minnesota during the fellowship year, or forfeit the award.
3. 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.
4. Applicants must demonstrate a sustained level of professional accomplishment over a period of at least five years. Theatrical and television distribution, film festival screenings, museum screenings, other curated public screenings, awards and grants for film, video and/or screenwriting, publications, teaching, lecturing and other activities, will be considered as evidence of an advanced standing and active participation in the filmmaking community.
5. The fellowship program is open only to individuals credited as Director, or serving as Director, of the films/videos submitted. Partnerships, larger groups, organizations and companies may not apply.
6. The fellowship allows only one application per individual.
7. Work samples associated with a degree-granting program are not eligible.
8. Employees of IFP MN and The McKnight Foundation are not eligible to apply.
9. Artists may apply to only one McKnight Artist Fellowship program per year in any discipline (i.e., Screenwriter *or* Filmmaker *or* Playwright, etc.).
10. An artist may not win more than \$50,000 in McKnight Fellowships in three years.
11. Fellows may apply again to the program four years after receiving the award. The 2004 Fellows are eligible to apply to the 2008 program. The 2005 Fellows will be eligible in 2009, etc.

Eligible Genres and Formats

- Feature-length narratives
- Short-form narratives
- Feature-length documentaries
- Short-form documentaries
- Feature-length experimental projects
- Short-form experimental projects
- Feature-length animated projects
- Short-form animated projects
- Music videos

IFP Minnesota recognizes that not all films fall within the strict definitions of genres and formats. Refer to the list below of works *not* accepted, or speak with the program administrator if you have questions regarding eligibility of a particular work.

Genres and Formats Not Eligible

- Works produced in fulfillment of a class assignment or a degree program
- Broadcast news journalism
- Broadcast reality entertainment
- Advertising commercials
- Industrial films and videos
- Corporate films and videos
- Educational films and videos
- Incomplete works-in-progress
- Trailers, clips, or any proposal for a longer film
- Director's reels

Application Materials

You must submit two completed film/videos and the following written materials. Each of these materials must be included in the application by the deadline, or the applicant will be disqualified from consideration for the fellowship.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS AS EMAIL ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Application Cover Sheet*
2. *Professional Résumé*: The resume should be no longer than two pages and should demonstrate professional accomplishment in the film/video medium for a minimum of five years.
3. *Artist's Statement*: Provide a written discussion of no more than one page describing your creative journey as an artist and your creative filmmaking process and vision.
4. *Fellowship Plan*: Provide a written discussion of no more than one page describing your artistic and professional plans for the fellowship year, including activity connected with completion of recent work and development of future work. You are not required to discuss specific plans for fellowship money.
5. *Process and History Statements*: For each work sample, provide a written discussion of no more than one page describing various aspects of the film/video, such as the inspiration or vision for the piece, unique or notable aspects of the process, and the production and exhibition history.

6. Photocopy of MN Driver's License or MN-Issued Picture ID: Please scan and send as an attachment, **or** include a paper copy with your DVD, **or** fax a copy to Lu Lippold at fax #651-644-5708.

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING EITHER ON DVD OR ONLINE:

7. Two Complete Film/Video Works: The two works must be presented in their full length, fully completed, and may not represent a work in progress. They may be submitted on DVD or online.
- DVDs must be labeled with filmmaker's name, title of work, running time, and year of completion.
 - If you are submitting your work online, please include the links in the body of your email.

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, March 2, 2009**. No exceptions. This is an in-office deadline. No applications will be accepted by mail, email, or walk-up after this time.

Email your completed application to, Lu Lippold at llippold@ifpmn.org.

If you are submitting your film/videos on DVD, mail them to:

McKnight Artist Fellowships for Filmmakers
IFP Minnesota Center for Media Arts
2446 University Avenue West, Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55114

If you are faxing your driver's license, send it to Lu Lippold at fax #651-644-5708.

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

McKnight Filmmaking Fellows

2004 Melody Gilbert, Eric Tretbar
2005 David Eberhardt, Scott Coleman Miller
2006 John Hime, Tom Schroeder
2007 Emily Goldberg, Jon Springer
2008 Hisham M. Bizri, Gabriel Cheifetz