

**Inside
Out**

Impact Report

2023



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30 countries represented

 55

55 community partners and co-presenters

 133

133 films screened

 305

305 film and industry guests

 355

355 volunteers

 \$100,000+

Over \$100K in direct support to 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers



Welcome to Inside Out's 2023 Impact Report

As we close out year one of Inside Out's three-year strategic plan, we are excited to report on our festival successes and the progress we have made as we work towards our 35th anniversary in 2025.

Inside Out proudly welcomed guests from Toronto, across Canada and around the world to present their films to our members, donors, partners and film fans during the Toronto Festival in May and the Ottawa Festival in October. Nearly 15,000 attendees gathered to celebrate our queer stories with more than 100 films spanning 30 countries screening in our programs.

As festivals continue to navigate the increasing complexities in the film and hospitality industries, we were able to offer a free Industry Day filled with panels and networking opportunities for industry and filmmaker delegates along with exciting new industry partners and stakeholders, reaffirming Inside Out as a destination event for queer storytellers at all stages of their careers.

We invite you to reflect on 2023 with us here as we share memories and offer a detailed update for Inside Out supporters, stakeholders, and communities at large on the progress we have made in year one of Inside Out's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan focuses on five strategic pillars: Programming and Exhibition, Industry Development, Accessibility, Community Outreach, and Enhancing Organizational Capacity.

With 2024 plans already in motion, on behalf of the Inside Out staff, we would like to offer our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication to a crucial decades-old 2SLGBTQ+ organization whose north star continues to be to 'Challenge Attitudes and Change Lives' through queer film.

Thank you,



Elie Chivi
Executive Director



Andrew Murphy
Artistic Director



Letter from our Board

As the Chair of the Board of Inside Out, I am pleased to present you with the 2023 Impact Report. This was a year of many highlights including a successful Toronto Festival and industry programs. I am also pleased to report that we also took key steps in fulfilling our strategic priorities, including transforming our leadership structure to a Co-Head model.

I am also genuinely excited about stepping into the role of Chair of the Board of Inside Out as we move into year two of our strategic plan. This organization plays a crucial role in sharing the stories of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Film and television are important mediums for visibility and representation and important tools in countering hate and bigotry. Amidst the backdrop of an erosion of rights and freedoms of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and in particular the trans community, across the world - the need for organizations like Inside Out has never been greater.

However, the success of our organization depends on the continued engagement and contributions of our many supporters. Economic challenges in the arts persist, and as you may know this past year has been a challenging one for those who work in film and television in particular. Your support, whether through government funding, sponsorship, donations, or volunteering, is the cornerstone of our ability to meet these challenges and thrive.

Inside Out is more than just a festival, we challenge attitudes and change lives. Let's continue to champion our shared values and ensure that this festival remains a forum for community building, storytelling, and supporter of 2SLGBTQ+ filmmakers. With your support, we can face the future with confidence and look forward to even greater achievements. Thank you for being part of our extraordinary journey.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Japneet Kaur". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Japneet Kaur,
Chair of the Board
Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival

Programming Highlights

Local Heroes



Backspot, I Used to Be Funny, Something You Said Last Night, This Place

World Premieres



A Queer’s Guide to Spiritual Living, Bloom Room, Glitter & Doom, Leilani’s Fortune, Runs in the Family, Supporting Our Selves

Festival Favourites



20,000 Species of Bees, All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White, Days of Happiness, Kokomo City, Passages, The Queen of My Dreams

72%
of films by
Women, Trans, and/or NB Filmmakers

98%
of programs had captions
or were fully subtitled

55%
of films by BIPOC Filmmakers

34%
of films screened were Canadian



Rivkah Reyes representing the 20th Anniversary Screening of School of Rock at the Toronto Festival.

Countries represented

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Ukraine & United States.



Toronto

Emerging Canadian Artist

Karimah Zakia Issa
Scaring Women at Night

Best Canadian Short

Adore
Beth Warrian

Best Canadian Feature

Supporting Our Selves
Lulu Wei

Best First Feature

Almamula
Juan Sebastián Torales

Pitch, Please!

There is Light
Judith Schuyler

Ottawa

Audience Award for Best Feature

The Queen of My Dreams
Fawzia Mirza

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature

I Used to Be Funny
Ally Pankiw

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature

Leilani's Fortune
Loveleen Kaur

Audience Award for Best Short

Apayauq
Zeppelin Zeerip

Leadership Circle Prize for Outstanding Performance

Payman Maadi
Opponent

Audience Award for Best Short

Testing
Andy Reid

RE:Focus Recipients

all the words but the one
Director: Nava Mau
USA

Chimera
Directors: Gael Jara, Martín André
Chile

Really Good Driver
Director: Alex Song-Xia
USA

Gender Reveal
Director: Mo Matton
Canada

Grace
Director: Natalie Jasmine Harris
USA

IG Story
Director: Emilie Azevedo
Canada

Love Bound: A Queer Chinese Story
Director: Shanshan Chen
United Kingdom

The First Women
Director: Adriana Yañez
Brazil

Reflexion
Director: MyNa Do, Farah Yusuf
Sweden

Tens Across the Borders
Director: Sze-Wei CHAN
Singapore

Vollúpya
Director: Éri Sarmet, Jocimar Dias Jr.
Brazil



2023 RE:Focus Fund Post-Production Grant

The RE:Focus Fund was established in 2018 to address industry inequities through providing direct financial support to women, non-binary, and/or trans filmmakers telling 2SLGBTQ+ stories. The fund has distributed more than \$250,000 in festival travel grants and professional development programs for filmmakers since its creation and over \$30,000 was distributed in 2023.

This year's round of post-production grants funded 11 projects from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States.

Industry Highlights



Recognizing that 2023 was a challenging year for many facets of the creative industries, Inside Out is pleased to be closing out 2023 having been able to deliver its key Industry Initiatives where possible in year one of our strategic plan. By addressing inequities and gaps in the mainstream film industry, we stay committed to help lead the development and execution of professional development opportunities for 2SLGBTQ+ emerging filmmakers and mid-level talent.

In spite of having to postpone the Finance Forum from May to November, Inside Out successfully presented the two day event providing queer-led creative teams with 2SLGBTQ+

projects at various stages of development, the opportunity to pitch directly to top decision makers.

Panel Highlights

- In Conversation: Andrew Ahn (*Spa Night, Fire Island, Driveways*) & Symbolic Exchange's Joe Pirro (*We Grown Now, Driveways*)
- Case Study and Conversation: Elegance Bratton & Chester Algernall Gordon (*Pier Kids, The Inspection*)
- Case Study: Luis De Filippis & Jessica Adams (*Something You Said Last Night*)
- Any Other Way to Make Docs - A discussion on the creative process for upcoming doc Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story
- Connections and Community: Relationship Building in the Industry
- Queering Intimacy Coordination
- Introducing Sustainable Production Practices and Climate Storytelling

Countries represented

Canada, USA, UK, South Africa, and, Italy.

60+

Projects have participated in the Finance Forum since 2017

40%

Of overall projects financed, released, or will be released in 2023

8

Narrative Feature Projects were selected in 2023

2

Episodic Series were selected in 2023

1

Feature Documentary was selected in 2023

Finance Forum Success Stories

Before I Change My Mind

2019 Finance Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

Blue Jean

2019 Finance Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

Golden Delicious

2019 Finance Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

Something You Said Last Night

2021 Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

Mutt

2018 Finance Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

Glitter & Doom

2020 Finance Forum Participant
2023 World Premiere Inside Out Toronto Official Selection

The Queen of My Dreams

2018 Finance Forum Participant
2023 World Premiere Toronto International Film Festival
2023 Inside Out Ottawa Official Selection

Queen Tut

2018 Finance Forum Participant
2023 Inside Out Ottawa Official Selection

Industry and Award Sponsors



Queer Brunch x TIFF



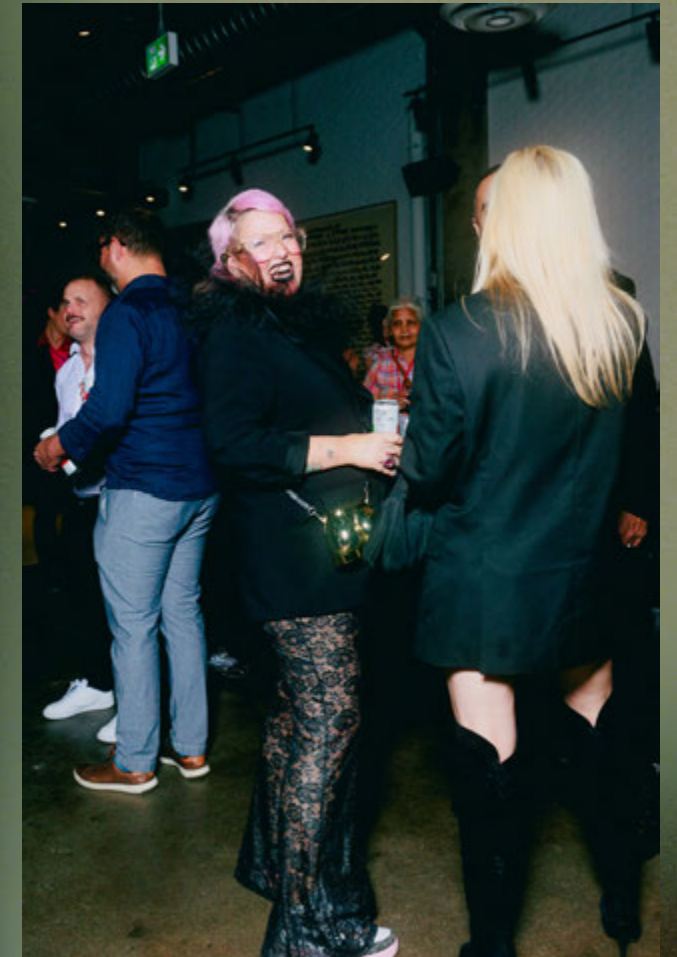
Inside Out hosted its annual Queer Industry Brunch opening weekend of the Toronto International Film Festival, celebrating the Queer films and filmmakers at TIFF, as well as offering a key networking space for both out of town industry executives, Finance Forum participants and alumni, and 2023 local Inside Out alumni.



Outbid



This year marked the inaugural holiday fundraiser and auction, OUTBID, hosted by Inside Out. With contributions from local artists, valued partners, Toronto artisan brands, and exclusive items featured in our live auction, the event proved to be a resounding success. A total of \$30,000 was raised, contributing to the fulfillment of Inside Out's mission to elevate the voices of our communities through film and exhibition.



Innovation & Outreach

Inside Out remains committed to innovation and community outreach, and in 2023 the festival not only continued that commitment but expanded its connections to various queer communities. Our free ticket distribution to underserved communities brought new viewers to the festival, and our Youth Day screening welcomed 500 younger attendees and allowed them to interact with various community groups.



We were especially excited by our new Community Partnership Program, which introduced our online Queer Agenda, which allows our community partners to share their events with Inside Out supporters, allowing for cross promotions and benefit offerings.

Again, more than 300 volunteers stepped up to work at the Toronto and Ottawa festivals, and we thanked them with Froot Loot, amazing gifts from local businesses for their service, and what has become a tradition, we teamed up with local artists, including musicians, DJs and even a gay choir to entertain at parties and galas.



Youth Day x RBC



Youth Day Panel: Queering Content Creation featured guests: Tristen Sutherland (*Director and Writer of Bloom Room*), Tziara Reyes-Herrera (*Director of Shedding*), Stephanie Sonny Hooker (*Producer of This Place*), Karbon and Emily Gioskos (*Queer Collective Co-Founders*) and Umang Antariksh (*Host of Possibilities Podcast and Writer*).

In partnership with our Lead Sponsor, RBC, Youth Day is an opportunity for young audiences to enjoy a day of Inside Out's free programming. It has provided youth with a safe space to make friends from other schools, for educators to connect, and for everyone to experience outstanding 2SLGBTQ+ cinema - made specifically for youth. This year's Youth Day was focused on the importance of 2SLGBTQ+ representation in media, as well as conversations around career development within the film industry.

Digital Engagement

Inside Out’s social media channels serve as a direct connection to a global community of influential and passionate film enthusiasts, ranging from cinephiles and artists in Toronto and Ottawa to industry professionals, filmmakers, and movie lovers worldwide.

119

pieces of media hits (online and offline)

3.71M

estimated online views

978,744

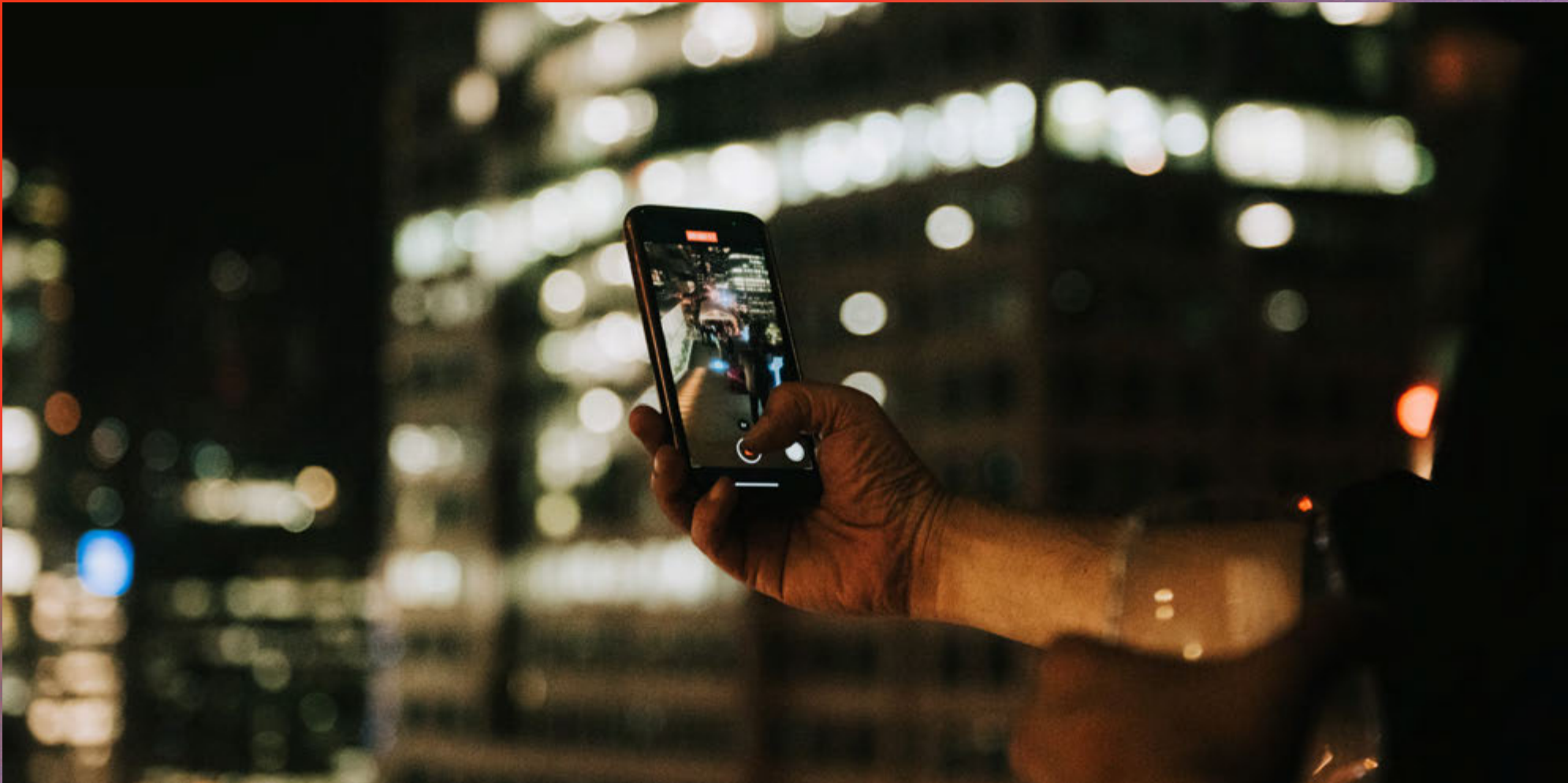
year-round social media impressions

129K

total website views

500

physical program guides distributed



14.7K



18K



8.4K



560

Inside
Out
Newsletter
9K

Thank you to our members and donors for your continued support.



The Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ Film Festival exists only because of the unstinting support of donors and members alike.

Inside Out is extremely grateful for your constant generosity. With your support, we are able to further our shared belief in the transformative power of 2SLGBTQ+ film and its innate ability to bring people of diverse background together to engage, empower, educate and entertain our audiences. It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank our donors and members including our 2023 Deluxe and Visionary members

Deluxe Members

Carl Bremner & Kenneth Holt
Gebadia Haverkamp
Dr. Richard Issac & Brian Sambourne
Tony Markotich
Donald McKay & Jim Laughlin
Adam Morrison & James Owen

Visionary Members

Allen Braude
Chris Chin
John Clifford
Patrick David & Michael Smith
Dennis Findlay
Gary & William Klein
Martha LA McCain
Marcus Law
Jim Lawrence & David Salak
Greg Lichti & Garth Norbraten
Andrew Mainprize & Philip Kocev
Thomas Park
Ralph Pascht & Mark Le Messurier
Andrew Pruss
Michelle Robertson & Naomi Brooks



Donors

\$5,000+

David Carter
Karim Ladak
Jim Lawrence & David Salak
Ontario Arts Foundation - OAF
Yvonne Orji
RBC Foundation
Alan Reginald Westbrook

\$2,000 - \$4,999

Gebadia Haverkamp
Andrew Mainprize & Philip Kocev
Adam Morrison & James Owen
Sentinel Maintenance Inc.

\$1000 - \$1,999

Jill Andrew & Aisha Fairclough, Body
Confidence Canada
Jo-Ann Chiam & Janet Koecher
Neville Austin
Neil Betteridge
Chris Chin
Andy Chong
Phil Gazaleh
Larry Hughsam
Dr. Richard Issac & Brian Sambourne
Gary & William Klein
Japneet Kaur
Martha LA McCain
Marcus Law

Greg Lichti & Garth Norbraten
Tony Markotich
Keith Medley
Nancy Nicol
OPC Team
Ralph Pascht & Mark Le Messurier
Bernardine Perreira
Nik Redman
Denis Schryburt

\$400 - \$999

Michel Beauvais
Scott Brown
The Paul Butler & Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation
Carolyn DiMaria
Tammy Dopson
Dan Fricker & Dan Hadad
Paul Lalonde
Russell Matthew & Scott Ferguson
Donald McKay & Jim Laughlin
Nicole McVan
Jessica Miller
Jason Novelli
General Fine Craft
Jeffrey Richstone & Jayadev Raju
Mike Rudolph
Mark Schaan
Jeff Slater
Tomas Tan
Paul Warder

\$50 - \$399

Anonymous
Rick Archbold & Rick Feldman
Jeff Aschkinasi
Tarilyn Meredith Bartels
Rachel E. Beattie
Robert Buckingham
Chris Bell
Canadian Online
Tony Capuano
John F Clifford
Kevin Corneillie
Gordon Davies
David Doorley
Anthony Dunn & Phillip Coupal
M. Fair
Sam Festino
Dennis Findlay
Temilola Gafaar
Anne Gallagher
Carolyn Greve
Neil Guthrie
Bradley Hilderley
Donna Inch & Audrey Lobo
Garth Jensen
A. Karmali & D. Arcand
Jason Li
Greg Garbacki
Ken Goldfine & Andrew Bartram
Louis Majeau
Jenn McArthur & Jacq Kelly
Christopher McCarthy
Christopher McKenzie
Richard McLellan

Thomas Murphy
Nicole Nwokolo
Shannon O'Reilly
Kimberly P
Scarlet Pollock
Lisa Pottie & Laurie Bryson
Andrew Pruss
Kris Purdy
Debbie Read
ReFrame Film Festival
Rob Reid
Gary Rogers
Salesforce
Alex Stairs
Steen Starr
Hugh Sturdy
Amy & Mich Talbert
Paula Tenaglia
Eric Tisch
United Way East Ontario
Cae Wannamaker
Caren Watkins

We appreciate the support of all of our members and donors. We apologize for any omissions. Inside Out's Charitable Registration Number is 871515995RR0001

Thank you to our members and donors for your continued support.

Leadership Circle

The Leadership Circle brings together an exceptional group of supporters who wish to champion Inside Out’s goal of challenging attitudes and changing lives through the sharing of our communities’ unique stories on film. Inside Out is enormously grateful to Leadership Circle donors who are integral to maintaining Inside Out’s legacy and continued success.

- Jill Andrew & Aisha Fairclough, Body Confidence Canada
- Neville Austin
- Lawrence Bennett
- Neil Betteridge
- David Carter
- Chris Chin
- Jo-Ann Chiam & Janet Koecher
- Andy Chong
- Tammy Dopson (Ottawa)
- Gebadia Haverkamp
- Larry Hughsam
- Japneet Kaur
- Martha LA McCain
- Marcus Law
- Jim Lawrence & David Salak
- Greg Lichti & Garth Norbraten
- Gary & William Klein
- Andrew Mainprize & Philip Kocev
- Tony Markotich
- Keith Medley
- Adam Morrison & James Owen
- Ralph Pascht & Mark Le Messurier
- Bernardine Perreira
- Jeffrey Richstone & Jayadev Raju (Ottawa)
- Mark Schaan (Ottawa)
- Denis Schryburt (Ottawa)



Insider Circle

The Insider Circle brings together a special group of donors who wish to support the growth of Inside Out and contribute to its success for many years to come. By standing up and pledging support for Inside Out at an Insider Circle level, donors are actively declaring their support for our longevity and enabling us to showcase the best 2SLGBTQ+ films the world has to offer.

- The Paul Butler & Chris Black Foundation at Toronto Foundation
- Carolyn DiMaria
- Phil Gazaleh
- Dr. Richard Issac and Brian Sambourne
- Russell Matthew & Scott Ferguson
- Paul Lalonde
- Nicole McVan
- Jason Novelli
- Mike Rudolph
- Tom Tan

A Special Thanks to The Lawrence Family Foundation

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support from longtime supporters Jim Lawrence and David Salak and the Lawrence Family Foundation. Their generosity has enabled Inside Out to increase its support of 2SLGBTQ+ film and filmmakers. We are thankful for the Foundation’s continued commitment to Inside Out and helping to create a more inclusive and accessible festival for everyone in our community.

Legacy Society

Inside Out’s Legacy Society donors have generously made a lasting commitment to our future by including Inside Out in their wills and estate plans. Inside Out promises to honor their legacy by continuing the essential work of the creation, exhibition and promotion of 2SLGBTQ+ films.

- Neville Austin
- Lambert Boenders and Barry Trentham
- Dennis Findlay
- Larry Hughsam
- Karim Ladak
- Greg Lichti and Garth Norbraten
- Russell Matthew and Scott Ferguson
- Adam Morrison and James Owen
- Philip Rouse
- Dr. James Stewart
- Alan Reginald Westbrook



Thank you to our sponsors.

Lead Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor



Premier Sponsor



Government Sponsors

Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



GILEAD

HIV

Bronze Sponsor



Venue Sponsors

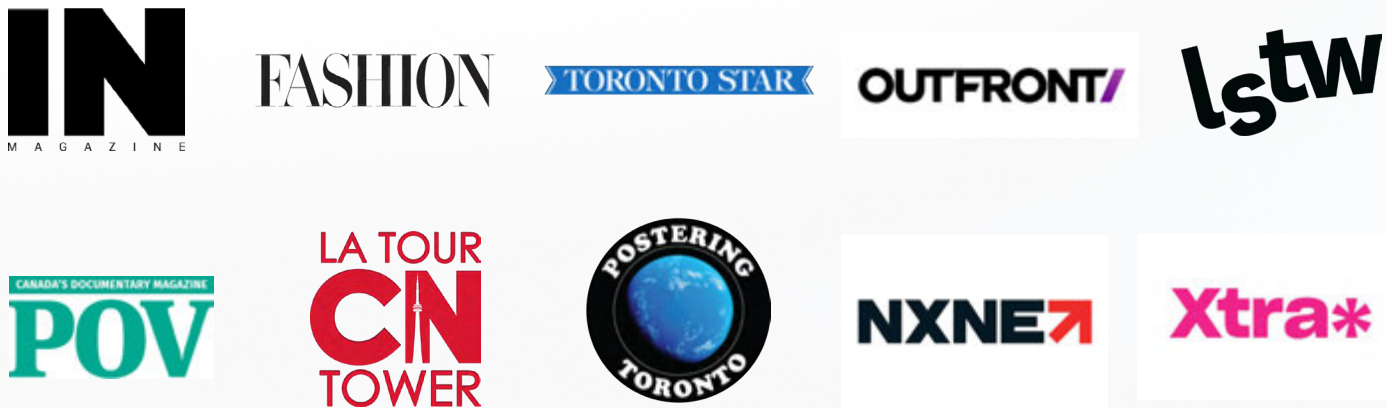


Thank you to our sponsors.

Airline Sponsor



Media Sponsors



Hospitality Sponsors



Accessibility

Inside Out is committed to leading the film festival industry when it comes to providing accessibility support for artists and audience members with disabilities. A core value of our strategic plan affirms that our festival spaces are accessible, inclusive, welcoming, and safe for filmmakers and film fans from around the world. We respect and celebrate our communities' diversity and strive for inclusion of all persons.

Improving accessibility for all audience members means identifying, removing, and preventing barriers of all kinds. In 2023 we took measures to do just that by providing discounted passes, accessible venues and parking, 98% of all films to have open captions and/or English subtitles, and ASL interpreters available by request.

A critical component of our commitment to accessibility has been the implementation of Relaxed Screenings during our Toronto Festival. These screenings ran with a 25% audience capacity, adjusted/lowered sound levels and lighting for viewers with stimulus sensitivities and those looking for a more relaxed environment to enjoy films.

We have expanded our Reel Access discount to include BIPOC folks, in addition to students, seniors, under-waged patrons, and patrons living with disabilities, to help remove the financial barrier of inflation and cost of living.



Staff

Co-Head and Executive Director
Elie Chivi

Co-Head and Artistic Director
Andrew Murphy

Director of Festival Programming
Jenna Dufton

Senior Operations Manager
Kelsey Butt

Senior Administrative Manager
Jayne Schneider

Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications
Stephanie Tatangelo

Partnerships Manager
Emma Pitters-Fisher
(former)
Anna Daliza (current)

Design and Tech Services Manager
Raphael Sanchez

Member and Donor Relations Manager
Jeff Schissler

Industry Coordinator
Sarah Barzak

Operations Coordinator
Ajeya Gonzalez

Programming Coordinator
Lu Linares

Special Projects Coordinator
Taylor Maccarone

Bookkeeper
Cynthia Murdy

Venue Operations Manager
Debbie Read

Grants Consultant
Steen Starr

Grants Writer
Steven Greenwood

Finance Forum Producer
Jan Nathanson

Board and Committees

Board
Chair and Treasurer:
Japneet Kaur
Secretary: Ali Khan
Chris Bell
Sarah Claydon
Aisha Fairclough
Aleia Gland
Alex Lalonde
Christopher McKenzie
Nicole McVan
Mike Rudolph

Finance Committee
Chair: Japneet Kaur
Elie Chivi
Alex Lalonde
Hardeep Singh
David Vella

Fundraising Committee
Chair: Nicole McVan
Elie Chivi
John Duwyn
Ali Khan
Jason Novelli
Nick Peragine
Véronique Synnott

Governance and Nominating Committee
Chair: Ali Khan
Japneet Kaur

Human Resources
Chair: Christopher McKenzie
Elie Chivi
Ali Khan

Alexander Khrapov
Joel Rodrigues
Mike Rudolph
Amy Talbert
Ashind Thukral

Marketing Committee
Chair: Aleia Gland
James Connell
Rina Kazavchinski
Vivian Or
Marcelino Rodriguez
Stephanie Tatangelo

Strategic Planning Committee
Chair: Aisha Fairclough
Japneet Kaur

Programming Committee
Ferdosa Abdi
Rasheed Bailey
Ashley Bodika
Katherine Connell
Jacob Crepeault
Jenna Dufton
Ferrin Evans
Claire Jarvis
Lu Linares
Allia McLeod
Andrew Murphy
Emma Pitters-Fisher
Nik Redman
Scott Smart

Pre-Screener Committee
Rachel E. Beattie
Aaron Rachel Brown
Carolyn Dunk
Nicole Hayward
Sarah Lane
Pedro Lobo-Guerrero
Michael McNeely
Laya Mendizabal
Jae Ng
Nirujaa Vasantharajah
Will Zang

Program Note Writers
Rachel Beattie
Allen Braude
Jacob Crepeault
Jenna Dufton
Paul Gallant
Lu Linares

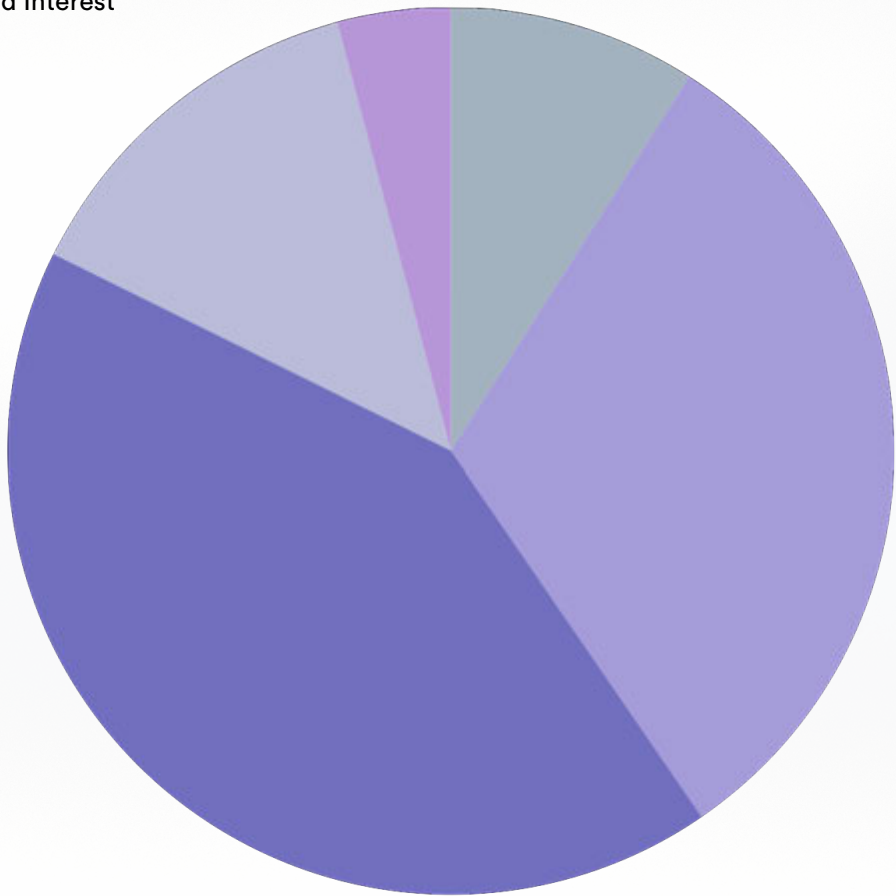
Accessibility Consultant
Ken Harrower

Co-Head and Executive Director
Elie Chivi

Statement of Operations

For the year ending December 31, 2022

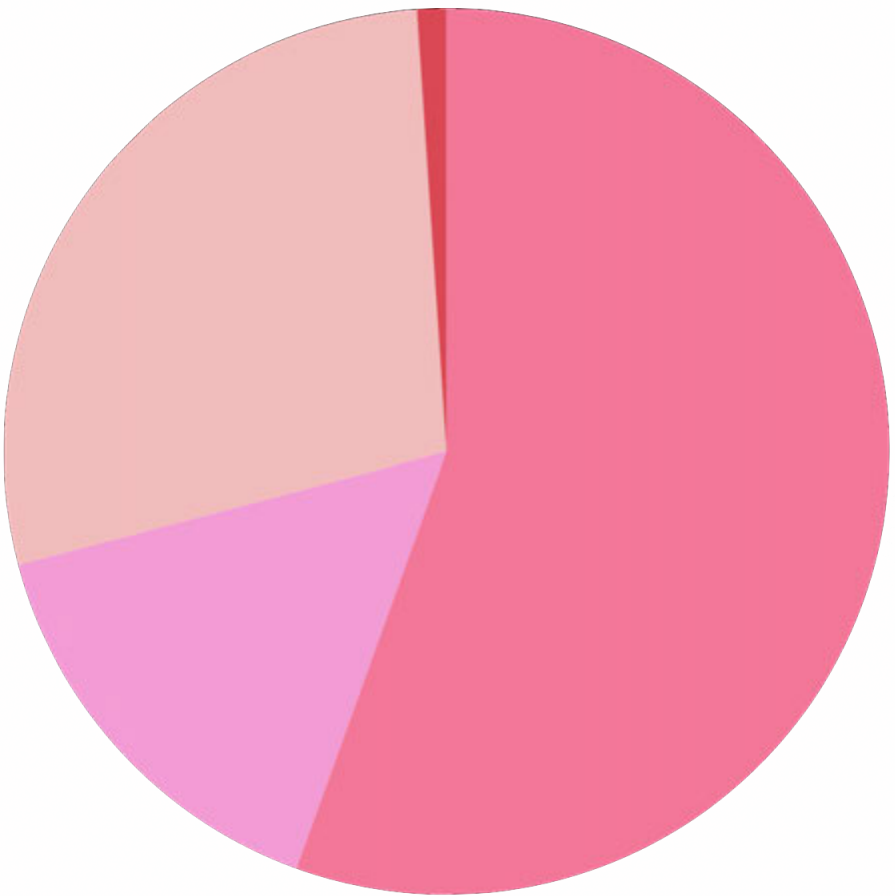
- Earned Revenue
- Sponsorship
- Government Grants & Subsidies
- Philanthropic Donations
- Endowment Fund Interest



Revenue

Earned Revenue	\$145,623.00
Sponsorship	\$506,731.00
Government Grants & Subsidies	\$675,777.00
Philanthropic Donations	\$218,729.00
Endowment Fund Interest	\$66,630.00
Total revenue	\$1,613,490.00

- Programming and Operations
- Marketing and Communications
- General and Administration
- Interest and Amortization



Expenditures

Programming and Operation of Inside Out Film Festival	\$935,483.00
Marketing and Communications	\$259,473.00
General and Administration	\$472,420.00
Interest and Amortization	\$17,949.00
Total revenue	\$1,685,325.00
Excess of Expenses over Revenues	(\$71,835.00)

