

Digi60 Filmmakers'
Festival 2020 AGM

July 24, 2020

WELCOME TO THE 2019

DIGI60

OTTAWA'S DIGITAL ■ ■ ■
FILMMAKERS' FESTIVAL



Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival AGM Agenda

- Message from the President
- 2019 Reflection
- Communications Statement
- Financial Statement
- Official welcome to our new Board Member, Maissa Hourri
- Affirmation of our statement and stance on anti-racism at Digi60
- 2020 festival programming - changes and moving forward
- Feedback and Q&A



About Digi60

The Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival is a grass-roots, volunteer driven, registered not-for-profit corporation run by filmmakers, for filmmakers.

The Digi60 Mandate

To provide opportunities for new and emerging filmmakers to

- Create and Learn,
- Expand their Network, and
- Multiply their Skills,

in an accessible, affordable, supportive, and constructive environment where they can access professional development opportunities, their artistic abilities will be celebrated, and their curiosity is embraced.





Message from the President

Kevin Burton

"We have also come to realize that one of the strengths of being a Digital Film Festival is that we will be able to adapt to whatever the realities are this coming fall, using the power of the internet to provide a shared experience for all our filmmakers and participants. Obviously we would love to gather together in December for the screenings, workshops and networking events - but the Board is working diligently to come up with ideas that will get us as close to a Festival experience as we can! I am really excited about some of the inventive ideas we will be sharing with you!"





2019 Festival by Numbers

Registered Filmmakers – 41

Students – 75

Films – 43

 Scripted – 21

 Documentary – 12

 Community – 10

Screenings – 4

Workshops – 4

Panels – 5

Professional Development Attendees – 170



Communications Statement

Nickie Shobeiry

Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival showed a great increase in online engagement from 2018 to 2019. On average, social media metrics tripled across Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Leading up to the 2019 Fall Festival, we sent newsletters to our subscribers. On average, we received a 39.4% open rate. According to Mailchimp's surveys, this is 47% higher than industry averages for events and entertainment organizations.

We also worked with a designer to rebrand Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival, using more colourful graphics and posters, aiming to show the festival as a welcoming and celebratory space.

According to social media analytics, the majority of our online audiences are between the ages of 25-34 years old, with 50% identifying as women.

For 2020, our aim is to continue to grow the festival's online presence, making a focused and ongoing effort to ensure our communications are representative and reflective of Ottawa's BIPOC filmmakers and creators.



Financial Statement

Digi60's 2019 year ended with a positive outlook. As a not-for-profit, we are proud to say that 75% of our budget went into running the professional development program, which also allowed for filmmakers to sign up on a pay-what-you-can or by donation basis. We were also able to provide small artist fees for all filmmakers participating in the festival this year, which allowed for reimbursement of registration fees in the case of our scripted stream, allowed for 75 students to participate in the documentary stream, and allowed for 10 films in the community screening.

All artists who participated in the panels and workshops were offered honorariums for their time.

In 2020, we were able to start our year off with \$2450.00 in our accounts allowing us to begin the year in a healthy manner. We have also been confirmed to receive \$12,500 toward our programming this year from the City of Ottawa, for whatever iteration the festival will be.



Official Welcome to Maissa Hourri

Director of Womxn's Industry

I'm so honoured to be part of such a fantastic organization. In the last couple of years, this film festival has really helped me grow and develop as a filmmaker. Being a female filmmaker of colour, the struggle is real. Opportunities are scarce and we aren't well represented or supported in the film industry but this festival has really help me position myself to get to the next level of my career in which I am truly grateful for.

As the Director of Womxn's Industry, I will be able to bring focus to more womxn-centric programming, mentorships and panels. I will also develop more programming for supporting our BIPOC filmmakers as well as working to educate filmmakers on how to better represent the BIPOC communities.



Anti-Black Racism Statement and Statement of support for BIPOC Creators

We recognize that as a leader in Ottawa's emerging filmmaking community we need to advocate for more BIPOC creators and leaders through our programming, supporting and screening their stories. We've only made small steps but can take a bigger leap. We are passionately making the following statements, which will be integrated into our mandate and vision:

- Canada and its film and television industry have benefited from the systematic oppression, discrimination and racism of BIPOC creators.
- Black and Indigenous filmmakers need to be uplifted, celebrated and prioritized behind the camera, in the director's chair and in leading roles on screens across Canada.
- We call on producers, funders, festivals, city film offices, broadcasters and distributors to prioritize creators who have been traditionally marginalized.
- Digi60 will take a hard stance against any racist, bigoted, sexist, stereotypical or exploitative content and will integrate discussions of authentic storytelling and representation in our professional development.

We want to support our filmmakers and creators. If any concerns arise in our programming please let us know so we can do better.

Send any concerns to info@digi60.org.

2020 Festival Programming

In 2020 some of our programming will include:

- Continuing our Film Chats Podcast and Video Interviews highlighting diversity, equity and sustainable professional growth for emerging creators, especially in the BIPOC community
- Grow our Community Screening by supporting diverse voices in Ottawa
- Continue to hold panels and workshops for new and emerging creators
- Create options for barrier free registration for filmmakers
- Create a mentorship program for new filmmakers
- Create opportunities for funded video projects from diverse voices





Feedback and Q&A

Open to all attendees.

Get involved!

Our board is looking for a secretary and a treasurer. We are also looking for volunteers and committee members to help our programming and the steer the direction of our festival.

Email us at info@digis60.org with your experience & how you'd like to get involved.
