

2023 Critical Juncture Webinar
Wednesday, April 12
Virtual

F. JIHAN:

This is our Critical Juncture page. I'm hoping that y'all are familiar with this page already. It's where you'll find all of the necessary information and links that you need.

GUIDELINES:

We're going to start with the guidelines. Christina's going to download the guidelines real quick.

We have the guidelines in two formats this this format and then open with open dyslexic font as well. Yeah, and then just a really quick overview.

Critical Juncture is QWOCMAP's new program for Emerging and Early Career LGBTQIA+ filmmakers of color.

This is the first iteration of Critical Juncture and it's happening in conjunction with the SF Human Rights Commission's Dream Keeper Initiative, which is a program to support and nurture culture and community of SF's diverse Black communities and because of our partnership with DKI, this first iteration is for queer and trans Black/African descent filmmakers living, working, learning, or creating in SF.

We're really trying to push the definition of what "in" SF means. We're trying to push it as far as we can because we're aware of displacement and a lot of our community is in other parts of the Bay Area. I'll get more into that specific eligibility requirement later. But yeah, I'm going to start with the guidelines.

Application Due Date:

The application due date is April 30th, and we're inviting Emerging filmmakers, folks who have made anywhere between 1-3 films, or Early Career filmmakers, and that's 3+ shorts.

We're asking folks to provide some kind of proof of verification of their connection to SF. That could look many different ways. And like I said earlier, connection to SF, we're really trying to push it as much as possible and are down to work with folks on a case-by-case basis and make it work. This could look like providing a student ID for a learning institution in San Francisco, bills, confirmation that part of your film will be filmed in SF.

Accessibility:

We have an online application form. We have a Word document that could be downloaded and then filled out and then emailed to us at training@qwocmap.org, or you could schedule a video or phone interview with QWOCMAP staff and we would just be going over the questions with you. We thought it would be good to allow folks to sort of talk about themselves instead of having to focus on writing.

If none of these ways of applying work for you, just let us know and we'd love to figure out a way to get an application in.

We're wanting to have folks keep application responses to about a paragraph, 100-250 words. We're really just trying to understand who you are as an artist and your specific gifts and personality. We're not wanting you to tailor your responses to what you think we might want. We're really just trying to get to know you and see if our program will be supportive for your needs as a filmmaker. Ultimately, we're just trying to get resources in your hands to make sure that you can keep making films.

In terms of time it could take to complete the application - it could be anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour. If you fill out the online form, the responses will not be sent to you. I recommend downloading the word document or looking at the PDF at the questions and then filling it out. You have your answers if you want to use it for another grant in the future or to just be aware of what you shared with us. In the online application in order to get to each new section, you have to finish the section before but if you look at the PDF all of the questions and everything that's in the online application is in there so if you want to brainstorm the questions first and then use the online form, there's a couple different things that you can do.

Resources & Support:

Really briefly - the resources and support. I'm going to get into this in more detail a little bit later in the guidelines, but just quickly: we're offering cash grants from 1,000 to 5,000, production packages, post-production packages, mentorship. Mentorship looks a little bit different whether you're Emerging or Early Career. Advanced training workshops and peer learning sessions.

Cohorts:

There will be two cohorts. We're hoping to have up to 10 filmmakers for the Emerging cohort and then up to 10 filmmakers for the Early Career cohort and then, depending on the size of each cohort and cohort needs, some of the sessions might be shared and some of the sessions might be separated based off of cohort.

Timeline:

Our guidelines have our timeline sort of laid out.

The application closes on April 30th at 11:59 PM. The participants will be notified by May 22nd and then have about a week to confirm. We're asking folks to confirm by May 29th by filling out an acceptance survey within which we're going to be asking you a little bit more about your specific needs so that we can start matching you with mentors and specialized resources.

Just a little note on the program commitment. It's a year-long program that includes gatherings in person, virtual gatherings. The program itself is highly specialized and there's a lot of opportunity for individual and very attentive support. The program has been created with a lot of intention and heart by our staff and by our team, so it's best utilized if participants are coming with the same sort of intention and commitment and enthusiasm

Program Dates:

Program dates - the first sort of gathering is going to happen during our Film Festival. We're having a filmmaker reception on June 10th at 6:00, and this will be an opportunity for us to celebrate our new Critical Juncture participants and for folks to meet other filmmakers and some of our Community Partners and funders, etc.

July is when QWOCMAP is closed - the month of July, we go on summer break, but throughout July and August, we'll be connecting participants with opportunities with other Film Festivals and some of our Community Partners

September 13th is when we really launch Critical Juncture. We'll have our first Opening Gathering and this is around the time when we will release the cash grants, the production packages, etc.

I forgot to name in June - after the Film Festival Gathering. We will be meeting with participants individually to get a deeper sense of your needs, equipment, mentorship, etc. You'll have filled out a survey for us at this point, but this is just an opportunity for us to talk to you and get a more holistic sense of what you're needing for this program and for yourself as a filmmaker and artist.

Workshop sessions, these will primarily be virtual. Some of them might be in person. These are the dates that we're asking you to hold. All of them are on a Wednesday and are once a month and sessions will probably take place from 5 to 6:30 pm. But we'll be asking in the acceptance survey what times work for you and then try to coordinate that based off of everybody's availability.

Like I said earlier, peer review sessions will probably happen in separate cohorts. And some of the Advanced Training sessions based off of the different cohort needs might be shared or might be separate. Some of those training sessions could look like a session on editing, securing funding, distribution, etc.

And then during our 20th Film Festival, we will have the closing celebration between June 14th and 16th. And then on June 24th evaluations are due and that's sort of the culmination of the program.

Resources & Support:

I'm going to get into it a little bit more. I named this earlier.

Cash grants - Emerging Filmmakers can receive anywhere between a \$1,000 and \$3,000, Early Career \$3,000 and \$5,000. Cash grants can be used to support the filmmakers' film project that they're coming in with or any other expenses while the filmmaker works on their project. We're of the opinion that filmmakers should be trusted to use the funds. However, they see fit.

Equipment - production packages could include camera, lights, microphone, tripod, camera bag, etc. Post-production packages could include laptop, software, internet services, etc. And this is based off of what you share as your needs, and what you share in your acceptance survey, and in the one-on-one meetings that we'll will have in June.

Mentorship - you would be assigned either a Film Mentor or an Industry Mentor and we're asking participants to meet with their mentors for a total of 5 hours throughout the year-long program.

These are outside of the workshop session times. And we'll be providing you resources on how to reach out and schedule meetings with your mentors and who we match you with is based off of what you share with us. But there's flexibility if a participant decides that a mentor isn't really working for them. There's always space to shift. And the mentors are chosen from our network of filmmakers and within our Advisory Board and our community. Emerging filmmakers get a Creative or Film Mentor who will support them with their creative process and then Early Career get primarily Industry Mentors who will sort of support with identifying opportunities connections and strategies to develop the participants' career.

The training sessions - the content of the training sessions will be based on the participant cohort needs but some examples like I said earlier include editing, film distribution, grant writing, etc. You can share with us in your acceptance survey what would be most supportive for you? Facilitated peer learning sessions which will primarily look like support and a peer environment could look like you bringing a work in progress, could be artist development exercises, skill shares, and then each of these sessions (Advanced Training or the Peer Learning sessions), we'll have a crisis counselor present to help navigate any challenging emotions that come with the creative process or provide trauma stewardship, where needed.

Eligibility:

For this year's Critical Juncture, participants or applicants must be LGBTQIA+ folks of Black and African descent and this includes all non-cis male genders.

Must be a filmmaker, and by filmmaker - someone who's created, directed, or produced at least one film or piece of visual media. Emerging filmmakers must have created at least one film in the past, Early Career filmmakers at least three.

And then we're asking folks to live, work, learn, or create in SF. We will be asking for some kind of verification, but we can definitely work with folks on a case-by-case basis and we're wanting this program to work for folks who are in other parts of the Bay Area. There are some workarounds that we are considering internally and there is space on the application to indicate, you know, like I want to have a conversation with QWOCMAP staff about my eligibility in regards to the SF piece.

The film cannot be a work for hire. So if you're bringing in a project, it can't be a work for hire meaning, it can't be for a client and you need to have full financial and creative control.

The participant must be the filmmaker or director or producer of the film that they're working with and bringing in with the program.

That's the guidelines. Towards the end, we just sort of define some of the like work for hire, filmmaker, San Francisco pieces. Now, I'm going to talk about the application and then we'll be ready to do the Q&A.

Thanks for listening to me. I appreciate it.

APPLICATION:

This is the PDF version of our application. This has all the questions that will show up in the online form.

Your options are the online application, word document filling that out and then emailing us, or scheduling a phone or video call with QWOCCMAP staff to do a sort of interview version.

It could take anywhere between 30 minutes to an hour to complete.

If you do the online form, responses will not be sent to you. I encourage you to brainstorm the questions first and keep your responses. Keep your responses short, between a 100 and 250 words.

Eligibility Confirmation:

We're just asking folks to confirm that they meet the eligibility requirements.

And in terms of your connection to SF, like I said earlier, there's an option to discuss that with QWOCCMAP staff and you can just call us or schedule a meeting. You'll probably be talking to me. So, I hope that makes it more accessible.

About You:

The basics and choosing your career level.

If you do the online form and you log in using your QWOCCMAP log-in, it should auto populate, and then choose your career level.

Creative Vision:

This is where the paragraphs start to come in. We're asking you for a brief bio. We're asking you to describe your Creative Vision. What are you trying to convey with your creativity? What images and media move? You don't think too hard about this. You're an artist, just share with us. We're really just curious and will celebrate whatever you share.

Current Film:

You don't need to be deep in production with a film in order to do this program. You could absolutely be in the research and development stage, but the program is definitely best if you have at least a film project idea and I highly encourage you to apply with an idea in mind because the year-long program could support you in flushing it out, and really going deep with it. We also ask how you think Critical Juncture could support you in completing your film.

Program:

Any challenges that you anticipate in being able to complete this program or show up with a full commitment. Then we ask how you see this program supporting your creative and professional goals as a filmmaker and artist.

Commitment:

We just reiterate the commitment and I think some folks have already sort of asked this question about premiering at QWOCMAP - this is something that we offer as an opportunity. Our Film Festival is really special. It'll be in 19th year this year and although it's not like a deal breaker or an expectation for you to complete your film by next year's film festival or show your film at any of our film festivals, we do really support and would love to screen whatever you create.

Work Sample:

We ask you to share a work sample because we are requiring folks to have created at least one short or piece of visual media in order to apply for this program. So, please share that with us.

Demographic Information:

Then the end is just demographic information.

It looks really long on here because a lot of the questions are drop-down in the online form, but don't be intimidated. Looks wild in the PDF.

Final Questions:

Final questions - just how did you hear about Critical Juncture and if there's anything else you'd like us to know.

Okay, that's we've gone through it. We've gone through the guidelines. We've gone through the application

Jay – do you want to share a little bit about what we're looking for in an application?

SPEAKER – J. GASH:

The selection really depends on the impact of this program on your career. It kind of looks at how it might change your career trajectory or if you've been in a taking on a certain role and want to lean into a new role in the filmmaking industry. We really want to see that within your application. We also want to look at your potential based on previous work and alignment and expressed interest in our program just to indicate steps towards your filmmaking career and what you want to get out of it. We look at the strength of the film idea, especially as it relates to Black life in San Francisco. As Fiza mentioned before, it's not a hard requirement, but we do want to be in line with the fact that black life in San Francisco is unique due to a lot of displacement. We also want to look at your stated educational and career goals as they're related to film. So just seeing what you hope to get out of the program and talk through elements of access if you've experienced lack of access to resources that has prevented you from continuing with your filmmaking journey. We want to know about that.

Tell us, like truly tell us your story and as Fiza mentioned before, we want to get to know you so as long as you stay within the paragraphs that we request you're good to go, but we really want to get to know more about you, hear about your enthusiasm and motivation for the program and most especially and importantly is your ability to commit. These are going to be like monthly meetings on Wednesdays. We'll figure out the timing based on everyone's availability, but we

really want folks who can commit to the full year of the program and ultimately, if possible, have their film Premiere at the 20th Queer Woman of Color Film Festival.

Lastly, we really want folks to be able to contribute to the group culture. We believe in collaboration and although this grant is really catered to each individual, we want to still build out a really safe and supportive community for everyone.