

Maimonides Fund Announces the Jewish Writers' Initiative Digital Storytellers Lab

The Purpose is to Develop New Jewish Stories for a Modern Media Environment

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, April 12, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Digital Storytellers Lab of the Jewish Writers' Initiative has formally opened the application process for digital media creators to kickstart the development of narrative digital media exploring Jewish themes. Over the eight-month program, fellows will

receive a generous stipend, mentorship, and technical and subject-matter expertise to support the development of their projects. Applications are due June 1, 2022.

A project of [Maimonides Fund](#), the Lab will empower US-based digital artists, including social media creators, short-form screenwriters and podcast visionaries, to develop projects that

explore Jewish culture, values, spirituality, or history on audio/visual digital media platforms like Youtube, Instagram Reels, TikTok, Webtoon, and podcast networks. Proposals for animation, audio-only, live-action and mixed-media projects are welcome.

The Lab will also offer artists opportunities to consult with experts on their projects' unique subject matter. Utilizing first-hand sources, historians, and educators will help writers realize dynamic and authentic stories.

"We are excited to support a new cohort of storytellers in developing compelling and substantive Jewish stories for online audiences," said Maimonides Fund President Mark Charendoff. "As new digital media platforms proliferate, we

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*Maimonides Fund President
Mark Charendoff*

want to support creators in using these spaces to share content that reflects the rich heritage and dynamism of the Jewish people – our shared history, texts, and values as well as the diverse perspectives and experiences we each bring to the tent.”

The Lab will select up to twelve storytellers for the first fellowship cohort. Writers will each receive a stipend of \$20,000 to support them throughout the development of their creative



venture.

The program is being directed by BimBam creator Sarah Lefton and arts educator Janine Okmin. It is guided by an Advisory Board including Rabbi David Wolpe, producer Jonathan Rubenstein, media acquisitions expert Jennifer Monier-Williams, Tippet Studios' Corey Rosen, Sundance's Director of Content Liz Nord, Sesame Workshop's Senior Producer of International Social Impact Estee Bardanashvili, Emmy-winning writer Jay Bushman, and Jewish literature professor and author Jeremy Dauber of Columbia University.

"There's a huge amount of support for creators out there on the platforms - Youtube, TikTok, podcasts, and so on - and in different niche communities. We are proud to be nurturing creators with Jewish stories to tell across all these platforms," said Creative Director Sarah Lefton.

Applications to the Digital Storytellers Lab can be submitted here:

<https://www.jwinitiative.com/digitalstorytellers>

About Maimonides Fund and The Jewish Writers' Initiative:

Maimonides Fund is a private grantmaking organization that funds in North America and Israel. The Fund founded the Jewish Writers' Initiative in 2019, in partnership with Crystal City Entertainment, to support the development of Jewish-themed film and television scripts, with the goal of launching these projects into the mainstream media marketplace. With the Digital Storytellers Lab, the Initiative expands to digital media platforms, bringing innovative Jewish stories to new audiences in new ways.

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