

ANNUAL REPORT

WOMEN IN FILM &
TELEVISION TORONTO

20
22

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OUR APPROACH

EDUCATE | ENGAGE | EMPOWER

OUR MISSION

To build and advance the careers of our members by providing professional development, peer support, and mentorship.

OUR VISION

To be a leader in building an equitable, inclusive and accessible screen-based media industry.

OUR APPROACH

At the beginning of 2022, the staff at WIFT Toronto started to optimistically and cautiously plan to return some of our professional development programs, mentoring and networking opportunities back in person. We acknowledged and recognized that by continuing to offer some of our programs online or hybrid, we could continue to offer these courses to individuals living outside the greater Toronto area.

ACTION STEPS

The following needs were identified as priorities for WIFT Toronto in 2022:

- Continue our work on the mission and vision of WIFT Toronto to be a leader in building an equitable, inclusive, and accessible screen-based media industry.
- Provide welcoming, safe, and accessible space for WIFT Toronto members to attend events with low or no cost, understanding that it may be a time when finances have become a burden for many.
- Work on the build of a new website that would align with our new recent rebranding and be easier for our members and the industry to navigate.



IMPACT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Argie Eliopoulos (Chair) Director Partnerships and Events, Canadian Film Centre (CFC)

Barbara Escoto (Vice Chair) VP Content Platforms, Bell Media

Sundra Sefa (Treasurer) Chartered Professional Accountant, CPA, CGA

Terry E. Markus (Secretary) Lawyer, Independent Business & Legal Affair Consultant

Noora Abu Eitah Sr. Director Innovation Management and Spark Development Planning, DDI, Hasbro, Inc.

Tracy Alves Director Strategic Partnerships & Engagement, William F. White International Inc.

Sara Chan Associate General Counsel, Head of Technology, Legal Operations and Rights Management, Corus Entertainment

Jennifer Chen Head of Studios, VP Content, Channel Zero Inc.

Sarain Fox Director/Host, Land Back Studios Inc.

Tanya Green Head of Preschool, Mainframe Studios

Umber Hamid CEO and Partner, BoomBox Studios

Sharon Hinds Manager, Rogers Sports & Media, ALL IN

Sam Linton VP, Head of Original Content, Blue Ant Media

Karen Walton Screenwriter/Executive Producer, Inkling Entertainment Inc.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WIFT Toronto Board Executive

Chair: Argie Eliopoulos
Vice-Chair: Barbara Escoto
Treasurer: Sundra Sefa
Secretary: Terry E. Markus
FDN Chair: Jenn Kuzmyk
Staff Contact: Karen Bruce

Finance Committee

Chair: Sundra Sefa (Treasurer)
Janet Chant (FDN Treasurer)
Argie Eliopoulos
Carolyn Allain
Jenn Kuzmyk
Jennifer Chen
Staff Contact: Karen Bruce

Fundraising Committee

Chair: Laura Heath-Potter (FDN Board)
Tracy Alves (Board)
Kimberley Ball (FDN Board)
Umber Hamid (Board)
Nellie Lindner (FDN Board)
Anja Sagan (Member Rep)
Staff Contact: Karen Bruce

Membership Committee

Chair: Tanya Green (Board)
Cailyn Michaan (Board)
Karen Walton (Board)
Sarain Fox (Board)
Fennella Bruce (FDN Board)
Asis Sethi (Member Rep)
Rabiya Mansoor (Member Rep)
Paula Sanderson (Member Rep)
Bonnie Anderson (Member Rep)
Staff Contact: Abby Brockhouse

Engagement Committee

Co-Chairs: Sharon Hinds (Board) &
Julie Kumaria (FDN Board)
Noora Abu Eitah (Board)
Jennifer Chen (Board)
Umber Hamid (Board)
Sara Chan (Board)
Sue Haas (FDN Board)
Emilia Copeland (Member Rep)
Christa Morson (Member Rep)
Asis Sethi (Member Rep)
Stephanie Herrera (Member Rep)
Staff Contact: Abby Brockhouse

Programming Advisory Committee

Chair: Barbara Escoto (Board)
Noora Abu Eitah (Board)
Sam Linton (Board)
Terry E. Markus (Board)
Jennifer Shin (FDN Board)
Lindsey Scully (FDN Board)
Melonie de Guzman (Member Rep)
Tara Woodbury (Member Rep)
Laura Perlmutter (Member Rep)
Jeannette Trigiani Diehl (Member Rep)
Liz Truchanowicz (Member Rep)
Staff Contact: Laurie Januska

Board Nominations Committee

Chair: Argie Eliopoulos
Barbara Escoto
Terry E. Markus
Jenn Kuzmyk
Karen Walton
Staff Contact: Karen Bruce

NEW IN 2022

Our goal to be responsive to our members' needs and industry changes means that every year we strive to introduce new programs and initiatives. In 2022, overcoming many challenges, we succeeded in this objective and launched the following:

- Expanded Leadership Development Series
- Business of Budgeting
- Pitching 101
- Website relaunch

BUSINESS OF BUDGETING
Saturdays, December 3 & 10, 2022

Deadline for Registration:
November 28, 2022

Bursary Deadline:
November 25, 2022

WIFT TORONTO +
PINEWOOD TORONTO STUDIOS
TORONTO
ONTARIO CREATES CRÉATIF

WIFT TORONTO +
In Partnership With
blue ant media

Leadership Development Series
October 28/29 +
November 4/5, 2022

Deadline for Bursary Applications: Fri Oct 7, 2022

Deadline for Registration **EXTENDED!**
Fri Oct 21, 2022

Presenting Sponsor
CANADA MEDIA FUND

PITCHING 101
MASTERCLASS+WORKSHOP
MAY 26-27
POST PROGRAM PANEL

WORKSHOP SERIES

BURSARY DEADLINE: FRI MAY 13, 11:59 PM EDT
APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRI MAY 20, 11:59 PM EDT

ONTARIO CREATES CRÉATIF
WIFT TORONTO +

WIFT TORONTO
WEBSITE RELAUNCH
DECEMBER 2022
VISIT WIFT.COM TODAY

PROGRAMMING . EVENTS . MENTORSHIPS . NETWORKING

MEMBER PROGRAMMING & EVENTS

The value of a WIFT Toronto membership continues to delight members, from affordable and intensive professional development to networking.

The following events and programs were available to all WIFT Toronto members in 2022:

- Member Meetups
- Tour of the TIFF Film Reference Library and David Mason Books
- Free networking pub nights
- PRIDE walk with SIM International
- Toronto FC vs LA Galaxy plus entrance to the "EX"
- Walk & Talks
- Member Orientations
- Studio Tours and networking at Immersion Room (a virtual production studio)



SPECIAL EVENTS

After a year of endless Zoom meetings and events, board members, WIFT staff and members finally reunited in person!

Starting at last year's Showcase, and before we knew it, we were back together again at the WIFT Toronto at TIFF reception. Then, in December, we celebrated five extraordinary women at the 35th Crystal Awards.

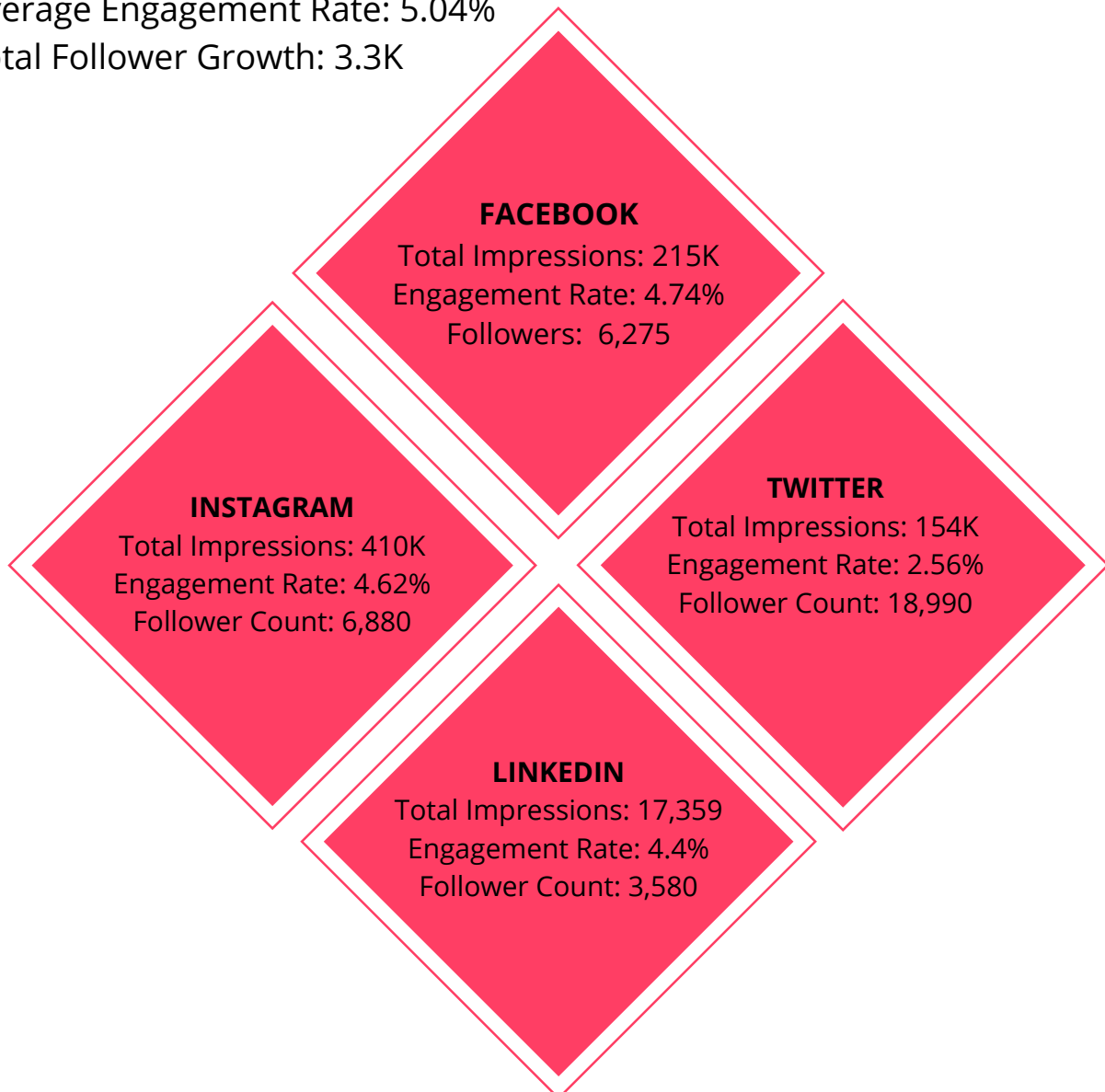


SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

In 2022, WIFT Toronto continued to grow and cultivate an online community with its Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts.

ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS

- Total Posts: 1.8K
- Total Impressions: 721K
- Average Engagement Rate: 5.04%
- Total Follower Growth: 3.3K



OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

CORPORATE SOCIAL BENEFITS PARTNERS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

CONTINUED

BRONZE SPONSORS



BOAT ROCKER

COMPANY3



DUFFERIN GATE
STUDIOS



Gallagher

Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



GHOST VFX

PART OF STREAMLAND MEDIA



NATIONAL
BANK
OF CANADA



Paramount+



PINEWOOD
TORONTO STUDIOS

ROCKET
SCIENCE



ENTERTAINMENT



stratagem™
studios

Take5
PRODUCTIONS



UNIFOR
NABET 700-M



A SUNBELT RENTALS
COMPANY

WIFT+
TORONTO

OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS CONTINUED

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ACADEMY • ACADÉMIE
OF CANADIAN CINEMA & TELEVISION / CANADIENNE DU CINÉMA ET DE LA TÉLÉVISION

BANFF
WORLD MEDIA FESTIVAL

 **BREAKTHROUGHS**
FILM FESTIVAL


CANADIAN
FILM FEST


FEMALE EYE FILM FESTIVAL
"Always Honest, Not Always Pretty"

Final Draft
A Cast & Crew Entertainment Company

hotdocs
OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.

» **imagine**
NATIVE

io interactive **ontario**

Inside
Out

LIFT LIAISON OF
INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS
OF TORONTO

MAC

 **RAINDANCE**
TORONTO

ReelAbilities
FILM FESTIVAL

TORONTO
reel asian
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Reelworld
film festival


SHINE
NETWORK

TORONTO
BLACK FILM
FESTIVAL

 **TJFF** | TORONTO
JEWISH FILM
FESTIVAL

tiff

EDUCATION PARTNERS

 **HUMBER**
School of Media Studies
& Information Technology

CENTENNIAL
COLLEGE

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

The Chang School
of Continuing
Education

 **Schulich** | **YORK U**
School of Business

WIFT +
TORONTO

ANNUAL REPORT

FOUNDATION FOR
WOMEN IN FILM &
TELEVISION TORONTO

20
22

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FOUNDATION
WIFT +
TORONTO

MISSION

The Foundation for WIFT Toronto raises funds through individual and corporate donations and our annual online auction to enable WIFT Toronto to carry out its mission of building and advancing the careers of WIFT Toronto members by providing professional development, peer support, and mentorship opportunities.

Funds raised help subsidize professional development courses and programs, provide complimentary memberships, cash prizes for future projects and scholarships.

“

I am so grateful for the amazing resources I've been able to access as a WIFT Toronto member. I don't know how I could've done this without you, your team and the work that you do. I absolutely credit my WIFT membership with creating a turning point in my career, life, and project.

The WIFT Connect mentorship program has also proven to be an invaluable resource through this time and I am eternally grateful that such an opportunity exists.

Thank you so much to everyone at WIFT for using your knowledge and talent to light the way for upcoming creators like myself.

RUBY GIBSON,
IDM FUTURE TRAINING AND WIFT CONNECT

”



TESTIMONIALS

“

I am deeply honoured to receive the WIFT Award for Outstanding Female Graduate! The heartfelt speech presented in the online ceremony made me emotional by reminding me why this career is so important to me and why inclusion, diversity, and representation matter. I watched the ceremony among my friends and crew members; we were all in tears. Among such great women filmmakers in my cohort, being chosen as the most outstanding is a responsibility that encourages me to accept the challenges of being a woman filmmaker. I can't wait to meet other women in film and join WIFT. We are stronger together. Thank you so much!

ANDRESSA BLACK
COMPLIMENTARY MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENT
SHERIDAN WIFT TORONTO AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FEMALE
GRADUATE

The women are always so inspiring to me too. Thank you again for organizing this, I think down the line people in the Indigenous community will say to each other, I was in the WIFT writing program, so was I! That's where I got my start too! Yup, I can see it now. 😊

CARLA ROBINSON
MENTOR
WIFT TORONTO INDIGENOUS WRITERS PROGRAM
SUPPORTED BY A DONATION FROM HOLLYWOOD SUITE

”

IMPACT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jenn Kuzmyk (Chair) Executive Director, Banff World Media Festival and Playback

Fennella Bruce (Vice Chair) Media Consultant, Producer, Writer, FKB Media Solutions

Janet Chant (Secretary/Treasurer) Chief Financial Officer, Casey House

Carolyn Allain Account Manager, National Bank of Canada

Kim Ball Chief Communications Officer, Super Channel

Sue Haas VP, Digital Media, Blue Ant Media

Laura Heath Potter Head of Communications, Canada, Paramount Streaming

Julie Kumaria SVP, Marketing & Content Distribution, Hollywood Suite

Nellie Lindner VP, National Practice Leader-Film and Entertainment, BFL Canada

Lindsey Scully Head of Communications, Netflix Canada

Jennifer Shin Director of Development, Comedy, CBC

OUR CHAMPIONS

CHAMPION \$10,000-20,000



A SUNBELT RENTALS
COMPANY

BENEFACTOR \$1,000-2,499

Accent Entertainment Corporation

Asis Sethi

BoomBox Sound

Fay Devlin

Gail Asper Family Foundation

Jennifer Haufler

Jocelyn Hamilton

Spinmaster Entertainment

SUPPORTER \$600-999

David Kinds

Jennifer Chen Keenan

Karen Bruce

Lynn Harvey

Terry E. Markus

FAN \$300-599

Alison Duke

Anne Loi

Argie Eliopoulos

C J Milne

Dez Sargeant-Blair

DHX Television Ltd.

Jenna Keane

Kim Sparks

Nellie Linder

Noora Abu Eitah

Sinking Ship Entertainment

Steven Wong

Susan Black

The Fifth Business Inc.

Toni Miceli

Victoria Fusca

Victoria Sullivan

Wildbrain

OUR CHAMPIONS

CONTINUED

PARTNER \$100-299

Adam Nicholson
Aimee Mitchell
Amy Bowman
Annabelle Chan
Anne McCracken
Barb Godfrey
Barbara Gaye McDonald
Canada Helps
Catherine Meyer
Christa Dickinson
Christin Simms
Christina Buchli
Clare Bradley-Smyth
Creative Clan
Cristina Dolenz
Cynthia Lynch
Darcee McCartney
Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival
Don McDonald
Edith Myers
Don McDonald
Edith Myers
Emily Kulasa
Esther Reich
Esther Riley
Fennella Bruce
Glenn Cockburn
Helen Argiro
Hungry Eyes Media
Inkling Entertainment Inc.
Jane Walker

Janet Chant
Jennifer Kuzmyk Ruch
Jenny LeCollier
Jess Joy
Jessie Behan
Kat Shaw
Kathleen Meek
Kerry Ball
Kumarie Singh
Laura Heath Potter
Laurie Januska
Linda Stregger
Lizzy Stanwyck
Loredana Cunti
Luba Lesychyn
Madeline DeCorso
Magda Grace
Maripe Perez
Maureen Judge
maxine bailey
Meaghan Brander
Meg Atkinson
Melanie Hartley
Moraa Mochama
Natalie Osborne
Noelle Jenkinson
Paula MacPherson
Rebecca Case
Rita Carbone Fleury
Robin Smillie
Sally Nakazi
Sarah Brown

Scott Kaplanis
Stephanie Gosine
Sue Baldaro
Sue Haas
Tammy Frick
Tanya Green
Tara P
Tonjha Richardson
Vanessa Steinmetz
Virginia Abramovich
Wanda Chaffey
Anonymous (multiple)

FRIEND \$20-99

Alicia Ramdeo
Arlene Galton
Bernice Chu
Beth Janson
Bonnie Chan
Bronte Jovevski
Caelin Homola
Charles Warren
Danielle Hebert
David Zitzerman
Deirdre Brennan
Emily Andras
Erin Creasey
Fenton Jagdeo
Fly Away Films Inc
Heather Sinclair
Jennifer Ierullo
JoAnn Nordstrom

Julie Chivers
Julie Kumaria
Karen Thorne-Stone
Kerry Kelly
Lanette Ware-Bushfield
Lindsay Vereggen
Lucy Veale
Luis Flores
Maggie Sansi
Maria Duncan
Mary Schwalm
Melissa Cornelius
Michelle Conn
Michelle Crespi
Nicole Crawford
Paul Rodrigue
Pauline Evagelou
Penny Eizenga
Samantha Gesualdo
Sarah Cummings
Shannon Annett
Stephanie Kirton
Susan Wallis
Tanya Blake
Tanya Mason
Tara Anderson
Venessa Harris
Windrun Media
Anonymous (multiple)

**THANK
YOU**