

LIAISON OF INDEPENDENT
FILMMAKERS OF TORONTO

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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Executive Director's Message

We are very happy to have had such a busy and successful year in 2019 here at LIFT. We survived a big hurdle—the increase in rent by \$60,000—in large part due to our donors, members and supporters.

We still are looking at lean times ahead for the next year, but we are focusing on being able to build towards a more sustainable future where we can fully benefit from the evolution of this amazing city, rather than be buffeted by its growing pains. As we approach our fortieth year, we are proud of all of our longevity and the amazing accomplishments of our current and past members.

- Chris Kennedy



500+

Current
Members

1000+

Productions
Supported

1191

Workshop
Participants



Photo Credit: Sally Walker-Hudecki

Vision

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto aims to be a community hub for film-related practices and will facilitate the sustainability and production of media art on a local, national and international level.

Mission

LIFT is a member-driven non-profit charitable organizations that provides affordable access to equipment, education and space for those who want to make films, out of a passion for, and commitment to, the practice of filmmaking.

Values

- Diversity in all its manifestations, including race, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexuality, class, age, disability, immigration status, film genre and level of experience as a filmmaker.
- Affordable and equitable access to services and programs that minimize economic barriers to creating films.
- The materiality and technology of working with celluloid as a medium.
- Developing and cultivating the "cinematic" qualities within digital cinema and new platforms.
- Serving as a community hub for filmmakers and artists.
- Providing quality service to an engaged and participatory membership.
- Providing a space for diverse communities to produce representations on their own terms.

WORKSHOPS

As always we offered 180 workshops in the past year. 60 per season. But this year we added **14** new workshops, including: *Working with a Voice Coach, Contact Printing + Emulsion Manipulation, 35mm Filmmaking, Production Accounting, Film Law, and Virtual Reality Workflow.*



Photo Credit: Alyssa Bistonath

JOSPEHINE MASSARELLA AWARD

2019 marked the first year we presented the Josephine Massarella Award to a female artist over 40 returning to their practice. The lucky recipient was long-time member Larissa Fan.

It isn't an exaggeration to say that I wouldn't be able to make films without LIFT. I'm so grateful for the support LIFT provides in terms of equipment, post-production facilities, education, and grants. What sets it apart from other services is its affordability, sense of community, and dedication to analog film practices.
- Larissa Fan

NEWCOMER FILMMENTOR

Hussam Douhna, Paz Ramirez and Nariman Ansari were part of the second instalment of the Newcomer Filmmmentor. Their six month self-guided mentorship allowed for development and creation of their film projects.

This mentorship has helped me find pieces of the old me and put it together with the new me. So I can actually move on and move forward.
- Nariman Ansari

imagineNATIVE x LIFT

2019 was a landmark year for our collaboration with Canada's premiere indigenous film festival. This year saw Cole Forrest create his short film **INTO WATER** which explored his ancestral home of Lake Nipissing and honoured the matriarchs of his family.



Photo Credit: Renata Mohamed

Artists in Residence

- **Aitziber Olaskoaga** was the second resident of the BAICC Residencias Artísticas Internacionales de Creación Cinematográfica, a collaboration between the (S8) Mostra Internacional de Cinema Periférico, LIFT, and Acción Cultural Española (AC/E).
- **Steindorf and Kyle Williams (aka Blinn & Lambert)** were the first residents in the 2019 edition of the Studio Immersion Program, supported by the Petman Foundation.
- Local Toronto-based filmmaker **Andrew Lennox** was the second resident in the 2019 edition of the Studio Immersion Program, supported by the Petman Foundation.
- **Manuela de Laborde** joined us from Mexico City, to work on completing *Ficciones*, a new film that she is making for the 66th annual International Short Film Festival Oberhausen in May.
- **Milja Viita** was the inaugural resident in a residency program for alumni of the Academy of Fine Arts of the University of the Arts Helsinki. This residency, supported by the Academy and the Saastamoinen Foundation.

"To sum up our gratitude is difficult to find words for – we can definitely say that ROPE would not have arrived at the same film-capture that was accomplished while in residence if we were not offered this generous opportunity."

- Blinn & Lambert



SEASONAL SCREENING SERIES

In 2019 we revived LIFT's long standing tradition of screening our members works with the Seasonal Screening Series at Niagara Custom Lab. Showcasing 19 films and highlighting Documentary, Experimental and Narrative works at Niagara Custom Lab.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

For the second year in a row LIFT supported **Tout-Monde: Markham**. A commissioning project which sought to engage with the delicate, yet timely, discourse about encountering and representing the other. Six new works came out of the program in collaboration with Elegoa Cultural Productions and Varley Art Gallery.

LIFT FEATURETTE

Thanks to the generous support of our friends at **Hollywood Suite** we were able to produce a series of Artist Interviews and Featurette on LIFT'S place in the moving image community in Toronto. It featured interviews with both former and current members: John Greyson, Phil Hoffman, Sally Lee, Sofia Bohdanovic, Alexi Manis, Cole Forrest and Christina Zeidler.



Photo Credit: Alyssa Bistonath

FUNDRAISING

As we've invested more into our fundraising efforts we have expanded our community of supporters.

During this past fundraising appeal we managed to raise

\$17,311.00 between November 1 and December 31 2019!

CORE FUNDERS



FOUNDATIONS



SPONSOR

HOLLYWOODSUITE



COMMUNITY PARTNERS



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Karl Reinsalu - Technical Coordinator
TJ Ediger - Technical Coordinator
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Fraser Wrighte - Interim Education and Outreach Administrator
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