

2025 BALTIMORE SCREENWRITERS COMPETITION IS OPEN

THE BALTIMORE FILM OFFICE AT BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS IS NOW ACCEPTING ENTRIES FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL COMPETITION

Baltimore, MD, October 25, 2024 – The Baltimore Film Office at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is accepting entries for the 20th annual **Baltimore Screenwriters Competition**. This is an opportunity to craft a winning screenplay that highlights Baltimore. The competition awards **prizes in both the feature and shorts categories** for scripts that are set or able to be filmed in Baltimore. The Baltimore Screenwriters Competition is a project of the Baltimore Film Office in conjunction with film programs at Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University.

The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The application and full guidelines are available online at promotionandarts.org/baltimore-screenwriters-competition/. Submitted scripts receive coverage from students in the Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University screenwriting programs and by local screenwriters and producers. The final screenplays are judged by industry professionals in film and television, including producers and writers working on projects for HBO and other studios.

All screenwriters are encouraged to apply. “The Baltimore Screenwriters Competition nurtures writers of all levels by providing opportunities for screenwriters to have their scripts read, receive valuable feedback, and gain confidence in their storytelling,” says Debbie Donaldson Dorsey, Director of the Baltimore Film Office. The top entries in each category will win cash prizes and are scheduled to be announced during the 2025 Maryland Film Festival in May 2025.

In 2024, the 19th annual Baltimore Screenwriter Competition judges — Nina Noble, Ken LaZebink, Dale Beran, and Annette Porter — awarded “A Better Chance” by L.T. Woody, “Car BNB” by Lee Connah, and “Champion” by Peter Kimball in the features category, and “Shipping and Handling” by Harrison Demchick, “Orchestra” by Felix Abeson, and “An Incredibly Stupid Idea (That Just Might Work)” by Evan Balkan in the shorts category.

Previous Baltimore Screenwriters Competition winners have also received Saul Zaentz Innovation Fund Fellowships, including 2020 Baltimore Screenwriter Competition winners Stephen Schuyler for “Like You Think You Know Me” and “Stealing Cars,” and Chung-Wei Huang for “Squeegee Boys,” who both shot their films in Baltimore.

MEDIA CONTACTS

For media inquiries, email BOPA’s Communications Manager, Barbara Hauck, at (bhauck@promotionandarts.org).

Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City’s arts council, events center, and film office. By providing funding and support to artists and arts organizations, as well as producing cultural events across the city, BOPA’s goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative place to live and work.