



## **Project Involve Application Sample and/or Essay Criteria**

Applicants must submit a bio, cover letter and resume (no more than 2 pages).

All other sample and/or essay criteria listed below per track.

### **CINEMATOGRAPHER / EDITOR / PRODUCER**

Provide two work samples (feature/short/web series/episodic) where you served in the role you are applying for – i.e. if applying as a producer, two pieces that you produced; if applying as an editor, two pieces that you edited, etc. All applicants in these tracks must submit at least one fictional narrative work sample; the second sample may be fiction or nonfiction, or a music video. No reels, commercials or verticals.

- Editors – you must be the sole editor; no AE or co-editors
- Producers – must be the producer on the project (no more than three producers in the credits); no co-producer or associate producer titles in the projects you are submitting as sample work.

### **CREATIVE EXECUTIVE**

Please write responses according to the following prompts:

**Film Critique:** Write a critique of a film of your choice that was released, either theatrically or via streaming platform, between January 1, 2024, and June 5, 2025. State whether or not you appreciated the film and offer reasons to support your position. We are not looking for a synopsis, but rather a critical exploration of the selected film's merits or lack of them based on your opinion. Do not incorporate professional critics' published reviews.

**Executive Statement:** Write your mission statement as an aspiring executive. What type of executive would you ideally like to be? What types of stories are important to you and how do you want to help them be told? Please list three specific executives you admire and why.

## **DIRECTOR**

Provide **two fictional narrative** work samples (feature/short/web series/episodic) where you served as the sole director. No reels, music videos, verticals, or commercials.

## **FESTIVAL PROGRAMMER**

Please write responses according to the following prompts:

**Film Critique:** Write a critique of a film of your choice that was released, either theatrically or via streaming platform, between January 1, 2024, and June 5, 2025. State whether or not you appreciated the film and offer reasons to support your position. We are not looking for a synopsis, but rather a critical exploration of the selected film's merits or lack of them based on your opinion. Do not incorporate professional critics' published reviews.

**Festival Program:** Write a proposal for a new section of a film festival that you would like to program. What is the section called? What is its organizing principle? Please include at least 8 films that you feel best exemplify what this section could be and why.

## **WRITER/DIRECTOR**

Provide **two fictional narrative** work samples (feature/short/web series/episodic) where you served as the sole writer/director. No co-written or co-directed pieces will be considered. No reels, music videos, verticals, or commercials.

Provide two writing samples for consideration:

**One Long Sample:** Include a feature-length screenplay or a pilot script. Provide its logline and synopsis.

**One Short Sample:** Submit a complete short script that is 10 pages or less. One of your writing samples must be the accompanying script to one of your submitted produced fictional narrative work samples.

You will also be asked to write a short screenplay, 3-5 pages (excluding title page) based on a story prompt. This 2026 application cycle's writing prompt is "the ties that bond us."

## **WRITER**

Provide two writing samples for consideration, including one long sample (feature or pilot) and one short script sample (a complete short script that is ten pages or less). The logline and synopsis should be for your long sample.

Please write a short screenplay, 3-5 pages (excluding title page) based on the following story prompt. This 2026 application cycle's writing prompt is "the ties that bond us."

## **LAIKA FELLOWSHIP**

### **DIRECTOR/LEAD ANIMATOR**

Provide one fiction stop-motion animated work sample in which you served as the sole director. No reels, music videos, verticals, or commercials. No co-directed pieces will be considered for evaluation.

Second Sample (optional): You may provide a second stop-motion work sample in which you served as the sole writer/director/lead animator. This optional sample may be fiction or nonfiction, commercial or music video.

## **EDITOR**

Please submit one fiction animated and one live action work sample in which you served as the sole credited editor – you must be the sole editor; no AE or co-editors. In addition, you may submit an animatic.

Please note: No fully AI generated samples will be considered for evaluation.

## **PRODUCER**

Please submit one fiction animated or live action work sample in which you were credited as a producer – there must be no more than three producers in the credits; no co-producer or associate producer titles in the projects you are submitting as sample work.

Please note: No fully AI generated samples will be considered for evaluation.

In addition, please provide the following:

Sample Budget: Create a top sheet budget for a \$30,000 stop-motion animated short film with a runtime of no more than 5 minutes. Assume the following roles—Producer, Writer, Cinematographer, Editor, and two Animators—will work at no cost.

Schedule Breakdown: Create a detailed production schedule for a stop-motion animated short film (no longer than 5 minutes). The schedule should have a timeline spanning January 1, 2026, to October 31, 2027, and cover all phases from story development to final delivery.

## **SUPPORTING ANIMATOR**

Please submit one fiction stop-motion animation work sample in which you served as the principal, lead or partial animator. No reels, music videos, verticals, or commercials.

In addition, please submit a portfolio of supplementary materials for this work sample demonstrating your work, which could include storyboards, renderings or character design layouts.

Please note: No fully AI generated samples will be considered for evaluation.

Second Sample (optional): You may provide a second stop-motion work sample that showcases your animation skills. This optional sample can be a music video, a branded commercial, or another creative project.

## **WRITER**

Provide **two fictional narrative** work samples (feature/short/web series/episodic) where you served as the sole writer. No co-written pieces will be considered. No reels, music videos, verticals, or commercials.

One Long Sample: Include a feature-length screenplay or a pilot script. Provide its logline and synopsis.

One Short Sample: Submit a complete short script that is 10 pages or less.

You will also be asked to write a short screenplay, 3-5 pages (excluding title page) based on a story prompt. This 2026 application cycle's writing prompt is "the ties that bond us."

**CINEMATOGRAPHER** (No application this year. Cinematographer applications will open in 2026 for the cohort of 2027).

Please provide two work samples (feature/short/web series/episodic) where you served as the cinematographer. One of your samples must be a stop-motion project on which you served as the cinematographer. All applicants must submit at least one fictional narrative work sample; the second sample may be fiction or nonfiction, or a music video. No reels, commercials or verticals.