



2016/17 HIGHLIGHTS

hotdocs
OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.



*“North America’s
Smartest Festival”*

Indiewire



Our Mission

Our mission is to **advance and present the art of documentary**, and to facilitate production, financing and distribution opportunities for documentary makers.

Our Vision

The organization **showcases Canadian and international documentaries** to the public, **provides educational opportunities** for youth, and **delivers conference, market and networking opportunities** to documentary professionals through the presentation of an annual festival and year-round activities.

Hot Docs endeavours to provide the **highest quality programs and services** to its constituents, and strives to earn an **international reputation for excellence**.

Each presentation confirms our fervent belief that **documentary is a vibrant medium for capturing and enriching the critical discourse of our times**. In the context of audio-visual culture, documentary is **a preeminent form for social engagement and cohesion**.

A Message from the Board of Directors



Michael McMahon
Primitive Entertainment
Co-Chair

Michael McMahon



Robin Mirsky
Rogers Documentary Fund
Co-Chair

Robin Mirsky

At Hot Docs, much of our success relies upon listening.

Over the years, openly welcoming input from our valued audiences and filmmakers has ensured that we can act to best serve their interests and meet their needs. So, when developing our new five-year strategic plan this fall, we naturally started with an extensive listening campaign.

We initiated a myriad of opportunities to directly hear not only from audiences and filmmakers, but more broadly from cultural and industry leaders, philanthropic and corporate supporters, educators, volunteers and many others. Our efforts culminated with a town hall event where hundreds gathered to enthusiastically share their thoughts on what we do and how we can do it better.

These valuable insights and diverse perspectives all help shape where Hot Docs is headed over the next five years. They have reinforced within our strategic plan a renewed commitment to core values, and have provided a robust foundation to explore new ideas.

Already, in year one, new and expanded initiatives have been introduced in support of some key priorities.

In our ongoing commitment to financially assist filmmakers, we launched major new cash prizes at the Festival: the \$100k *first look* Pitch Prizes at the Hot Docs Forum, and the \$50k Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary. When combined with existing prizes, the Festival awarded an astounding \$305k, the most for any documentary festival, anywhere.

And, in June we premiered *In the Name of All Canadians*, a compilation of short films commissioned by Hot Docs for the country's sesquicentennial, which provided a vehicle for independent documentarians to tell the stories of their fellow Canadians and contribute their voices to this important cultural milestone.

The Board extends its sincere thanks to our audience and filmmakers for their role in this past year's accomplishments, and indeed to our partners, sponsors and Founders Circle members for their ongoing collaboration and contributions.

Your feedback is essential, and we look forward to continuing to hear from you.

Hot Docs Board of Directors

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Media

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Vincenza Sera
Finance Committee

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Counsel

Paul Jay
Founding Chair

A Message from the Executive Director and the President



Brett Hendrie
Executive Director



Chris McDonald
President

Our Hot Docs community keeps growing and we couldn't be more excited.

This year we boldly experimented with new programming initiatives, and we were handsomely rewarded with record houses and unbridled enthusiasm from old and new fans alike.

Building on our audience's inquisitiveness and love of a good story, we successfully introduced two marquee events into our Cinema's program. Curious Minds Weekend brought social, political and cultural thought leaders to the stage for a series of enlightening and engaging talks, and the Hot Docs Podcast Festival assembled leading non-fiction storytellers from this dynamic medium to connect live with their listeners.

At this year's Festival, we welcomed new audiences at two new screening venues outside of the downtown core, and we expanded our commitment to accessibility through outreach partnerships that provided free access for communities who may not otherwise be able to attend screenings.

Throughout the year, we launched multiple national and international collaborations that have allowed us to reach even more new audiences while supporting and celebrating the work of independent documentary filmmakers.

These days, perhaps more than ever, the singular power of documentary film is resonating with audiences who are seeking to make sense of a turbulent world. Taking time to experience the stories of people from around the corner, and across the globe, builds understanding and, more importantly, empathy.

We remain committed to championing these films with all their insight and inspiration, and it is only through the generosity of our many supporters and partners that we can do so.

Thank you to all the organizations, government agencies and patrons who are supporting this important mission.

We look forward to the year ahead!

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema Advisory Board

Randy Baker

Pete Bombaci

Peter Goring

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Libby Bandeen

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Jake Hirsch-Allen

Elina Lawrie

Al Scornaienchi

Isme Bennie

Michael Firestone

Judy Holm

Maureen O'Donnell

Avis Sokol

Deborah Bernstein

Karen Gordon

Vahan Kololian

Susan Okun

The Year in Review



June 2016

A generous \$5-million gift from the Rogers Family Foundation is announced to establish the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund for Canadian filmmakers and to enable the purchase of the newly renamed Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema.

October 2016

Doc Soup Toronto opens with the Canadian premiere of *Motley's Law*. Doc Soup Calgary launches the following month with *Sour Grapes*.

The fall session of Curious Minds Morning Speaker Series features *America Votes: Making Sense of the US Presidential Election*, a wildly popular series of lectures given by journalist Alison Smith.



July 2016



Bell Media Best of Hot Docs weekend opens in Vancouver. In November, Hot Docs Showcase screenings take place as part of the Gimme Some Truth Festival in Winnipeg, and a monthly Showcase screening series launches in Saskatoon. In January, another series launches in St. John's.

November 2016

Hot Docs launches Canada's first international podcast festival, bringing 10 of the finest non-fiction storytelling podcasts to the stage from Canada, the US and Australia.

Projects from Chile and China become the first recipients of the new CrossCurrents Doc Fund Theatrical Strand, which supports filmmakers from underrepresented communities around the world. An additional project from China receives support for the Fund's Short, Interactive and Experimental Strand in February.

The Hot Docs Industry team completes an eight-city cross-country tour presenting a variety of Doc Ignite workshops, one-on-one meetings and round-table discussions.





March 2017

The inaugural Curious Minds Weekend features an impressive lineup of speakers including Dan Savage, Gigi Gorgeous, and the cast of *Orphan Black* including Emmy winner Tatiana Maslany, among others.



Hot Docs programs Ban This Series, a free showcase of docs from each of the seven countries named in the US Muslim travel ban. Donations are taken at the door to benefit Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and the National Council of Canadian Muslims.



June 2017

Hot Docs hosts the world premiere of *In the Name of All Canadians*, a feature-length compilation of short films on Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms that it commissioned in commemoration of Canada's 150th anniversary.

February 2017



Selected from 114 submissions representing 25 different African countries, eight projects receive \$103k in production and development grants from the Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Documentary Fund.

Docs For Schools goes on the road with special screenings of *Sonita* at the Aga Khan Museum and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

April 2017

Hot Docs' 24th annual Festival welcomes a record audience of 215,000 and disburses more than \$300k in cash and prizes to Festival films and filmmakers, including the new \$50k Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary and \$100k in new *first look* pitch prizes at the Hot Docs Forum.



Hot Docs Festival



1
Scientist and environmental activist Bill Nye, directors David Alvarado and Jason Sussberg, producer Kate McLean and CBC's Nicole Mortillaro at the Scotiabank Big Ideas screening of *Bill Nye: Science Guy*.

Record-breaking audiences of 215,000 flocked to Hot Docs 2017 to experience the best in non-fiction film from around the world.

The Festival brought 228 creative and compelling official selections to Toronto film lovers, reaffirming its role as a leading international launch pad for documentary films.

Six Scotiabank Big Ideas events welcomed inspiring filmmakers and subjects for lively conversations, including science advocate Bill Nye, student activist Joshua Wong, who ignited Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolution, and a Syrian citizen journalist who risks his life to report on ISIS, among others.

Over 200 guest filmmakers and subjects shared their insights with audiences, including comedian Gilbert Gottfried, fashion designer Zac Posen, musician Stevie Salas and New York nightlife icon Susanne Bartsch.

DocX offered audiences new approaches to documentary storytelling with live onstage events and a free virtual reality showcase that ran throughout the Festival attracting nearly 2,000 participants, who enjoyed 2,500 viewings of VR experiences.

“So far have seen Life to Come and The Challenge at #HotDocs17, both fascinating. Looking forward to more!! I love docs and @hotdocs!”

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, 26th Governor General of Canada



Renowned director Joe Berlinger poses with his film for the 25th anniversary of *Brother's Keeper*.



Fashion icon Jeanne Beker with designer Zac Posen and director Sandy Chronopoulos at the Canadian premiere of *House of Z*.



New York nightlife icon and Love Ball founder Susanne Bartsch struts her stuff at the world premiere of *Susanne Bartsch: On Top*.



Festival goers give virtual reality a try with this year's DocX program.



Former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Mr. Ian Binnie, shares insights during *The Charter at 35*.



Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World won the \$50,000 Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary.



Director Lana Šlezić poses with the stars of her film at the Festival's opening night screening of *Bee Nation*.

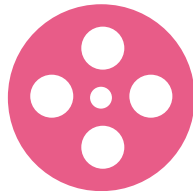
Our Festival

228

Films

58

Countries



Canadian Films



51

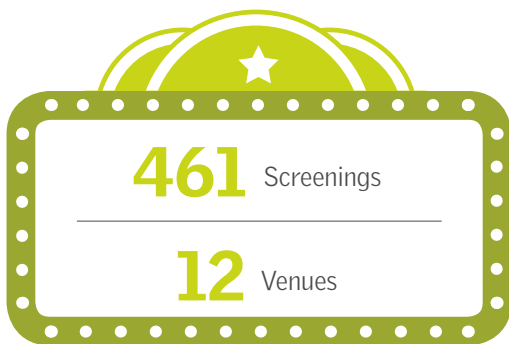
World Premieres

12

DocX VR and Live Documentary Experiences

51

International Premieres



225

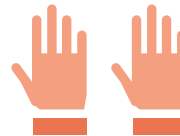
Guest Directors & Subjects



Festival Awards & Market Prizes

697

Volunteers



Our Online & Social Media Communities



3.3M

Page Views

1.1M

Sessions

502K

Users



50,900

Twitter Followers



19,500

Facebook Likes



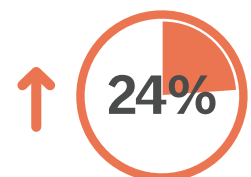
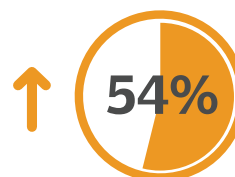
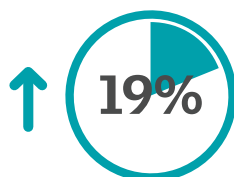
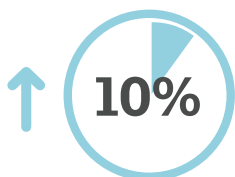
4,769

Instagram Followers



2,992

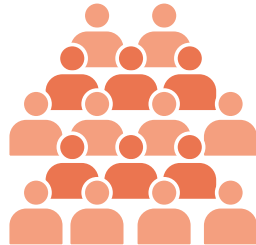
YouTube Subscribers



Our Audiences

215,000

Festival Audience



152%

Audience Growth over 10 Years



62

Community Outreach Partnerships



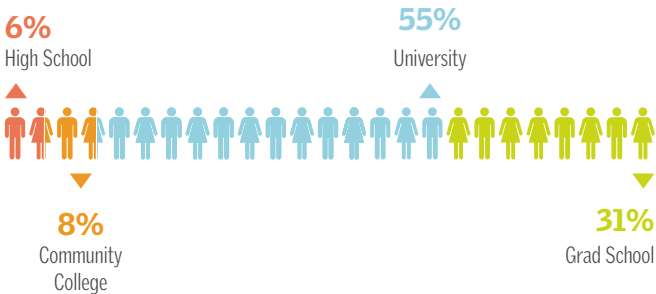
\$223K

Free Tickets for Seniors & Students

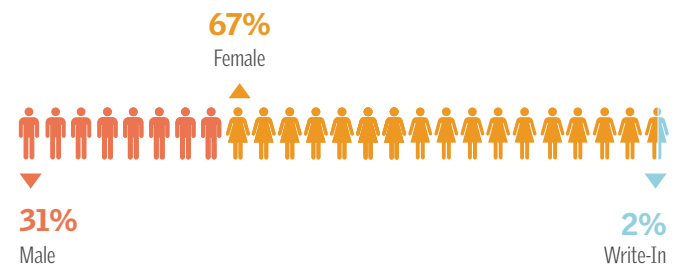


Audience Demographics

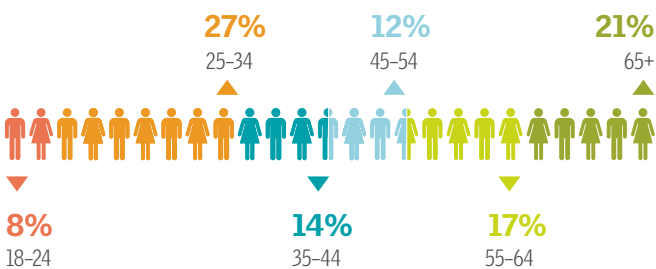
EDUCATION



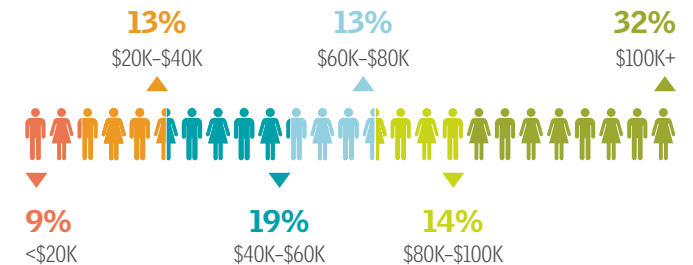
GENDER



AGE



INCOME



Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema



206,000

Patrons including

5,013

Cinema Members



200

Films Screened



43

Canadian Films
Screened



11,185

Facebook Likes



17,200

Twitter Followers



1

Audience members enraptured at an event.

In June 2016, a generous \$5-million gift from the Rogers Family Foundation ensured that documentaries have a permanent home at Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema. Now owner of the historic venue it has operated since 2012, Hot Docs has screened over 1,000 documentaries at the Cinema to more than one million audience members.

The Cinema hosted theatrical runs of wildly popular films including *Michael Moore in TrumpLand*, *Weiner* and *Tickled*, curated film series such as Doc Soup Sundays, True Crime Tuesdays and The Great Photographers, and themed programming and special events with partners like the Royal Conservatory of Music, *Spacing* magazine, Penguin Random House Canada and CBC Radio.

In partnership with the OMDC, Hot Docs presented Discover Ontario, which featured films and special guests showcasing the province in a series that ran throughout the summer.

The Curious Minds Morning Speaker Series returned for fall, winter and spring sessions, featuring topics as diverse as rebel cinema, the US election and Italian culture.



The ensemble-in-residence at the Royal Conservatory of Music performs live following a screening of *Exit: Music* as part of the Music on Film series.

2



The mezzanine bustling with kids and crafts for a Roald Dahl Day celebration, presented with Small Print Toronto.

3



Editor at *The New Yorker* Ann Goldstein speaks about her experience translating Elena Ferrante's novels, presented with Europa Editions and Flying Books.

4



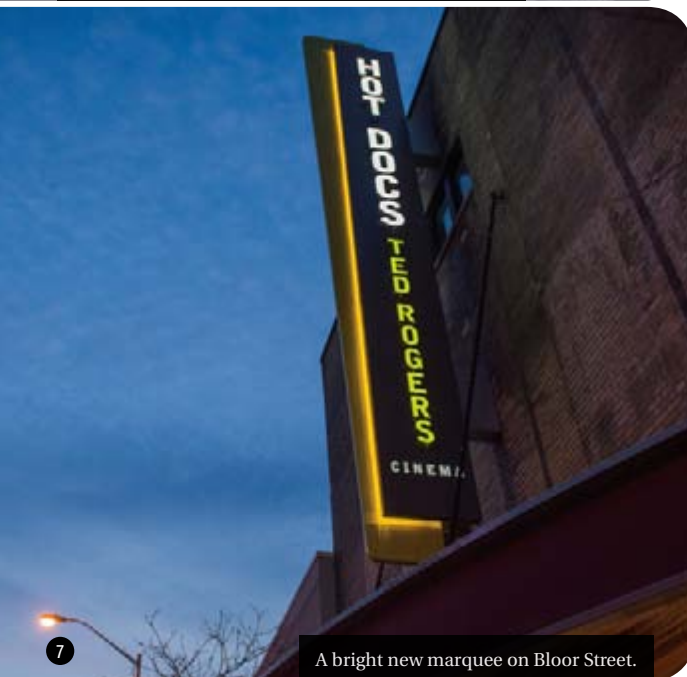
Filmmaker/actor Mark Duplass and Grammy, Tony and Academy Award-winning musician/actor John Legend introducing new talent on stage for the AXE Collective x Vanguard event during TIFF.

5



The War Show screened as part of Ban This Series, a free showcase of stories from the Muslim-majority countries affected by the US travel ban enacted in Executive Order 13769.

6



A bright new marquee on Bloor Street.

7

“We love the Hot Docs Cinema which has and continues to play a critical role in nurturing interest in documentaries in Toronto and outside. Am so proud that we have such a venue dedicated to docs in this city.”

Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema member

hotdocs

PODCAST FESTIVAL



Germaphobes perform live music during Degrassiland, an episode of *The Imposter*, a CANADALAND podcast.



Sook-Yin Lee and guests perform *Sleepover* live.



Wendy Zukerman presenting *Science Vs.* live.



Phoebe Judge and Lauren Spohrer present *Criminal*.



Hrishikesh Hirway of *Song Exploder* at a podcaster meet-and-greet.



Mira Burt-Wintonick and Cristal Duhaime host a *Love Me* listening party.



Avery Swartz, Dan Misener, Hannah Sung, and JP Davidson on the Making, Supporting and Marketing Your Show panel.

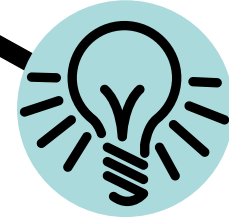
Photos by: Taku Kumabe (1, 2, 6), John Barduhn (3, 5) and Gabriel Li (4, 7).

In November, Hot Docs Podcast Festival became Canada's first international event of its kind, presenting 10 chart-topping podcasters to an audience of over 5,000.

Showcasing non-fiction storytelling in this increasingly popular medium, guests included *Criminal*, *Song Exploder* and *Reply All*, all named as top-ten podcasts of 2015 by *New York* magazine.

The Festival brought new and younger audiences into the Cinema with almost 60 per cent of attendees being under 34 years of age.





CURIUS MINDS Weekend



Tatiana Maslany shares her view from the stage during the *Orphan Black* live table read and Q&A.

1



Author, columnist and activist Dan Savage mingling with the crowd during a pre-show meet and greet.

2



YouTube superstar Gigi Gorgeous with her father David Lazzarato.

3



Authors Lee Maracle, Charlotte Gray, Joseph Boyden and Cecil Foster discuss writing Canada's history.

6



Juno Award-winning Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq with *The Globe and Mail* arts editor Craig Offman.

5



Co-founder of the WE charity Craig Kielburger with *The Globe and Mail* journalist Hannah Sung and the young people who attended his talk.

4

Photos by: Tatiana Maslany (1), Taku Kumabe (2, 6), Gabriel Li (3, 4) and Joseph Michael Howarth (5).

In March, *Curious Minds Weekend*, presented in partnership with *The Globe and Mail*, welcomed social and cultural thought leaders, including Dan Savage and Tanya Tagaq, to the Cinema stage.

Building on the success of Curious Minds Morning Speaker Series, which presents deep dives into a wide variety of subjects year-round, Curious Minds Weekend drew an audience of over 4,000 with 86 per cent of attendees rating the event as very good to outstanding.



Hot Docs Online and On the Road



16,400+

Audience Members
at Screenings in

10

Communities



1,385

Doc Soup
Subscribers in
Toronto and Calgary

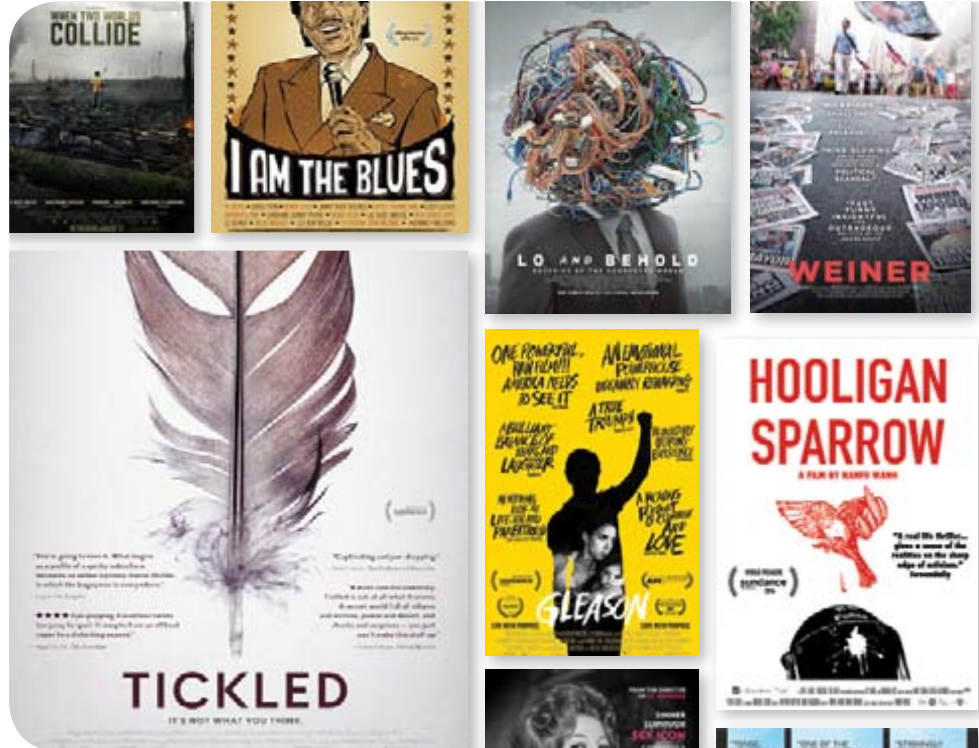


500+

Hot Docs Collection
Titles Available on

9

VOD Platforms
Around the World

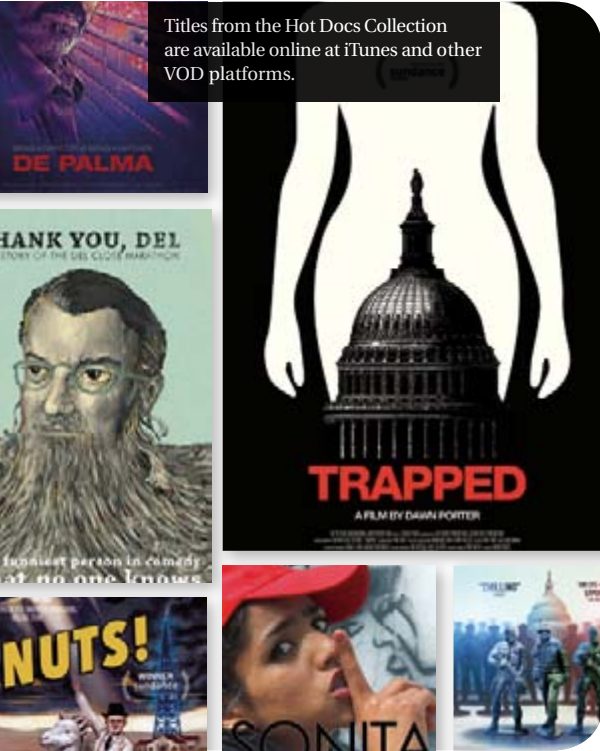


In 2016/17 Hot Docs continued to build dynamic partnerships to bring outspoken and outstanding films into homes and cinemas, both across Canada and around the world.

Monthly Doc Soup screening series in Toronto and Calgary continued to draw huge audiences, and Bell Media Best of Hot Docs and Hot Docs Showcase screenings returned to Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg, and were launched in Saskatoon and St. John's.

The Hot Docs Collection added even more titles, and doc lovers found them on iTunes in Canada and the US, as well as on Rogers On Demand, Bell Fibe TV On Demand, Vimeo On Demand, the Cineplex Store, SundanceNow, CraveTV and new this year, on Hoopla and Kanopy.

In commemoration of Canada's 150th anniversary, Hot Docs commissioned *In the Name of All Canadians*, a compilation of short documentaries exploring the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. After its world premiere in Toronto, the film is slated for screenings across the country with partner festivals, and will be featured in the Docs For Schools program and in the Hot Docs Collection online.



“I like that the [Doc Soup] selection is made by Hot Docs and gives me a chance to see films I might not select.”

Doc Soup Toronto Subscriber



Hot Docs Programmer Aisha Jamal and Sudburian Lesley Piche converge at Hot Docs Showcase Sudbury's premiere of *Tickled*. Photo courtesy of Sudbury Downtown Indie Cinema Co-op.



Director Nicole Nielsen Horanyi introduces a Doc Soup screening of *Motley's Law*.



A full house gives a standing ovation at a Hot Docs Showcase cross-Canada screening in Saskatoon, SK, presented in partnership with PAVED Arts and the Broadway Theatre.

Docs For Schools



114,798

Students from

40

Ontario
Communities



30

Films & Custom
Education Packages
Available



100

Docs For Schools
Teacher Conference
Attendees from

18

Boards and
Independent Schools



Eager students arrive at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema for a screening.

Praised by educators, Docs For Schools shared thought-provoking films with over 114,000 students across the province during the Festival and throughout the school year.

Screened in class and at the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, Docs For Schools selections engaged young minds with today's important issues, offering vital ideas, critical questions and new perspectives on topics that span the curriculum and touch their lives.

Docs For Schools selections explored such diverse and urgent issues as cyber-bullying, racism and law enforcement, refugees and female empowerment.

This year Docs For Schools screenings were successfully held at the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, and a popular programming partnership with the Royal Ontario Museum was introduced.

The third annual Docs For Schools Teachers Conference attracted 100 educators from across Ontario to discover new ways of using documentary films to inspire learning.



Film subject La-Vane Kelly with director Charles Officer before the in-cinema screening of *Unarmed Verses*.



Diver and reef aquarist Zackery Rago meets students following the in-cinema screening of *Chasing Coral*.



Director Amanda Lipitz and film subject Maisha Graves speak after the in-cinema screening of *Step*, which received the 2017 Student Choice Award.



Producer Brian Benson and Dolores Huerta's daughter Juana Chavez answer questions following the screening of *Dolores*.



A student waits to ask a question following an in-cinema Docs For Schools screening.



Director Joe Piscatella, Joshua Wong and producer Andrew Duncan at the in-cinema discussion following the screening of *Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower*.

“Every year I’m very impressed with the quality documentaries that expand on the issues and dig deeper than the surface. Thanks for offering this amazing program.”

Kristen Roulston,
Beaver Brae Secondary School, Kenora

Industry Programs



2,666

Delegates including

430

Decision Makers



1,130

Curated 1-on-1
Buyer-Seller Meetings



206

Films in
The Doc Shop



\$185K+

Awarded
in Pitch Prizes



The internationally renowned Hot Docs Forum.

Over 2,650 delegates engaged in unsurpassed learning, networking and business opportunities at Hot Docs' conference and market, the essential event for the international documentary industry.

Hot Docs Deal Maker and Distribution Rendezvous matched filmmakers with decision makers for 1,130 valuable one-on-one pitch meetings.

The *documentary* Channel Doc Accelerator and the Corus Diverse Voices programs welcomed emerging filmmakers, providing access and insight to launch their careers.

The new Hot Docs *first look* program helped connect investors and philanthropists with impact filmmakers at the Hot Docs Forum, and new *first look* Pitch Prizes awarded a total of \$100k to two top projects.

“A must-attend stop on the annual calendar for documentary filmmakers.”

Indiewire



Industry delegates unwind at the Bringing Chinese Stories to the World party.



Sherien Barsoum's winning pitch at the Hot Docs Short Pitch.



Filmmakers pitch their projects to leading decision makers at Hot Docs Deal Maker one-on-one meetings.



This year's Doc Mogul Award winner Monique Simard at the special awards luncheon.



Members of the Italian delegation take a selfie between Forum pitches.



Industry panelists discuss short films during the Kickstart: The Big Short session.



Participants receive advice from experts at the Get on the Radar Workshop.

Hot Docs \$8-Million Production Fund Portfolio

\$103K

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group
Doc Fund to



African Projects

\$65K

Hot Docs Ted Rogers
Fund to



Canadian Projects

\$40K

CrossCurrents Doc
Fund to



International Projects



Hot Docs' impressive \$8-million production fund portfolio

continued to support Canadian and international filmmakers with much-needed development, production and completion grants, as well as valuable professional development and market access opportunities.

The newly established Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund granted \$65k to five Canadian films in its first round of disbursements, including to the critically acclaimed *My Enemy, My Brother*, which received its world premiere at the Festival.

The CrossCurrents Doc Fund continued to support international filmmakers from underrepresented communities with disbursements from both its short, interactive and experimental strand, as well as its new feature-length strand.

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund recipients continued to distinguish themselves in the international market, with four projects being selected to pitch at the 2017 Durban FilmMart and one project being selected to participate in Sheffield Doc/Fest's MeetMarket.



Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund fellow Sam Soko pitches at Hot Docs Deal Maker.

2



Emerging filmmakers in a session with Hot Docs mentor Juan Baquero.

3



Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund recipient *My Enemy, My Brother* (D: Ann Shin).



NFB executive producer Anita Lee, director Attiya Khan and Oxfam Canada's Julie Delahanty at the world premiere of Corus-Hot Docs Funds project *A Better Man*.

6



Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Fund, *documentary* Channel Accelerator and Corus Diverse Voices Scholarship fellows with mentors at the Hot Docs Festival.

5



This year's CrossCurrents Doc Fund cohort: Tenzinsedon (Tibet, China), Runze Yu (China) and Alfredo Pourailly De La Plaza (Chile).

7

“...receiving the Hot Docs Development Fund was critical for myself as a filmmaker.... The funds enabled me to develop the film and strengthen the project.... It has opened many other doors since then and I am extremely grateful.”

Tapiwa Chipfupa
 Director: *The Other Half Of The African Sky*,
 Hot Docs Blue Ice Fellow, 2016

Hot Docs Around the World

Founders Circle members enjoyed special events, including a curated trip to the International Documentary Festival of Amsterdam (IDFA).

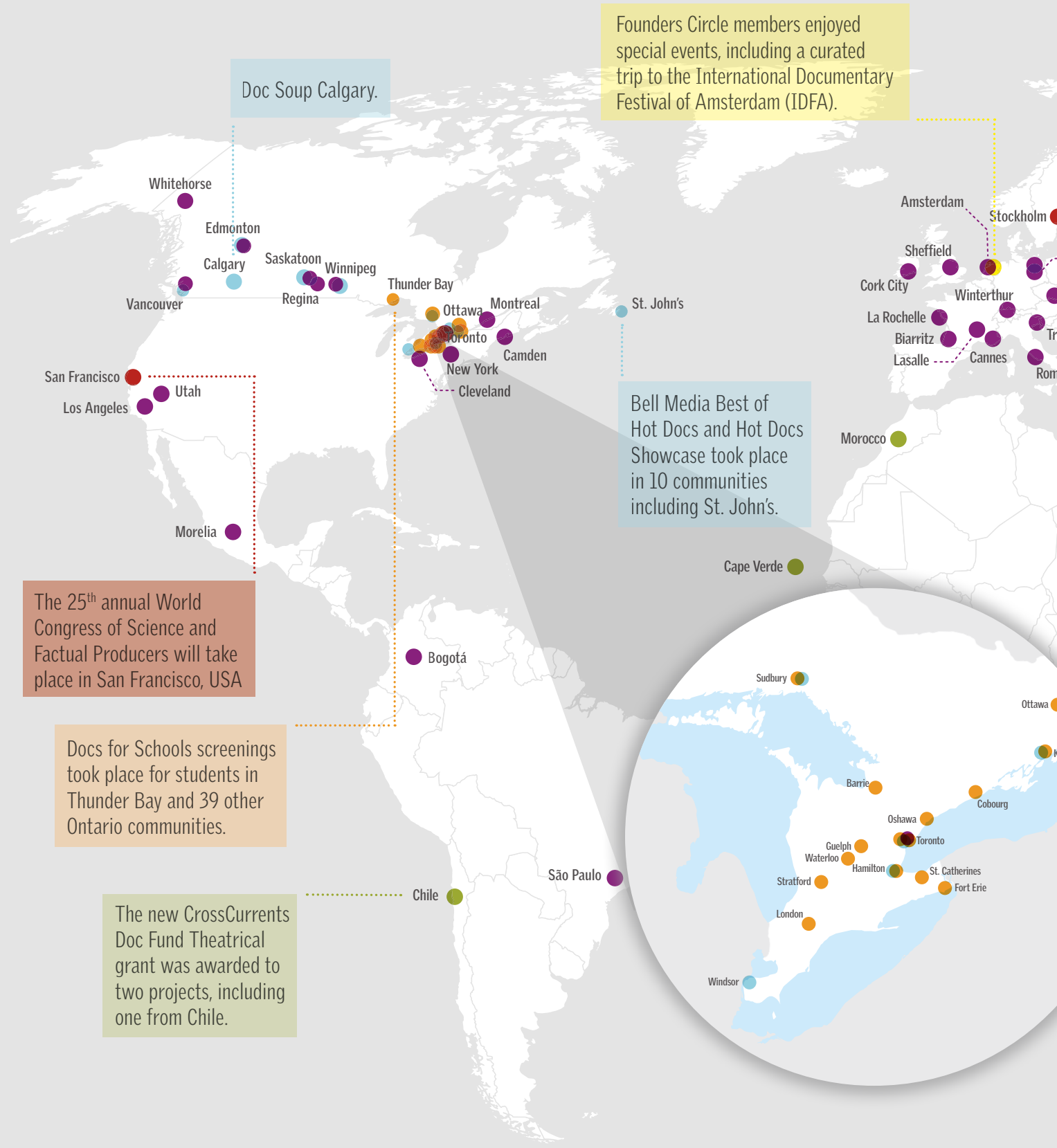
Doc Soup Calgary.

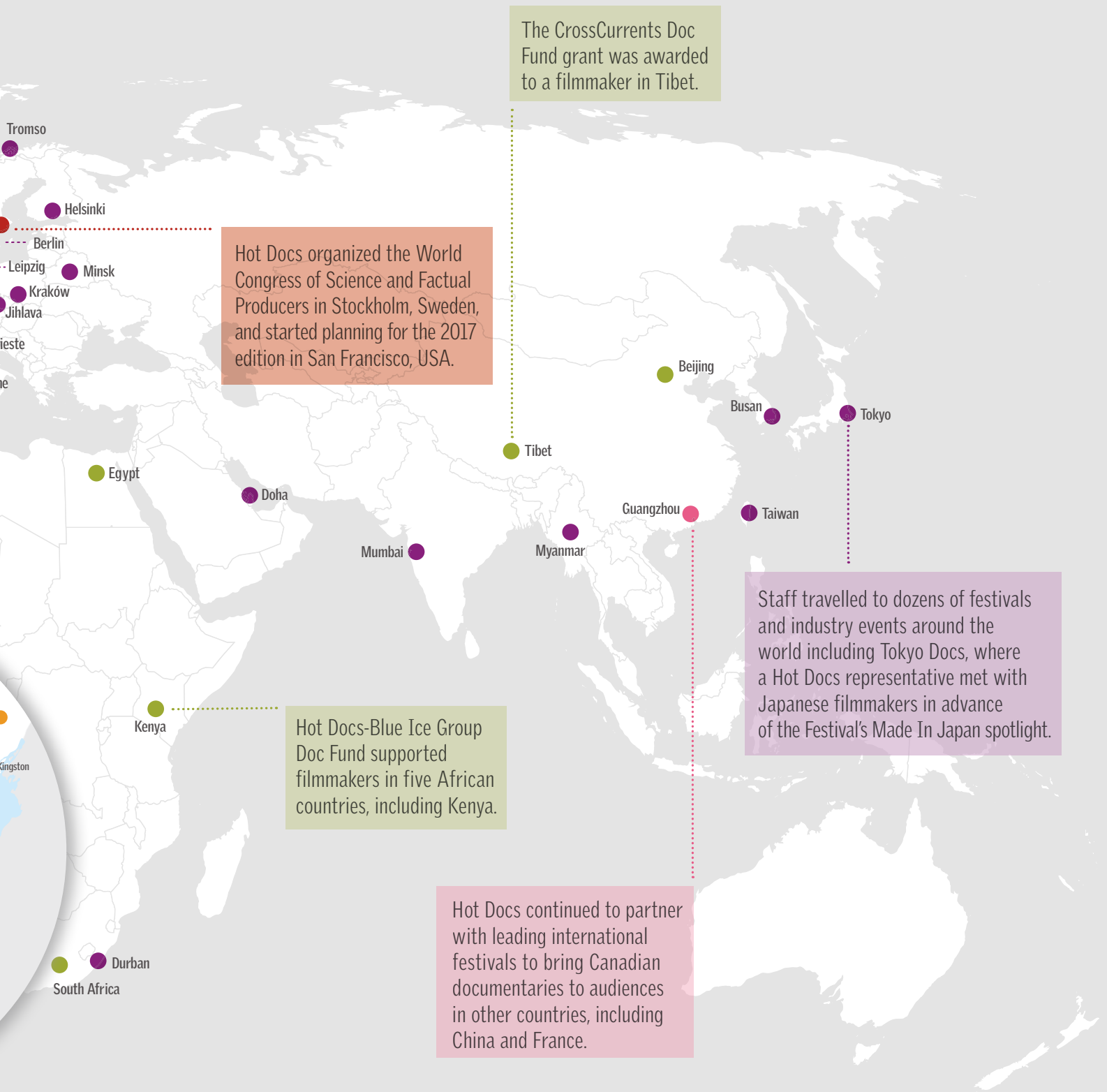
Bell Media Best of Hot Docs and Hot Docs Showcase took place in 10 communities including St. John's.

The 25th annual World Congress of Science and Factual Producers will take place in San Francisco, USA

Docs for Schools screenings took place for students in Thunder Bay and 39 other Ontario communities.

The new CrossCurrents Doc Fund Theatrical grant was awarded to two projects, including one from Chile.





The CrossCurrents Doc Fund grant was awarded to a filmmaker in Tibet.

Hot Docs organized the World Congress of Science and Factual Producers in Stockholm, Sweden, and started planning for the 2017 edition in San Francisco, USA.

Staff travelled to dozens of festivals and industry events around the world including Tokyo Docs, where a Hot Docs representative met with Japanese filmmakers in advance of the Festival's Made In Japan spotlight.

Hot Docs-Blue Ice Group Doc Fund supported filmmakers in five African countries, including Kenya.

Hot Docs continued to partner with leading international festivals to bring Canadian documentaries to audiences in other countries, including China and France.

Sponsors

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PRESENTING PARTNERS



MAJOR SUPPORTERS



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PLATINUM PARTNERS



CHARITABLE PARTNER



FESTIVAL PARTNERS



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NATIONAL FILM AND VIDEO
FOUNDATION
SENECA COLLEGE
SHUTTERSTOCK

SUNDANCE NOW
TIMBERLAND
WILLIAM F. WHITE INTERNATIONAL

FOUNDATION PARTNERS

THE ANDY AND BETH BURGESS FAMILY FOUNDATION
THE CATHERINE AND MAXWELL MEIGHEN FOUNDATION
DONNER CANADIAN FOUNDATION
HAL JACKMAN FOUNDATION

INSPIRIT FOUNDATION
THE JAPAN FOUNDATION
K.M. HUNTER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION
THE MURRAY FRUM FOUNDATION

PANICARO FOUNDATION
R & M LANG FOUNDATION
RIVIERE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

HOT DOCS FOUNDERS CIRCLE

DIRECTOR (\$10,000+)

Diane Blake & Stephen Smith
Paul Stevenson
Maria Martin Stanley
Anonymous*

PRODUCER (\$5,000)

Julie & Albert Ashley
Barry Avrich |
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