

DIRECTOR SEARCH

1863: WE WERE HERE FIRST

A Historic East Towson Documentary

Hampton Plantation • Road to Freedom • Historic East Towson • Beyond
Descendants • Places • Records • Archives • Historical Memory

PRIMARY PRODUCTION LOCATION

Historic East Towson / Baltimore County, Maryland

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 23, 2026

Complete this fillable application and submit it with all required materials.

1. Applicant Information

Full Name	Preferred / Professional Name
Email	Phone
City / State / Country	Website
IMDb / Professional Profile	

Professional Background

Current Title / Role	
Production Company / Affiliation	
Years Directing Documentary / Nonfiction	Years in Film / Media
Short Professional Biography	

2. Documentary Experience & Qualifications

Describe your qualifications for directing a historically grounded documentary centered on African American history, descendant testimony, land, community, archives and public memory.

Documentary / Nonfiction Directing Experience

Historical Storytelling Experience

African American History / Cultural Storytelling Experience

Interview Direction: elders, descendants, historians and historical witnesses

Research / Archival / Investigative Documentary Experience

3. Relevant Experience

Check areas in which you have meaningful professional experience. Use the narrative field below to identify representative projects.

- ☐ African American historical documentaries
- ☐ Civil rights / social justice history
- ☐ Slavery, emancipation and Reconstruction
- ☐ Intergenerational family / descendant storytelling
- ☐ Land ownership, displacement or community change
- ☐ Investigative documentary filmmaking
- ☐ Oral history collection and interpretation
- ☐ Archival research and primary-source storytelling
- ☐ Public history / museum / heritage interpretation
- ☐ PBS / public media / film-festival distribution
- ☐ HBCU film-program or academic connections
- ☐ Maryland / Mid-Atlantic production experience

Describe projects or experiences most relevant to this documentary

Production Leadership Experience: crew, schedule, budget and creative team

4. Creative Interest & Approach

Why do you want to direct 1863: We Were Here First?

How would you approach a descendant-centered historical documentary?

How do you balance oral history, archival evidence, place-based storytelling and unresolved historical questions?

Describe your approach to sensitive interviews involving trauma, racial violence, displacement or contested history.

What distinguishes a director from a filmmaker who simply knows how to operate a camera?

5. Work Samples & Portfolio

Provide direct links. At least two completed nonfiction works are required. Include passwords where necessary.

Completed Nonfiction Work Sample 1 - Title

Link / URL

Password

Your Role / Year / Brief Relevance

Completed Nonfiction Work Sample 2 - Title

Link / URL

Password

Your Role / Year / Brief Relevance

Director Reel / Portfolio Link

Additional archival / oral-history / investigative example

Awards, Festivals, Broadcasts or Distribution Highlights

6. Availability, Location & Engagement

Current Location

Nearest Major Airport

6. Availability, Location & Engagement

Current Location

Nearest Major Airport

Maryland / Mid-Atlantic Production Availability

Describe your ability to work on location in Maryland and travel as production requires.



Project Scope & Engagement

The documentary's final production schedule, length of engagement and budget have not yet been finalized. Selected director candidates may be invited to participate in development discussions concerning creative scope, production approach, schedule, staffing, deliverables and compensation before any engagement is finalized.

Availability / Scheduling Considerations

Compensation Expectations / Preferred Fee Structure

Production resources, crew relationships or company capabilities you would bring

7. Professional References

Provide three professional references who can speak to your directing, research, collaboration, production leadership or historical storytelling work.

Reference 1

Name

Relationship

Organization / Title

Email / Phone

Reference 2

Name

Relationship

Organization / Title

Email / Phone

Reference 3

Name

Relationship

Organization / Title

Email / Phone

8. Application Checklist

Confirm that your application includes every required item. Incomplete applications may not receive full consideration.

- ☐ Completed Director Search Application
- ☐ Résumé / CV
- ☐ Professional biography
- ☐ Director reel / portfolio link
- ☐ At least two completed nonfiction work samples
- ☐ Statement of interest in 1863: We Were Here First
- ☐ Relevant African American / historical storytelling experience
- ☐ Examples of archival, oral-history and/or investigative work
- ☐ Interview-direction experience with elders, descendants or historical witnesses
- ☐ Research capability and historical-method experience
- ☐ Production leadership experience
- ☐ Current location and Maryland production availability
- ☐ Three professional references
- ☐ Website and/or IMDb / professional profile, if available
- ☐ Compensation expectations

Creative-material protection

Applicants are not being asked to produce unpaid documentary footage, a speculative treatment, or original creative development materials as part of the application. Submitted work samples should represent existing work.

9. Applicant Certification & Submission

Please review and certify the following statements.

- ☐ The information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.
- ☐ I have the right to share the portfolio links and work samples provided for evaluation.
- ☐ I understand that submission does not guarantee an interview or engagement.
- ☐ I understand that any engagement, rights, credits, deliverables and compensation will be governed by a separate written agreement.
- ☐ I understand that historically sensitive and descendant-centered material must be handled with care, accuracy and respect.

Applicant Name (typed signature)

Date

Anything else the Search Committee should know?

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 23, 2026

Submit this completed form together with all checklist materials through the Director Search landing page. Keep a copy of your completed application.
Primary production location: Historic East Towson / Baltimore County, Maryland.