

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival receives funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund

OTTAWA, ON (August 13, 2021) - The Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival, Ottawa's Original Digital Filmmakers' Festival, is proud to announce that the festival has received \$9,100.00 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's, (OTF) Resilient Communities Fund to help plan and shape the future of the festival.

"Stories are essential in how we understand the world, and storytellers — notably new storytellers — deserve public support. That's why I was thrilled to learn that Digi60, a grassroots Filmmakers Festival, is a OTF grantee this year. This investment by the Province of Ontario will help build artistic culture and the capacity to create it. Well deserved!" stated Joel Harden, MPP for Ottawa Centre.

Now in its 18th year, Digi60 has been a staple in Ottawa's arts and culture scene since 2004, supporting new and emerging independent filmmakers, media and video artists to create and learn, expand their network and multiply their skills in the growing film, television and media industries in Ottawa.

"This funding comes at an important time for not only the arts and culture sphere across Ontario due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but also at an important time in Digi60's growth," said Board Chair, Emily Ramsay. *"This essential support will allow us to shape the future of our festival and provide us with an opportunity to continue to support independent filmmakers and artists in Ottawa as they create film and video works."*

Funds received through the grant will focus on governance and strategic planning, fundraising strategy, as well as increasing ease of video and digital bandwidth and deliverability.

"The support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will allow Digi60 to continue its digital offerings in a post-pandemic world," Emily Ramsay said. *"With this generous support, our hope is to set the foundation for a supportive independent filmmaking community in Ottawa."*

The Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival will take place December 10-12, 2021 in Ottawa. To learn more about Digi60, please visit www.digi60.org.

[Digi60](http://www.digi60.org) is a grassroots filmmakers' festival for filmmakers, by filmmakers. Created in 2004, Digi60 facilitates opportunities for new and emerging filmmakers to screen their work in a supportive, constructive peer environment while also allowing for professional development and support for independent filmmakers in Ottawa.

The [Ontario Trillium Foundation \(OTF\)](http://otf.ca) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

ABOUT Digi60 Filmmakers' Festival

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Screening films as part of a festival theme. Filmmakers are provided a "catch" to base their film on and are given a certain number of days to complete the challenge. In the Spring, filmmakers have 30 days to complete their film, in the Fall they have 60 days. Those who complete the challenge and submit a film with a catch theme have their short film screened, including with juried evaluations. To participate in the challenge portion of the festival, filmmakers must register and follow the criteria laid out. Top films and filmmakers receive awards and prizes for their work, including mentorship, industry opportunities and workshops.

Professional Development for new and emerging filmmakers. Digi60 facilitates a series of film and TV industry focused workshops, panels and information sessions throughout the year, focusing on essential elements of filmmaking. This allows filmmakers to network and interact with professionals in the film and TV industry including producers, directors, distributors, actors, agents, sponsors, and writers. We aim to support the Ottawa film and television industry by providing mentorship and skills building opportunities for those who wish to pursue this industry as a profession. All our professional development opportunities are pay-what-you-can or by donation.

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