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HOT DOCS GROWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS WITH APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS SPANNING THE CANADIAN FILM AND TELEVISION LANDSCAPE

ADDED POSITIONS UPS BOARD STRUCTURE TO TOTAL OF SEVEN MEMBERS

Toronto, Canada – Hot Docs is pleased to announce the appointment of seven new members to the Board of Directors, marking a growth in leadership ahead of this year’s Festival. Four new positions have been added to the existing board structure, with all seven total positions being filled by new appointees. This expanded Hot Docs Board of Directors is made up of members spanning across the Canadian film and television landscape, with three members appointed by the Documentary Organization of Canada. These new members officially joined the board on March 5, 2026. They will elect a new chair as part of their inaugural meeting.

“In an increasingly complex world that prioritizes speed over context and sound bites over nuance, the documentary form is as relevant and necessary as ever,” says Diana Sanchez, Executive Director, Hot Docs. “Hot Docs, like many not-for-profit arts organizations in Canada and around the world, must continually evolve to meet the needs of our community, including audiences, filmmakers, and documentary professionals, while also stabilizing our funding to ensure future growth and impact. Our new board understands both the challenges and the opportunities ahead and brings a wealth of expertise and energy to our mission. I’m thrilled to partner with them as we work to rebuild and strengthen Hot Docs’ role in the local arts community and the broader Canadian and international documentary ecosystem, and I’m deeply grateful for their commitment.”

The seven new Hot Docs Board of Directors members are listed below.

Doug Allison, Chief Executive Officer, The Northpine Foundation

Julie Bristow, Founder, CEO, Catalyst

Merit Jensen Carr, Executive Producer/ President, Merit Motion Pictures

Lea Marin, Director of Development (Drama), Scripted Department, CBC

Habiba Nosheen, Co-Founder, Akelo Media

Noah Segal, Co-President, Elevation Pictures

Aaron Zeghers, Filmmaker/Educator and Founder, The Infinite Image

In addition to welcoming the new members to the Board of Directors, Hot Docs would like to thank outgoing board members Nicholas de Pencier, Kevin Wong and Lydia Luckevich for their exceptional guidance and dedication over the past several years. The three outgoing board members will continue to support the organization in an advisory capacity.

"I want to thank our outgoing board members, Nicholas, Kevin and Lydia, whose collective leadership has been instrumental in ensuring Hot Docs is here today," adds Diana Sanchez. "Hot Docs will forever be grateful to each of them for their unwavering support and belief in the organization and their substantial contributions."

Hot Docs' Board members provide strategic direction, governance, and oversight to advance the organization's mission and ensure its long-term sustainability. They contribute expertise, act as ambassadors for the organization, and support fundraising and stakeholder engagement activities. Under the leadership of its new Board of Directors, Hot Docs will present its 33rd Hot Docs Festival April 23 to May 3, 2026, in Toronto.

For more information on Hot Docs, visit hotdocs.ca

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Hot Docs (hotdocs.ca) is North America's leading documentary festival, conference and market. A not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers, Hot Docs will present its 33rd annual edition in Toronto from April 23 to May 3, 2026. Hot Docs will also mount a dynamic series of knowledge sessions, networking opportunities and market programs for documentary practitioners and industry delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum and Hot Docs Deal Maker. Since its inception in 1993, Hot Docs has supported the Canadian and international industry with professional development programs, production fund portfolio and valuable professional development programs. Hot Docs fosters education through documentaries with its popular free program Docs For Schools. Hot Docs operates the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, a century-old landmark located in Toronto's Annex neighbourhood and the world's first and largest documentary cinema.

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