

Call for Proposals: BIPOC Superhero Project Student Playwright Scholarship

About the BIPOC Superhero Project

The BIPOC Superhero Project is an initiative led by playwright and educator [José Casas](#), designed to give playwrights of color more access to mainstream/regional Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA). In 2024-2026, 23 playwrights of color will be commissioned by 29 theatres to develop their work in a one-week residency. All the commissioned works will feature stories of BIPOC superheroes, and the project will culminate in a year-long celebration with productions, co-productions, and a published anthology of all the plays.

About the BIPOC Superhero Student Playwright Scholarship

High School teachers can nominate junior or senior writers who identify as BIPOC. Teachers are invited to submit a writing sample (no more than 10 pages single sided) that demonstrates a student's potential for writing for the stage. A panel of theater professionals select the winner of the commission.

The winner will work with industry professionals in further development of their script, as well as participating in networking opportunities. They will:

- be matched with a mentor playwright to help develop their script
- receive exclusive access to participate in professional development activities at the 2025 TYA/USA Annual gathering
- be published as part of The BIPOC Superhero Project anthology
- receive scholarship money and fun money

Teachers are encouraged to submit short (10 minute) works from students' own experiences and observations through the creation of fictional characters and settings, writing realistically, metaphorically or abstractly about any aspect of BIPOC superheroes. Writers must be enrolled as juniors or seniors in high school and must identify as BIPOC. Apply online by June 1, 2024 at 11:59 pm ET.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the BIPOC Superhero Project accept scripts in non-traditional formats?

A: No. Writing samples must be in traditional dialogue-based format, For a sample page of formatting see [HERE](#).

Q: Can I submit a writing sample that was co-written by two people?

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A: No.

Q: What qualifies a young person to submit a play to this project?

A: Eligible writers will be juniors or seniors in high school, and be Black, Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC). A teacher at their school will recommend the writers. If you are homeschooled or know a homeschooled student, please email bipocsuperheroproject@gmail.com

Q: My student wrote a play for a class at school. Can I enter it into the competition?

A: Yes. Please make sure that all application guidelines are met.

Q: My student doesn't live in the United States, can I submit on their behalf?

A: No. The commission is only for students who live in the United States

Q: My student is interested in writing scripts for TV and film. Can I submit a writing sample that is a screenplay instead of a stage play?

A: No. The writing sample must reflect a stage play.

Q: I want to submit a script sample, or I need more information. How do I contact the BIPOC Superhero Project?

A: bipocsuperheroproject@gmail.com

Application Criteria:

To nominate a student, the applications must meet the following criteria:

- The competition is open to U.S. applicants who identify as BIPOC. All pieces must be submitted in English or majority English. Plays are welcome to incorporate one or more languages alongside English dialogue.
- Nominations must be for a student who identifies as BIPOC.
- Authors must be students enrolled as a junior or senior high school on May 1, 2024 in order to apply.
- Winners must be present for the 2025 TYA/USA Annual Gathering (HOLD FOR INFO: DATES AND TIMES) in order to be eligible for the award. *Travel and lodging for the gathering will be included in the reward.

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Selection Process/Rubric for Evaluation

An advisory panel of distinguished theater professionals and educators will assist with the selection process. Selection criteria may include but is not limited to:

- Demonstrating a clear connection between the characters and their community
- Demonstrating an understanding of the elements of playwriting. For example: character development or change from beginning, middle to end, descriptive language, unique stage directions, etc.
- Potential for the writer to learn and collaborate with other young people and or adult theatre artists
- Producibility as a staged reading at the 2025 TYA/USA conference and beyond.

Submission Rules:

- All applications must be submitted through the online application form
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- Only complete applications will be considered.
- To request application materials in a different format (for example, in the body of an email or a PDF) , please email bipocsuperheroproject@gmail.com
- Additional Script Rules and Details
- All entries that are scripts must be no more than 10 minutes long OR the first ten pages of a script longer than 10 minutes. (Ten-minutes means eight or nine pages, but certainly no more than ten pages.)
- Pieces must be submitted in written form.
- Entries must be original, unproduced, and unpublished at the time of submission. Entries will be verified to exclude plagiarism before the winner is announced. Pieces with previous readings or workshops are acceptable, as long as they were not produced for a paying audience and have not been publicly reviewed.
- If an entry includes any material that is copyrighted or otherwise owned or controlled by someone other than the authors (including but not limited to, poetry, music and/or lyrics, characters originally created by others in any medium, and/or stories based on real people and/or other people's lives) the author must provide proof of written permission to include such material in the script.
- All entries should follow these formatting guidelines:

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- Include a cover sheet listing the title of the piece and the cast/character list. IMPORTANT: Only show your name, address, or any identifying information on the cover, not any other page of your entry.
- Typed in 12 point Arial font.
- List page numbers on each page of the piece
- Set the page layout to portrait (no landscape, please)
- Before uploading your file, please rename the file as the TITLE OF YOUR SCRIPT

The application deadline is June 1, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

Please send your application to the link: bipocsuperheroproject@gmail.com

Once you submit an application, you will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours of submitting your online application. Please check your junk mail folder for this email. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us directly at bipocsuperheroproject@gmail.com