

## **EDCF Future Leaders Programme Call for applications**

The European Digital Cinema Forum (EDCF) invites applications for the first edition of the EDCF Future Leaders Programme, a 12-month fellowship for two professionals based in Europe, aged 18 to 35, working across the cinema technology value chain.

### **About the EDCF**

The EDCF is the leading European platform for cinema technology professionals, addressing the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of the big screen.

Founded in 2000, the EDCF played a key role in the digitisation of European cinemas. Today it brings together professionals from across the film ecosystem, including trade associations, standards bodies, cinema operators, manufacturers, service providers, distributors, post-producers and content creators, to explore the evolving landscape of cinema technology.

### **Why a Future Leaders Programme**

The future of cinema technology and the wider Big Screen experience will be carried forward by a new generation of professionals. The Future Leaders Programme is designed to accelerate that process, by giving two young professionals direct exposure to the people, debates and developments shaping cinema technology, and gives the EDCF and its members the benefit of their perspective in return.

### **The programme**

The fellowship formally starts in early 2027 and closes at the EDCF Conference in 2028. Participants will be introduced on stage at the EDCF Conference in Prague. At the 2028 Conference, they will take on a formal speaking role on a topic of interest to the EDCF, share their learnings and meet the next cohort in person. The whole year builds towards that moment.

Over the year, participants will attend four events organised by the EDCF:

- The EDCF Conference, Prague, 2-3 March 2027
- The EDCF LA Tour, Los Angeles, 8-9 April 2027
- The EDCF Global Cinema Seminar at IBC, Amsterdam, 12 September 2027
- The EDCF Conference, TBA, February-March 2028

Between events, participants will work alongside the EDCF Board and Executive Director, contributing to the association's discussions and activities.

## **Mentoring**

Each participant will choose a member of the EDCF Board as their mentor. The format, including the number and frequency of virtual meetings, will be agreed directly between the fellow and their mentor at the start of the programme.

## **What the EDCF covers**

The EDCF covers return travel, hotel accommodation and registration fees for participants at all four programme events.

The programme is funded entirely from the EDCF's own budget, with no sponsor involvement, to keep selection fully independent of any member company.

## **What we ask of fellows**

Participants play an active part in the programme and help share its value with the wider EDCF community. In particular, we ask them to:

- write a short recap after each event, for use in the EDCF newsletter and on LinkedIn;
- support the programme at EDCF events, building towards a formal speaking role at the EDCF Conference 2028;
- shape further contributions with the EDCF team, such as regular LinkedIn posts in a personal capacity or a short recorded virtual session sharing their impressions.

## **Eligibility**

Applicants must:

- be aged between 18 and 35 at the time of application;
- be based in Europe;
- be an EDCF member, either as an individual member or as an employee of a member company;
- work in a technical role related to cinema technology.

Professionals who are not yet members, including freelancers, are welcome to apply for EDCF membership before submitting their application.

The programme is open to professionals from any part of the cinema technology value chain, from exhibition and distribution to manufacturing, services, post-production and standards work.

## **How to apply**

Applications should include:

- a motivation letter from the applicant of no more than one page (around 500 words), explaining their current role, why they wish to join the programme, and what perspective they would bring to the EDCF;
- a short recommendation from a nominator, explaining why the applicant is a strong candidate and what they would gain from the programme.

The nominator must work for an EDCF member company or be an individual member of the EDCF, and may be a colleague from the applicant's own organisation. They should be available to answer follow-up questions from the selection committee.

Applications should be sent to [admin@edcf.net](mailto:admin@edcf.net) by **13 November 2026**.

## **Selection and timeline**

Applications will be reviewed by the EDCF Board. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a virtual interview, and participants will be announced by the end of 2026. The programme formally starts in Q1 2027.

## **Contact**

For any questions about the programme, please contact [admin@edcf.net](mailto:admin@edcf.net).