

The Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship

2023-2024 FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM ***APPLICATION GUIDELINES***

Please make sure to read our separate [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

2023-2024 Fellowship Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicants must be people who consider themselves committed to pursuing careers as documentary film editors (as opposed to fiction film editors or directors/producers who edit).
2. Applicants must come from historically underrepresented backgrounds and experiences - including those facing discrimination or barriers due to race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomics, immigration, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity.
3. Applicants must have at least two credits as an assistant, associate, additional, co-editor or editor on completed documentary films, but no more than three credits as a co-editor or editor. Each of these films must have running times of 55 minutes or more. Your editing credits may not be on films that you directed.
4. Applicants must be based in the United States and reside here during the Fellowship year from September 2023 to September 2024.
5. Applicants must be able to attend monthly meetings in-person if they reside in NYC or Los Angeles and monthly virtual meetings if they reside in other areas of the United States.
6. Applicants cannot be enrolled as students in undergraduate or graduate programs during the fellowship year.

Please reach out to us at info@karenschmeer.com with any questions about your eligibility.

How to Apply, Deadline, and Notification:

- Open call begins April 4, 2023
- All applications must be submitted online at www.karenschmmer.com/apply
- All submissions must be completed and submitted by 11:59 pm PT, Sunday, May 21, 2023. This includes all application materials including your resume and letter of recommendation.
- After the application deadline, you will receive an email confirming the receipt of your application.
- All applicants will receive notification of their application status in August 2023.
- The 2023-2024 Fellows will be announced to the public in September 2023.

Application Submission Materials - Your application must include the following:

- Applicant information
- Short answer questions
- Resume (must include all of your film-related work - not just editing - and run-times of edited projects)
- Essay question answers
- One letter of recommendation

A PREVIEW OF THE ONLINE APPLICATION

Please preview the online application questions here to prepare your responses and materials ahead of time. The application form cannot be revised once it is submitted.

Please visit www.karenschmmer.com/apply for the online application.

Applicant Information:

- Name, Address, Phone, Email, Preferred Pronouns
- I identify as... Please keep in mind that applicants must come from historically underrepresented backgrounds and experiences, including those facing discrimination or barriers due to race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomics, immigration, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity
- Please list two documentary films you have credits on that fulfill the fellowship credit eligibility requirement (#3). Please list the title, your credit, the film's running time, and any relevant links. To be eligible for this year's fellowship, you must have at least two credits as an assistant, associate, additional, co-editor or editor on completed documentary films, but no more than three credits as a co-editor or editor. Each of these films must have running times of 55 minutes or more. Your editing credits may not be on films that you directed.
- Do you currently live in the United States?

- Will you be residing in the United States from September 2023 to September 2024?
- Where in the United States do you anticipate living during the Fellowship period of September 2023 to September 2024?

Short Answer Questions:

- Please give us a short bio of 150 words or less.
- What is your level of editing experience?
- What is the current type of work that you do (e.g. feature doc, reality TV, narrative, etc.)?
- What type of work do you like to do (e.g. feature doc, reality TV, narrative, etc.)?
- What is your current job or are you between gigs?
- Do you belong to any film or TV-related organizations or social media groups?
- Where did you hear about the Fellowship?
- Have you applied previously? If so, when? Note: If you have applied to any of our programs in the past, you may apply again. You may submit the same letter of recommendation a maximum of two times.

Essay Questions:

There is no official word minimum or maximum for these four questions, but at least 250 to 350 words per question is suggested. This is our chance to learn more about you and your answers weigh heavily in the selection committee's review process. Please consider these questions carefully and take the time to answer thoughtfully.

If you express yourself better verbally, please email us at info@karenschmeer.com and we will arrange for either an audio or video recording of your answers.

- Essay Question 1: What are your long term career goals and what have you done towards achieving that goal?
- Essay Question 2: Why would you like to participate in this program? What are the ways in which you hope to grow? What topics would you like to discuss with your mentors and peers?
- Essay Question 3: Choose a documentary that you admire for its exceptional editing and explain why.
- Essay Question 4: We believe that documentary storytelling is enriched by a variety of experiences, backgrounds, perspectives in the edit room. In what ways do you think you can contribute to that?

Resume:

Please upload a resume that includes all of your film and television experience (including non-editing roles such as directing, producing, writing, etc.). We want to

know the full extent of your experience in the industry. For the films you have worked on as an assistant, associate, additional, co-editor, or editor, please make sure to include the following information: year, running time, director(s), your credit, and any editor(s) other than you.

Please send your resume as a .pdf document with the filename formatted as: LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_Resume.

Letter of Recommendation:

One letter of recommendation is required to apply. Your letter should come from someone who has worked closely with you on a film (e.g., the director, producer, editor, co-editor, supervising editor, or post-production supervisor). Your letter should give us a sense of your personality, your work ethic, and your collaborative process. If possible, we would like to hear specific stories about your contributions and ideas during the course of the project. Keep this in mind when deciding who to approach to write your letter.

Please send your recommender this link that will allow them to upload their letter directly to the Fellowship selection committee: <https://forms.gle/X1SyeFJ5Pwww9LZp6>

We will only accept letters submitted to us via this link. Be sure to give your recommender plenty of time to write your letter. Recommendations are due by the application deadline of 11:59 pm PT on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Additional Notes:

Please note here if you've communicated with the Fellowship about anything pertaining to your application.

Submit:

Please review your responses before hitting the "Submit" button below. Your submission cannot be edited after it has been submitted.

Good luck with your application!

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, contact us at:
info@karenschmeer.com