



# Rella Lossy AWARD

The Rella Lossy Award honors the memory of Rella Lossy, a lifelong champion of the American theatre and playwriting, by honoring the best new full-length script of a play by an emerging playwright that will premiere in the Bay Area in the coming season.

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## ABOUT THIS GRANT

The Rella Lossy Award aims to celebrate and advance emerging writers for the theatre. The program solicits **unproduced full-length scripts from professional and professionally-oriented Bay Area theatre organizations that will be presenting the world premiere of a play by an emerging playwright**. The award goes to the playwright and the producing company.

## AWARD

Playwright: \$2,500

Company: \$1,000

## **DEADLINE**

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE by **5PM on Monday, May 4, 2026.**

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **COMPANIES**

- Must be located in one of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, or Sonoma.
- Must have an active company membership with Theatre Bay Area that's maintained through the granting period (May 1, 2026 - July 1, 2027)
- Must be committed to producing a full-length world premiere work by an emerging playwright that opens on or after May 1, 2026 and closes on or before July 1, 2027
- Must commit to development of the piece with the playwright (as described below)

### **YOUR COMPANY IS INELIGIBLE IF:**

- It's primarily a presenter or performance venue
- It's an academic institution or training program
- A member of your company leadership or board member at your company is serving on the Rella Lossy granting panel for this round

### **PLAYWRIGHTS**

- Must be "emerging." For the purposes of this award, "emerging playwright" is defined as a playwright who has not had a prior full production on Broadway or in a LORT member theatre. LORT member theatres are eligible to apply for this award as long as the playwright has not had a full production at a LORT or on Broadway prior to the opening of this production.
- Playwrights do not need to be based in the Bay Area.
- Playwrights do not need to be TBA members.

### **A PLAYWRIGHT IS INELIGIBLE IF:**

- They have had a previous full production on Broadway or at a LORT member theatre.
- They are currently a Theatre Bay Area employee or board member.
- They are serving on the Rella Lossy granting panel for this round.

## DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The company must commit to developing the script with the playwright in ONE (or more) of the following ways:

1. The playwright is an active part of the rehearsal process, attending at least two weeks of rehearsals.
2. The company holds a developmental reading with the playwright, with professional/professionally-oriented actors and a professional/professionally-oriented dramaturg.
3. The company commits to a workshop process with the playwright, the director, professional/professionally-oriented actors and a professional/professionally-oriented dramaturg before rehearsals begin.
4. Any other development process the playwright and the company find productive and necessary.

## HOW DECISIONS ARE MADE

A panel of three theatre professionals, including at least one playwright, will be recruited to review applications. Decisions will be made by the panel, whose names and bios will be released when the awardees are announced.

## TIMELINE

Awardees will be contacted by June 19, 2026.

## APPLICATION

◆◆◆ Please review the [redaction checklist](#) before submitting. ◆◆◆

The application is available online here: [Rella Lossy Award Application 2026](#).

**Applications must be submitted by 5PM on May 4, 2026.**

**You will need to upload the following as PDFs:**

1. **REDACTED SCRIPT:** A PDF copy of the script with the name of the playwright, the title of the play, the name of the producing company, and any other identifying markers removed.

2. **PLAYWRIGHT RESUME:** This will not be shared with the panel. It will be used to establish eligibility only.
3. **REDACTED DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:** A PDF document with a brief description of the development process the playwright and company have committed to doing. It should ONLY contain the development work the company and the playwright are doing together. It should NOT include development work done at other companies or by the playwright on their own. We anticipate that this will be no longer than a paragraph, but you will not be penalized for writing more.
4. **PLEASE NOTE that all written materials MUST be in PDF format. Uploading documents in any other format could disqualify your application from consideration.**



## **REDACTION CHECKLIST**

Make sure **ALL** of the following are removed from the script and development description:

- Playwright
- Play title
- Name of theatre
- Name of venue
- Name of director
- Name of any other production or company personnel



## **QUESTIONS?**

Contact Programs Officer Melissa Hillman at [melissa@theatrebayarea.org](mailto:melissa@theatrebayarea.org)

## **WHAT'S ON THE APPLICATION?**

All application questions are for TBA staff. Panelists receive your redacted playscript and development description only. All application questions appear in **blue**.

**Organization name**

**Organization website**

### Contact name

This is the person we should be able to email with questions and updates about your application. Please note that all information about the company and the playwright is for TBA staff. The panel will ONLY be able to access the redacted playscript and development description.

### Contact email

### Phone number

### Playwright name

### Playwright email

### Playwright website or NPX page

**For publicity purposes, please give us a brief description of the play (no more than 100 words). If your application is awarded, this will be used in the announcement.**

It's fine to use copy from other sources (marketing copy, grants, etc). This will be used for the announcement of the awardee.

**For publicity purposes, please provide a brief bio for the playwright (no more than 100 words). If your application is awarded, this will be used in the announcement.**

It's fine to use copy from other sources (such as the playwright's website or NPX, your marketing or PR). This will be used for the announcement of the awardee.

**For publicity purposes, please provide the social media handles used by the company. The awardee will be tagged in TBA's social media posts about the award.**

**For publicity purposes, please provide the professional social media handles used by the playwright. The awardee will be tagged in TBA's social media posts about the award.**

If the playwright does not use social media or does not wish to be tagged, please type "N/A."

### When is the show currently set to open?

**When is the show currently set to close (not including possible extensions)?**

**The company attests that it is a member of Theatre Bay Area and, if awarded, agrees to remain a member through the end of the granting period.**

**The company attests that it creates and performs theatre primarily in the following counties (check all that apply):**

In order to be eligible, you must create and perform theatre in at least one of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, or Sonoma.

**If awarded, the playwright agrees to provide acknowledgment of the grant in bios until at least June 30, 2027.**

**Upload a PDF of the Redacted Script here. (PLEASE review the redaction checklist in the Rella Lossy Guidelines before uploading your PDF.)**

**Upload a PDF of the Redacted Development Description here. The Development Description should ONLY contain information about the development work YOUR COMPANY is committed to doing or has already done. See the Rella Lossy Guidelines for more information. (PLEASE review the redaction checklist in the Rella Lossy Guidelines before uploading your PDF.)**

**Playwright resume PDF**

This will be used to establish eligibility only, and will not be shared with the panel, so it does not need to be redacted.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

It's important for Theatre Bay Area to gather this data to hold ourselves accountable to our goal of equitably serving the Bay Area theatre community. This data will only be used in the aggregate for assessing our progress towards equity, and will not be given to the Rella Lossy panelists. All questions may be answered YES, NO, or PREFER NOT TO ANSWER.

**COMPANY: Does anyone currently in your top-tier leadership identify as BIPOC?**

**COMPANY: Does anyone currently in your top-tier leadership identify as disabled?**

**COMPANY: Does anyone currently in your top-tier leadership identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, or other marginalized sexual identity?**

**COMPANY: Does anyone currently in your top-tier leadership identify as trans, non-binary, genderqueer, agender, or other marginalized gender identity?**

**COMPANY: What is the highest level of education achieved among your current top-tier leadership?**

The answers range from “Some high school” through “Doctorate degree” and also include “Prefer not to answer.”

**PLAYWRIGHT: Do you identify as BIPOC?**

**PLAYWRIGHT: Do you identify as disabled?**

**PLAYWRIGHT: Do you identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, or other marginalized sexual identity?**

**PLAYWRIGHT: Do you identify as trans, non-binary, genderqueer, agender, or other marginalized gender identity?**

**PLAYWRIGHT: What is the highest level of education you've received?**

The answers range from “Some high school” through “Doctorate degree” and also include “Prefer not to answer.”