

NETFLIX



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:
2nd ANNUAL NETFLIX-BANFF DIVERSITY OF VOICES INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT UNDERREPRESENTED
CANADIAN PRODUCERS AND CREATORS**

Mentoring and professional development initiative to once again bring up to 100 Indigenous, Women and Francophone Creatives and Producers to the festival in June

THE APPLICATION PORTAL IS NOW OPEN AT: dov.banffmediafestival.com

(Toronto, October 22, 2018): The Banff World Media Festival (BANFF) is proud to announce the call for applications to the second edition of the *Netflix-Banff Diversity of Voices Initiative*, a national training and development program for underrepresented emerging and mid-career creative producers of commercial Television and/or Digital Media content, with a specific focus on Indigenous, Francophone and women industry professionals.

Along with title partner Netflix, this program is also supported by the Canada Media Fund – Fonds des médias du Canada (CMF/FMC), the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), and Canada’s Indigenous Screen Office.

The *Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative* jump-starts and accelerates the careers of up to 100 participants at BANFF 2019 by providing full registration to the festival, a bespoke professional development curriculum plus access to networking opportunities with key industry buyers. In addition, a sub-group of twenty-five (25) of the program applicants will be selected to take part in the *Diversity of Voices Pitch Program* where they will receive personalized advice from high-profile industry mentors and take pitch meetings with international buyers at BANFF in addition to receiving a stipend to defray travel costs.

“This program is unprecedented in Canada, both in terms of its scale and the potential for meaningful cultural and economic impact,” said Jenn Kuzmyk, Executive Director of the Banff World Media Festival. “Thanks to our partners as well as widespread industry support, we have a valuable opportunity to provide underrepresented media professionals with the information and relationships they need to navigate the global content market and ultimately get their projects produced and sold.”

“We are continuously impressed by the ever-increasing standing of the Banff World Media Festival and are excited to continue to support emerging and mid-career creators and producers in Canada through the second year of our Diversity of Voices Initiative,” said Chris Regina, Netflix’s director of global television.

In its inaugural year, the *Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices Initiative* received nearly 300 applications from Canadian Indigenous, Francophone and women producers and creators. Of that number, 88 participants attended the 39th Banff World Media Festival in Jun 2018. Twenty-five *Pitch Program* participants received additional financial assistance and pitching and networking opportunities. Mentors volunteered from across the industry, including director Jeremy Podeswa (*Game of Thrones, True Detective*), executive producer Sheila Hockin (*Handmaid's Tale/Vikings*), Jocelyn Hamilton, President, Canada, Television, eOne, and Shirley Bowers, VP Sales & Acquisitions, North America at Red Arrow Studios.

BANFF serves as a crucial lifeline for many in the Canadian content industry offering world-class education, networking and business development opportunities. The festival provides a platform for the evolving media industry to collaborate and advance its creative and business objectives, while serving as a leading destination for the genesis of new projects, and one of the most effective marketplaces for co-production and co-venture partners.

For additional information about the Banff World Media Festival visit:
<http://www.banffmediafestival.com/>

For additional information about the Diversity of Voices Initiative, please visit:
<http://dov.banffmediafestival.playbackonline.ca/>

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

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About the Banff World Media Festival

The Banff World Media Festival is one of the world's largest and most important gatherings of entertainment industry executives and creators, dedicated to content development, production, broadcast and distribution within TV and digital media. BANFF provides a platform for the evolving media industry to develop its creative and business objectives. It serves as a leading destination for co-production and co-venture partners and is an unparalleled marketplace for over 1500 international decision-makers to connect with new partners, learn from industry leaders and execute new business deals. The 40th annual BANFF World Media Festival will take place June 9-12, 2019 at the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel in Banff, Alberta, Canada.