

Regular Submission Deadline September 18, 2020

Extended Deadline November 2, 2020

## Overview

In this virtual pitch workshop and competition (the “Pitch Workshop”), a panel of television executives and producers will hear and evaluate pitches from up to five emerging documentary filmmakers who are hoping to sell an unfinished documentary work-in-progress. The judges will choose one filmmaker to win a \$5,000 grant for the completion of their film.

In its sixteenth annual competition, the Paley Center will select up to five emerging documentary filmmakers as finalists to deliver pitches to a panel before a virtual audience (an emerging filmmaker is someone with two or less credits for directing feature documentary films, whether or not those films have been released.)

The Paley Center will choose these finalists based on a clip of five minutes or less that contest participants will submit to the Paley Center along with other required material. Filmmakers must be able to participate in The Paley Center for Media’s online event, which will take place on December 8, 2020.

The final pitch before the virtual panel will include both a verbal presentation (a pitch of no more than three minutes) and a visual presentation (a clip of no more than three minutes). Each finalist’s entire presentation must be limited to no more than six minutes, excluding the finalist’s answers to questions by the panel.

The panel will critique both the presentation and the concept of each finalist’s pitch.

Selection: Based on the criteria of persuasiveness of the pitch, originality of the vision and viability of the project, the panel will select one finalist as the winner of a \$5,000 grant to be used toward the finalist’s completion of the documentary pitched at the workshop. The decision of the panel will be final and binding.

In the event that the documentary concept is the product of a filmmaking team of two or more filmmakers, one member of the team will need to be designated as both the applicant and the “pitcher” for the team.

## Submission

Deadlines and fees are as follows:

Regular deadline: September 18, 2020 (\$30)

Late deadline: October 9, 2020 (\$35)

Extended deadline: November 2, 2020 (\$45)

Entrants should submit the following materials along with appropriate entry fees:

- A video link containing no more than five (5) minutes of footage from the project;
- A completed and signed copy of the attached entry form and submission agreement (the “Entry Form & Submission Agreement”);
- A synopsis of the entrant’s documentary/nonfiction concept;
- A brief history of the project, including the project’s current status, an indication of whether any funding is in place, and a bio of the filmmaker (or filmmaking team, as applicable); and
- Contact information, including email address, mailing address, and telephone number.

By submitting an entry to the Pitch Workshop, each entrant acknowledges that he/she has provided true, accurate, and complete information and is bound by the terms and conditions of the Entry Form & Submission Agreement, including the Pitch Workshop’s Official Rules attached thereto. Incomplete submissions will not be eligible for the Pitch Workshop.

If selected as a finalist and invited to advance to the next round of the Pitch Workshop, entrants will also be asked to submit, at their own expense, additional materials including a “screener” of three minutes or less. Materials submitted to or in connection with the Pitch Workshop, including but not limited to any additional materials requested by The Paley Center for Media, will not be returned. Multiple entries from the same entrant are permissible.

However, each entry requires a separate entry fee, Entry Form and signed Submission Agreement. Only one entry per entrant may advance to the final round. The same project may not be entered into the Pitch Workshop multiple times in a single year.