



**The Writers Guild Initiative and The Black List
Partner for the
Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting**

October 1, 2020 Los Angeles, California – In partnership with the [Writers Guild Initiative](#) and [the King Family Foundation](#), The Black List today announced the opening of submissions for the [Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting](#).

Now in its thirteenth year and its fifth year being hosted on [bcklst.com](#), The Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting provides an emerging screenwriter between the ages of 18-25 with a \$10,000 stipend to write an original screenplay. Throughout the fellowship year, the selected writer will also receive mentorship and guidance from a prominent screenwriter.

The purpose of the fellowship is to provide an opportunity for an emerging screenwriter to develop an original screenplay and to assist with the writer's transition into the professional world of screenwriting. The Writers Guild Initiative (WGI) is looking for diverse and unique voices, and for projects that are character driven and personal in nature. Only feature film scripts will be considered for this partnership.

This year, the Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship has broadened its parameters for submitting writers - any writer between the ages of 18-25 is now eligible for this partnership, which was previously only available to graduating college seniors. Writers must be no older than 25 years of age on December 31, 2020 in order to be considered for this opportunity. Age eligibility will be verified upon submission.

Upon the close of the submission window on November 27, 2020, The Black List will choose ten screenplays to send to the Writers Guild Initiative selection committee for consideration. The short list will be determined in early December, and the Fellowship recipient will be selected by WGI no later than January 30, 2021. The winner of this year's Fellowship will be announced in spring 2021. The selected writer will complete a new script for this fellowship - submitted scripts will be used as samples. For more information about eligibility requirements, please visit the [FAQ](#).

The Black List and the Writers Guild Initiative had the following comments on this year's partnership: "This being our fifth year working with the WGI and the King Family Foundation to expand access to the Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting beyond the nation's top film schools, we are

thrilled by their wisdom to now include young writers who may not be attending a degree program at all. The writing is what matters, not your enrollment, and that is as it should be. It's a model for the industry generally, and we look forward to the extraordinary work that comes of it." - Franklin Leonard, The Black List

“We’re excited to continue our partnership with the Black List and the Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting. Especially during this difficult year, it’s important not only that the program endure, but also expand as we offer the opportunity to even more emerging writers. As we give more access, we’re hoping to find even more new, dynamic, and diverse voices and stories that need to be heard. It’s a pleasure for us to provide a step forward in the career of screenwriting.” – Jenna Jackson, Executive Director, Writers Guild Initiative

ABOUT THE BLACK LIST

The Black List, an annual survey of Hollywood executives' favorite unproduced screenplays, was founded in 2005. Since then, at least 440 Black List scripts have been produced, grossing over \$30 billion in box office worldwide. Black List movies have won 54 Academy Awards from 267 nominations, including four of the last twelve Best Picture Oscars and eleven of the last 28 Best Screenplay Oscars.

In October of 2012, the Black List launched a unique online community where screenwriters make their work available to readers, buyers and employers. Since its inception, it has hosted more than 80,000 screenplays and teleplays and completed over 130,000 script evaluations. As a direct result of introductions made on the Black List, dozens of writers have found representation at major talent agencies and management companies, as well as sold or optioned their screenplays. Several films have been produced from scripts showcased on the website including Golden Globe nominated NIGHTINGALE, starring David Oyelowo, and Amazon’s HONEY BOY, written by Shia LeBeouf.

The Black List has been profiled by the Harvard Business Review, CBS This Morning, the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Vanity Fair, and the Atlantic Monthly.

The Black List’s first feature production, COME AS YOU ARE, debuted at SXSW in 2019 and is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes (98% Critics, 80% Audience). Its second feature, BREAKING NEWS IN YUBA COUNTY, directed by Oscar-nominated director Tate Taylor and starring Allison Janney, Mila Kunis, Regina Hall, Awkwafina, Wanda Sykes, and Juliette Lewis, is scheduled to be a major studio theatrical release in late Q4 2020.

More information on the Black List is available at www.blacklist.com. For regular updates, join our [mailing list](#) or follow the Black List on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE WRITERS GUILD INITIATIVE

The WGAE Foundation, commonly known as the [Writers Guild Initiative \(WGI\)](#) is an independent, 501(c)3 non-profit organization that is associated with the Writers Guild of America, East. “What’s your story? Find your voice. Tell it.” This slogan sums up the mission of WGI to make the art of storytelling

accessible to people of all ethnic, cultural, and economic backgrounds — with special attention to the underserved.

Since its revitalization in 2008, WGI programs have directly impacted nearly 2,000 individuals through intensive writing programs and fellowships with participants from across the nation. Currently WGI coordinates the Helen Deutsch Writing Workshops, where prominent writers share the tools of writing with a range of underserved populations, including veterans, caregivers of critically wounded veterans, LGBTQ communities, exonerated death row survivors, immigrant youth, COVID-19 first responders and other vulnerable populations; and the Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship an annual \$10,000 fellowship and mentorship awarded to an emerging writer who plans to pursue a career in screenwriting. Past fellows have had continued success including the Nicholl Fellowship, the Black List x Women in Film Feature Residency, and the Bahamas International Film Festival Residency.

All activities promote writing as a singular, accessible vehicle through which people in diverse circumstances can process information about life and self by creatively channeling their experience through the written word.

More information about the Writers Guild Initiative is on our website: www.writersguildinitiative.org. You can also join our [mailing list](#) or follow us on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), or [Facebook](#).

ABOUT THE KING FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Charles & Lucille King Family Foundation was established in 1988 to support educational excellence and professional development in the film, television and related media fields, and has provided scholarships to hundreds of outstanding U.S. undergraduate students in these disciplines. The Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship in Screenwriting award honors Michael Collyer, a distinguished entertainment attorney in New York City for four decades, who practiced primarily at his namesake firm Kay Collyer & Boose and specialized in television financing and production. More information about the King Family Foundation can be found at <http://www.kingfoundation.org/>.