



jewish film institute

JFI Filmmakers in Residence 2026 Application Questions

For preparation only. Applications must be submitted on [Film Freeway](#).

Please note: It is recommended to answer the questions in advance given the character count, and to cut and paste into the Custom Form on Film Freeway. Once you start on the Custom Form you cannot save and return to finish. It must be completed in one sitting. Your Film Freeway project page can be saved while it's in process.

Please make sure you completely fill out the FilmFreeway page for your project, including the director's bio and film synopsis. FilmFreeway allows 2000 character answers to all questions, but brevity is appreciated.

1. Have you applied for JFI's programs with this project or any other projects? If so, let us know the film's title(s) , the year, and whether it was for exhibition, a Grant, or the Residency?
2. Project Summary: Please describe the subject of your film ,the arc of your story, and the elements/techniques you plan to use in your film. (2000 characters)
3. What phase are you in? (development, pre-production, production, post, distribution/impact, etc.) (single line response)
4. Why is it important to tell this story now? (2000 characters)
5. How does your project reflect JFI's mission, vision, and values? (See jfi.org/about-jfi for more information) (2000 characters)
6. What is your connection to the story (i.e., to the participants, community, location, archives, etc.)? Why are you the right person to tell this story? (2000 characters)
7. What other films exist like yours? How is yours distinctive? How does your film contribute to the canon of Jewish films? (2000 characters)
8. What is the estimated budget for your film? How much, if any, have you raised to date? From whom? (You are not required to have raised funding to be competitive.)

9. Who has creative control of your project? What other people or organizations, if any, are creatively involved with your project? What are their roles? (Not required to be competitive.) (2000 characters)
10. What are your goals for participating in the Residency? What are your biggest challenges? (2000 characters)
11. What support do you need most (in addition to funding) to move your project forward? What skills, training, or mentorship would be most helpful for you during the Residency? (Up to 2000 characters)
12. Meetings are typically held on Thursday mornings from 9am–12pm PT. How can your schedule accommodate commitments to the Residency (approximately 10 hours/month, including a monthly cohort meeting, 4-6 workshops and presentations throughout the year, and a week in San Francisco at the end of July? (2000 characters)
13. Please upload up to 10 minutes of sample footage to FilmFreeway. What would you like us to know before we watch your work sample? (2000 characters)
14. How did you hear about the JFI Filmmakers in Residence program? (single line response)
15. Tell us how you identify yourself (i.e. your community, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc.)? Are you Jewish (not required for eligibility)? Are you a person who needs disability accommodations? If so, what kind? Anything else you'd like us to know? (2000 characters)