

# 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*. 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 2023-2025 cohort application window will close on Sunday, August 6 at 11:59 PM.** All applicants can expect to hear a decision via email by September 20 or at our induction ceremony on September 19.

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](mailto: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:

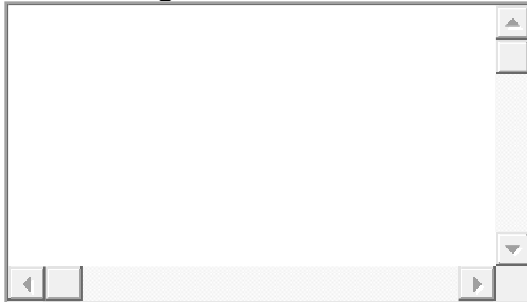
Are you a Milwaukee Film Member?\*

- Yes  No

## Background + Experience

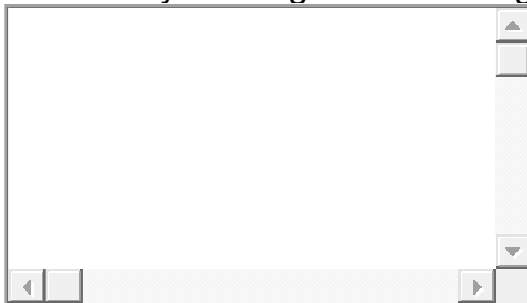
In this section, please describe your background in filmmaking and any relevant experience to storytelling broadly.

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



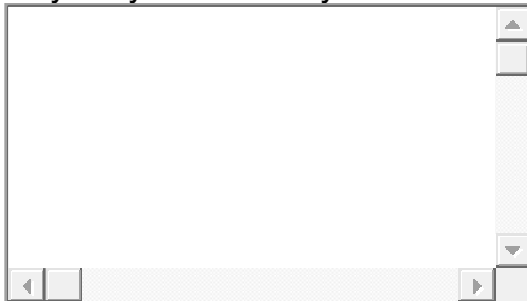
500 words maximum

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



500 words maximum

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 would this accelerator program allow you to do that otherwise would not be possible? \*

500 words maximum

# 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:* a short film that is ready for screenings, public presentations, and/or festival submissions

*Technical:* a business proposal or clear advancement benchmarks and timelines

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. \*

500 words maximum

Again, 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.*

How would you define success for this project? \*

500 words maximum

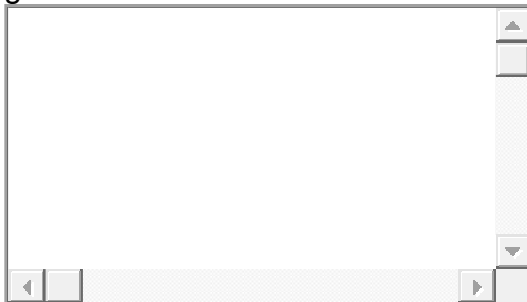
## Technical

What types of stories or projects are you excited to work on?\*



500 words maximum

Why is it important for you to join the cohort at this time? What do you hope to bring and gain from this creative team?\*



500 words maximum

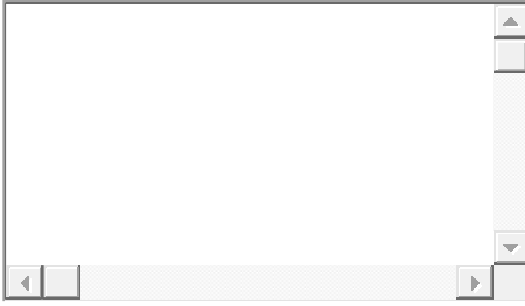
What does professional growth and/or advancement look like to you?\*



500 words maximum



How would you define success for yourself? \*

A large, empty rectangular text input field. It has a thin black border. On the right side, there is a vertical scroll bar with a small upward-pointing arrow at the top and a downward-pointing arrow at the bottom. At the bottom left, there is a horizontal scroll bar with a left-pointing arrow and a right-pointing arrow.

500 words maximum

# 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 Wednesday, September 20. 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

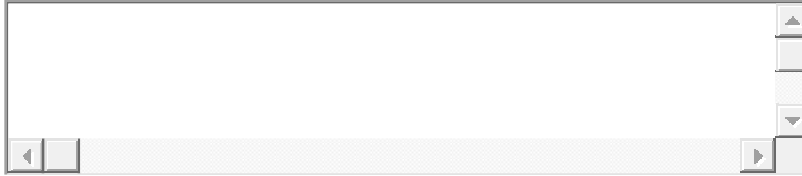
Are you submitting additional materials? If so, please select all that apply. \*

- 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

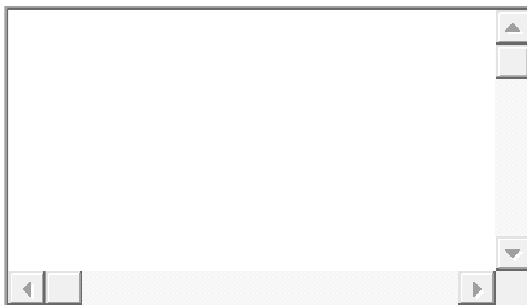
If you opted to submit a script sample above, please contextualize this portion of the script:



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

# 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