



## “WIA Vancouver announces B.C.’s Five in Focus: Animation”

Vancouver, August 11, 2018

Today at the Women in Animation (WIA) Vancouver Summit, WIA and Women in View (WIV) announced an ambitious new initiative that will take effective and concrete steps to advance women in animation. With major funding from TELUS and financial support from Telefilm Canada, Canadian Media Producers Association– BC Producers Branch (CMPA-BC) and Creative BC, **B.C.’s Five in Focus: Animation**, will bring together leaders in British Columbia's animation industry to identify five women who will be offered a suite of opportunities and resources, including a budget to create an original animated short.

The five selected for the program will represent the key creative positions in animation: screenwriter, director, producer, art director and animation director – positions in which women are underrepresented. The program will help to significantly advance these women’s careers through extensive mentorship from the WIA community, exposure to a wide-range of industry activities, master classes, pitch training and more. Over the course of a year, the participants will develop and produce an animated short film which will premiere at Spark 2019. Not only will the Five have the experience of making an original film and the all-important credit that goes with it, they will also have the opportunity to attend a major market to pitch with their work and network with industry executives.

“WIA Vancouver is thrilled to be partnering with Women in View to launch *B.C.’s Five in Focus: Animation!*” says Rose-Ann Tisserand, Chair, WIA Vancouver. “It is a unique and ambitious initiative that has been tailor crafted to become a game changer! Five BC women’s careers will advance in a meaningful and strategic way thanks to our passionate and generous supporters: TELUS STORYHIVE, Creative BC, Telefilm, CMPA-BC and industry partner, Spark Animation Conference.”

“B.C.’s Five in Focus: Animation gives women the work opportunities, connections and credits that are key to moving their careers to the next level,” says Jill Golick, Executive Director of Women in View. “We’re thrilled to partner with WIA Vancouver in creating and delivering this excellent program.”

"This edition of Five in Focus was an exciting and unique opportunity to bring local women's stories to the screen," says Kim Guise, director of content at TELUS. "We are excited to help advance the work of homegrown talent and to see the animation they create together."

Unlike advancement projects which call for applicants, **Five in Focus** asks industry leaders to actively search out talented women in their field who they believe deserve greater recognition and opportunities for true advancement. Once nominees for each of the key roles of screenwriter, director, producer, animation director and art director are identified, the finalists will be selected by an esteemed jury of industry professionals

representing the BC animation community. B.C.'s Five in Focus: Animation finalists and jury will be announced in October at Spark 2018.

Launched by Women in View in 2017 as a three-year initiative, Five in Focus was designed to engage media industry leaders in the process of identifying and supporting Canadian women media creators.

"Five in Focus was one of the most professionally gratifying experiences for me," said director Gloria Ui Young Kim, one of the 2017 Five in Focus directors. It was instrumental in helping me sign with an agent as well as getting me in front of producers which resulted in my first TV directing jobs."

In its second year Women in View partnered with Women in Film and Television-Atlantic and Telefilm Canada to turn the spotlight on five women from the Atlantic region. Now, in its third year, with the support of TELUS, Creative BC, Telefilm Canada and CMPA-BC, the program is focusing on West Coast animation talent.

#### Links:

Five in Focus: <http://womeninview.ca/initiatives/five-in-focus/>

Women in View: <http://womeninview.ca/>

Women in Animation: <http://womeninanimation.org>

#### About:

##### Women in View

Women in View is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to strengthening gender and racial diversity in Canadian media both on screen and behind the scenes through a range of initiatives that seek to generate awareness, promote talent and spark dialogue across the full spectrum of production, policy and artistic arenas. The WIV Board of Directors includes women from across Canada working in a broad spectrum of industry roles.

##### Women in Animation

Women in Animation (WIA) envisions a world in which women share fully in the creation, production and rewards of animation, resulting in richer and more diverse entertainment and media that move our culture forward. The mission of WIA is to bring together a global community of animation professionals to empower and support women in the art, science and business of animation by increasing access to resources, creating opportunities for education, encouraging strong connections between individuals, and inspiring excellence.

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