

Forum RIDM 2024 Recipients of grants and development support of the 20th edition



Closing Cocktail Forum. Credit: Camille Gladu-Drouin

Montreal, Monday, December 9, 2024 - The 20th edition of **Forum RIDM**, presented by the [Canada Media Fund \(CMF\)](#), came to a close on November 27. The event enabled participants to engage in networking activities with documentary professionals from home and abroad, as well as discussions and workshops on current industry issues. The event was also an opportunity for **Doc Lab Montréal** and **Rough Cut Pitch** participants to present new projects to international representatives.

At the conclusion of their pitch sessions, a number of participants were awarded **grants and support** aimed at helping them develop their documentary projects. The winners were announced at a closing ceremony attended by partners, participants and guests of this year's edition.

As part of **Doc Lab Montréal**, presented by [Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada](#), **16 awards** were offered to Canadian and international participants:

FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

The **ROYAL PHOTO SUPPORT**, offered by [Royal Photo](#), valued at \$2,500 in filming equipment rental services, was awarded to the project ***To These Lands I Returned*** by **Yann-Manuel Hernandez**.

The **MAIN FILM SUPPORT**, offered by [Main Film](#), consisting of a grant of \$2,000 in equipment rental, \$500 in cash, and a one-year subscription to Main Film's services, was awarded to the project **Tehran : Good/Bad or Worse** by filmmakers **Farnaz** and **Mohammadreza Jurabchian**, produced by **Étienne de Ricaud** (Caractères Productions).

The **EURODOC MENTION**, offered by [EURODOC](#), consisting of an accompanied consultation and a one-year membership to EURODOC, was awarded to the project **El Lugar y la Esperanza** by filmmaker **Ariagna Fajardo Nuviola**, produced by **Julio Raúl Vega Garcés** (Torrentes Filmes).

The **EURODOC AWARD**, offered by [EURODOC](#), consisting of €700 in cash and a one-year membership to EURODOC, went to the project **In the Shades of a Royal Palace** by filmmaker **Hend Bakr**, produced by **Tamer Nady** (Cellar Door Studio).

The **CINEGROUND SUPPORT**, offered by [CineGround](#) and consisting of \$5,000 worth in post-production services, was awarded to the project **Like the Knots of Our Oaks** by filmmaker **Loïc Darses**.

The **ROGERS AWARD**, consisting of a \$1,000 cash prize provided by [Rogers](#), went to the project **Shape of Silence** by filmmaker **Varun Trikha**, produced by Margit Lillak (Tiny Desk Productions).

The **DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA AWARD**, consisting of \$1,500 in cash offered by the [Directors Guild of Canada](#) was awarded to filmmaker **Bruce Thomas Miller** for the project **Starry Night**, produced by **Kevin Dong** (Tall Hero Films).

The **PARATI FILMS SUPPORT**, offered by [Parati Films](#), for translation services into French or English, was awarded to the project **Mujer Partera** by filmmaker **Valentina Ortega Backhoff**, produced by **Antonia Lema** and **Carlos Alberto Cuesy Díaz**.

The **DOK.FEST MÜNCHEN AWARD**, offered by the professional market of Bavaria's [DOK.fest München](#), was awarded to the project **Like the Knots of Our Oaks** by filmmaker **Loïc Darses**, giving him the opportunity to take part in the next edition of [DOK.forum München](#) in May 2025.

The **Doc Lab Montréal** feature film jury was comprised of Léonard Cortana (Inclusion Programs and Strategic Partnerships Manager, EURODOC), Zeynep Güzel (Head of Doc Station, Berlinale Talents) and Benjamin Hogue (Executive Director, Les Films du 3 Mars).

SHORT AND MEDIUM-LENGTH FILMS

The **ROYAL PHOTO SUPPORT**, offered by [Royal Photo](#), which provides equipment rental services worth \$2,000, was awarded to the project **Ariane's Thread** by filmmaker **Luiza Cocora**.

The **VITAL DISTRIBUTION AWARD**, offered by [Vital Distribution](#) and worth \$500 in cash, went to the project **Plumage** by filmmaker **Mingzhe Zhou**, produced by **Yiqian Zhang** (Touchstone Productions).

The **VIDÉOGRAPHE SUPPORT**, offered by [Vidéographe](#), which consists of \$500 in editing suite or equipment rental and a one-year membership to Vidéographe services, was awarded to **Manuel Orhy Pirón** for his project **John Banks**.

The **SLA LOCATION SUPPORT**, offered by [SLA Location](#), valued at \$2,500 in film equipment rental services, was awarded to the project **Haven** by filmmaker **Mirkö Lafrenière** and producer **Irène Bessone** (Art&Essai).

The **LUSSIER & KHOUZAM SUPPORT**, offered by [Lussier & Khouzam](#), in the form of a \$1,000 sponsorship for legal services, was awarded to the project **Canoe Racers** by filmmaker **Maïlys Flamand**.

The **T&S COOP SUPPORT**, offered by [T&S Coop](#), in the form of a \$500 grant for subtitling services, was awarded to the project **Rosie** by filmmaker **Kellie Nadeau**.

The **PARATI FILMS SUPPORT**, offered by [Parati Films](#), for of three production coaching sessions, was awarded to the project **In the Night Trees Grow** by filmmaker **Stéphane Mukunzi**.

The **Doc Lab Montréal** short and medium-length film jury was comprised of Serge Abiaad (Distributor and Sales representative, La Distributrice de Films), Severine Roinsard (CEO - producer, Parati Films) and Tam Dan Vu (Artistic Director - Head of Communications, Travelling Distribution).

This year, two **Doc Lab Montréal** spots were reserved for emerging Indigenous filmmakers in collaboration with [Wapikoni](#). Following a call for applications, these reserved seats were offered to **Maïlys Flamand** with the project **Canoe Racers**, as well as **Nathalie Rankin** and **Roxanne Lauzon** for their project **Sally's Courage**.

Additional spots were also reserved for **Alexandre Forgues** for the project **Dans le pit**, thanks to the Regroupement des artistes réalisateurs de la francophonie canadienne (RACCORD), for **Manuel Orhy Pirón** for the project **John Banks**, thanks to UQAM, and for **Luiza Cocora** for **Ariane's Thread**, thanks to the Conseil des arts de Montréal's *Regard sur Montréal* residency initiative.

ROUGH CUT PITCH

GRANDÉ STUDIOS SUPPORT, offered by [Grandé Studios](#), worth \$7,000 in filming equipment rental services, was awarded to the project **Skin of the Sky** by filmmaker **Andrea Bussmann**.

FORUM RIDM PRIZE of \$1,000 in cash offered by [Forum RIDM](#) was awarded to the project **On the Serbian Border** by filmmakers **Federico Cammarata** and **Filippo Foscari**, produced by **Stefano Centini**.

The **Rough Cut Pitch** jury was comprised of Jinseok Kang (Programmer, DMZ International Documentary Film Festival), Giovanni Marchini Camia (Member of the Feature Films selection committee, Locarno Film Festival) and Lorena Morin (Sales Agent and International Distribution, Split Screen).

Several **Doc Lab Montréal** participants from outside Montreal and Quebec received financial support through the **PETER-WINTONICK TRAVEL GRANT**, an initiative made possible by the generosity of the Canadian documentary community: [Intuitive Pictures](#), Invisible Hand Productions, [EyeSteelFilm](#), [Kensington Communications](#), [Picture This Productions](#), [John Walker Productions](#), [Colonelle Films](#), [Bunbury Films](#), [Fathom Film Group](#), and [Cinema Politica](#).

This year, Forum RIDM is proud to bolster its support for emerging filmmakers from across the regions of Quebec (outside of metropolitan Montreal) with the **TaCIC - TREMPLIN TERRITOIRES GRANT**. In collaboration with [TaCIC](#), [FranC doc](#), [Bande Sonimage](#), [SPIRA](#) and [Paraloeil](#), this regional project development grant was awarded to **Raphaëlle Ainsley-Vincent** and **Samuel Bellefleur**, for their project **Récits de maisons et de transhumance**, which will receive complete and in-depth support throughout the various stages of its creation.

Forum RIDM was a resounding success thanks to the generosity of numerous collaborators, partners,

participants, industry representatives and experts.

Forum RIDM thanks its partners

The 20th edition of Forum RIDM, presented by the Canada Media Fund (CMF), was made possible thanks to the support of our partners and collaborators. Forum RIDM would particularly like to thank its institutional partners, including: the Gouvernement du Québec, the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC), the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (MCC), the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie, Emploi-Québec and Telefilm Canada. Forum RIDM also thanks its main partners, including Netflix, Warner Bros. Discovery Access Canada, Rogers and the Bell Fund, as well as its many associate partners and collaborators.

About [Forum RIDM](#)

Forum RIDM aims to stimulate the production and distribution of independent documentaries, both nationally and internationally, by promoting the exchange of information and meetings between the various professionals in the documentary industry. Discussions, conferences and workshops on major current issues will bring together over 400 filmmakers and representatives of various production, broadcasting and distribution companies over five days.

About the [Canada Media Fund](#)

The Canada Media Fund (CMF) fosters, develops, finances, and promotes the production of Canadian content and applications for all audiovisual media platforms. The CMF guides Canadian content towards a competitive global environment by fostering industry innovation, rewarding success, enabling a diversity of voices, and promoting access to content through public and private sector partnerships. The CMF receives financial contributions from the Government of Canada and Canada's cable, satellite, and IPTV distributors.

The 21st edition of Forum RIDM will take place in November 2025.

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