



RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES
DU DOCUMENTAIRE DE MONTRÉAL
MONTREAL INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE RIDM

Montreal, April 9, 2015 – The board of directors of the **Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM)** and **Doc Circuit Montréal (DCM)** is delighted to announce the appointment of **Mara Gourd-Mercado** to the position of executive director of the RIDM and DCM effective April 17, 2015. After a year as communications director, Ms. Mercado was ready to take on this key role within the organization.

She succeeds Roxanne Sayegh, who had led the RIDM and DCM since July 2010 and is leaving for an opportunity better suited to her life as a new mother. During her tenure, Ms. Sayegh energized the RIDM and DCM, leading to dramatic increases in attendance and a spirit of renewal that allowed the festival and market to establish themselves as essential stops on the documentary festival circuit, while also broadening the scope of the RIDM's activities.

"Roxanne Sayegh made her mark at the RIDM by developing new ideas and by building partnerships that allowed the organization to raise its profile in Quebec and around the world, while preserving the essential elements behind its original success. Her unparalleled energy and love for the festival were crucial to its last five editions. We wish her every success in this next chapter of her life. We also want to take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks to Jeremy Verain, who did a great job as acting executive director this past year," said Mila Aung-Thwin, chair of the RIDM and Doc Circuit Montreal board.

"Mara Gourd-Mercado quickly emerged as the right person to replace Ms. Sayegh. Since her arrival, she has earned the trust and respect of the team and the board, demonstrated strong managerial talent, and participated actively in the success of last year's festival. Her long-term strategic vision, her passion for cinema and her experience in promotion and marketing make her the ideal person to take on the challenge of preserving our organization's foundation while developing new ways to build on it," he added.

Charlotte Selb, who has worked for the festival for more than ten years, remains programming director. She is dedicated, with renewed vigour, to the task of assembling the most impressive program possible for this year's festival.

The RIDM invites you to enjoy its 18th annual festival from November 12 to 22 this year.

About the RIDM

Quebec's only film festival dedicated to documentaries, the Montreal International Documentary Festival presents the best reality-based films, including the works of established directors and new talents.

About DCM

Doc Circuit Montreal is North America's only bilingual documentary market. Each year it organizes an intensive schedule of business meetings and professional development workshops that help directors, producers, distributors and broadcasters update their skills and launch new partnerships.

Information: www.ridm.qc.ca / info@ridm.qc.ca

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Picture of MARA GOURD-MERCADO, new executive director of the RIDM and DCM – here attached.

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