



MEDIA RELEASE

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Forest City Film Festival concludes its 2022 season and recognizes two Ontario Trillium Foundation grants

London, ON - The Forest City Film Festival (FCFF) is celebrating a successful season after receiving a \$46,500 Community Building Fund – Operating stream grant in August 2021 and a \$23,600 Resilient Communities Fund grant in March 2022 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF).

On October 23rd, the festival wrapped up the comeback in the final day of its in-person festival season. Over the course of the festival, 88 films showed in four venues over nine days of appreciation of films connected to the region of Southwestern Ontario as well as the best of the biggest film festivals around the world.

The week-long festival was filled with events including an expanded Ontario Screen Creators Conference, where industry insiders offered 14 programs. The festival was able to screen its films competing for honours in narrative, documentary, short and feature length film categories. In a first for the festival in this comeback year, FCFF brought a lineup of the best of this year's official selections from world-renowned film festivals in a category dubbed "Best of the World Fests," featuring films that premiered at Cannes, SXSW, Sundance, and TIFF.

The support from the OTF grants saw the Festival recover to its pre-pandemic operating level with support for audience development, increased ticketing capacity, and the acquisition of winning films from festivals around the world.

"Reduced revenue from audiences meant that the support of the Ontario Trillium fund allowed us to continue to focus on our mission to celebrate the art of cinema through a regional lens focusing on national and global films and filmmakers connected to Southwestern Ontario," said executive director Dorothy Downs. "We can continue to build on the work that the 2021-22 Trillium Community Building Grant allowed."

The Community Building grant was used to maintain staff and facilities during the virtual season, allowing them to provide a hybrid festival with innovative in-person and virtual programming.

The Resilient Communities fund grant allowed the FCFF to integrate ticketing, calendars, programming overviews, and access to events and virtual programs on its website. This optimization resulted in the processing of thousands of in-person tickets, increasing access to the Festival's programs for the greater public.

"These two grants have allowed us to get stronger as a festival and weather the storms and after effects of the pandemic," Downs stated.

Further information about the festival's events, films, and virtual streaming can be found at fcff.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading



granting foundations, last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Since 2020, OTF has 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.

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