

2022 national critics institute • application guide

The 2022 National Critics Institute will be held in person at the O’Neill campus in beautiful Waterford, CT. Thanks to the generosity of the Knight Foundation, we are thrilled to open applications for a select number of fellows who live or work in one of the 26 communities where Knight Foundation is investing in local journalism. If you are affiliated with any of the following communities, we welcome you to apply:

- Long Beach, CA	- Palm Beach County, FL	- Ft. Wayne, IN	- Duluth, MN	- Akron, OH
- San Jose, CA	- Tallahassee, FL	- Gary, IN	- St. Paul, MN	- Philadelphia, PA
- Boulder, CO	- Columbus, GA	- Wichita, KS	- Biloxi, MS	- State College, PA
- Bradenton, FL	- Macon, GA	- Lexington, NY	- Charlotte, NC	- Columbia, SC
- Miami, FL	- Milledgeville, GA	- Detroit, MI	- Grand Forks, ND	- Myrtle Beach, SC
- Aberdeen, SD				

Application Window

We will be accepting applications from writers who live or work in one of the above communities from March 10 through April 7, 2022. Early applications are strongly encouraged.

Application Materials

The application for the National Critics Institute is hosted on Submittable, and you can access the online form at www.theoneill.org/nci Once your materials have been submitted, you will receive a confirmation email.

1. Contact Information

- Your name, email address, phone number, and mailing address.

2. Knight Community Affiliation

- You will be asked which of the above Knight communities you have a personal or professional affiliation with, as well as a brief description of that affiliation.

3. Educational and Professional History

- A brief sketch of your biography that includes any honors, awards, and theatrical experience.
- List of your degrees and certifications, and the dates received.
- A summary of your current work as a writer and/or an arts critic.
- An overview of your strengths as a writer and/or an arts critic.
- An overview of any aspects of your writing and/or arts criticism that you feel need improvement.

4. Two Writing Samples

- Please submit two samples of your writing that best illustrate your experience, analytical acumen, and style. Ideal samples are in the form of critical writing; however, links to audio recordings, video clips, and other media are acceptable if they best reflect your professional work.
- Your writing samples, including links, must be saved as PDFs with the file names “Last Name, First Name_Writing Sample 1” and “Last Name, First Name_Writing Sample 2”.

5. One Letter of Recommendation

- This letter should be from an editor, teacher, or mentor. You may upload this letter as a PDF file directly through Submittable.
- However, if your recommender would prefer, this letter can be emailed separately to critics@theoneill.org.

Need a Hand?

If you have any questions, please reach out to NCI Associate Director Naveen Kumar at nkumar@theoneill.org.