

Brico Foward Fund Application 2021

Team & Select Biographies

Jayce Kolinski (Producer/Editor)

Jayce Kolinski is an award-winning artist, filmmaker, and photographer known for their short-form documentary films and their work on major feature-length documentary projects. They have traveled around the country photographing climbers high off the ground, producing innovative award-winning films, and working on various documentary projects for PBS, HBO, and Endgame Entertainment.

Jayce was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. During their education, they founded an organization for local documentary filmmakers called Milwaukee Nonfiction. After college, they were selected for a yearlong fellowship through the Plumb Blossom Initiative and created a live-performance outdoor screening series in partnership with Milwaukee Film, the River Revitalization Foundation, and ARTservancy to highlight the history of environmental conservation along the Milwaukee River. Since then, Jayce has began production on a handful of untitled documentary projects experimenting with alternative darkroom processes and modes of image-making.

Dan Peters (Cinematographer)

Delaney Doersch (Associate Producer)

Kenzie Hack (Associate Producer)

Johnathan Olson (Assistant Editor)

Chase Barthel (Assistant Editor)

Ellen Suhr (Sound Design)

Callan Thomas (Composer)

Riley Rae Niemack (Consultant/Assistant Producer)

Cindy Johnson (Consultant)

Project Descriptions

Brief description/log-line

Daydreams from Yesterday is an urban-nature documentary filmed and presented live in the heart of the historic Milwaukee River Greenway. The film looks back to the generations of Milwaukee thinkers who have shaped the relationship we share with the natural world and toward those shaping the future.

Longer Project Description

Daydreams from Yesterday is an urban-nature documentary filmed and presented live in the heart of the historic Milwaukee River Greenway. The film looks back to the generations of Milwaukee thinkers who have shaped the relationship we share with the natural world and toward those shaping the future. Through a series of tangential investigations, we explore the intersections between ecologists, writers, birders, and activists within the forests nestled between our urban developments.

Project Pitch

This film comes at a time when our collective knowledge of nature is diminishing, and corporate logos have become more recognizable than local plants and animals. Years of development have left few natural areas in the United States, and even fewer in our largest cities.

In Milwaukee, we hold enough parkland to rival the size of central park. Since their establishment, these parks have evolved into an icon of Milwaukee's identity. Today, there are numerous organizations dedicated to hiking, fishing, biking, and birding. All these groups have built unique connections with the land and share unique relationships with the natural areas within Milwaukee. In the face of our diminishing connection to natural areas in cities, Milwaukee offers a unique point of access to the wonders of public lands and the individuals who preserve the knowledge they offer. Over the past two years, our team has built extensive relationships within the organizations and communities relevant to this story. Our team was brought together by our shared love for Milwaukee's public lands, and we are all beyond excited to see through the completion of this project.

How would you define "success" for this film?

Success for this project is defined by the completion of a 60-minute film and the execution of a community impact plan that features five accessible exhibitions hosted outdoors in parks alongside the Milwaukee River. We have plans to screen in Lincoln Park, Hubbard Park, and at The River Revitalization Foundation within the first year of completion. The two additional screening venues have yet to be determined but will focus on bringing the project to communities near the river that have been historically disadvantaged.

After the first year of exhibitions, we plan to do a limited US run of the project targeting organizations and festivals that would be open to hosting the film as a live outdoor screening. After our concluded festival run and our five community exhibitions, we will continue hosting intermittent Milwaukee area screenings in partnership with organizations such as the River Revitalization Foundation and ARTservancy.

Project Status

Within the first three months of production, our team conducted 34 shoots, completed a 25-minute documentary film, and hosted our first outdoor exhibition as a part of the Plumb Blossom Initiative Fellowship. Soon after, our director was selected to be the artist in residence for the Milwaukee Greenway by ARTservancy and continued work on the project in lead up to a second outdoor exhibition slated to happen at the River Revitalization Foundation in August of 2021. Over the eleven months leading up to the screening, our team secured \$2,500 in funding from the Brico Emergency Grant and began laying the groundwork to produce the feature version of Daydreams from Yesterday. This involved hiring a larger production team, conducting further research, and shooting an additional 17 partial days. With this material, we completed a revised 30-minute in-progress film created for the ARTservancy residency. So far, between both our screenings, we have been able to bring our film to 100+ Milwaukee individuals. Over those two years, we have conducted 51 shoots and committed hours to in-depth research. This involved 80+ hours in the field documenting Milwaukee's most rare flora and fauna throughout the evolving seasons. Through this extended time in the field, we built and maintained relationships within several key organizations and to a wide collection of characters relevant to the story.

We have lined up five new interviews and four follow-ups that are awaiting filming. In addition, we have four non-character-driven sequences involving specialty cinematography of the wildlife and natural features around the Milwaukee River. Altogether, we have an estimated nine full and eleven partial shooting days remaining.

What are the key milestones (including month and year) on a (realistic) timeline for completing the film? If you do not receive this award, what would your timeline for completing this film look like?

Past:

05/2020 - Production Began

09/2020 - First outdoor screening of 25 minute cut for Plumb Blossom Initiative Fellowship

12/2020 - Awarded the Brico Emergency Fund & began production on the feature version of Daydreams from Yesterday

08/2021 - Second outdoor screening featuring radically new 30 minute cut for ARTservancy at the River Revitalization Foundation

Going forward with an award:

12/2022 - Wrap shooting on additional 5 characters, 4 characters follow-ups, and 11 specialty shoots

09/2023 - Feature Film Premiere of Daydreams from Yesterday

4/2024 - Last of five outdoor film screenings hosted around Milwaukee & start of a festival run

Going forward without an award:

04/2023 - Wrap shooting on additional two characters, 4 characters follow-ups, and 5 specialty shoots

09/2023 - Feature Film Premiere of Daydreams from Yesterday

10/2023 - Last of two outdoor film screenings hosted around Milwaukee & start of a limited festival run

Keeping the above in mind, hypothetically describe the ideal award package (cash and services) for this film. What would significantly propel this project forward and why?

The ideal award package for this production would be a \$25,000 cash award. Our team has accounted for several funding scenarios and found that for \$25,000 we would be able to produce the entire feature film and host all five screenings in keeping with our provided timeline. How we got there accounts for the minimum amount of \$6097.67 needed to run all five outdoor screenings and the \$19,631.45 minimum to hire on the crew for the remainder of production. This award package would propel this project forward by ensuring the minimum amount of funding needed to complete the film.

What would an award from the Brico Forward Fund allow you to do that otherwise would not be possible?

As a small independent production focused closely on topics relating to Milwaukee, the Brico Forward Fund would cover a large portion of production costs that would otherwise be difficult to cover given the hyper-localized subject matter and distribution of the project. Our team has set the priority of producing a project that enriches and engages the communities it represents. Having Milwaukee Film be the primary sponsor would offer a level of institutional community validation that would open the door to further sponsorships with local institutions and individuals.

Without the funds offered by the Brico Forward Fund, our production would continue but at a much smaller capacity. Ultimately the film would take substantially longer to finish and our community impact plan would have to be substantially rolled back.

Without these funds, we would only be able to host two more screenings of the film alongside an even more limited festival run.

All that said, this project has always been directed towards a local distribution plan and the Brico Forward Fund is ultimately the key sponsorship that would unlock the path forward for this project.

Budget Narrative

So far, we have raised a little over \$2647.96 between the Brico Emergency Fund Grant and donations made at our last screenings. We only began keeping a budget after we received the funds from Milwaukee Film, but the majority of our investment came from the Director himself. All rates listed run fairly close to the industry standard.