

2026 Ryan Hudak LGBTQ+ Dramatic Writing Award Application Guidelines

Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 5:00PM ET

NYFA only accepts applications submitted online at apply.nyfa.org/submit

The Ryan Hudak LGBTQ+ Dramatic Writing Award is an \$8,000 cash grant to be awarded to one (1) New York State-based playwright or screenwriter who self-identifies as LGBTQ+.

The Award honors the life and work of Ryan Hudak. Ryan was a gay playwright, theater maker, filmmaker, and a valued member of NYFA's staff who served on the executive and development teams. Tragically, Ryan passed away in May 2022 after a long battle with Leukemia at the age of 32. The Award is open to playwrights and screenwriters who live in New York State, including those who live within the five boroughs of New York City.

Questions? Check out the [Ryan Hudak LGBTQ+ Dramatic Writing Award](#) for more information!

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GRANT TIMELINE

Application Opens: Friday, April 24, 2026 10:00AM ET
Application Closes: Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:00PM ET*
Applicants Notified: Fall 2026

**Please note that the application form on Submittable will automatically close & stop accepting applications at this time.*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The Ryan Hudak LGBTQ+ Dramatic Writing Award is open to New York State playwrights and screenwriters, including those who live within the five boroughs of New York City.

Applicants must:

1. Be a working **playwright or screenwriter**. Acceptable forms of playwriting or screenwriting include stageplays, screenplays, teleplays, libretti, radioplays, audiodramas, puppet plays, and experimental web series. While librettists may apply, audiotapes are not eligible.
2. Self-identify as **LGBTQ+**.
3. Be a current **full-time resident** of New York State for a minimum of 12 months at the time the application closes.
4. **Be the originators of the work**, i.e. screenwriters or playwrights, not interpretive artists such as actors. Collaborations are not eligible.
5. Be at least **25 years of age** at the time the application closes.
6. Not be enrolled in a degree-seeking program of any kind.
7. Not have received The Ryan Hudak LGBTQ+ Dramatic Writing Award previously. Past recipients of other NYFA grant programs are eligible to apply.
8. Not be a NYFA employee, members of the NYFA Board of Trustees or Artists' Advisory Committee, and/or an immediate family member of any of the above.

WORK SAMPLES

Work samples are a representation of your artistic work created within the last five years. This is the most important part of your application, as it will be the primary point of review. Keep in mind the panel reviews a large volume of material in quick succession; therefore, it is very important that you present your work clearly.

This is not a project grant; therefore you should be submitting work that is completed, or is a completed piece of an ongoing/continuing body of work.

TIP: Work samples produced in the past five years are highly recommended. If you submit older work samples, consider providing an explanation as to why you chose the older work samples in the metadata section.

What to Submit

Writing Sample

Applicants must submit 1 PDF, up to 20 pages in maximum length, plus an additional title page (21 total pages).

- Your PDF can consist of a singular body of work or multiple bodies of work.
- If your writing sample includes a combination of excerpts from larger works, you are strongly advised to include substantial portions from each larger work, rather than small fragments.
- **Do not include publication and/or production information anywhere on your PDF.** Materials can be previously published or not. If published, scanned excerpts from books or periodicals, in published form, will be ineligible.
- Do not include your artistic résumé or bio in your PDF.
- Writing Samples must be in English, or can be translated into English by someone other than the artist.

Note: Panelists are instructed not to review any materials beyond the maximum number of pages allowed (21 pages).

Formats Accepted

- PDF Document Only
- Language: English
- 12-point font

- One page title page with the title of the work(s), and year(s) of completion.

Synopsis

(Required, 150-Words Max.): Provide a synopsis for your work sample.

- The synopsis should offer a clear and concise summary of your writing sample.
- If submitting multiple excerpts within your writing sample, you can itemize each excerpt and talk about them individually.
- This statement can also explain how the excerpted writing sample(s) relate to the entire original piece.

Character Sheet

(Optional, 150-Words Max.): A supplemental description of relevant character's personalities, as they relate to the Work Sample.

- Include their role, appearance, motivations, conflicts, relationships, and significance to the story.
- Aim to capture the essence of each character in a few lines.

SUPPORT STATEMENTS

Support statements are to be submitted directly to the application form in the corresponding textboxes. We recommend writing your statements in Microsoft Word or Google Docs and pasting them to Submittable.

What to Submit

Artist Statement

(Required, 250-Words Max.): A concise statement giving an overview of your artistic practice.

- This statement should give a brief introduction to ideas, themes, and methods in your practice (i.e. how you make what you make, and/or why you make what you make).
- This statement should also specifically reflect the ideas and inspiration relevant to your submitted work samples.
- Use this statement to highlight your role in creating/executing the work, as well as describing the key technical aspects of the work.
- **This is not an Artist Bio.**

Impact Statement

(Required, 250-words Max.) A statement describing how this Award will impact your career and/or creative practice.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are reviewed over the course of 3 elimination rounds.

- **Rounds 1 & 2:** The panel will carefully review and score assigned applications independently. The highest scoring applications will move forward into the next round of review.
- **Round 3:** The panel will meet as a group and collectively discuss the applications that have made it into this round, and conclude by recommending the recipient and finalists for selection.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications should demonstrate creativity through their work samples, articulate the potential impact of receiving this award, and provide supporting statements that effectively convey their artistic vision.

Peer review panelists will assess eligible applications according to the following evaluation criteria:

1. **Artistic Merit:**
 - A competitive application's artistic merit, originality, and creativity are clearly presented in the submitted work sample.
 - Quality of the writing, depth of themes explored, and innovation in storytelling will be considered.
2. **Potential Impact of the Award:**
 - A competitive application should clearly articulate how receiving this award will significantly contribute to your artistic practice and/or career progression as a playwright or screenwriter in the Impact Statement.

3. Clarity of Supporting Statements:

- A competitive application ensures that your supporting statements are clear, concise, and compelling.
- Your Artist Statement should provide insight into your artistic vision, motivations, and creative process.
- If providing a Synopsis or Character Sheet, ensure they succinctly convey the essence of your work and characters.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit your application

We only accept applications via [Submittable](#). First-time users will need to register with the free Submittable platform to access the application portal.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be made. We strongly recommend that applicants complete their applications in advance of the deadline to avoid potential technical problems.

Applicants will receive an automatic response from Submittable once their application has been successfully received.

Once submitted, you will no longer be able to make changes to your application!

Application **Deadline:**

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:00PM ET

Top Reads Before Submitting Your Application

[Nailing the Application: Setting Goals and Sharpening Your Written Materials](#)

The first part of a two-part series, read this post for tips on how to set goals and craft strong written statements.

[How to Write a Strong Application](#)

Submitting an application for the first time can be challenging. Read this post for tips that will make your application process smoother.

[The Artist Statement: 5 Do's and Dont's](#)

An Artist Statement is unique to every artist. Read this post for tips on what to consider or avoid when crafting your Artist Statement.