



Resident Playwrights Program Application Guidelines 2024-2025 Residency

Program Description

Playwrights Foundation's Resident Playwrights Program (RPP) offers up and coming Bay Area playwrights an artistic home to personally grow and advance their career within a nurturing community for a multi-year residency.

RPP holistically supports a cohort of 4-5 Bay Area resident playwrights over a 2 year period offering financial investment, community with other playwrights, tailored career support from PF staff, retreats, internal and public workshops as well as local and national networking opportunities.

Specific offerings during 2 year period include:

- Monthly Stipend (\$200/month)
- Yearly Artistic Support Fund (\$1,000/year)
- Monthly Cohort Meetings
- Individual meetings with PF staff (at least 4 per year)
- Yearly Artistic Retreat
- Education Seminars/Classes on specific topics
- Networking with PF alumni, local and national producers, and other artists
- Public Artistic Presentations: RPP one night event during BAPF (Year 1); Individual Hybrid Public Reading (Year 2)
- Culminating Celebration at the end of the Residency

Playwrights self direct their experience within RPP. To grow artistically, writers will collectively and individually, design their artistic goals, a strategic career vision, and articulate values in meaningful ways. They will co-create with PF staff specific content within cohort meetings and their public presentation as well as advise on educational seminars and networking events. Upon completion of their residency, playwrights remain in PF's network of alumni receiving networking opportunities, fee waivers for other programming, advocacy from PF staff, and promotional opportunities to PF's vast network.



Eligibility Information

Playwrights applying to this program must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- Live in the San Francisco Bay Area in one of the following 9 counties: San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara, Marin, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Solano, Napa, or Sonoma
- Written at least one full length play (Should be a minimum of 60 pages. Can be produced or unproduced. If you have written a full length play less than 60 pages, please check in with Literary staff before applying)
- Have momentum in their playwriting career as evidenced by at least one professional production of a full-length play OR at least three professional development opportunities for full-length plays. Must have been completed prior to application.*
- If a current student, must have an expected graduation date of December 2023, as the cohort will begin in January 2024. Please indicate this within your application and on resume/bio.
- Writing primarily in English, although we do support multilingual plays
- Have valid work authorization (Social Security Card, Green Card, or Employment Authorization Document)
- Not in the current BAPF cohort or an RPI alumnus

Applicants should also have a genuine interest in being a part of a cohort who enrich each other's creative lives as they create impactful new work, take agency over their creative life, and deepen their connections within the two year period and beyond.

**Professional is defined as a paid opportunity at a regional theater or new play development organization (university productions are not defined as professional). A production is defined as at least 6 public performances with set, lights, and costumes with no script in hand. Development opportunities of full length scripts include: public or internal staged readings or workshops, playwriting groups with a selection process, commissions, and other similar opportunities. If you have questions about whether you are eligible, please send your resume to literary@playwrightsfoundation.org.*



HOW TO APPLY

Sign-in and Profile

- To begin your application, click [HERE](#). You will be asked to create an account with a password.
- *Note about Sign-In page:* If you are experiencing any technical issues at the sign in page, consider clearing out your cache or trying to sign on with a different browser. If that doesn't work, email literary@playwrightsfoundation.org and we'll respond during office hours.
- Complete your Profile Page prior to the application including contact information, personal websites, and optional demographic information.
- Notes for applicants who applied in 2022 to BAPF46:
 - Your login username and password will be the same
 - Please review your profile page and check your address and add new optional information to your website, NPX page, and/or other professional website

Application Checklist

- A full length script in PDF form. Please save the file name TITLE OF PLAY_Last NameFirstName_draft date (*The play within the application can be produced or unproduced. It does not need to be the play that you want to work on within the residency, but a reflection of your best work*).
- 1-2 sentence synopsis of your full length play
- Artistic Resume OR 250 word Artistic Bio (Both in PDF form)
- 1-2 samples of your creative work. Read the section below for details.
- A short synopsis for each additional creative work samples.
- Drafted text for the four Narrative Questions, listed below.
- You have read our website and acknowledge the defined terms.
- Application fees will be prompted at the end, and are on a Sliding Scale. If you would like to request a Fee Waiver, see below in the FAQ section. Everyone who applies must fill out the payment form, even if the fee is waived.

Additional Creative Work Samples guidelines

Reviewers will spend no more than 15 minutes total on the additional work sample materials #2 and #3. Think speed dating-style for your creative body of work that helps us see more aspects of who you are as a writer beyond the one play. We allow up to two additional work samples, but only one is required.



Additional samples may include a sample of another play (10 minute, short or full length etc), poetry, novel, short story, creative articles or blog posts, spoken word, or another medium of written creative writing. You may upload these as a pdf or video links, see below for details.

Additional Instructions:

Total review time for both samples should NOT exceed 15 minutes total. Document Work Samples are limited to 12 pages total. Video/Audio Samples are limited to 5 min total. If you are submitting a video/audio sample, you are limited to 8 pages total.

Instructions for Document Work Samples (PDF only):

1. Please separate different types of artistic work into 2 separate work samples. For example: include a certain number of poems that total 2 pages in ONE work sample. The second work sample might be a 10 page excerpt of another play.
2. Clearly mark PDF with your name with the title/type of the work, and with page numbers. Use file names that are brief but specific to the provided content and your name.
3. It is the responsibility of the applicant to edit and submit documents that are no more than 12 pages in length. If a document is uploaded exceeding the 12-page limit, additional pages will not be reviewed in order to keep it equitable.

Instructions regarding 5 min video or audio links:

1. Links must be a separate artistic work from your uploaded play. It can be a recording of an original piece of work performed by someone else or yourself.
2. If you are including a link to a file longer than 5 minutes please indicate in the notes what 5 min selection you want us to review. If this is not indicated, the first 5 minutes only will be reviewed.
3. Links embedded in submitted documents will not be reviewed as part of the work samples.
4. Please include passwords within the work sample description.

Four Narrative Questions

1. Why are you interested in this program? (200 words max)
2. What else do you want us to know about you or your journey as a writer? (200 words max)
3. In your own words, what are the ways that you identify? (200 words max)
4. How did you hear about this program? (50 words max)



Suggestions for Application Content

- Each of your application materials (full-length script and creative work samples) will need a synopsis describing the story of the content. Your synopsis should be brief 2-3 sentences that captures the plot as well as some higher level ideas about the themes of the work. Readers will often look at the synopsis as your “Elevator Pitch”. Taking the time to hone a synopsis might mean sharing it with someone who you trust to give you feedback on your work.
- Unlike other applications where a full-length play must be unproduced, you can share a play that has received a production. Share what you feel strongly represents your voice as a writer. Since the goal here is not to produce the full-length play, but to get to know you holistically as a writer, select something that represents your artistic point of view.
- Sharing at least one additional short work sample is required. Two is OPTIONAL.. Reviewers will only spend 15 minutes total looking over your work sample(s). This time limitation is firm.
- We recommend thinking about your work samples in terms of who you are as an artist. The piece can also complement or contrast with your full-length piece.

Suggestions for Narrative Questions

- While these questions are very open-ended, consider your own goals for applying to this program. What would you like to achieve over the next two years as a playwright? How are you hoping Playwrights Foundation can support you?.
- We are not looking for perfected essays. These are not Artistic Statements or Development Goals. We do not want grant language. These are an opportunity to get to know you better and hear your personal voice. Think more conversational in tone.
- Consider pre-writing before you start the application, as these are short, 200 word max statements.
- Reviewers will also be asked to look at this section in context with your work, as they are gathering a holistic impression of your artistic journey and how we can support you. This program isn’t about people who have “made it”. We are also looking at how we can support someone’s overall growth to the next step in their career.

Payment Section

- This sliding scale fee helps Playwrights Foundation cover the administrative costs associated with fully reviewing every application. Some of those costs include: paying each reader a nominal fee for each play read, improved



application software, and our literary team. For PF alumni, students, previous readers, and those for whom this fee creates financial strain, a waiver code can be requested below.

- For those requesting a fee waiver, this puts your application in a pending status. The response time for a Fee Waiver will depend on staff availability. Please give the staff 48 hours on a weekday. You will then receive an Invoice in your email that your Fee Waiver request has been accepted by the staff and your application is complete.
- If selecting a fee waiver, you will need to select a payment amount. However, once the fee is waived, you will not be required to pay that amount.
- Reviewers will NOT see what you contributed as an application fee. It has no impact on your application review process.

How can I get help during the Application period?

- Email literary@playwrightsfoundation.org only. Playwrights Foundation staff works part-time and will respond in a timely manner during regular business hours to answer any questions that arise.
- There will be a live Q&A session that is announced on the [application page](#). If you can't make the session, it will be recorded and posted on the same application page.
- Technical advice: The login page and portal will sometimes reach a capacity at peak periods when many writers are applying at the same time, such as the days leading up to the application closing date. While we have technical support on call Monday-Friday at limited times during the 9am-5pm ET hours, if there are technical issues arising near the deadline, please communicate with literary@playwrightsfoundation.org so we can acknowledge your request before the deadline and make accommodations. In general, clearing your browser history helps and start early!

The staff at Playwrights Foundation looks forward to getting to know you and your work!