



SCREEN INSTITUTE | FILM FESTIVAL | DATABASE
BLACK | INDIGENOUS | PEOPLE OF COLOUR

29 REELWORLD ALUMNI SELECTED FOR THE 2024 NETFLIX-BANFF DIVERSITY OF VOICES INITIATIVE

100 Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour creators/producers from across Canada join the 7th edition of the renowned market access program

For Immediate Release

April 3, 2024 (Toronto, ON) - The Reelworld Screen Institute has joined the Netflix-BANFF Diversity of Voices (DOV) Initiative as a new supporting partner, with the program entering its seventh year. DOV provides up to 100 Black, Indigenous or racialized professionals with access to the Banff World Media Festival and networking opportunities, with 25 selected for the DOV Pitch Program to meet with senior industry professionals.

Reelworld is pleased to further announce that 29 of the 100 participants selected for [DOV 2024](#) are Reelworld alumni.

"We are excited to be one of the partners of this wonderful program. The Diversity of Voices Initiative gives access to many equity-deserving communities who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to attend such a prestigious market," said Tonya Williams, Founder & Executive Director of Reelworld Screen Institute. "This year we were proud to see that 29 of the 100 recipients are Reelworld alumni and we are happy to be supporting them financially and with additional support to attend the Banff World Media Festival which is a must not miss event for serious industry professionals."

The Diversity of Voices (DOV) Initiative has been a driving force for change since launching in 2018. As it enters its seventh year, the program has already provided nearly 700 opportunities for underrepresented individuals. DOV offers unparalleled access to industry leaders, fosters essential partnerships, and provides vital support for project development. Each DOV participant receives an all-access pass to the Festival and personalized industry sessions. Furthermore, 25 exceptional participants from the 2024 cohort will be designated as Diversity of Voices Pitch participants. This will provide them with additional one-on-one meeting opportunities and a travel stipend.

"Diversity of Voices has provided invaluable connections and opportunities to hundreds of creatives from across Canada over the last seven years," Stéphane Cardin, Director of Public Policy for Netflix in Canada, said in the [official announcement](#). "A huge congratulations to all of the talented individuals selected for this year's program as they embark on this next step in their careers."

“We are thrilled to present the incredibly talented 2024 DOV participants and to showcase their projects to an international audience of industry professionals. This vital program continues to generate opportunities for underrepresented creators and producers by providing a major platform for the development, financing and distribution of their projects. We thank our program partners for sharing our commitment to strengthen equity, diversity and inclusion in our industry,” said Jenn Kuzmyk, Executive Director of the Banff World Media Festival, in the announcement.

The 45th edition of the BANFF World Media Festival will take place from June 9-12 at the Fairmont Banff Springs in Banff, Alberta.

Reelworld alumni in the 2024 Diversity of Voices cohort are :

Brishkay Ahmed	Amir Zargara	Vanessa Caceres	Daniel Foreman	Eva Grant	Panta Mosleh
Warriors Productions Inc.	Zagara Productions	Righteous Pictures	Treaty 6 Productions Inc.	Tooth and Nail Pictures	PK Studios Production Inc.
Alice Wang	Rua Wani	Shirley Yip	Praneet Akilla	Andrew Chiu	Lisa Michelle Cornelius
It's A Secret Productions Inc.	Adani Pictures	Rice Paper Pictures	Akilla Express Ltd.	SRRNDR Content	Sunday Baby Films Inc.
Léa Geronimo	Brandon Hackett	Ahlam Hassan	Alireza Kazemipour	Nauzanin Knight	Moniquea Marion
		Shoufini Films	Alireza Kazemipour	1844 Studios	Slaw Paw Productions
Vanessa Mitchell	Reem Morsi	Ivan Ossa	Tanis Parenteau	Shreya Patel	Christine Rodriguez
Madden & Mitchell Media Inc.	Scarab Films Inc.	Kine Ukiyo Ma Ltd.	TDEP Productions	Window Dreams Productions Inc.	Productions La Tigresse
Mostafa Shaker	Nattasha Shrestha	Linda St. Pierre	Alejandro Valbuena	Hui Wang	
Yalla Productions		Phoenix Skye Productions Inc.	Curare Films	Redbean Productions	

Reelworld proudly affirms its support as a partner of the Diversity of Voices (DOV) Initiative, recognizing its importance in amplifying underrepresented voices within the Canadian entertainment

industry. Reelworld actively creates a more inclusive and equitable media landscape by championing Market Access programs and through its own Market Ready initiative. We firmly believe that diverse perspectives enrich storytelling and are essential for driving meaningful change. As we continue to support and uplift marginalized communities, Reelworld remains dedicated to fostering a culture of diversity and representation in the media sector, providing equal opportunities to all marginalized communities.

About Reelworld

Reelworld was founded in 2000 by award-winning actress and producer Tonya Williams to advance opportunities for Indigenous people and Canadians who are Black, Asian, South Asian and People of Colour in the screen industries by providing professional development and advocating for racial equity in Canadian content and production. Reelworld Screen Institute, a non-profit, provides training programs and presents the acclaimed Reelworld Film Festival, which celebrates stories by racialized Canadians. The festival has expanded to include a two-day Summit to shine a spotlight on issues around diversity, inclusion and equity in the Canadian screen landscape. Providing access to opportunities is core to Reelworld, and Access Reelworld is Canada's leading hiring platform for racialized crews and talent. Reelworld Foundation, a registered charity, is transforming the industry by creating mechanisms that hold systems accountable for greater equity. www.reelworld.ca

Reelworld Screen Institute:

Website: www.reelworld.ca

X: [@reelworldfilm](https://twitter.com/reelworldfilm)

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