



2020 Van Lier Fellowship in Theater Application Guidelines

The Asian American Arts Alliance is pleased to administer, with support from the New York Community Trust, the 2020 Van Lier Fellowship. This year, the fellowship will be awarded to a theater artist for the creation of new work.

A4's mission is to ensure greater representation, equity, and opportunities for Asian American artists and cultural organizations through resource sharing, promotion, and community building. In line with these efforts, it is the aim of the A4 Van Lier Fellowship to support an early-career individual Asian American artist living in New York City to develop new work to add to the creative discourse.

Created by the will of Sally Van Lier, the Trust carries out Edward and Sally Van Lier's legacy of arts appreciation by supporting arts groups and training programs to provide education, training, or other support to young artists.

A4 will grant an eight-month fellowship to one early-career Asian American theater artist, age 30 or younger, whose work shows outstanding promise and who may benefit from further professional artistic development, and who is of limited financial means.

Each fellowship recipient will receive an unrestricted cash stipend of \$6,000 and an eight-month fellowship tailored to respond to the unique needs of their practice. The fellowship includes artistic mentorship with an established or mid-career theater professional, leadership coaching, and a range of technical support.

A4 will administer an open application process.

Fellowship Description:

In addition to the cash stipend of \$6,000, the fellow will participate in an eight-month program beginning in May 2020 and ending in December 2020. The fellowship is structured in three phases, each facilitating a different area of professional development.

Phase 1: Career Coaching

May – July 2020

The selected fellow will receive three coaching sessions from an esteemed career coach. The coaching will cover core value strengthening and goal setting/vision planning. These sessions are meant to offer personal and professional development tools for the fellow to empower themselves as a leader of their vision, craft, and field.

Phase 2: Artistic Mentorship

July – September 2020

The selected fellow will receive artistic mentorship from an established or mid-career theater professional. The mentorship will include one-on-one meetings with the appointed mentor. The mentor will be chosen by A4 staff based on field recommendations and with input from the fellow, giving consideration to their interests and preferences.

Phase 3: A4 Public Program

October – December 2020

The selected fellow will work with A4 staff to develop and present one community workshop or public presentation in December 2020 based on their experience with the fellowship or work generated through the process.

Deadline:

APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY 11:59PM EDT ON MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020.

Eligibility:

The applicant **MUST**:

- Be of Asian heritage
- Be 30 years of age or younger at the time of the fellowship (born May 1, 1989 or later)
- Not be currently enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in a degree-granting program during the fellowship period (May – December 2020)
- Be a resident of New York City (Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, Queens, or Staten Island)
- Be currently living in the US and primarily based in New York City during the fellowship period (May – December 2020)

NOTE: Current A4 staff, board members, and review panelists are not eligible. Immediate family of A4 staff, board members, and review panelists are not eligible.

Selection Criteria:

- Artistic merit: Clarity, imaginativeness, and uniqueness based upon body of work and work samples submitted.

- Creation of new work: Description of the project to be developed or completed during the fellowship.
- Community impact: Articulation of interest or hopes to make a significant impact on the Asian American arts community based on narrative responses in the application.
- Potential for growth: Extent to which the fellowship will advance the applicant's goals and career.
- Financial need: Demonstrated need for financial support. Finalists may be asked to provide further financial documentation.

Application:

All applications are submitted online via [Jotform](https://form.jotform.com/200226050359142):

<https://form.jotform.com/200226050359142>

- Online application
 - A 750-word (maximum) statement identifying the applicant's approach to working in theater, where the applicant is in their professional and artistic development, and how the fellowship will help them pursue their future ambitions and goals.
 - A 250-word (maximum) statement articulating how the applicant hopes to make an impact on the Asian American artistic community through their work.
 - A 500-word (maximum) statement describing the project to be created through the support of this fellowship.
 - A 150-word (maximum) statement describing how the cash stipend awarded as part of this fellowship would financially support the project and the applicant's livelihood as an artist.
- Letter of recommendation (from an educator or theater professional experienced with the artist's work)
- Resume and headshot
- Work samples (up to three work samples total)

For actors:

- Two contrasting and recent (within the past 4 years) video work samples, no more than 4 minutes in length for each sample.
- PDF of transcript, text, or written documentation of the performances. If the work is not text-based, please provide a description or explanation of the concept.

For directors:

- PDF of a detailed proposal, text, or storyboard that explains an original work.
- Video or audio sample of a performance or reading of an original work.

For librettists/musical theater:

- PDF of a 30-page excerpt from an original book.
- Two audio tracks from the same work, limit of 4 minutes per track.

For playwrights:

- PDF of a 30-page excerpt from an original script.
- Video or audio sample of a performance or reading of an original work.

If your work does not fit into the above categories, include a sample of equivalent length and scope that clearly demonstrates your work product.

Review & Selection Process:

January 29, 2020	Public announcement of open call
March 16, 2020	Submissions close by 11:59pm EDT
March - April	Panel review period
April 28, 2020	Notification of award

Review panels are composed of respected professionals in the field. All are distinguished artists.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who were the Van Liers?

Throughout their lives, Sally Van Lier and her husband Edward were avid visitors to the City's museums, concerts, and plays, and introduced many young people to the arts. Sally was a theatrical performer in the New York Theater in the 1920s and appeared in the original production of *Showboat*. To learn more, visit [here](#).

How do you define “outstanding promise”?

The ideal applicant is an early-career theater artist who shows extraordinary clarity of thought and creativity in their artistry *and* may realize greater achievement with additional professional development support.

Do I have to be Asian American to apply?

Yes. The fellowship is awarded to an artist of Asian descent. Ethnic origins include Central Asian, East Asian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, South Asian, Southeast Asian, West Asian, Middle Eastern, and Multi-regional.

Is the fellowship open to US citizens/permanent residents or people of all immigration statuses?

Anyone who lives in New York City and has a SSN (Social Security Number) or ITIN (Individual Taxpayer Identification Number) is eligible to apply.

How is the 2020 Van Lier Fellow selected?

The fellow will be selected through an open call and jury process. Submitted applications will be reviewed by a jury composed of theater professionals. Current board and staff members of A4 will not participate in the review process.

What if I have more questions?

You are welcome to inquire further by contacting Lisa Gold, Executive Director, at lgold@aaartsalliance.org

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the [Information Session for 2020 Van Lier Fellowship Applicants](#) on Tuesday, February 11 from 6:30 - 8:00pm OR Wednesday, February 12 from 10:30am – 12:00pm.

A4 hopes that this workshop will not only provide applicants with the nuts and bolts of a strong Van Lier Fellowship application, but also offer enriching suggestions for other fellowship opportunities. Part info session and part workshop, this 1.5-hour session will include background and logistics of the awards process and pointers on preparing a strong application.

Space is limited, so we encourage early RSVPs. [You may RSVP via Eventbrite here.](#)