

Squeaky Wheel

Film and Media Art Center
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September 3, 2026

Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Arts Center is hiring a dedicated **Teaching Assistant** for our **Youth Film Lab** program, beginning with the 2026 fall program. For the right candidate, this opportunity may be renewed for future sessions, with the possibility of year round part-time employment.

2026 Fall Program dates:

October 6 - November 24 (8 weeks)

Tuesdays & Thursdays (14 classes, no class Tues 11/3 & Thurs 11/26)

3:30-6:30pm (class 4-6pm)

Anticipated pay rate

\$25/hour for 50 hours (28 hrs teaching/14 hrs daily prep/8 hrs planning & meetings)

\$1250 total pay

Review of applications will begin immediately, and applications received by Friday, September 11 are assured full consideration. The position is open until filled.

Youth Film Lab is a media arts education and workforce development program that provides year-round, quality out-of-school opportunities for a diverse group of 10-12 Buffalo area teens in grades 8-12. This unique program centers hands-on experience in video production and digital filmmaking. Participants build real-world skills and gain experience to prepare for higher education and employment. The program is offered with sliding scale fees starting at \$0; 90% of recent participants attended for free. The program currently meets for eight weeks in the fall and spring and six weeks in the summer in our Media Lab and Production Studio in the TriMain Center in Buffalo.

Candidates for the **Teaching Assistant** position should be emerging artist-educators with strong experience in collaborative narrative film project planning and preproduction; on-set digital video camera operations, audio recording, grip, and lighting; video editing and audio

editing/mixing; growing knowledge of film history, art history, and contemporary media art. Experience in screenwriting, cinematography, documentary filmmaking, audio/radio production, digital storytelling, and/or experimental film/video are all relevant to this position.

We recognize that many filmmakers specialize in one area of the filmmaking process. We do our best to match the Teaching Assistant with a Lead Teaching Artist whose skills are complementary - for example, a Lead Teaching Artist with strong cinematography skills and a Teaching Assistant with strong audio recording skills. We are also sometimes able to hire guest artists to lead classes on specialized skills. Still, competency across multiple areas, willingness to learn new skills on the fly, and the ability to support the Lead Teaching Artist as they guide students through the whole filmmaking process are crucial.

The ideal candidate for this position will have experience producing short films on short timelines. Experience in 48 Hour Film Festivals, student projects with short deadlines, or other rapid filmmaking events is an asset.

Squeaky Wheel provides all equipment and a base curriculum with timelines and expected learning outcomes. The Lead Teaching Artist will build on this curriculum according to their skills, experience, and interests. The Teaching Assistant will support the Lead Teaching Artist in the classroom, helping with setup and breakdown of equipment, offering one-on-one and small group support to students, and assisting with general classroom management. There are also opportunities to lead technical and creative lessons based on the Teaching Assistant's skills and interests.

The Education Director and Technical Director provide reasonable planning and technical support before and during the session, and clear and prompt communication in person and via email and phone is expected throughout the session. Occasional additional meetings will be scheduled to check in with the teaching team and provide support as needed.

The Teaching Assistant must be able to effectively communicate and collaborate with and provide instructional support to the Lead Teaching Artist, and must be confident in stepping up to identify when their help is needed. Assistance with proper management of equipment and classroom spaces is also expected. Candidates must possess a positive attitude, a sense of humor, and a willingness to learn from the Lead Teaching Artist, students, and Squeaky Wheel staff.

Minimum qualifications:

- Current student or recent graduate of film or media art degree program
- Experience making short films (includes personal projects and/or student films)
- Confidence and growing proficiency in the following:
 - Video Production & Post-Production

- proficiency in prosumer DSLR, mirrorless, and compact cinema camera operations; fundamental lighting and grip; file handling, project management and editing with DaVinci Resolve
- Audio Production & Post-Production
 - proficiency in prosumer audio recording with devices like Zoom or Tascam audio recorders, lavalier and boom microphones, and software like DaVinci Resolve, ProTools, Audacity, or Adobe Audition
- Understanding of basic set design and location work
- Willingness to encourage and support wild ideas

Ideal qualifications (but not required)

- Ability to teach color correction and color grading in DaVinci Resolve
- Ability to teach motion graphics, visual effects, and/or animation
- Professional on set and/or post production experience
- Understanding of local film industry and independent filmmaking scene

Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate cultural competence and a genuine desire to support student-led work on a range of topics, from playful narrative fiction to complex social issues.

To apply, please send a single pdf with a letter of intent, resume, and link(s) to 2-3 short work samples to caroline@squeaky.org. Your subject line should read “2026 Fall YFL Teaching Assistant Position”. Your letter should tell us about you as a teacher and as an artist, and should explain what skills and experience you have to share and why you want to teach in this program. Your resume should include work experience that helps us to understand your skills broadly, even if some of that experience is not directly film or art related. Your work sample should demonstrate your skills as a filmmaker. If your work sample includes collaborative work, please explain your role.

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Questions?

Contact Caroline Doherty, Education Director: caroline@squeaky.org