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FONDS DES MÉTIERS DU CANADA CANADA MEDIA FUND

Activity Report Forum RIDM 2025

21st Edition

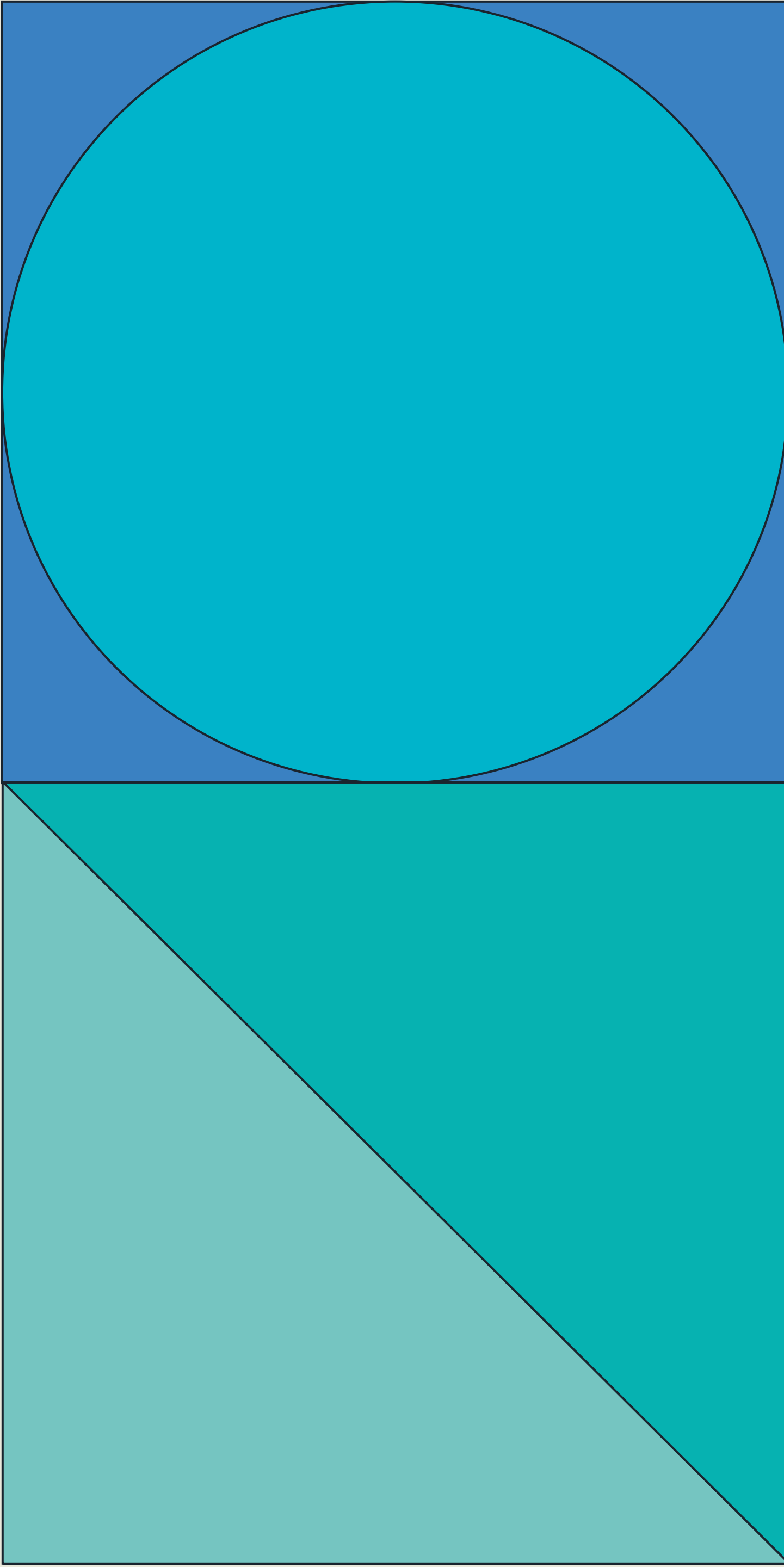


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The 21st edition of Forum RIDM, presented by the Canada Media Fund, proved to be a pivotal moment for the documentary community, reaffirming the Forum's role as an essential meeting place for creative documentary professionals from Quebec, across Canada, and around the world. Held from November 21 to 26, 2025, the event brought together over 400 participants from more than twenty countries, who came to share their practices, develop projects, and build new collaborations.

At the heart of the Forum, Doc Lab Montréal offered three days of closed-door workshops led by mentors from a wide range of backgrounds. The following pitch sessions highlighted projects from Quebec, the rest of Canada, as well as partner territories such as Brazil, Catalonia, Wales, Taiwan, and Wallonia. True to its commitment to diverse voices, the program once again reserved spots for Indigenous filmmakers, Montreal artists with immigrant backgrounds, and Francophone Canadians from outside Quebec.

The Rough Cut Pitch, presented in two sessions, confirmed its status as a vital showcase for works in postproduction. Selected projects from Canada, Réunion (France), Italy, and Taiwan were presented to a wide array of festival programmers, broadcasters, and funding institutions, helping to foster international circulation and new partnerships.

The curated industry talks also expanded significantly. Expert roundtables and in-depth discussions tackled major topics such as distribution, film criticism, digital memory, activist approaches, and the creative interplay between sound and image in documentary film practice.

Several complementary initiatives enriched the program. Emerging Talent Day spotlighted up-and-coming filmmakers through a networking brunch in partnership with UQAM's École des médias and a special cinema lesson by filmmaker Jonah Malak. On the eve of the Forum's official opening, N.A.W.A.L. hosted the public pitch of the third cohort

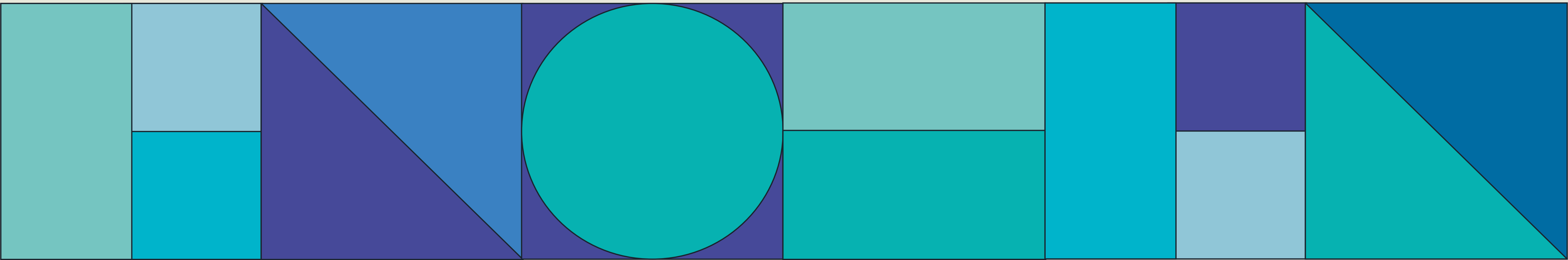
of its incubator VOLUME, just in time for the arrival of international industry guests. Meanwhile, the immersive section UXdoc featured a panel titled Memory in the Age of Digital Storytelling, followed by a networking brunch that brought together artists and experts around new forms and disciplines within documentary creation.

Throughout the year, thanks to Forum RIDM, many professionals participated in international initiatives that helped advance their projects and raise their visibility in festivals and markets. Quebec and Canadian filmmakers and producers were welcomed at DOK.forum in Munich, the Marché du Film in Cannes, in Cardiff and Sheffield through a collaboration with Screen Alliance Wales, and in Mexico as part of a partnership with DocsMX.

This edition was also marked by a significant awards ceremony recognizing the work of Doc Lab Montréal participants. Thirteen awards and one special mention were presented with the support of key partners,

offering postproduction services, development support, equipment rentals, cash grants, and tailored professional guidance. Three additional awards were given to Rough Cut Pitch participants.

Through the One-on-One pitches and other, matchmaking activities, networking happy hours, and many parallel activities, the 2025 edition fostered an environment conducive to meaningful encounters, professional development, and the emergence of new collaborations. More than ever, Forum RIDM reaffirmed its role as a driving force for the documentary industry - a space for reflection, knowledge-sharing, and solidarity that is essential to the future of creative documentary cinema.



Forum Facts and Figures

432 accredited participants

30 activities

- 11** discussions (including **3** co-presented with RIDM)
- 7** matchmaking activities
 - **4** Expert Roundtable sessions
 - **1** matchmaking session between Doc Lab Montréal filmmakers and producers
 - **1** international coproduction matchmaking session
 - **1** full day of One-on-One pitches
- 6** pitch sessions
 - **3** séances de pitch Doc Lab Montréal
 - **2** Rough Cut Pitch sessions
 - **1** public pitch session hosted by N.A.W.A.L.
- 5** networking events
 - Doc Lab Montréal Icebreaker
 - Opening Breakfast
 - Opening Cocktail
 - Networking Cocktail
 - Closing Cocktail
- 1** Open House activity at the NFB

99 speakers and contributors

- 9** mentors
- 39** panellists and moderators
- 51** roundtable experts

6 Doc Lab Montréal jurors (of which **4** were international)

3 international Rough Cut Pitch jurors

2 days of closed-door mentorship for Doc Lab Montréal participants

5 Doc Lab Montréal working groups x **12** hours of mentorship

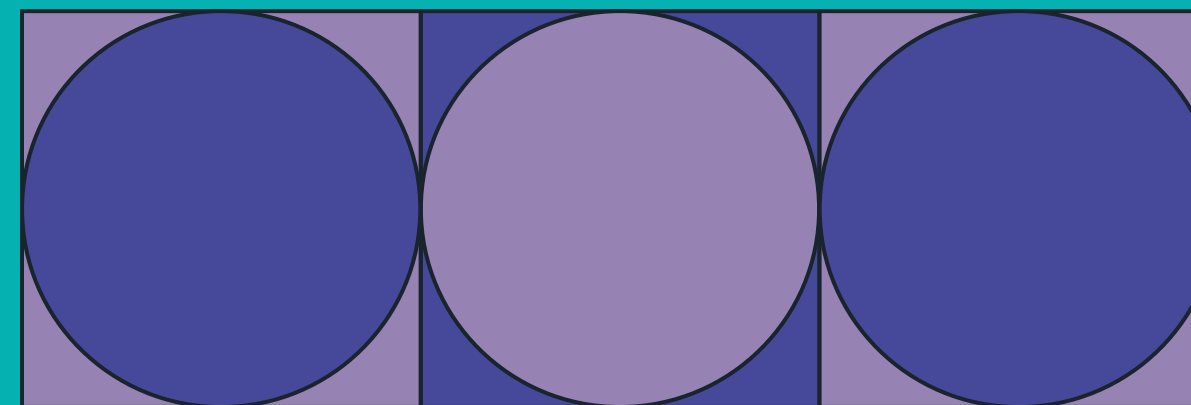
13 prizes, support awards, and grants (offered by: CineGround, Royal Photo, Main Film, Rogers, EURODOC, NFB, SLA Location, Bam Music, Lussier & Khouzam, Vidéographe, T&S Coop, Grandé Studios, Vital Distribution, as well as Forum RIDM)

2 mobility support grants (TaCIC - Tremplin Territoires Grant and the Peter Wintonick Travel Grant)

8 international delegations (Brazil, Catalonia, France, Italy, La Réunion, Wales, Taiwan, and Wallonia-Brussels)

31 nationalities were represented among participants:

- Algeria | Argentina | Belgium | Brazil | Burkina Faso | Canada | China | Colombia | Croatia | Egypt | El Salvador | Finland | France | Germany | Haiti | India | Iran | Italy | Mexico | Netherlands | Palestine | Peru | Serbia | Spain | Sudan | Switzerland | Taiwan | Ukraine | United Kingdom | United States



63 industry representatives at the One-on-One pitch event (**30** from Quebec, **12** from the rest of Canada, and **19** international)

704 business meetings during the One-on-One pitch event

On average, each participant (project holders and industry representatives) took part in **11** meetings.

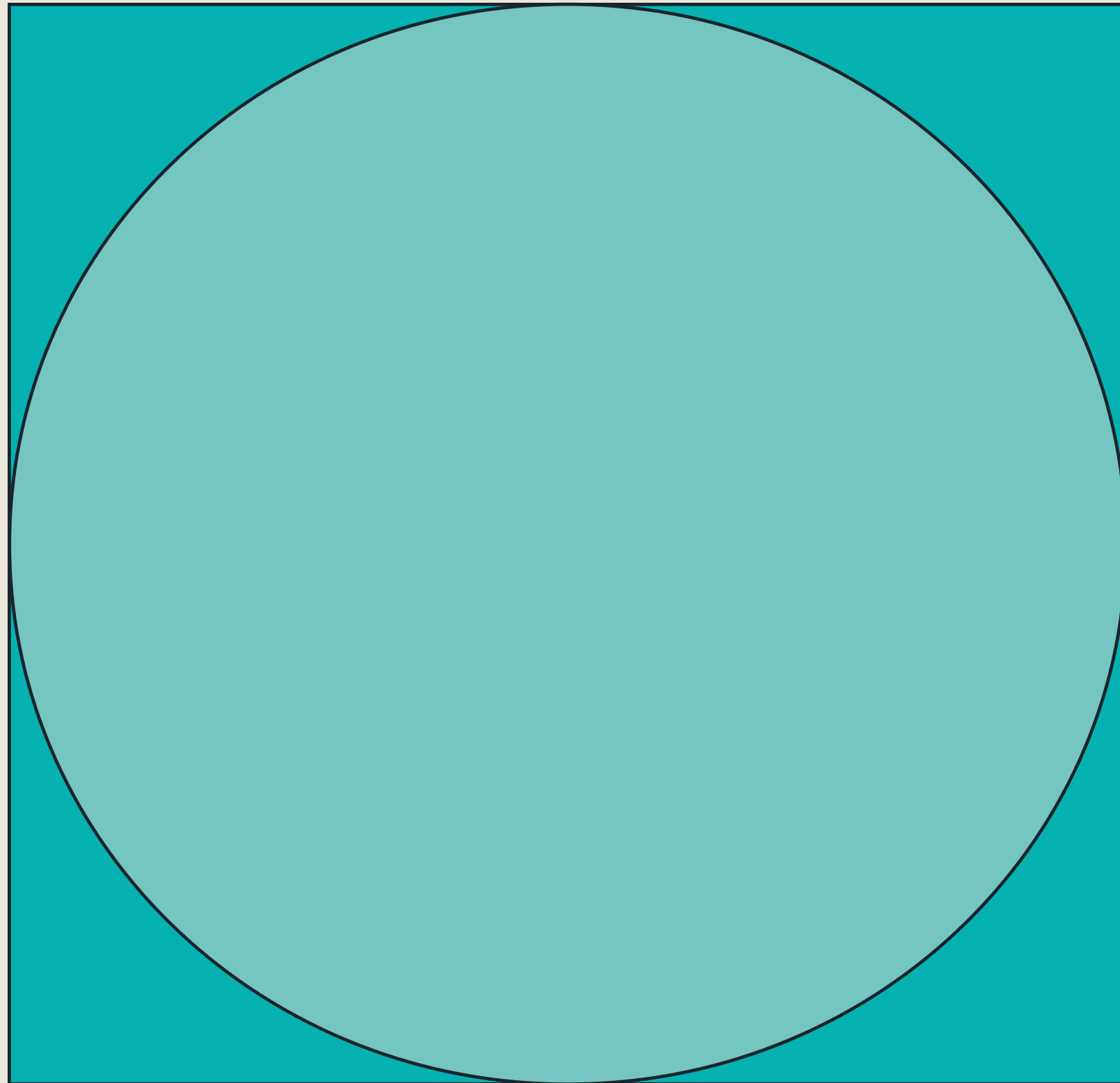
The One-on-One pitch event had an excellent **80%** satisfaction rate, reflecting overall appreciation for the quality of exchanges, relevance of participants met, and the perceived value of the matchmaking process in advancing projects.

Ticketing

Passes sold including Forum access

(Student Forum Pass, RIDM + Forum Pass, and RIDM + Forum + One-on-One Pass): **87**

Total number of paid and complimentary accreditations including the Forum: **432**



Doc Lab Montréal is a documentary project incubator that supports the development of bold proposals by filmmakers and producers from Quebec, Canada, and abroad. In its most recent edition, the program welcomed 33 participants for three intensive days of closed-door mentorship and workshops, led by seasoned documentary professionals and various industry experts. The personalized support aimed to refine artistic approaches, strengthen production strategies, and foster the emergence of new voices in creative documentary film.

The program continued during Forum RIDM's professional market with public pitch sessions, where each project was presented before

an audience of accredited industry professionals. A dedicated matchmaking session was also held for projects without a production company attached, enabling targeted meetings with producers interested in forming new collaborations.

Participants also received a full accreditation, granting them access to all Forum activities as well as all RIDM screenings. In addition to this access, feature-length projects with an attached production company were given reserved entry to the One-on-One pitch event, allowing them to further explore financing and distribution opportunities. For the first time, in 2025, professional meetings were also organized during

the morning of the One-on-One pitch event for short and medium-length projects, thus expanding networking opportunities for the entire cohort.

→ Doc Lab Montréal is presented with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts

PARTICIPANTS AND PROJECTS

Feature-length films

Dinosaures

directed by **Emilie Baillargeon**,
produced by **Geneviève Gosselin-G.**

Et pourtant les visages

directed by **Miléna Trivier**,
produced by **Maxime Coton**

Enquanto te escrevo a paisagem muda

directed by **Anna Lu Machado** and **Artur Sgambatti Monteiro**, produced by **Thaís Vidal**

Fragmentos de una tormenta

directed by **Sebastián Mantilla**,
produced by **Lucija Stojevic**

Hanté-es : un film de fantômes

sur les ruptures familiales
directed by **Laurence Olivier**,
produced by **Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre**

Hollow Ship, Drifting Through the Void!

directed by **Tzu-An Wu**, produced by **Johan Chang**

HouseLight

directed by **Zahra Ahooui**

La Jungle

directed by **Jamie Ross**, produced by **Bob Moore**

Le silence de Mostafa

directed by **Kenza Derkaoui**,
produced by **Stefan Supplice**

Mais voyons papa!

directed by **Grace Divya Singh**,
produced by **Mylène Augustin** and **Marie Ka**

Outsourcing Prisons

directed by **Jenny Cartwright**,
produced by **David Cherniak**

Portrait of the Country as a Young Dog

directed by **Ben Reed**, produced by **Katie Lambert**
and **Siôn Marshall-Waters**

Short and medium-length films

All the Ways We Return

directed by **Johanna Silver**

Bica directed by **Irina Tempea*****Demain depuis Diane***

directed by **Ariel St-Louis Lamoureux**

Disco of the Dead

directed by **Gabriel Walta Busulwa**

Entre la ville et le Nitaskinan

directed by **Marie-Kristine Petiquay**

Fleur de Narcisse

directed by **Dédé Chen**

Justin — Coûte que coûte

directed by **Nathalie Lopez-Gutierrez**

Lodge 147 directed by **Morgan Tams*****Pelleter des nuages : IA et responsabilités*** directed

by **Malcom Odd** *Selected, but participation
cancelled due to personal circumstances

Une marque sur le front ou la main droite

directed by **Bleue Pronovost-Teyssier**

MENTORS

Artistic Creation

Emanuel Licha | Filmmaker

Emilie Serri | Filmmaker

Pablo Alvarez-Mesa | Filmmaker

Sylvain L'Espérance | Filmmaker

Sofia Brockenshire | Filmmaker

Production and Marketing

Madeline Robert | Artistic consultant
at **Visions du Réel**

Rocio Barba Fuentes | Producer at **Les films
Cosmos**

Pitching and Project Writing Mentors

Jonah Malak | Filmmaker

Mila Aung-Thwin | Filmmaker and producer
at **EyeSteelFilm**

DOC LAB MONTRÉAL JURIES

Short and Medium-length Projects

Genne Speers | Executive Director at **CFMDC**

Opal H. Bennett | Senior Producer at **POV**

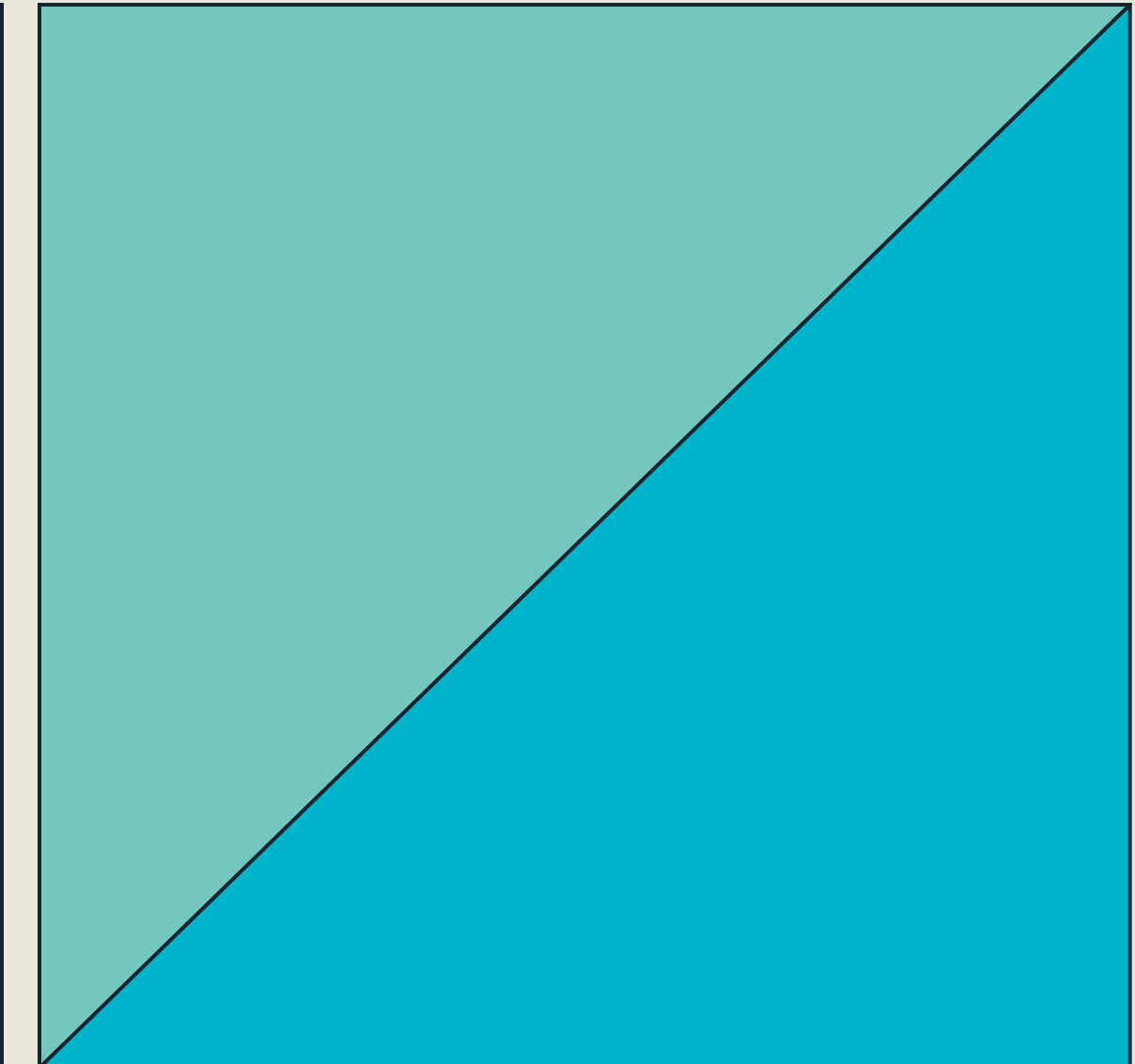
Robin Miranda das Neves | Head of
Distribution at **SPIRA**

Feature-length Projects

Antonio Pezzuto | Documentary Consultant
at **Giornate degli Autori**

Lidia Damatto | Founding Partner at
MoreThan Films

Maria Agustina Figueras | Project Manager
at **Circle Training Initiative**



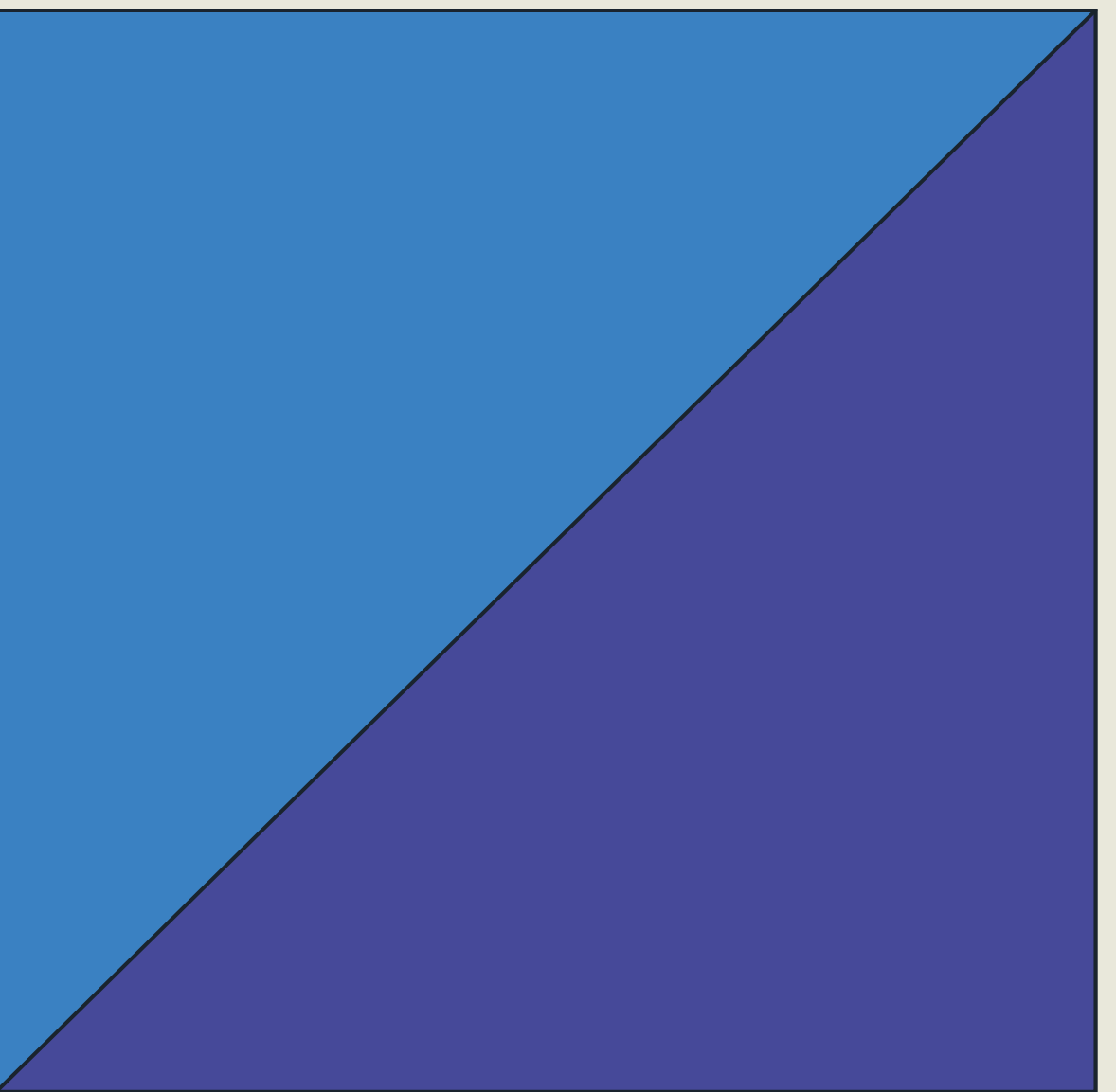
Rough Cut Pitch

The Rough Cut Pitch provides a strategic platform for creative documentary projects in a stage of advanced editing or post-production, offering targeted visibility at a pivotal moment in their development. In 2025, eight projects were showcased - five from Quebec and elsewhere in Canada, and three from international participants - all driven by bold artistic visions and timely, impactful themes.

Each team pitched their project in front of a distinguished audience of industry professionals, including representatives from festivals, broadcasters, distributors, and streaming platforms. This high-level showcase provided participants

with valuable critical feedback, opened the door to meaningful professional connections, and strengthened their distribution and marketing strategies on both national and international levels.

Prizes from Forum RIDM's partners were also awarded to several projects, offering tangible support and reinforcing the Rough Cut Pitch's role as an essential launchpad for documentary films, both locally and globally.



PARTICIPANTS AND PROJECTS

- L'aventurine**
Carlos Ferrand (filmmaker)
and Nicolas Paquet (producer)
- Cosa rimane quando il mare si muove**
Gaetano Crivaro (cinéaste and producer)
- Da Ra Song**
Yi Hui Su (filmmaker)
- Dear Ancestor**
Lova Nantenaina (filmmaker)
and Eva Lova-Bély (producer)

- The Gymnasts of Fisherman Colony**
Habiba Nosheen (filmmaker)
and Amar Lohana (producer)
- In the Sweet Arms**
Julian Flavin (filmmaker and producer)
- Les ombres lumineuses**
Nicolas Dufour-Laperrière (filmmaker)
and Rosalie Chicoine-Perreault (producer)
- Our Father**
Robby Reis (filmmaker and producer)

ROUGH CUT PITCH JURY

- Ella Pham** | Acquisitions, Festivals & Assets Manager at MetFilm Sales
- Luke Brawley** | Founder at INDOX
- Tyler Wilson** | Senior Programmer of Film at the Lincoln Center



Matchmaking activities

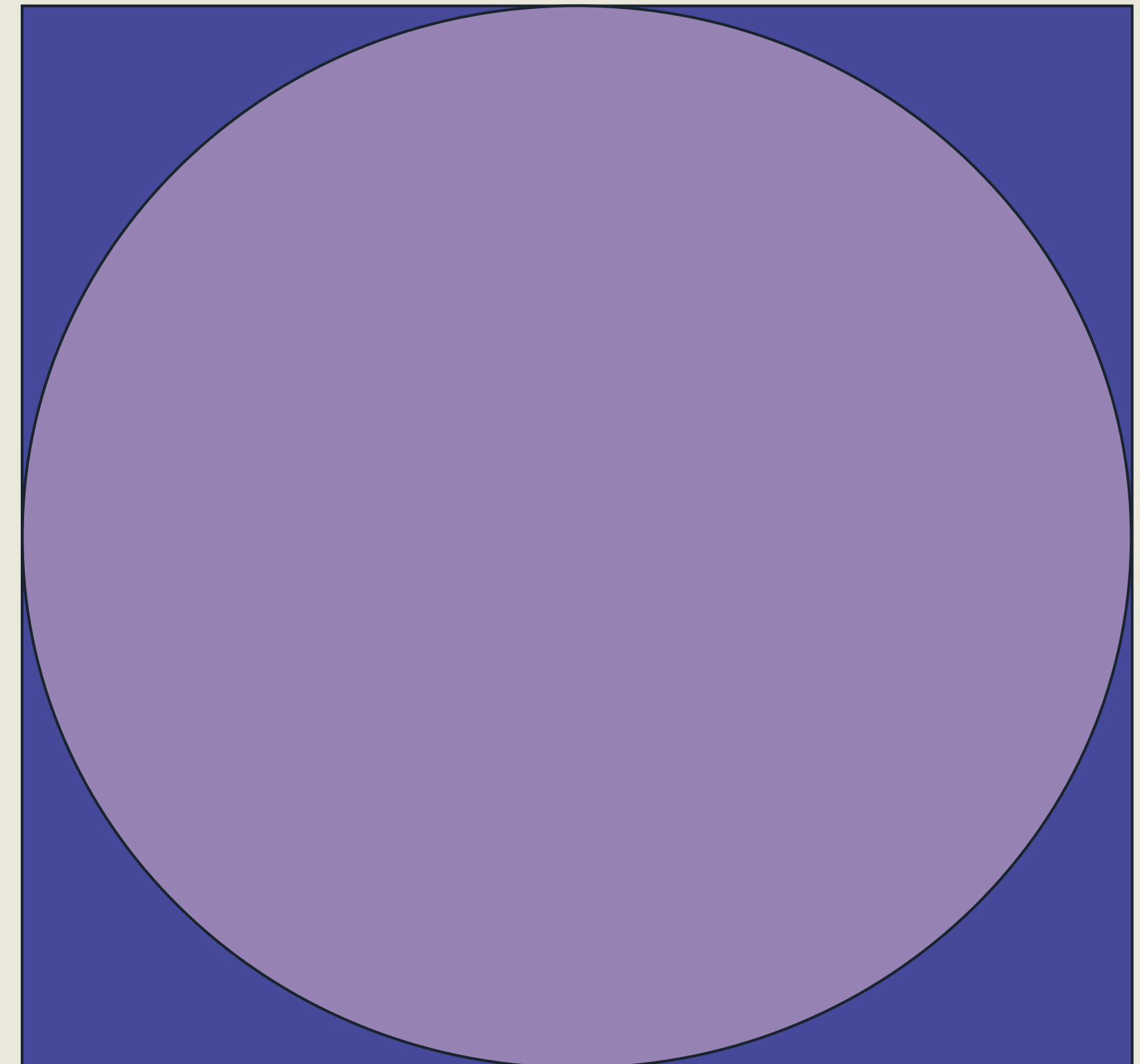
One-on-One Pitches

A cornerstone activity of Forum RIDM's professional market, the One-on-One pitch event is one of the most highly anticipated moments of the Forum. It offers a structured framework for individual speed meeting-style sessions between producers - both accompanied and unaccompanied by their directors - and key industry representatives: broadcasters, distributors, festival programmers, institutional partners, funders, and potential co-producers.

Designed as a concrete lever to accelerate the development of documentary projects, this activity helps forge strategic connections at crucial stages of creation, financing, or distribution.

Thanks to meticulous coordination and an optimized matchmaking system, the One-on-One pitch event fosters focused and productive exchanges between emerging and established talents and decision makers from Québec, Canada, and around the world.

- **63** industry representatives (from **55** organizations)
- **95** participants (representing **74** projects)
- **704** business meetings



Matchmaking activities

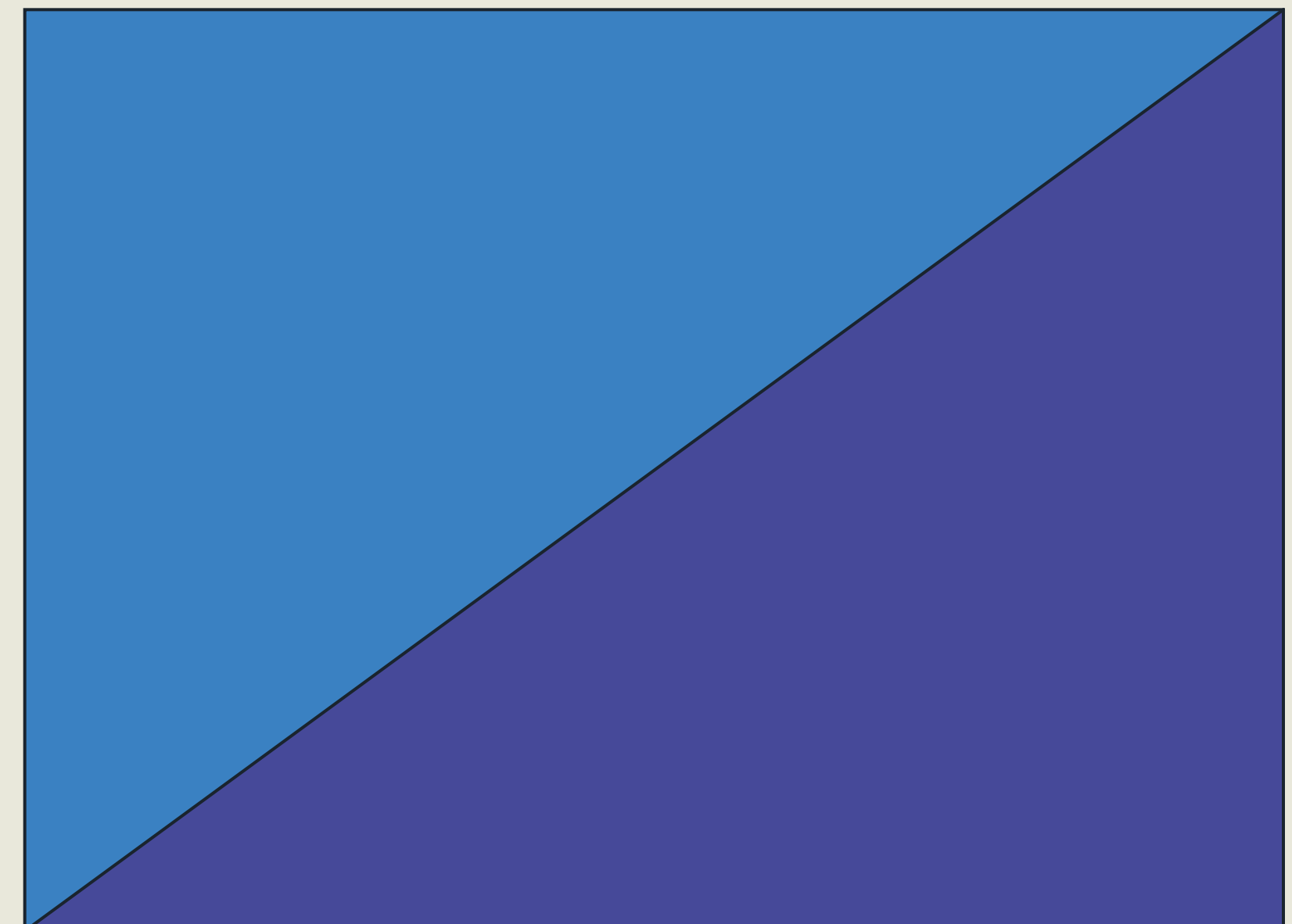
International Co-Production Matchmaking

Designed to foster cross-border collaborations, this activity aimed to connect producers from the international delegations invited to Forum RIDM 2025 with their peers from Québec, Canada, and abroad. By creating a space conducive to targeted networking, the event supported the emergence of new documentary co-productions and helped strengthen ties between professional ecosystems across various regions.

Volume 3: Women's Documentary Stories

Forum RIDM was pleased to host this public pitch session, conceived and organized by the N.A.W.A.L. Association as part of the third edition of its VOLUME incubator. Five short- and medium-length documentary projects, led by emerging filmmakers based in Canada and originating from North Africa or West Asia, were presented to an audience of industry professionals. The session, followed by a targeted networking session provided participants with a valuable opportunity to showcase their stories while strengthening their skills in distribution, production, and pitching.

- 11 producers from international delegations
- 7 producers from Quebec
- Over 90 business meetings



Matchmaking activities

Expert Roundtables

At the heart of Forum RIDM's matchmaking activities, the Expert Roundtables offered selected participants the opportunity to meet with influential industry professionals in a structured yet welcoming setting. Organized in 30-minute group sessions, these meetings provided privileged access to editorial perspectives, industry practices, and the realities of documentary filmmaking, while encouraging open, strategic conversations.

Participants selected the roundtables that best aligned with their goals in advance, allowing for targeted and relevant exchanges. This format facilitated knowledge sharing, clarified professional expectations, and fostered meaningful connections between creators and decision-makers attending the Forum.

EXPERT ROUNDTABLES – AT A GLANCE

- 75 roundtables
- 51 experts
- 360 participants

→ Monday, November 24, 2025 | Four timeslots were offered. The 17 seated experts were:

- Alexandra Roberts | TVO
- Amada Torruella | True/False and New Orleans Film Festival
- Anita Damiani | Telefilm Canada – Theatrical Programs
- Babette Dieu | DOK Leipzig
- Carrie Haber | CBC

- Claire Lasolle | FIDMarseille
- Genne Speers | Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre
- Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs | Sundance Institute
- Ina Fichman | Intuitive Pictures
- Marianne Thodas | DOXA
- Mathilde Fauteux | Vidéographe

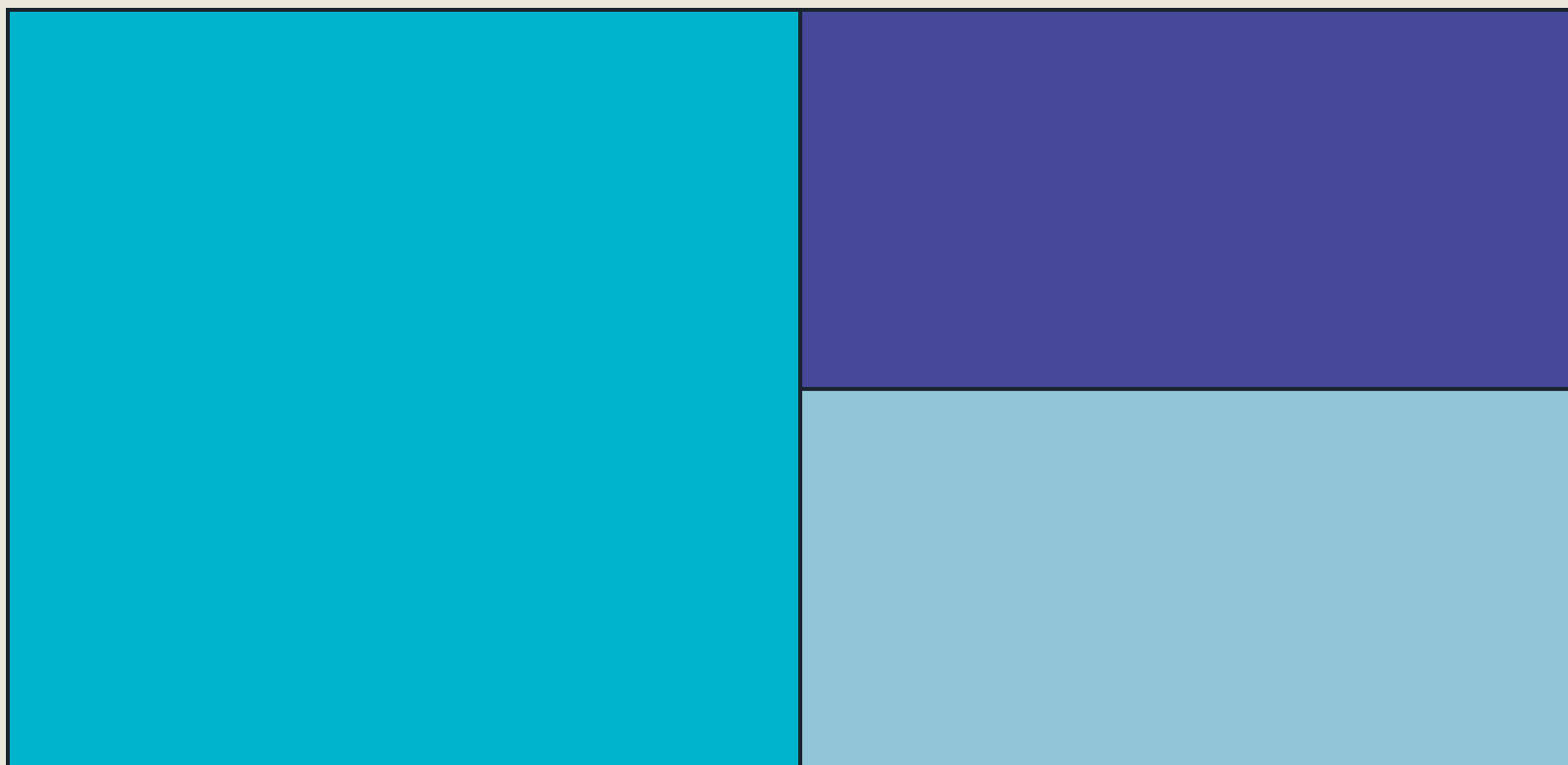
- Muhammad Refaat | Al Jazeera Documentary
- Opal H. Bennett | POV
- Paul Cadieux | Filmoption International
- Pierre-Anais Parent St-Gelais | Bell Fund
- Shaun Bryan | CMF - French Program
- Sophie Bélanger | Télé-Québec

→ Tuesday, November 25, 2025 | Seven timeslots were offered. The 34 seated experts were:

- Aonan Yang | Cineground
- Anja Dziersk | Rise and Shine
- Antonio Pezzuto | Giornate degli Autori
- Antoinette Duré | Telefilm Canada - Co-Production
- Bob Moore | EyeSteelFilm
- Christophe Chamberland & Robin Miranda das Neves | Spira
- David Montenegro | FICCI (Cartagena)
- Ella Pham | MetFilm Sales
- Élisabeth Dumouchel | Vital Distribution
- Éric Idriss-Kanago & Daniela Mujica | Yzanakio

- Isabelle Doré | SODEC
- Laurence Blais | Travelling Distribution
- Leonard Cortana | EURODOC
- Lidia Damatto | MoreThan Films
- Luke Brawley | INDOX
- Maarten Stoltz | Movies That Matter
- Madeline Robert | Visions du réel
- Maria Agustina Figueras | Circle
- Marc-Olivier Blackburn | Welcome Aboard
- Margot Mecca | Festival dei Popoli
- Marko Grba Singh | Beldocs IDFF
- Milton Guillén | Camden International Film Festival / Points North Institute

- Moustapha Sawadogo | FESPACO
- Nabil Bellahsene | Les Valseurs
- Nathalie Cloutier & Johanna Lessard | NFB
- Paul Landriau | La Distributrice de Films
- Roxanne Geoffroy | Vital Productions
- Sylvain Corbeil | Metafilms
- Tyler Wilson | Film at Lincoln Center
- Wanling Chen | Taiwan International Documentary Festival
- Ziad Touma | Coalition M-É-D-I-A-



Discussions and Cinema Lessons

From the Personal to the Collective: Filmmaking as a Reflection

This roundtable brought together filmmakers whose work explores how cinema can move from the intimate to the collective. Participants examined the medium's ability to transform deeply personal experiences into shared ones, while also addressing tensions around social boundaries, cultural memory, and evolving politics of identity and representation.

SPEAKERS _____

Basma Al-sharif (*Morning Circle*)

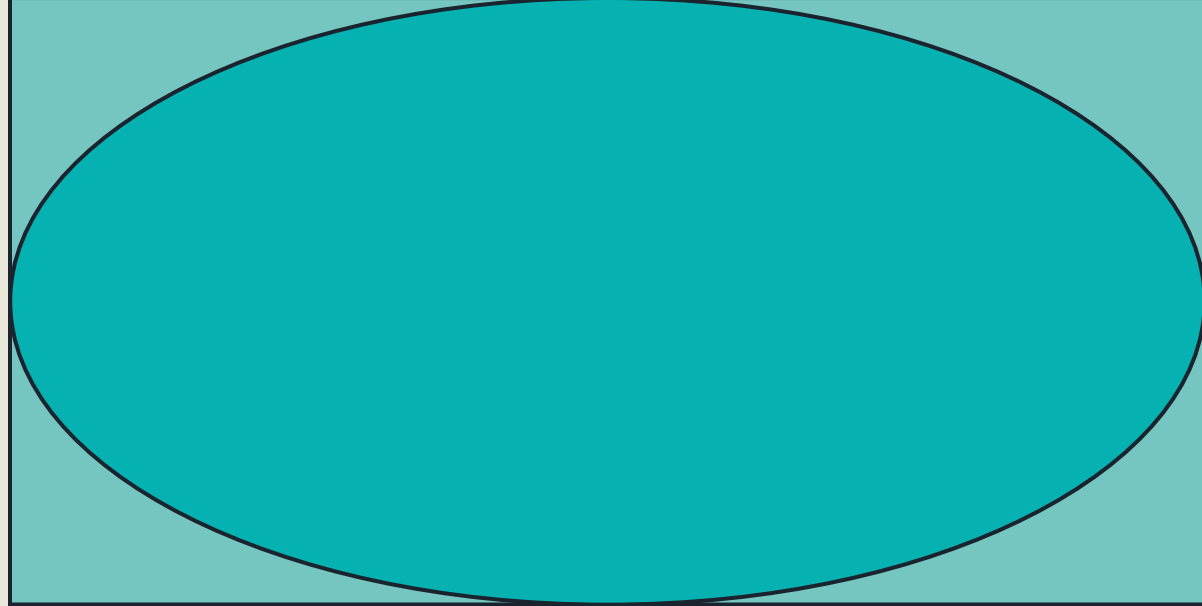
Arjun Talwar (*Letters from Wolf Street*)

Mustafa Uzuner (*Soul of the Foot*)

MODERATOR _____

Oscar Ruiz Navia (*Tigers Can Be Seen in the Rain*)

→ Co-presented with the Goethe-Institut Montreal



Breakfast with Peter Mettler — *While the Green Grass Grows: A Diary in Seven Parts*

A conversation held with renowned filmmaker Peter Mettler about his new project, *While the Green Grass Grows: A Diary in Seven Parts*. On this occasion, Mettler shared insights into the creation of this ambitious and immersive cinematic journey.

→ Co-presented by the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal

Opening Breakfast: People First, in Front of and Behind the Camera

Documentaries are known for putting people at the heart of their stories, but what about those who create them? Industry professionals face very real challenges: performance pressure, balancing personal and professional life, toxic work environments, economic instability, and more. This roundtable discussion proposed a collective reflection on the urgent need to build a more caring, inclusive, and sustainable work culture in our industry, where caring for one another becomes as fundamental as telling stories.

PANELISTS _____

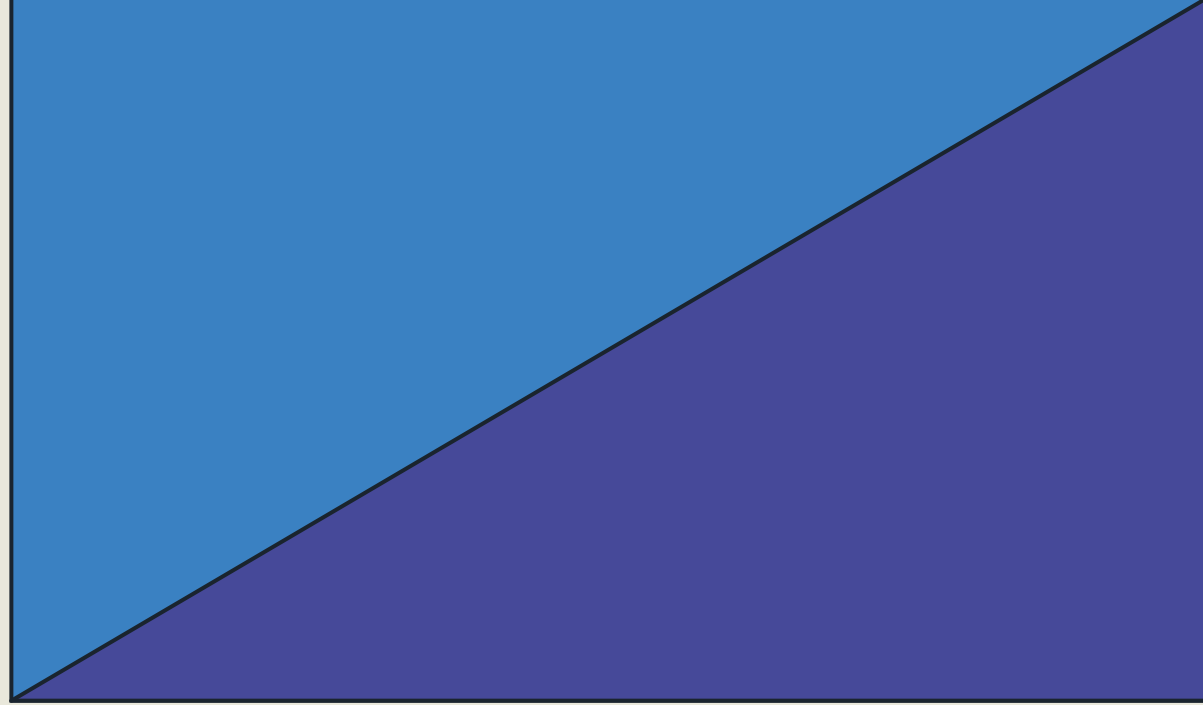
Marianne Berthelette – Director of Services and Chair of the Board of Directors, Centre psychologique pour artistes (CPPA)

Leonard Cortana – Inclusion Program and Strategic Partnerships Manager, EURODOC

PANELIST / MODERATION

Line Sander Egede – Producer, TAK Films, and UPPCQ board member _____

→ Presented by the Bell Fund



To Circulate Is to Exist: The Stakes of Documentary Reach

Between festivals, television networks, digital platforms, and alternative circuits, the modes of documentary distribution are constantly evolving, raising a host of challenges: audience fragmentation, market saturation, platform consolidation, and fragile business models. This roundtable discussion aimed to take stock of the current state of distribution by exploring the strategies being used, as well as the obstacles and the power dynamics that shape the visibility of films and their access to audiences.

PANELISTS _____

Luke Brawley – Founder, INDOX

Lidia Damatto – Founding Partner, MoreThan Films

Anja Dziersk – Festival Manager, Rise And Shine

Benjamin Hogue – Executive Director, Les Films du 3 Mars

MODERATION _____

Roxanne Sayegh – Executive Director, Cinéma Cinéma



Discussions and Cinema Lessons

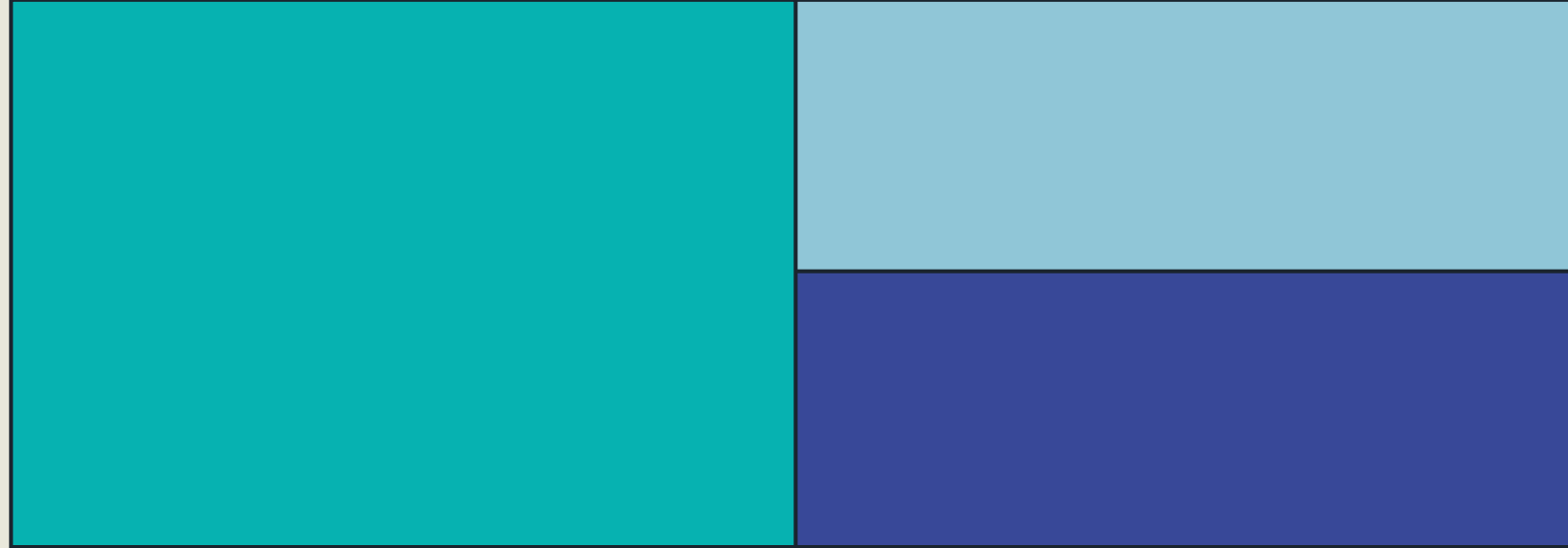
Doc Hour: Short-Form Documentary: Creation, Funding, and Distribution Challenges

Short documentaries occupy a unique place within the cinematic landscape: a space for creative freedom, a formal testing ground, a launchpad for new voices, but also a format weakened by limited funding opportunities and often marginal distribution. How can we approach short-form documentary creation, both artistically and in terms of production? What concrete challenges arise in funding and dissemination? What strategies are filmmakers and producers developing to ensure their films reach audiences? This discussion brought together creators from diverse backgrounds to explore the specificities, challenges, and potential of the short documentary format.

PANELISTS _____

- Nicolas Lachapelle** – Filmmaker (*Le punk de Natashquan, Zug Island*)
 - Line Sander Egede** – Producer, TAK Films (*Perséides, Babushka*)
 - Sarah Seené** – Filmmaker (*Orbites, Le spectre visible*)
 - Tam Dan Vu** – Artistic Director, Travelling Distribution
- MODERATION _____

Claudie Lévesque – Filmmaker and Coordinator, DOC Québec
→ Presented by DOC Québec



Management and Entrepreneurship at the Heart of Creation

This discussion explored the dynamics at the intersection of artistic creation, project management and entrepreneurial thinking in the film industry, with a particular focus on the role of the producer. What new balances are emerging between creativity and strategic leadership in a constantly evolving sector? How can producers fully embrace their role as creative entrepreneurs and build sustainable models?

PANELISTS _____

- Daniela Mujica** – Producer, Productions Ocho & Yzanakio
- David Baeta** – Executive Producer, Moi & Dave
- Sylvain Corbeil** – Producer, Metafilms

MODERATION _____

Karine Dubois – Producer, Picbois Productions
→ Presented by AQPM



Creating, Distributing, Connecting: Challenges and Levers for the Documentary Ecosystem

The Documentary Network (Observatoire du documentaire) unveiled the findings of the Forum OBSDOC 2025 report, the result of a day of consultations that brought together key players from Quebec’s documentary community to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to creation, distribution, and audience engagement.

PANELISTS _____

- Amar Lohana** – Treasurer, At-Large Member, Documentary Association of Canada (DOC)
- Marie-Michèle Cyr** – Research manager and author of the report “Create, Distribute, Connect: Challenges and Opportunities for the Documentary Ecosystem”

MODERATION _____

Amélie Lambert Bouchard – Director, Documentary Network
→ Presented by the Documentary Network (Observatoire du documentaire)

Between Story and Action: Contemporary Activist Documentary

Activist documentaries do more than bear witness – they denounce, mobilize, and call to action. In a world in crisis, they stand as a powerful tool for counter-narratives and transformation. This roundtable discussion explored how today’s filmmakers are reinventing narrative forms to connect storytelling, activism, and social change.

PANELISTS _____

- Courtney Montour** – Filmmaker
- Ayana O’Shun** – Filmmaker
- Svetla Turnin** – Executive Director, Cinema Politica

MODERATION _____

Jocelyne Clarke – Filmmaker and Producer, Les Productions Pleiades
→ Presented by the Association des réalisateurs et réalisatrices du Québec (ARRQ)

Deconstructing Biases in Film Criticism

Film criticism plays a key role in the recognition of cinematic works, but it is not immune to certain conscious or unconscious biases that shape which films are seen, valued, and discussed. On the occasion of FIPRESCI's centenary, this roundtable discussion aimed to examine the blind spots of film criticism, open a dialogue on its mechanisms of exclusion and legitimization, and reflect on what is needed for a more inclusive, diverse, and self-aware critical culture.

PANELISTS

Paola Casella – Vice President, FIPRESCI

Mathieu Li-Goyette – Editor-in-Chief, Panorama-cinéma ; Executive Director, Montreal Critics' Week

Inge Coolsaet - Co-founder and co-editor of Fantômas film magazine

Olivier Du Ruisseau – Film and Visual Arts Critic, Le Devoir

MODERATION

Mehdi Balamissa – Documentary Filmmaker and Founder, Film Fest Report



Memory in the Age of Digital Storytelling

Digital storytelling is increasingly emerging as a compelling tool for preserving memory, both individual and collective. Through technologies such as 3D modelling, photogrammetry, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence, fragments of the past can be reanimated in accessible and emotionally resonant ways, especially for younger generations. But what are the critical issues, limitations, and biases involved with these methods as they seek to safeguard memory for the future?

Organized jointly as part of Forum RIDM and the UXdoc section of RIDM, this discussion was followed by a networking brunch, offering an informal continuation of the exchange and an opportunity for participants and speakers to connect.

PANELISTS

Emeline Courcier – Filmmaker (*Burn from Absence*)

Mélanie O'Bomsawin – Video Editor and New Media Artist

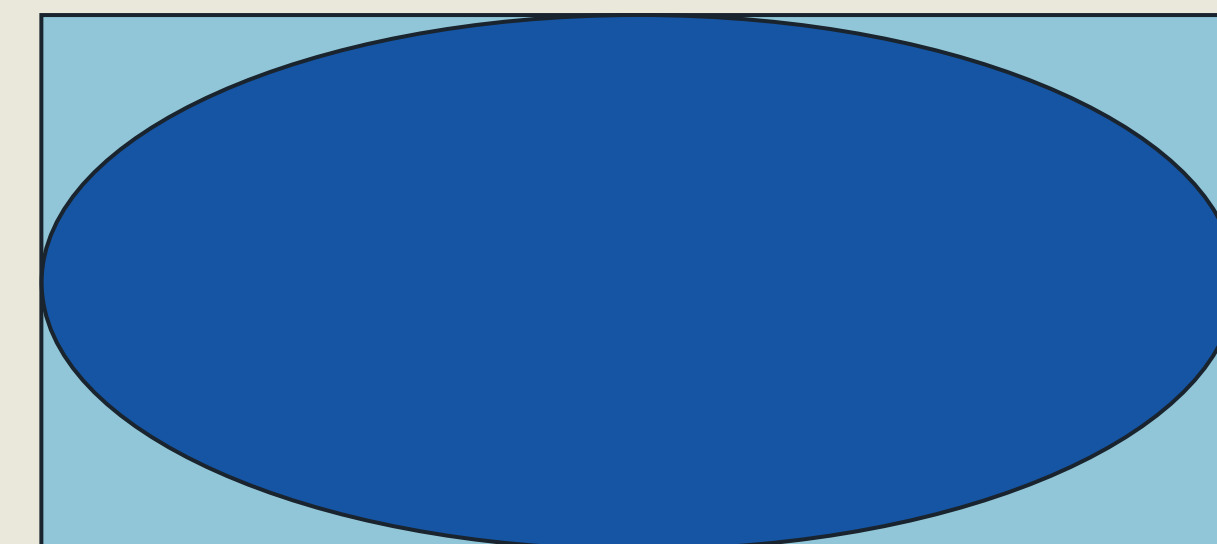
Vali Fugulin – Filmmaker (*Traces : le processeur de peine*)

Ugo Arsac – Filmmaker (*Energeia*)

MODERATION

Myriam Achard – Myriam Achard – Head of New Media Partnerships and Public Relations, PHI

→ Presented as part of **Novembre Numérique** with the support of **Institut français** and co-presented with the **Consulat général de France à Québec**



Lesson in cinema | Sounds and Images: Boundaries and Intersections in Documentary Filmmaking — with O Grivo

In this cinema lesson, presented as part of the *O Grivo Retrospective: Crafting Sonic Landscapes*, musicians Nelson Soares and Marcos Moreira offered an immersive exploration of soundtracks from works spanning different eras, all linked by a visceral dialogue between visual and audio narration. The space where image and sound meet and interact is ideal for exploring their translation through concepts such as texture, spatial organization, superimposition, perspective, density, speed, repetition and fragmentation. The duo offered a glimpse into the many facets of contemporary and experimental creation in today's documentary cinema, while also addressing some of the aesthetic principles that guide it.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Marcos Moreira and Nelson Soares

→ Presented with the support of the **Consulate General of Brazil in Montreal** and of the **Institut Guimarães Rosa**



Opening Happy Hour

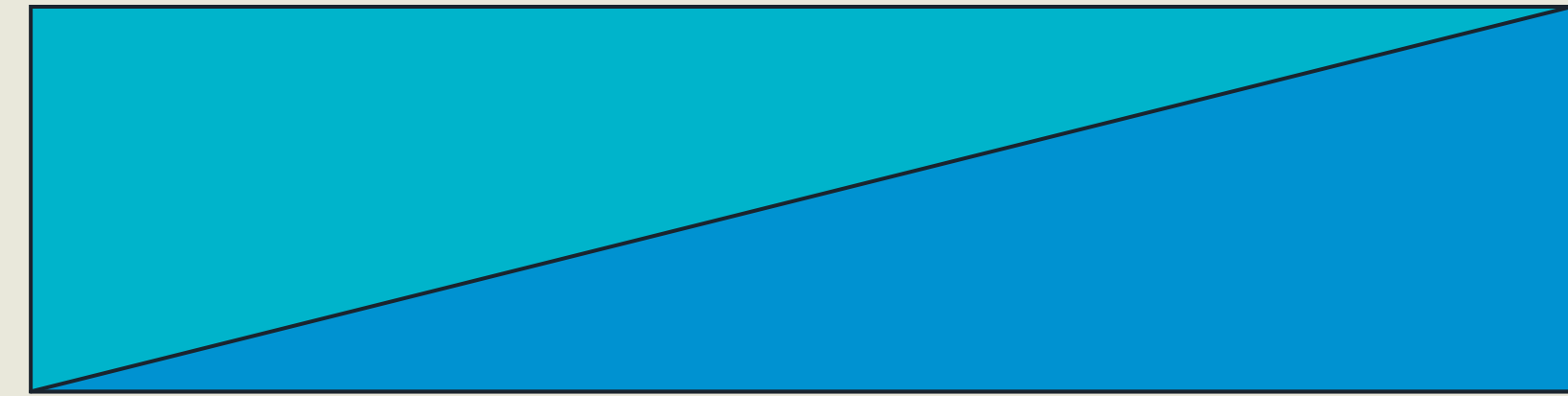
The Forum RIDM's Opening Happy Hour kicked off the 21st edition in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. This special gathering offered local and international guests a chance to break the ice, spark engaging conversations, and lay the groundwork for future collaborations.

→ Co-presented by DOC Québec



Networking Happy Hour

After two intense days of meetings and professional exchanges, this happy hour offered participants a relaxed moment for informal conversations with local and international guests. A friendly break to strengthen connections and continue discussions in a more laid-back setting.



Forum RIDM Awards | Closing Reception

The Forum RIDM closing reception was an opportunity to highlight the most promising projects from Doc Lab Montréal and the Rough Cut Pitch through awards and distinctions presented by our partners. This festive evening also allowed participants to wrap up the event on a high note, enjoying one last networking opportunity with local and international guests in a warm and convivial atmosphere.

Our Guests

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

The presence of many international delegations at Forum RIDM was made possible through the support of Quebec’s Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, as part of its cooperation programs that foster connections between Quebec organizations and strategic partners abroad. These delegations were also made possible thanks to the Forum’s active collaborations with several international festivals and markets, reflecting our ongoing commitment to developing professional and cultural exchanges throughout the world.

BRAZILIAN DELEGATION

Collaboration between Forum RIDM and Brasil CineMundi

Forum RIDM continued its collaboration with Brasil CineMundi, an annual coproduction market dedicated to fostering networking and partnerships between Brazilian documentary professionals and international audiovisual industry representatives.

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

Representing the feature-length project *Enquanto te escrevo a paisagem muda* (selected for Doc Lab Montréal and presented at the One-on-One pitches):

- Thaís Vidal**, producer
- Anna Lu Machado**, filmmaker
- Artur Sgambatti Monteiro**, filmmaker

CATALAN DELEGATION

Quebec–Catalonia Cooperation 2025–2026: Forum RIDM and DocsBarcelona

As part of a new exchange cycle between Forum RIDM and DocsBarcelona, a Catalan delegation was welcomed in Montreal. A filmmaker/producer duo representing a feature-length documentary project took part in the 21st edition of Forum RIDM.

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

Representing the feature-length project *Fragmentos de una tormenta* (selected for Doc Lab Montréal and presented at the One-on-One pitches):

- Sebastian Mantilla**, filmmaker
- Lucija Stojevic**, producer

WALES DELEGATION

Quebec–Wales Cooperation 2025–2026: Forum RIDM and Screen Alliance Wales

As part of the second phase of this bilateral collaboration, Forum RIDM hosted a Welsh filmmaking duo selected in partnership with Screen Alliance Wales, a non-profit organization known for its commitment to developing the Welsh documentary industry. This visit followed the participation of two Quebec filmmakers in professional activities in Cardiff and at Sheffield DocFest, further strengthening ties between the documentary communities of Quebec and Wales.

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

Representing the feature-length project *Portrait of the Country as a Young Dog* (selected for Doc Lab Montréal and presented at the One-on-One pitches):

- Ben Reed**, filmmaker
- Katie Lambert**, producer

Our Guests

TAIWAN DELEGATION

Calls for projects in collaboration with the Taiwan International Documentary Festival as part of the RIDM 2025 Focus Taiwan program

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

Tzu-An Wu, filmmaker of the feature-length project *Hollow Ship, Drifting Through the Void!*, selected for Doc Lab Montréal 2025, also presented at the One-on-One pitches

Yi Hui Su, filmmaker of the feature-length project *Da Ra Song*, selected for the 2025 Rough Cut Pitch, also presented at the One-on-One pitches

WALLONIA-BRUSSELS DELEGATIONS

Doc Lab Montréal call for projects in collaboration with Festival En Ville ! / Regards sur les docs

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

Representing the feature-length project *Et pourtant les visages* (selected for Doc Lab Montréal and presented at the One-on-One pitches):

Miléna Trivier, filmmaker

Maxime Coton, producer

ITALY

Rough Cut Pitch call for projects in collaboration with Festival dei Popoli

Participant:

Gaetano Crivaro, filmmaker of the feature-length project *Cosa rimane quando il mare si muove*, selected for the 2025 Rough Cut Pitch and also presented at the One-on-One pitches

RÉUNION (FRANCE)

Rough Cut Pitch call for projects in collaboration with EURODOC

Participant:

Eva Lova-Bély, producer of the feature-length project *Dear Ancestor*, selected for the 2025 Rough Cut Pitch and also presented at the One-on-One pitches.

OFQ/LOJQ DELEGATION

Eight producers from France and three Quebec filmmakers participated in the French-Quebec-Canadian delegation at the 21st edition of Forum RIDM. Members of this delegation took part in all professional market activities: discussions, master classes, roundtables, networking events, and screenings. Three project holders also participated in the One-on-One pitch day, benefitting from targeted meetings with key industry professionals.

Participants at Forum RIDM 2025

French cohort participating via the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse (OFQJ)

Julia Augeard, *Punchline Cinema*

Néna Bailly, *Program 33*

Astrig Chandèze-Avakian, *Pazma films*

Giusse Dembault Lalois, *La félicité*

Julia Fougeray, *Azadi Productions*

Quentin Just, *Vents Contraires*

Adrien Lioure, *La petite ellipse*

Ophélie Peter, *Les Films du Bilboquet*

Québec cohort participating via the Offices jeunesse internationaux du Québec (LOJQ)

Olivier Imbeault, *Imbo Vidéo*

Félix Cayer

Marc-Olivier Huard

Our Guests

One-on-One Pitches

- 10 broadcasters
- 18 distributors
- 19 festival/markets
- 7 institutes and funds
- 1 international co-producer

Invited Decision Makers:

Sophie Bélanger | Télé-Québec
Opal H. Bennett | American Documentary – POV
Mélanie Brière | National Film Board of Canada (NFB)
Robert Vroom | National Film Board of Canada (NFB)
Naomie Décarie-Daigneault | Tënk
Carrie Haber | CBC
Julia Lauzon | Radio-Canada
Michelle McCree | CBC Docs
Suzanne Pouliot | AMI-tv
Muhammad Refaat | Al Jazeera Documentary
Michelle van Beusekom | Knowledge Network
Marc-Olivier Blackburn | Welcome Aboard
Laurence Blais | Travelling Distribution
Tam Dan Vu | Travelling Distribution
Luke Brawley | INDOX
Paul Cadieux | Filmoption International
Christophe Chamberland | Spira
Robin Miranda das Neves | Spira
Lidia Damatto | MoreThan Films
Stéphanie Demers | h264
Anja Dziersk | Rise and Shine World Sales
Dina El-Sabbagh | Multi-Monde
Nicolas Goyette | Funambules Médias
Mathilde Fauteux | Vidéographe
Sylvain Lavigne | Les Films du 3 Mars
Philippe Gendron-Comeau | Les Films du 3 Mars
Paul Landriau | La Distributrice de films
Serge Abiaad | La Distributrice de films
Ella Pham | MetFilm Sales
Serge Desrosiers | Vital Distribution
André Vinci | Vital Distribution
Genne Speers | Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre (CFMDC)
Svetla Turnin | Cinema Politica
Johanna Veysset | PVP Distribution
Marie-Ève Brassard | PVP Distribution

Monica Victoria | EyeSteelFilm
Wanling Chen | Taiwan International Documentary Festival
Leonard Cortana | EURODOC
Babette Dieu | DOK Leipzig
Morgane Ferrero | REGARD
Walter Forsyth | Lunenburg Doc Fest
Marko Grba Singh | Beldocs IDFF
Milton Guillen | Points North Institute
Claire Lasolle | FIDMarseille
Margot Mecca | Festival dei Popoli
David Montenegro | Cartagena de Indias International Film Festival – FICCI
Antonio Pezzuto | Giornate degli Autori
Madeline Robert | Visions du Réel
Alexandra Roberts | TVO
Moustapha Sawadogo | FESPACO
Maarten Stoltz | Movies that Matter
Marianne Thodas | DOXA Documentary Film Festival
Amada Torruella | True/False Film Fest / New Orleans Film Festival
Tyler Wilson | Film at Lincoln Center
Mariam Zaidi | Hot Docs
Shaun Bryan | Program Administrator, Canada Media Fund
Brigitte Dion | Program Administrator, Canada Media Fund
Isabelle Doré | SODEC
Maria Agustina Figueras | CIRCLE
Hajnal Molnar-Szakacs | Sundance Institute
Pierre-Anais St-Gelais Parent | Fonds Bell
Olivier St-Pierre | SODEC
Nabil Bellahsene | Les Valseurs

DOC LAB MONTRÉAL AND ROUGH CUT PITCH 2025

At the closing of Forum RIDM, several participants from the Doc Lab Montréal and Rough Cut Pitch cohorts received awards and support from our partners to help advance and realize their documentary projects. The winners were announced during the closing reception, in the presence of participants and representatives from partner organizations.

13 awards and support grants were presented to Canadian and international participants of **Doc Lab Montréal**:



FEATURE FILMS

→ The **CINEGROUND AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$5,000 in post-production services, was awarded to *The Jungle* by **Jamie Ross**, produced by **Bob Moore** (EyeSteelFilm).

→ The **ROYAL PHOTO AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$2,500 in filming equipment rental services, was awarded to *Dinosaurs* by **Emilie Baillargeon**, produced by **Geneviève Gosselin-G** (Le Foyer Films).

→ The **MAIN FILM AWARD**, offered to a Quebec project and 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 *Haunted: A Ghost Movie About Family Estrangement* by **Laurence Olivier**, produced by **Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre** (Portage Films inc).

→ The **ROGERS AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$1,000 in cash, was awarded to *Haunted: A Ghost Movie About Family Estrangement* by **Laurence Olivier**, produced by **Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre** (Portage Films inc).

→ The **EURODOC AWARD**, offered to an international project and consisting of €700 in cash as well as a one-year membership to EURODOC, was awarded to *M.O.S. (Mute On Sound)* by **Kenza Derkaoui**, produced by **Stefan Supplice** (Niya Productions).

→ **EURODOC** also awarded a **SPECIAL MENTION** accompanied by a consultation and a one-year membership to EURODOC to the project *As I Write You the Landscape Changes* by **Artur Sgambatti Monteiro** and **Anna Lu Machado**, produced by **Thaís Vidal**.

The Doc Lab Montréal feature-length projects Jury also awarded an **honorable mention** to the Welsh project *Portrait of the Country as a Young Dog*, directed by **Ben Reed** and produced by **Katie Lambert**.

SHORT AND MEDIUM-LENGTH FILMS

→ The **NFB SUPPORT**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$5,000 in development, was awarded to *A Mark on the Forehead or the Right Hand* by **Bleue Pronovost-Teyssier**.

→ The **SLA LOCATION AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$2,500 in film equipment rental services, was awarded to *Lady Copper* by **Ariel St-Louis Lamoureux**.

→ The **BAM MUSIC AWARD**, offered to a Canadian or international project and valued at \$2,500 in music synchronisation licences, was awarded to *A Mark on the Forehead or the Right Hand* by **Bleue Pronovost-Teyssier**.

→ The **ROYAL PHOTO AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$2,500 in equipment rental services, was awarded to *Between the City and Nitaskinan* by **Marie-Kristine Petiquay**.

→ The **LUSSIER & KHOUZAM AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and consisting of a \$1,000 sponsorship for legal services, was awarded to *Narcissus Flower* by **Dédé Chen**.

→ The **VIDÉOGRAPHE AWARD**, offered to a Canadian short of medium-length project, and consisting of \$500 in editing suite or equipment rental and a one-year membership to Vidéographe services, was awarded to *Bica* by **Irina Tempea**.

→ The **T&S COOP AWARD**, offered to a Canadian project and valued at \$500 in subtitling services, was awarded to *A Mark on the Forehead or the Right Hand* by **Bleue Pronovost-Teyssier**.



Several Doc Lab Montréal participants residing outside Quebec received travel assistance thanks to the **PETER WINTONICK TRAVEL GRANT**, an initiative made possible by the generosity of the Canadian documentary community: Law Office of J.R. Howell, EyeSteelFilm, Intuitive Pictures, Cinema Politica, John Walker Productions, Kensington Communications, Storyline Entertainment, Invisible Hand Productions, Colonelle Films, Bunbury Films, Canada Wild, and Parabola Films.

This year, Forum RIDM was proud to reaffirm its commitment to emerging filmmakers from Quebec outside the greater Montreal region with the **BOURSE TaCIC - TREMPLIN TERRITOIRES** travel grant. In collaboration with TaCIC, FranC doc, 411 Films, Microclimat Films, Bande Sonimage, SPIRA, Social T, and Paraloel, this regional project development grant was awarded to Roxanne Lauzon and Nathalie Rankin for their project *Sally à contre-courant*, which will receive full and in-depth support throughout the various stages of its development.

As part of the **Rough Cut Pitch**, three awards were given to participating Canadian and international teams:

→ The **GRANDÉ STUDIOS SUPPORT**, valued at \$7,000 in filming equipment rental services, was awarded to the Canadian project *Our Father* by Robby Reis.

→ The **FORUM RIDM PRIZE**, valued at \$1,000 in cash, was awarded to the Canadian project *The Shimmering Shadows* by Nicolas Dufour-Laperrière, produced by Rosalie Chicoine Perreault.

→ The **VITAL DISTRIBUTION AWARD**, valued at \$500 in cash, was awarded to the Canadian project *In the Sweet Arms* by Julian Flavin.

Forum RIDM's success is built on the generosity, dedication, and collaborative spirit of numerous collaborators, participants, industry representatives, and experts. Their active engagement played a key role in making these professional days a time of meaningful exchange, discovery, and promising collaborations.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COPRODUCTION

Beyond its annual event in Montreal, Forum RIDM pursues its mission year-round by supporting filmmakers and producers in their professional journeys on the international scene. In 2025, a series of initiatives held in Munich, Cannes, Cardiff, Sheffield, and Mexico City helped strengthen coproduction networks, spotlight Quebec and Canadian documentary talent, and foster knowledge-sharing through workshops, pitch sessions, and targeted networking activities.

These efforts are made possible through strong partnerships and the involvement of seasoned professionals whose expertise helps open new paths for participants. We wish to emphasize the importance of our collaborations with partner organizations in these countries and territories, who share our commitment to supporting emerging creators, encouraging intercultural exchanges, and expanding the professional networks of Quebec and Canadian artists within the global documentary ecosystem.

Meetings with industry decision-makers, personalised project support, and opportunities for professional dialogue all played a key role in fostering career development and building sustainable international collaborations.

FORUM RIDM ABROAD

CANADIAN DELEGATION AT CANNES DOCS 2025 – MARCHÉ DU FILM AT THE CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

As part of an ongoing partnership with Telefilm Canada, Forum RIDM launched a call for submissions to select four Canadian feature-length documentaries in advanced stages of editing. These works were presented as part of the Canadian Showcase of the **Docs-In-Progress** section at Cannes Docs, the documentary platform of the Cannes Film Festival's Marché du Film, before an audience of international decision makers.

Members of the Forum RIDM team were present to support the filmmakers and producers, present the pitch session, and help raise the visibility of the projects on the international documentary scene.

The four selected projects were:

- **SKIN OF THE SKY**
directed and produced by Andrea Bussman
- **CONCRETE TURNED TO SAND**
directed and produced by Jessica Johnson & Ryan Ermacora
- **THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD**
directed and produced by Brett Story
- **WE SHALL EAT WHEN THE RIVER IS FULL**
directed and produced by Banchi Hanuse, co-written with Jessica Mayhew

QUEBEC DELEGATION TO WALES

Quebec–Wales Cooperation 2025–2026: Forum RIDM & Screen Alliance Wales

Filmmakers Benoit Massé and Chadi Bennani, both former participants of Doc Lab Montréal, were part of the Quebec delegation visiting the United Kingdom in June 2025 with their respective documentary projects, *Laurentides Projects* and *Au-delà des vagues*. This initiative was made possible through the support of the Quebec's Ministère aux Relations internationales et de la Francophonie, under the Quebec–Wales Cooperation Program.

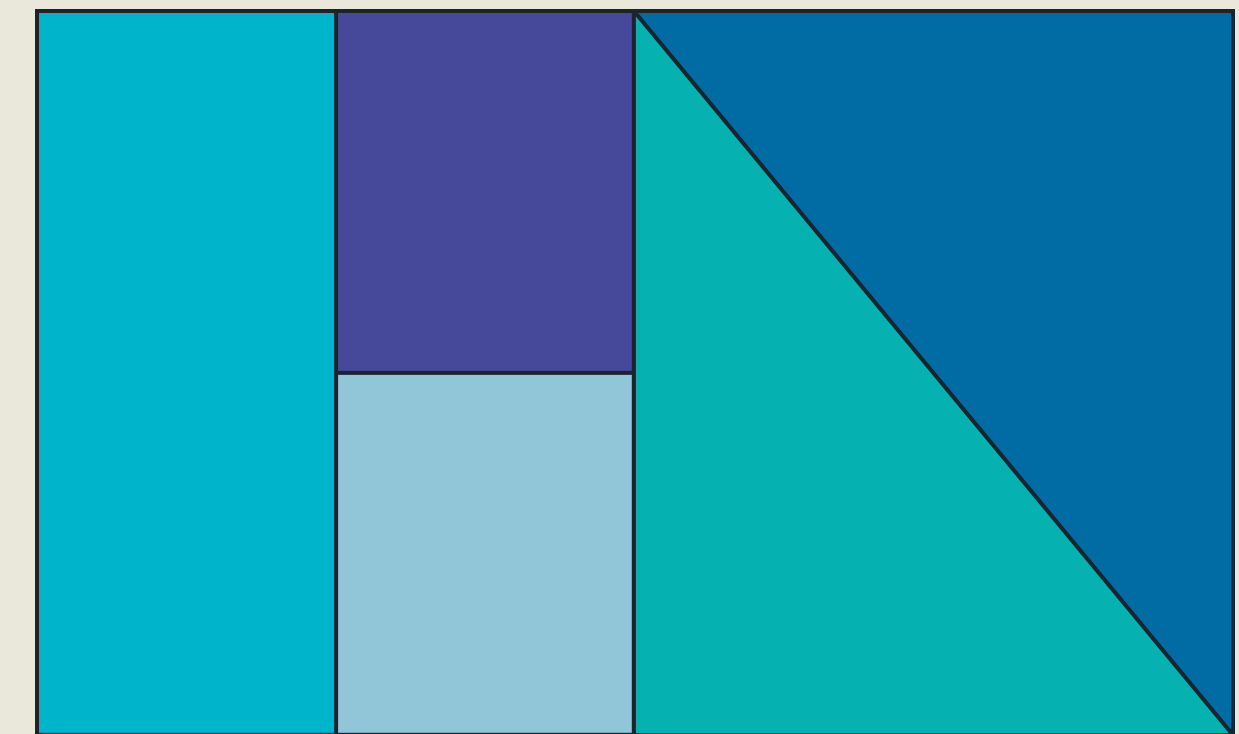
Their visit included a series of professional meetings organized in collaboration with Screen Alliance Wales and Ffilm Cymru Wales, focused on funding, networking, and coproduction opportunities. They also participated in Sheffield DocFest, taking part in roundtables, exchanging with key industry players, and helping raise the profile of their projects on the international documentary scene.

QUEBEC DELEGATION TO BAVARIA

Quebec–Bavaria Cooperation 2025–2026: Forum RIDM & DOK.forum München 2023–2024

As part of the ongoing collaboration between Forum RIDM and DOK.forum, the professional market of DOK.fest München, filmmaker Loïc Darses was invited as part of the Marketplace selection with his project *Nos cœurs sont noirs et secrets comme les nœuds de nos chênes*, after receiving the DOK.fest München Prize at Doc Lab Montréal 2024.

Thanks to the support of Quebec's Ministère aux Relations internationales et de la Francophonie through the Quebec–Bavaria Cooperation Program, producer Arantza Maldonado was also able to attend the event. Her presence aimed to explore new co-production opportunities and strengthen professional ties between the documentary communities of Quebec and Bavaria.




QUEBEC FOCUS IN MEXICO


Quebec–Mexico Cooperation: Forum RIDM & DocsMX Documentary Market Collaboration


As part of a collaboration between Forum RIDM and DocsMX, a Quebec Focus was presented at the festival's 20th edition, showcasing the vitality of Quebec's documentary cinema. The program featured six films, including *Chronique d'une ville* by Nadine Gomez, which opened the festival, and *Shifting Baselines* by Julien Elie, which received a special jury mention. *Mais où va-t-on Coyote?* by Jonah Malak won the Jury Prize. Also featured were *Mère Saigon* by Khoa Lê, *Ninan Auassat: Nous, les enfants* by Kim O'Bomsawin, and *Gabor* by Joannie Lafrenière.


In parallel with the screenings, filmmaker Yann-Emmanuel Hernandez - a member of the Doc Lab Montréal 2024 cohort - took part in the festival's industry market activities. He presented his project *Les ombres du volcan* within Plataforma IB, a workshop dedicated to projects in mid-development. There, he benefited from support aimed at deepening his artistic approach and exploring new directions for his project.

Visibility & Communications (From January 1 to November 30)


 **Website (ridm.ca)**
491K views
Forum RIDM Pages
Programmation Forum RIDM
 (https://ridm.ca/fr/programmation-forum-ridm)
 → **6,769 views**
Forum RIDM
 (https://ridm.ca/fr/forum-ridm)
 → **2,676 views**


 **Newsletter**
1,945 subscribers
 (Open rate: 54%)

 **Facebook**
2,994 followers
 (6,099 content views)

 **Instagram**
1,977 followers
 (60K content views)

 **LinkedIn**
212 followers

 **Schedule**
 Available in the Forum catalog and in a limited printed version during the event.

 **Signage**
 Coroplast signage: posters, schedule boards, partner logo banners, information panels on simultaneous interpretation

 **Media Coverage**
Total accredited media: 49
Total journalists covering the 2025 edition: 100
2 accredited out-of-province journalists:
 - **Max Tenenbaum**
 (*Playback*, Toronto, CANADA)
 - **Margault Demasles**
 (*Géo*, *Grands Reportages*, *Le Monde Magazine*, Lourdes, FRANCE)
480 Online publications
 (including radio and TV)
15 Print articles
5 TV broadcasts
40 Radio broadcasts
60 Publications specifically about Forum RIDM
TOTAL: 600 media mentions of the festival

MEDIA COVERAGE (EXCERPTS)

PLAYBACK

- Forum RIDM reveals 2025 award winners
- Forum RIDM names 2025 Doc Lab Montréal cohort
- Four projects selected for Docs-in-Progress in Cannes

BUSINESS DOC EUROPE

- Cannes Docs 2025: Montreal on the Croisette

QUI FAIT QUOI / LIEN MULTIMÉDIA

*A series of 15 interviews was conducted with Forum RIDM participants and will be published in December.

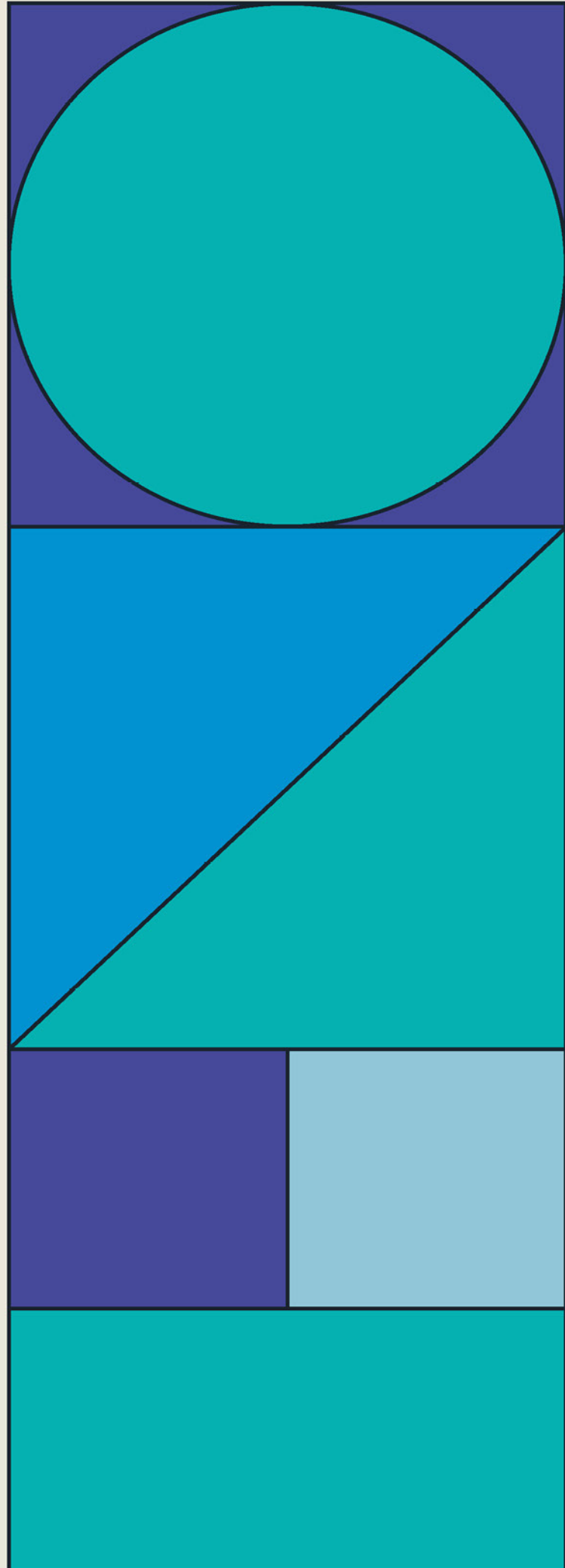
- Le documentaire doit circuler pour exister
- Le Forum RIDM dévoile les récipiendaires des prix de sa 21^e édition
- Le marché professionnel du Forum RIDM est lancé
- « The Production of the World » remporte le Prix postproduction au Cannes Docs

CTVM

- Forum RIDM : Événement phare pour la communauté du documentaire
- Forum RIDM : Dévoilement de la programmation 2025
- Forum RIDM | Docs-In-Progress – Showcase canadien : Le projet canadien THE PRODUCTION OF THE WORLD de Brett Story primé

Forum RIDM

Partenaires Partners



Partenaire présentateur | Presenting Partner



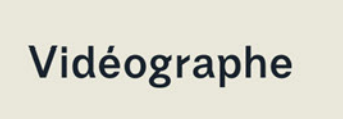
Partenaires institutionnels | Institutional Partners



Partenaires principaux | Major Partners



Partenaires associés | Associate Partners



Partenaires collaborateurs | Collaborating Partners



Restaurants collaborateurs | Collaborating Restaurants



Partenaires Bourse Peter-Wintonick | Peter-Wintonick Grant Partners



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Acknowledgements

Forum RIDM is made possible thanks to a sustained collective effort throughout the year. Each edition comes to life through the work of a dedicated team united by a shared vision and driven by the belief that reality can inspire new knowledge and new stories.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the entire team, our collaborators, partners, volunteers, speakers, and all the participants of this edition. Your commitment, generosity, and

energy contribute directly to the richness and success of the Forum, which hosted six days of inspiring encounters in service of documentary film.

We look forward to seeing you at the 22nd edition in 2026!

