



Call for Proposal — Conference Producer (Contract), Getting Real '26

The International Documentary Association (IDA) is seeking an experienced Conference Producer (Contract) to lead the strategy, planning, and execution of Getting Real '26, our flagship biennial convening for the global documentary community. This contract role reports to the Executive Director and oversees all aspects of event production for a hybrid in-person/virtual conference taking place in 2026. The conference dates are July 20-23, 2026.

The ideal candidate is a collaborative, detail-oriented event leader who excels at delivering high-quality experiences, managing complex logistics, and fostering a welcoming, accessible environment for attendees. This role requires strong project management skills, budget and vendor oversight, and the ability to coordinate with multiple departments to bring a large-scale conference to life. Submit applications by December 29, 2025, for the initial review period. Applications close January 9, 2026.

About Getting Real

Getting Real is a biennial conference unlike any other event on the documentary calendar. Now in its sixth edition, this gathering brings documentary filmmakers and industry professionals together in a communal space where they can build lasting relationships, encounter inspiring ideas, and host constructive conversations about the many challenges facing our growing community.

- **Discussions and workshops:** The four-day event facilitates conversations about the challenges and opportunities in the documentary field through talks, panels, performances, and workshops.
- **Networking:** It's a major networking event that brings together independent filmmakers with powerful industry players, such as major streaming platforms and funding agencies.



- Focus on community and sustainability: The conference aims to build a more sustainable and interconnected community of documentary practitioners.
- Inclusivity: More recent events have emphasized access and inclusivity, with features like ASL interpreters and live captioning.
- Hybrid format: In recent years, the conference has adopted a hybrid format to include virtual attendees, allowing for a global audience to participate alongside the in-person event in Los Angeles.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead overall event strategy, planning, and execution for Getting Real '26
- Develop and manage production timelines, budgets, staffing plans, and schedules
- Oversee accessibility initiatives and attendee experience from registration through event close
- Manage venue selection, site visits, logistics, décor, catering, and signage
- Recruit, train, and supervise temporary and contract staff
- Negotiate and manage vendor contracts within budget parameters
- Coordinate virtual components, including pre-recorded sessions and hybrid workflows
- Collaborate with Programming, Volunteer, Hospitality, Communications, and Development teams
- Conduct post-event debrief and final reporting.
- For more information, look at <https://www.documentary.org/gettingreal/about>

Qualifications



- Significant experience producing large-scale events, preferably in arts, film, media, or nonprofit settings
- Ability to manage complex timelines, budgets, and logistics
- Strong leadership and communication skills
- Experience with hybrid or virtual event production
- Commitment to accessibility, equity, and high-quality audience engagement
- Comfortable working with multiple teams and managing contractors

Compensation & Time Commitment

Compensation is dependent on experience and the scope of engagement, within the period of January 2026 through July 2026.

Location

We welcome candidates from SoCal, within a reasonable distance from Los Angeles. Candidates may work from IDA's Koreatown office (optional).

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please email a detailed cover letter that clearly outlines your interest in and qualifications for the role, along with your project proposal, to HR@documentary.org.