WIF (WOMEN IN FILM) ANNOUNCES 2026 COHORT FOR WIF FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Year-Long Program Empowers and Accelerates the Careers of the New Fellows Class, Spanning Directors, Artisans, Business Leaders, and More

MEDIA ASSETS HERE

LOS ANGELES, CA – June 23, 2026 – Today, WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles) revealed the new class of its fellowship program, a comprehensive, customized year-long program that reflects the organization's commitment to advancing the careers of women, nonbinary, and trans people across all areas of the entertainment industry. The 2026 fellowship class includes a diverse mix of directors, producers, writers, artisans and crew, business executives, and scholars & curators fellows. For the full fellowship class, please see the list below.

Over the next year, fellows will expand their network of peers and collaborators through in-person events, cross-cohort sessions, and 1:1 meetings; participate in educational sessions and workshops that cover a range of industry topics; and be mentored by experienced industry professionals who will support the fellows in making strides toward career goals.

"In this moment when our industry faces unprecedented challenges and the progress toward gender equality is sliding backwards, we are doubling down on supporting talented storytellers. Each fellow brings a distinct voice and creative vision, and we are excited to see their talents flourish while building the networks that will help propel their careers," said WIF CEO Kirsten Schaffer. "We're especially proud to welcome the first cohort of Scholar and Curator Fellows, investing in the next generation of thought leaders whose fresh perspectives will help shape a more expansive cultural landscape."

The selection committee for this year's fellows included esteemed industry professionals such as Anna Rose Holmer ("God's Creatures"), Cheryl Wang ("I Love Boosters"), Ebony Elaine Hardin (Director of Production at Dropout), Katarina Zhu ("Bunnylovr"), Rosemarie Troche ("Ginny & Georgia"; "The Walking Dead"), Mireia Vilanova ("By Design"), Neda Davarpanah ("Tracker"), Allyson Newman ("The L Word: Generation Q"), Daysha Broadway ("The Miniature Wife"), Jay Keitel ("Mrs. Davis"; "Adulthood"), and Nami Melumad ("Star Trek: Strange New Worlds"; "Thor: Love And Thunder").

Last year's fellowship class included Aisha Alhakawati, Aline Andrade, Allison Bibicoff, Alyssa Gonzalez, Amanda Cruz Gonzalez, Andrea Juárez Wax, Andressa Cordeiro, Anna Salinas, B. Quinn Curry, Brianna Murphy, Carolyn Klarecki, Cheryl Wenjing Xia, Chloe Morris, Claire Brooks, Erin Jones-Wesley, Gabriella Hirsch, Giuliana Tambellini, H.B. Thal, Hazel Katz, Hua-Hsuan Tseng, Ioana Vasile, Isabell Chavez Vega, Jane Flowers, Jessica Kozak, Justine Ellen Chen, Kit Yan, Lainnie Contreras Felán, Laura Reich, María Eugenia León, Meagan Noel Fulps, Meghan Lennox, Melissa Li, Melissa Peng, Miko Alicia Mariscal, Nikki Palumbo, Nina Burnett, Nova Taylor, Philinese Kirkwood, Radha Mehta, Rae Binstock, Rayana Rasamee, Rebecca Usoro, Sadé N. Robinson, Sally Sujin Oh, Sarah Al-Qatou, Shay Ball, Spencer Jamison, Sybil Azur, Tammy Ari, Vanessa Williams, and Xin Li.

The WIF Fellowship Program is made possible through the generous support of Falguni Lakhani Adams, Marla Charlton, and an anonymous donor.

The 2026 WIF Business Fellowship cohort is made possible by the generous support of STARZ through its #TakeTheLead commitment to amplifying narratives by, about and for women and underrepresented audiences. The WIF Director and Cinematographer Fellowship circles are generously supported by Netflix.

Learn more about the WIF Fellowship Program at WIF.org/Fellowships.

Learn more about the 2026 WIF Fellowship Class at WIF.org/Fellows.

2026-2027 WIF Fellowship Class

ARTISAN & CREW FELLOWS

- Alaysia Sierra, music supervisor
- Aneesa Meador, editor
- Ava Porter, title designer
- Elika Rezaee, editor
- Elissa "E" Alcala', costume designer
- Gracie Simonett, editor
- Jenn Hoang, script supervisor
- Judybelle Camangyan, sound designer
- Kayla McIntyre, composer
- Kesha Brooks, music supervisor
- Madeline Abiera, assistant director
- Madison Anglin, composer
- Mandy Woo, composer
- Maureen Marchetti, editor
- Mel Guérison, composer
- Molly Bolten, sound editor

- Murphy Li, production sound
- Naya Simone, casting director
- Rajarajeshwari 'RJ' Ragampudi, production designer
- Terese Classen, casting director
- Tiana Ni, production designer

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

- Maddy Myer
- Rebecca 'Toyin Doherty
- Samantha Schoen
- Yang Fei

CINEMATOGRAPHERS

- Hannah Platzer
- Lisa Janae
- Louise YunJu Chen
- Quinn Thomashow

DIRECTORS

- Jhanvi Motla
- Kateryna Kurganska
- KK Apple
- Nikki Taylor Roberts
- Wendi Tang

PRODUCERS

- Margaux Lee
- Masora Fukuda
- Nazanin Nematollahi
- Sarah Ahmed
- Valeria Lopez
- Casey Naranjo
- Kiri Kraatz

SCHOLARS & CURATORS

- Imani Davis
- Jiyeon Kim
- Kathy Michelle Chacón

WRITERS

- Adriana Ducassi

- Amanda Kohr
- Briana Pozner
- Bo Shim
- Eva Reign
- Julia Prescott
- Katie Waldron
- Monisha Dadlani
- Paige Wesley
- Sessen Mengist
- Tania Dominguez-Rangel

###

ABOUT WIF

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF has been fighting for gender equity for more than 50 years. Its advocacy, career programs, and research efforts are a driving force for increasing gender representation in Hollywood. WIF works to dismantle gender bias in the screen industries by building the pipeline, sustaining careers, and advocating for change. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals and more information can be found on our website: WIF.org. WIF is led by Chief Executive Officer Kirsten Schaffer and President of the Board of Directors Syrinthia Studer. Follow WIF on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, X, and YouTube.

ABOUT STARZ

STARZ (NASDAQ: STRZ) is the leading premium entertainment destination for women and underrepresented audiences, and home to some of the most popular franchises and series on television. STARZ offers a robust programming mix for discerning adult audiences, including boundary-breaking originals and an expansive lineup of blockbuster movies, and is embodied by its brand positioning “We’re All Adults Here.” Complementary to any platform or service, STARZ is available across a wide range of digital OTT platforms and multichannel video distributors and is a bundling partner of choice. STARZ is powered by an industry-leading advanced technology, data analytics and digital infrastructure and the highly rated and first-of-its-kind STARZ app.

MEDIA CONTACT

Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis
Bridget Cirone & Kaila Williams
wif@ssmandl.com

WIF
Chandra Jackson
cjackson@wif.org