

A world map in shades of purple and blue with glowing white arcs and dots connecting various points across the globe. The text is centered over the map.

EXNW

EAST BY NORTHWEST

JULY 28-30, 2023 · VANCOUVER

GLOBAL SUMMIT PROGRAM

[EXNW.ORG](https://exnw.org)

PRESENTED BY



RACIAL EQUITY SCREEN OFFICE

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EXNW and RESO are grateful to live and work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́ilwətaʔɫ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We thank the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities that have cared for Turtle Island since time immemorial. With this acknowledgment, we remind ourselves of discriminatory, racist, and colonial practices that have and continue to create barriers for Indigenous peoples and communities across Turtle Island.



WELCOME

WELCOME TO EAST BY NORTHWEST (EXNW) GLOBAL SUMMIT'S FIRST EDITION.

The idea of building a connection, pathway or gateway for diverse stories from the West to the East, has been with me for decades waiting for the “right” moment. The idea has stayed with me through many years of struggle and advocacy for greater representation, equity, and access. Tragically, it has taken a global pandemic, the uncovering of mass graves at former residential schools for Indigenous children, the horrific murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and the virulent spikes in anti-Asian hate crimes for the world to start to acknowledge the violent racist acts that Black, Indigenous and racialized communities face daily. We’ve also finally started talking about the screen and entertainment industry’s complicity in perpetuating these stereotypes, and how this directly contributes to these harms.

Amidst this racial reckoning, we are also inspired by the many industry firsts and breakthroughs, from *Everything Everywhere All At Once*, to the tectonic shift towards centering BIPOC narratives and shows. No longer are we waiting for approval or permission to tell our own stories, rather EXNW is the mechanism to build our own table where there is room for us all to connect through our diasporic cultural stories, ties, as we forge new narrative pathways across continents. We stand on the shoulders of giants, when we celebrate these recent boundary pushing works, unimaginable progress, and award wins. In this inaugural year, EXNW celebrates Bruce Lee, the giant of all giants whose global impact on popular culture is still felt 50 years after his death. Through his actions, Bruce exemplified strength, confidence, inclusivity and the attitude that if we aren’t valued, we must build our own space. We are incredibly honoured and excited to have Shannon Lee here as we recognize the Bruce Lee Foundation and her mother Linda Lee Cadwell’s work in preserving his legacy and philosophy of mind, body and spirit.

Brian, Hanna, myself and the RESO Board and team would like to extend an enormous THANK YOU to Bing, Jeremy and the Gold House team for being so generous with their time, resources and networks. We are in awe with all that they do for the AANHPI community, their vision for empowering marginalized voices and investing in new cultural infrastructure; we are so excited and humbled that they chose RESO to be their first Canadian collaboration, and to continue building with them and other partners.

As we write this, our post-pandemic reality is rife with anxiety around climate emergencies, geopolitical instability, and global labour strikes, including in Hollywood. Systemic change is something on everyone’s mind, and underlines the need for reimagining new futures, leaving behind outdated power structures, policies, and stories. This convening of racialized creatives will work to shift from a mindset of scarcity to one of abundance through collaboration and the creation of global business opportunities.

Changing mindsets, structures, and ways of working requires a global village, and strong community. Therefore, we are deeply thankful for the support of all our volunteers, attendees, partners, and funders. We hope that the spirit of EXNW will continue to resonate with everyone long after this summit is over and when we do meet again, so much more progress will be made to entrench a pathway for a East – West flow of ideas, stories and content.

Thank you, welcome, and we can’t wait to grow EXNW together!



Barbara Lee
RESO Founder
EXNW Creator



Brian Pang
RESO Board Member
EXNW Summit Director



Hanna Cho
RESO Interim Executive Director
EXNW Summit Director



A MESSAGE FROM GOLD HOUSE

Gold House is thrilled to join RESO at the first East by Northwest Summit convening diverse, influential, and innovative storytellers and creators to champion equity. By amplifying marginalized voices, sharing diverse narratives, and fostering connections across continents, we can collectively power cultural change and build a more inclusive and representative creative landscape.

We are honored to recognize multi-hyphenate Shannon Lee as the inaugural EXNW Summit Keynote Speaker on the Gold Stage – especially as we mark 50 years of her father Bruce Lee’s legacy and toast the continued success of Shannon’s beloved Max series, *Warrior*.

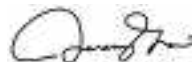
In the past year, from *Everything Everywhere All At Once* at the Oscars to IPOs on the NYSE and NASDAQ, we’ve moved from Asian Pacific community firsts to global industry firsts. EXNW exemplifies and shares our vision that we’re not just fighting for a seat at the table – we are building new houses by breaking systematic ceilings. By distilling and punctuating the Asian Pacific community’s transformative impact on culture, we redefine how we’re seen in society and reimagine what’s possible for all communities.

Thank you for joining us at the inaugural EXNW Summit and continuing to champion this important work.

Cheers,



Bing Chen
CEO & Executive Chairman
Gold House



Jeremy Tran
COO & Executive Director
Gold House

GOLD  HOUSE

ABOUT EXNW

EXNW IS THE FUTURE OF RACIALIZED GLOBAL STORYTELLING AND ENTERTAINMENT ACROSS ALL CONTINENTS.

The Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO) is proud to launch of a new global summit in Vancouver, BC to highlight, elevate, and empower racialized creatives in and across film, tv, streaming, gaming, and animation. East by Northwest (EXNW) is where the creative world comes together to catalyze the development of creative content and storytelling by racialized creators, and create a more inclusive and equitable future.

Attendees will be part of a vibrant new community of producers, funders, agents, talent, executives, policymakers, and through the Summit, be equipped with insights, connections, and imagination needed to launch them into new creative horizons.

EXNW is a groundbreaking gathering and bold step in building a new space for people across multiple sectors to engage with and focus on racialized content producers and creatives, and the unique possibilities for sharing and telling their stories to the world.

RESO is thrilled to partner with Gold House, the leading Asian Pacific cultural ecosystem that unites, invests in, and champions Asian Pacific and other marginalized content creators and companies.

THE OPPORTUNITY

A global summit of this magnitude provides a boundless realm of opportunity for tastemakers, leaders and talent to connect and grow together. As EXNW develops and changes alongside humanity's perpetual motion, we will invest in our communities through programming, talent incubators, and building closed-loop content creation systems for racialized creatives to cultivate their passions, visions and stories within their respective industries and bring them to the world.



GREETINGS



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

July 28–30, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the inaugural East by Northwest (EXNW) Global Summit, hosted by the Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO).

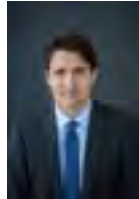
This three-day gathering, offers screen industry professionals across a wide variety of platforms a wonderful form in which to network, share insights and expertise, and explore the challenges and opportunities unique to their experiences.

I would like to commend the organizers for offering a rewarding program for everyone involved. You can take pride in your commitment to promoting excellence, diversity and inclusion in the entertainment industry. With so much on offer, delegates are sure to come away from the experience with a wealth of inspiration for future projects.

Please accept my best wishes for a productive summit.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER DAVID EBY



As Premier of British Columbia, I extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the inaugural East by Northwest (EXNW) Global Summit.

This event brings together individuals with exceptional skills from diverse sectors such as television, streaming, VR, gaming and more. It serves as a catalyst for innovation — fostering collaboration and celebrating the remarkable talent within our communities. EXNW will focus on the development of partnerships for international markets and provide a vital space where creatives can come together to exchange ideas and learn from one another.

The power of storytelling on-screen is profound, inviting us to experience perspectives that differ from our own and broadening our understanding of the world. Organizations like the Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO) play a vital role in centering the voices of racialized creators and offering opportunities to share their unique experience with diverse audiences. Their work not only enriches our cultural fabric and uplifts marginalized voices, but also contributes to a more authentic and equitable landscape for content creation.

To all the attendees, I encourage you to embrace this opportunity fully, to connect, share and be inspired. Your stories matter, and through your creativity and talent, you have the power to shape narratives, challenge perceptions and drive positive change. May the inaugural EXNW be a resounding success, nurturing partnerships, sparking innovation and amplifying the voices that have too often been overlooked.

I wish you all a fruitful and fulfilling gathering.

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY, K.C.
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Artists, content creators and storytellers help pave the way to a more open, inclusive society. Through their stories and creativity, they portray the true value of diversity.

The Government of Canada knows the arts have a critical role to play in ensuring everyone has an equal chance to succeed. We'd like to congratulate everyone involved in the East by Northwest global summit in Vancouver. By bringing together some of the most innovative and creative minds from across a vast array of artistic disciplines, this gathering will help contribute to achieving equity, in Canada and around the world.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, we would like to thank everyone at the Racial Equity Screen Office for their role in bringing this important summit to life.

We wish you a productive and successful summit!

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen



Message from the Honourable Mable Elmore *Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives*

Welcome to East by Northwest (EXNW)! This inaugural global summit is an exciting opportunity to build new pathways for racialized content creators to cultivate their passions, visions and stories. I want to thank the Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO) for its commitment to bringing the perspectives of Indigenous, Black and other people of colour in from the margins to the centre of our communities, where they can be celebrated and appreciated.

It is so important that racialized people have the chance to see themselves represented on and behind the screen, particularly children and youth. Until it is no longer unusual to see our names in the credits, we will have work to do, and this summit is a monumental step forward.

I also want to thank RESO for the work they do year-round. From hosting an annual filmmaking contest to leading workshops, their dedicated efforts are helping to level the playing field for racialized screen industry professionals.

On behalf of Premier David Eby and the Province of British Columbia, I would like to congratulate RESO on launching EXNW in Vancouver. It's wonderful to see an inaugural gathering that celebrates two of our province's greatest strengths—creativity and diversity! I hope this year's event is a resounding success and the first of many more to come!

Kind regards,

Mable Elmore
Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism Initiatives
Province of British Columbia



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 Fax: 604-684-7761

Jenny Kwan
 Member of Parliament for Vancouver East
 République de Vancouver Est

July 7th 2023

Message from Vancouver East MP Jenny Kwan

Dear Friends,

Today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Gold House and the RESO as their hard work and creativity comes together to bring you the East by Northwest Summit.

As MP for Vancouver East I have the honour of representing one of the most diverse ridings in the country, that is also home to the highest number of artists on a per capita basis in the country. We know that on-screen art has the power to sway hearts and minds, and the power to amplify voices from those who are often left behind. Expanding creative opportunities will not only give power to our marginalized friends and neighbours, but it will strengthen the fabric of our community.

At a time of great division, it is important for people of all backgrounds to see themselves reflected on our screens – to be reminded they have a place in our community. Initiatives like EXNW showcase the diversity, empowerment and creativity that make our city great – and I am proud to express my support.

I wish you nothing but the best and success in many more events to come.

Sincerely,



Jenny Kwan
Member of Parliament for Vancouver East

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 THE HON. HEDY PEE, P.C., M.P.
 VANCOUVER CENTRE

Dear Racial Equity Screen Office,

On behalf of my constituents and myself, I extend warm greetings to you and congratulate you on the achievement of the highly anticipated East by North West Global Summit. I commend your organization for spearheading such a significant initiative that will undoubtedly contribute to the advancement of film and collaboration on a global scale.

Vancouver has long been a magnet for talented individuals like yourselves, who bring their unique perspectives and skills, enriching our city with diversity and creativity. The EXNW Summit you are orchestrating will be an opportunity for the exchange of ideas, fostering collaboration, and surfacing innovation. It is through gatherings like these that we can collectively forge a path towards progress.

The power of storytelling portrayed through screens, whether in movies, television shows, or games, cannot be underestimated. Such narratives hold the ability to shape the way people think, challenge existing norms, and create a sense of community.

Moreover, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Racial Equity Screen Office for their collaboration with Gold House. This partnership embodies the essence of inclusivity and equity in the entertainment industry. By joining forces, you have demonstrated a commitment to fostering an environment where all voices are heard, and diverse stories find their rightful place on the screen.

As the EXNW Summit commences, I wish you and all the participants a remarkable and rewarding experience. May the summit be a catalyst for new ideas, fruitful collaborations, and exciting partnerships.

Warm regards,



The Hon. Hedy P.,
P.C., M.P. Vancouver Centre



 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
 of BRITISH COLUMBIA



CONGRATULATIONS

Racial Equity Screen Office



On Your

Collaboration with Gold House to unveil the Gold Stage at East by North West Global Summit

Thanks for all the hard work and dedication to our community



Hon. Niki Sharma
 Member of Legislative Assembly, Vancouver-Hastings
 July 7th, 2023
 Province of British Columbia

A message from Prem Gill, CEO Creative BC

Congratulations from Creative BC to the Racial Equity Screen Office for launching the inaugural East by Northwest Summit!


Creative BC elevates a diverse and dynamic creative sector through leadership, collaboration, and investment in British Columbia. We are proud to support the new EXNW summit dedicated to building new opportunities for racialized creatives to connect with industry leaders, facilitate networking, and catalyze mentorship opportunities.

Together, Creative BC and EXNW share a common intent to open doors for greater inclusion and intersectional representation within the motion picture industry and beyond. As the Province's economic development organization serving B.C.'s creative sector, we recognize this summit offers a significant strategic business opportunity to B.C. creators and the industry in B.C. more broadly. This new summit will support and develop new systems of connection and creativity for diverse creators in B.C. empowering local racialized content creators to connect with industry leaders and their global audience.

Importantly, we recognize EXNW organizers, Vancouver Asian Film Festival, for their ongoing commitment to anti-racism work within the sector through VAFF and the #Elim8Hate campaign. Ensuring representation and inclusion within the creative industries is core to our values, and to the motion picture industry's success and sustainability.

Our sincerest congratulations to the EXNW team for highlighting, facilitating, and designing this innovative platform for racialized creatives and for British Columbia. We are excited to participate in the first annual summit and look forward to many future events.

Sincerely,



Prem Gill
 CEO
 Creative BC



July 28, 2023

Dear Friends,

Please accept my most heartfelt congratulations to the Racial Equity Screen Office on the launch of the inaugural annual East by Northwest summit. I commend EXNW for creating the opportunity for racialized creatives to come together, collaborate, and elevate their voices.

Movies, television, and video games influence the way that people think, feel, interpret, and perceive the world around them, which is what makes this so important. By building a table for racialized creatives, East by Northwest ensures that all Canadian voices have the opportunity to pitch and develop partnerships that will bring their work to international markets.

When all creative voices come together and share ideas, inspire, learn, and collaborate, they drive innovation, and create a more authentic, inclusive, and equitable content industry. I have no doubt that East by Northwest will effectively expand the definition and look of Canadian content to international audiences.

I truly look forward to enjoying the content inspired by the important conversations that will occur over the next few days.

Best wishes,

Taleeb Noormohamed, MP
Vancouver Granville

VIDEO GREETING

Shaun Chen (MP for Scarborough North, Ontario)



Elevate your creative development, and network
with industry leaders in a unique and unforgettable setting.

LUNCH & A PITCH

FRIDAY | July 28

11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Anh and Chi

11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

3388 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V5V 3M7

Phnom Penh

12:30 AM – 1:45 PM

244 E. Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 1Z7

DINNER & A PITCH

FRIDAY | July 28

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

iDen + Quan Ju De Beijing

Duck House

2808 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2V5

Vij's

3106 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2W2

Note: Pitch participants by application, pre-registration required.



FRIDAY, JULY 28: PROGRAM & SPEAKERS

REGISTRATION OPENS

JW Marriott Parq Vancouver · 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

STUDIO TOUR

FEATURING VANCOUVER ENTERTAINMENT STUDIOS

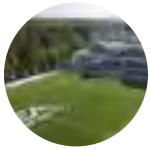
The Studio Tour is an exclusive guide through Vancouver's vibrant film and gaming industry. Discover the creative powerhouses behind the silver screen and the gaming worlds you love. Come to network, engage and feel inspired. Hop on our convenient tour bus for a seamless and immersive experience.



VIRTUAL PRODUCTION HOUSE VANCOUVER / This state-of-the-art studio is at the forefront of virtual production, delivering awe-inspiring visual effects for service commercials, episodic, MOWs, and feature films of all budget levels.



BRIDGE STUDIOS - GRIFFITHS STUDIOS / A longstanding symbol of excellence in the film industry, the Bridge Studios have hosted over 1,000 productions since 1987. Witness the magic of filmmaking and explore the very stages that brought these stories to life.



EA VANCOUVER / Step into the world of interactive entertainment and explore the origin of legendary video games like FIFA, NHL, UFC, Skate, and Apex Legends. Join us and experience the realm where digital athleticism and cutting-edge technology converge.

Tour Bus Pick-Up
at Parq Hotel
FRIDAY

July 28
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Program Partner:

**INVEST
VANCOUVER**

Note: For registered participants and Pass holders only. Limited capacity.

LUNCH & A PITCH

An important part of EXNW is to create spaces for connecting racialized storytellers with decision-makers. This B2B pitch event is geared towards emerging filmmakers and content creators for a valuable chance to meet with studio and production executives at a Michelin recommended Vancouver restaurant. Elevate your creative development, & network with industry leaders in a unique and unforgettable setting.

ANH AND CHI

Anh & Chi, led by a sibling duo, preserves the legacy of their parents' restaurant with a stylish midcentury modern ambiance.



ART BIRZNECK / As an EP, Producer & President of Birchtree Entertainment, Art Birzneck has overseen the acquisition, financing, development, production and worldwide distribution of over 30 feature films, primarily Asian action & martial arts films.

PHNOM PENH

Nestled in Chinatown, this esteemed family-run restaurant has captivated diners since 1985, offering an extensive menu featuring Vietnamese and Cambodian delicacies.



PATRICE RAMSAY / is the Senior Manager, Independent Production at BC's Knowledge Network. She manages the pre-licensing of documentary productions and funding from the Canada Media Fund used to support its primetime and children's programming schedule.

Anh and Chi /
Phnom Penh
FRIDAY

July 28
11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Anh and Chi
11:45 AM – 1:30 PM

Phnom Penh
12:30 AM – 1:45 PM

Program Partner:

VAFF VANCOUVER
ASIAN FILM
FESTIVAL

Note: Pitch participants by application, pre-registration required.

EXNW SUMMIT KICK-OFF + OPENING RECEPTION WITH GOLD HOUSE

EXNW is a platform that bridges the gap between creatives of colour and other underrepresented communities, allowing us to gather, network, share wisdom, and celebrate connections. With EXNW, we are breaking down barriers and creating a new future of racialized global storytelling and entertainment across all continents. For its inaugural year, RESO is so thrilled to partner with Gold House, the leading Asian Pacific cultural ecosystem that unites, invests in, and champions Asian Pacific content and companies. Gold House is a collective of Asian and Pacific Islander creators, founders, and leaders dedicated to forging connections, supporting underrepresented talent, and amplifying Asian cultural influence in mainstream media.

RESO INTRO & EXNW KICK-OFF



BARBARA LEE / has spent over 25 years advocating and organizing events to increase opportunities for Canadian Asian artists in the screen industry. She is the Founder of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF), Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO), EliminateHate.org and co-Founder of the Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM).

TELEFILM WELCOME



BARBARA CHIRINOS / Prior to joining Telefilm Canada, Barbara Chirinos was the Founder and Co-curator of the Vancouver International Film Festival/Film Centre's Black History Month Film Series, celebrating its 11th year in 2023.

REELWORLD WELCOME - CO-SPONSOR



TONYA WILLIAMS / Named one of the 100 most influential Black Canadians by Afroglobal Television in 2022, and Playbacks 2021 Changemaker of the year, Tonya Williams is an award-winning actress and producer who has worked in the entertainment industry for the last 45 years in Canada and the USA.

INVEST VANCOUVER!



LOC DAO / Executive Director of DigiBC - the Creative Technology Association of BC representing over 250 companies and 17,000 people in the video game, animation, VFX, XR, and virtual production industries.

BLACK WOMEN FILM! (BWF) - SPECIAL GUEST DELEGATION



ELLA COOPER / Founder of Black Women Film! Canada, Ella Cooper is an award winning director, producer, multimedia artist, educator and writer born in Montreal and based in Toronto. Her work at Black Women Film has supported over 500 Black women creators across Canada through transformative professional development programs.

GOLD HOUSE WELCOME AND ELEVATING DIVERSE VOICES



BING CHEN / is an impact founder, investor, and new world builder. He is Executive Chairman & Founder of AU Holdings: a family of companies that incubate and invest in multicultural creators, companies, & communities to rebalance socioeconomic equity. He is also Executive Chairman, CEO, and Co-founder of Gold House that powers cultural change by uniting, investing in, and championing Asian Pacific communities.

NETWORKING RECEPTION

Parq Burrard Room

FRIDAY

July 28

3:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Program Partners:



Note: Limited capacity.



DINNER & A PITCH

An important part of EXNW is to create spaces for connecting racialized storytellers with decision-makers. This B2B pitch event is geared towards emerging filmmakers and content creators for a valuable chance to meet with studio and production executives at a Michelin recommended Vancouver restaurant. Elevate your creative development, & network with industry leaders in a unique and unforgettable setting.

IDEN + QUAN JU DE BEIJING DUCK HOUSE

Quan Ju De Beijing Duck House in Vancouver boasts a rich heritage from its original Beijing location dating back to 1864, offering an opulent gold-accented dining space that seamlessly blends classic grandeur with modern design.



JANICE CHUA / is VP of Imagine International. She manages the development and production of local language content in Asia. Prior to that, she was VP of Development and Production Asia at Ivanhoe Pictures where she developed and packaged chinese-language projects for China and, also served as one of the producers on Crazy Rich Asians.

VIJ'S

Vij's, a pioneer of Indian fine dining in North America since 1994, remains a testament to the subcontinent's gastronomic wonders under the guidance of chef and owner Vikram Vij.



BRIAN HAMILTON / has executive produced more than 60 television projects in both scripted and non-scripted genres, representing over 350 hours of broadcast programming, since he joined Omnifilm in 1994. Brian is responsible for Omnifilm's scripted development/production and has executive produced television series for numerous channels.

ZOOM PITCHES



TAKASHI CHENG / is Chief Creative Officer of ChimeTV. He is charged to develop and showcase the best of Asian entertainment in the English language sharing stories, issues, heritage and cultures that are uniquely of Asian experience and perspective that have never before been seen on screen in English only.



GEORGIA SHEARMAN / is a Development Executive for Bell Media's Original Programming department in Toronto, Canada. Georgia works with industry writers and partners on the development of new scripted projects for Bell Media's Original Programming slate.



TRIXIE PACIS / is the Director of Acquisitions, Scheduling, & Original Programming Development at ChimeTV. A Filipina Canadian with over a decade of film industry experience, Trixie is responsible for curating ChimeTV programming that highlights the diverse stories, issues, heritage, and achievements of the AAPI community.

RESO has been working with Global Affairs Canada Trade Commissions across Asia Pacific and will be organizing and facilitating additional virtual meetings between producers and production companies in the Asia Pacific region to develop alternative co-production models.

iDen + Quan Ju De
Beijing Duck House
/ Vij's

FRIDAY

July 28

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Program Partner:



Note: Pitch participants by application, pre-registration required.

Online

FRIDAY

July 28

Time TBD

Program Partner:



Trixie Pacis is available for in-person meetings. Attendees to schedule their own meetings.

Note: Pitch participants by application, pre-registration required.

SATURDAY, JULY 29: PROGRAM & SPEAKERS

BREAKFAST

Gold Stage · 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

OPENING REMARKS & TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

GOOD MORNING

The Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO) is grateful to be working and gathering on the Unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and sə́lilwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) territory also known as Vancouver. We are fortunate to have Elder Larry Grant of the Musqueam Nation here to provide an Indigenous Welcome and Blessing to officially open East by Northwest Global Summit.

WELCOME TO EXNW 2023!



ELDER LARRY GRANT / is of mixed Chinese and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) ancestry. Larry is the Elder-in-Residence at the UBC First Nations House of Learning, is an adjunct professor with the UBC First Nations Endangered Language Program and serves the Musqueam Nation as the Language and Culture Consultant.



BARBARA LEE / has spent over 25 years advocating and organizing events to increase opportunities for Canadian Asian artists in the screen industry. She is the Founder of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF), Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO), EliminateHate.org and co-Founder of the Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM)

GOVERNMENT WELCOME

TALEEB NOORMOHAMED (MP for Vancouver Granville)

CREATIVE BC WELCOME: WELCOME TO BC AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



PREM GILL / CEO of Creative BC. Creative BC is designated by the Province of British Columbia to focus on uniting, sustaining and growing British Columbia's dynamic and diverse creative sector including motion picture, music and sound recording, interactive and digital media, and magazine and book publishing.

CANADA MEDIA FUND INTRODUCTION



MARCIA DOUGLAS / A biracial Filipina Canadian, Marcia Douglas has more than 20 years of experience in the development and production of Canadian screen-based content for traditional and digital platforms and audiences. The Growth and Inclusion team works within CMF and with industry to establish policies and opportunities to foster equity and inclusion, sector development, and promote environmental sustainability.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

8:45 AM – 9:30 AM

Program Partners:



CANADA MEDIA FUND FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

KEYNOTE 1:

GOLD HOUSE KEYNOTE: BUILDING THE GOLD BRIDGE AND RESO: THE CANADIAN CONNECTION

GOLD HOUSE + RESO = GOLD STAGE @ EXNW

Gold House is the leading cultural ecosystem that unites, champions, and invests in Asian Pacific creators and companies to power tomorrow for all. Through a suite of innovative programs and platforms, we power unity through membership systems and community movements to fortify relationships among Asian Pacific communities and with other marginalized communities (#StopAsianHate); investments in the next generation of top Asian Pacific founders, creatives, and social impact leaders (Gold House Ventures, Founder Futures, Creative Futures); and promotion and championship of affirming API narratives and success (Gold Story Consultation, Gold Open, Gold List, A100 List, and Gold Gala).



JEREMY TRAN / is the Executive Director and COO of Gold House, the premier collective of multicultural leaders dedicated to systemically unlocking socioeconomic equity for multicultural communities through unity, investments, and promotion. Gold House transforms the public narrative and mobilizes action through innovative programs that advance API representation and success.

KEYNOTE 2:

WHY VANCOUVER?

Centred around scenic mountains and serene ocean views, Vancouver is known for its abundant natural beauty, but what many people don't know is that it is also known as "THE LOW-CARBON, HIGH-TECH, HYPER CONNECTED, GLOBAL CAPITAL OF THE FUTURE" because within a radius of 10 km you will find hundreds of world-class companies in software, hardware, digital media and games, supported by cutting-edge universities in science, technology, & media.

Ray Walia presents an overview of Why Vancouver needs to be LOUD and PROUD in proclaiming itself to be a leading global hub for film, television, content, gaming, tech, the Metaverse and AR/VR.

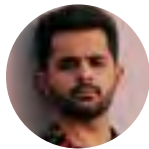


RAY WALIA / Recognized as one of the 500 Most Influential Business Leaders in Vancouver, Canada for 2021 & 2022, Ray Walia is a serial entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience in both the entertainment and technology sectors. Ray founded Launch Ventures which owns and operates a network of proprietary accelerators, innovation labs, and investment funds.

GOLD STAGE AND EXNW STAGE HOSTS



ANDREW CHUNG / is a Writer/Director based in Toronto, Canada. His films, *Ma*, *Lovebites*, and *White Elephant*, have been broadcast on Air Canada, CBC, and the Super Channel. His web series, *Millions*, won him Best Director at the Marseille Web Fest in France.



RITESH MATLANI / is a Surrey-based Queer filmmaker & floral designer. Born and raised in the Middle East, of Indian heritage, he's drawn to stories of how different cultures thrive in a foreign land upon assimilation.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

9:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Program Partners:



Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM

Program Partners:



GOLD STAGE

SESSION 1A:

PROTECTING IP FOR BIPOC CREATIVES

A conversation with Zarqa Nawaz, creator of *Little Mosque on the Prairies* and *Zarqa*. In 2007, Zarqa created the internationally renowned CBC comedy series, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, the world's first sitcom about a Muslim community living in the west. The show premiered to the highest ratings CBC had in over 20 years and went on to win a Gemini, and was nominated for Best Television Series. It was sold to over 120 countries and has now been optioned as a format for an American adaptation. However, Zarqa did not maintain this Intellectual Property and learned a tough lesson that she carries with her on all her subsequent projects. This is a "must attend" for all up and coming racialized creatives with unique IP.



ZARQA NAWAZ / In 2007, Zarqa Nawaz created the internationally renowned CBC comedy series, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. In 2014, she published her best selling comedic memoir, *Laughing All the Way to the Mosque*, and in 2022, her first novel, *Jameela Green Ruins Everything*.



ANGIE BALATA / has spent the last 20 years working in various regions, including the Middle East and Europe, at the intersections of social justice, human rights, the creative industries, and culture.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Program Partners:



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA



EXNW Ball

Saturday, July 29, 2023 | 6:00 pm – Midnight

PARQ HOTEL BALLROOM

39 Smithe Street, Vancouver

Join us for a glittering evening of celebration, culture, and creative futures, at this special inaugural gala.

Get your Pass add-on now!

EXNW.ORG

SESSION 2A:

THE POWER OF INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT - CONVERGENCE, THE POWER OF REPRESENTATION, AND VANCOUVER'S ROLE IN POWERING CHANGE

- Importance of representation in games
- Convergence of games/film & tv
- Why Vancouver is well positioned to lead these areas

MODERATOR



PATRICIA RATULANGI / is VP, Global Communications at Nielsen. She oversees Nielsen's internal and external communications focused on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. She is responsible for proactive external communications around Nielsen's insights on diverse audiences such as the Diverse Intelligence Series.

PANELISTS



WILSON J. TANG / is an artist, designer and entrepreneur working at the forefront of digital media for 20+ years. His work experience spans architecture, film, and video games at companies such as Electronic Arts, Industrial Light & Magic (Lucasfilm) and the mobile game studio Kabam Vancouver (as co-founder).



JOSH NILSON / A Métis man from Northern BC, Josh Nilson has led East SideGames as a founder for the past 12 years. He was recently named Person of the Year as part of BC Tech's Technology Impact Awards in 2022 & is now a member of the BC Innovators Hall of Fame.



CARINA KOM / is a dynamic force behind some of the most vibrant and exciting game projects in Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle, and Los Angeles. She has left her mark as a video game director, producer, and passionate game industry advocate.



TARA MUSTAPHA / is an award-winning, seasoned game designer and producer. Her experience in gaming is vast, as she's worked with studios such as Microsoft, and EA. Her bewitching work doesn't stop there, as she and Code Coven have been recognized for their work by TGA: Future Class, WiG Global and MCV/Develop Awards.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Program Partners:



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA



EXNW SUMMIT KICK-OFF + OPENING RECEPTION WITH GOLD HOUSE

Parq Burrard Room

FRIDAY

July 28

3:30 PM - 6:30 PM

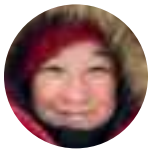


SESSION 3A:

DOCUMENTARY PANEL: THE EMOTIONAL JOURNEY OF DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING

As many documentaries take years and even decades to complete, the filmmaker and subject(s) often develop strong personal friendships during this time. Through this process, documentary filmmakers can become immersed into their subjects' world, which may involve a traumatic recounting of events or delving into negative issues. Uncovering and documenting these often emotionally charged topics can take its toll on everyone involved with the film. This panel brings a spectrum of documentary filmmakers from diverse backgrounds and years of experience to discuss their approach to safeguarding theirs and their subjects' mental health while completing their projects.

MODERATOR



JOANNA WONG / is a Vancouver-born queer Producer and Showrunner with a passion for cross-cultural content. She is a producer with Black Rhino Creative and the co-founder of JUGAAD Sisters, an all women of colour owned Canadian production company.

PANELISTS



BALJIT SANGRA / An award-winning, six-time Leo Award nominee, Baljit Sangra is a Vancouver-based filmmaker who uses documentaries to explore social and cross-cultural issues. Her films shine a light on underrepresented and marginalized voices and stories.



PRIYANKA DESAI / is an award-winning broadcast journalist-turned-TV Producer/Director, who specializes in stories that impact and entertain. Born and raised in Mumbai, India, Priyanka is known for her understanding of diverse cultures across two continents.



THEA LOO / is a producer and director from Vancouver, BC. Her work has played at Sundance, Palm Springs ShortFest, CAAMFest and distributed on TIFF Digital Bell Lightbox and CBC Gem.



KENT DONGUINES / is a Filipino-Canadian narrative and documentary filmmaker based in Vancouver, BC. He is the CEO of Aimer Films Inc. and has produced the award-winning CBC short documentary, *This Ink Runs Deep*, which premiered at the 2019 Toronto International Film Festival.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Program Partners:

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S | **Knowledge Network:**

CITY OF VANCOUVER | Cultural Services

Streams Flow From A River

**YOUR STORY.
YOUR TRUTH.
OUR SUPPORT.**

CANADA MEDIA FUND
FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

cmf-fmc.ca

SESSION 4A:

LUNCH HOUR POWER PRESENTATIONS

Enjoy a delicious lunch while learning about the groundbreaking advocacy work these three organizations – Canadian Independent Screen Fund, Reelworld Institute, and BIPOC TV and Film – are doing to advance racial equity in the screen industry.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



HANNA CHO / is an inveterate convener, cultural strategist, and community advocate. She is passionate about bringing people, ideas, and cultures together. A multidisciplinary cultural producer, she brings nearly two decades of experience from interactive media production, museums, and community engagement to her current role as Interim Executive Director at RESO.

SESSION 4A.I:

REELWORLD INSTITUTE RESEARCH

Tonya will discuss Reelworld’s groundbreaking industry-wide research project addressing stereotypical depictions of Black, Indigenous, Asian and Women of Colour in Canadian film & TV, and the resulting Protocol Guideline that will support creatives, producers & executives on how to better create authentic portrayals of these women.



TONYA WILLIAMS / Named one of the 100 most influential Black Canadians by Afroglobal Television in 2022, and Playbacks 2021 Changemaker of the year, Tonya Williams is an award-winning actress and producer who has worked in the entertainment industry for the last 45 years in Canada and the USA.

SESSION 4A.II:

BILL C-11 & THE BUILDING OF A MORE EQUITABLE BROADCASTING SYSTEM

Bill C-11 is aimed at ensuring popular and profitable social media platforms and streaming services will support Canadian content requirements and regulations comparable to traditional broadcasters and will need to invest in Canadian content and creators. This is the time to have your say in what is to be considered “Canadian Content”. All our stories are Canadian content.



KADON DOUGLAS / BIPOC TV and Film Executive Director, Kadon Douglas has been a leader in advocating for BIPOC creatives in the screen industry and will present why this moment in time is so important to have our voices and opinions heard.

SESSION 4A.III:

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT SCREEN FUND - A FUND FOR US, BY US

Sally Lee will introduce us to the Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC Creators (CISF), the only national fund governed and operated by representatives of the Black and racialized communities being served. Learn how CISF is uniquely positioned to play a crucial role in accelerating and deepening industry-wide efforts to address long-standing systemic inequities for BPOC creators in Canada’s screen-based sector, and the work it has been doing to reach its target of \$20 million annually for an independent fund that is For Us, By Us.



SALLY LEE / is the Executive Director of the Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC Creators and sits on the Boards of Wavelength Music and the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. She is also actively involved in the Advisory Board of the Reel Asian International Film Festival.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

1:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Program Partners:



SUMMIT KEYNOTE:

KEYNOTE: SHANNON LEE: HONOURING 50 YEARS OF BRUCE LEE'S HOLLYWOOD LEGACY

As fans around the world mark the 50th anniversary of Bruce Lee's death, his daughter Shannon Lee will reflect on his legacy, in her keynote presentation for the inaugural EXNW Summit. As executive producer of *Warrior*, Shannon will speak to how the platform for diverse narratives in Hollywood has grown since her father's heyday, and the systemic challenges that still face racialized creators and members of the entertainment industry. She will also share how *Warrior*, with its mostly Asian cast, and producers, makes a reality of Bruce Lee's vision for more complex and authentic portrayals of, and productions led by Asian-Americans, in Hollywood.



SHANNON LEE / is the CEO and Owner of the Bruce Lee Family Companies and Chair of the Bruce Lee Foundation, as well as the daughter of the legendary martial artist and cultural icon, Bruce Lee. Her mission is to provide access to her father's philosophy and life through education and entertainment and be a cause of healing and unity in the world.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29
2:30 PM – 3:15 PM

Program Partner:

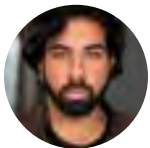


SESSION 5A:

ANIMATION & STORYTELLING

Every successful program whether live action or animation begins with a good story. Recently, there have been many animated TV shows and/or films that have found success first as a comic, then animation or a video game that has then become a live action and then back to an animation. Examples are Spiderman into the Spiderverse and Mario Bros. With the trend to just remake existing IP, what will it take for fresh animated stories to get greenlit? Join our award-winning panelists who talk about all things animation and storytelling through animation.

MODERATOR - TBD



SIDARTHA MURJANI / With eight short films under his belt as a writer, director and producer, Sidartha Murjani's films combine comedy with spiritual wisdom inspired from his inner voice. His film *The Interview* (2019), a film about where does happiness come from, won best short film in the Canadian screen award qualifying film festival, VISAFF.

PANELISTS



WILLIAM LAU / is an award-winning Vancouver director with extensive experience in digital animation and live-action. He has directed over 18 feature-length CG animated films and numerous television episodes for major companies.



JULIE NGUYEN / has nearly 20 years of experience working in children's animation production. She has a deep knowledge and understanding and knowledge of the 2D animation pipeline from script and storyboards, through to animation and post production.



GARY YE / is a director and storyboard artist working in the Vancouver animation industry since 2014. His directing work includes shows like *Agent Elvis* and *Devil May Care*, and he has done storyboard work for shows like *The Last Kids on Earth* and *Star Trek: Lower Decks*.

Gold Stage
SATURDAY

July 29
3:30 PM – 4:15 PM

Program Partners:



CANADA MEDIA FUND FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA



PROGRAM OVERVIEW & MAPS

☐ Included in General Access Pass ☐ Additional Registration Required. Speak to Registration for Information.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

EXNW Registration 11:00 – 5:00 · JW Marriott Parq Vancouver	Studio Tours 11:00 – 4:00 Virtual Production House Vancouver Bridge Studios – Griffiths Studios EA Vancouver
Lunch & A Pitch 11:30 – 2:00 · Anh and Chi / Phnom Penh	
EXNW Summit Kick-off + Opening Reception with Gold House 3:30 – 6:30 · Parq Burrard Room	
Dinner & A Pitch 7:00 – 9:00 · iDen + Quan Ju De Beijing Duck House / Vij's	

SATURDAY, JULY 29

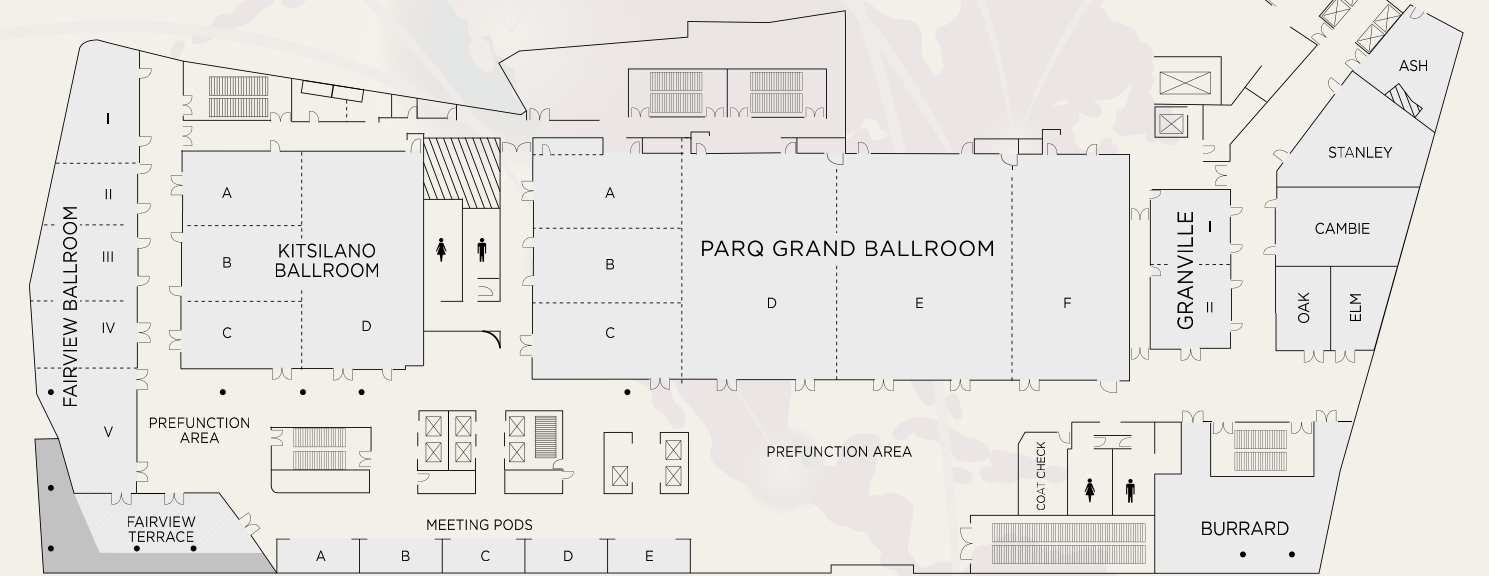
	GOLD STAGE	EXNW STAGE	OTHERS
8 AM	Breakfast 8:00 – 9:00		Breathwork for Creativity 7:30 – 8:30 Parq Terrace
9	Opening Remarks & Territorial Acknowledgement 8:45 – 9:30		Open Networking Spaces 8:00 – 5:00 Parq Stanley Room & Meeting Pods <i>(Free for Attendee Use)</i>
	Gold House Keynote: Building the Gold Bridge & RESO: the Canadian Connection 9:30 – 9:45		
	Keynote: Why Vancouver? 9:45 – 10:00		
10	Protecting IP for BIPOC Creatives 10:15 – 11:00	Shaping the Future with Immersive Technology (VR/AR/XR/Metaverse) 10:15 – 11:00	
11	Coffee Break 11:00 – 11:15 · Main Foyer		
12 PM	The Power of Interactive Entertainment 11:15 – 12:00	Racialized Creatives Working Together 11:15 – 12:45 <i>(Panel & Facilitated Workshop)</i>	
1	Documentary Panel: The Emotional Journey of Documentary Filmmaking 12:15 – 1:00		
2	Lunch Hour Power Presentations: Canadian Independent Screen Fund, Reelworld Institute & BIPOC TV and Film 1:15 – 2:15	Content Creator (TikTok) Panel 1:00 – 2:30	
3	Summit Keynote: Shannon Lee: Honouring 50 Years of Bruce Lee's Hollywood Legacy 2:30 – 3:15	Exporting IP: A Quick Intro to Exporting IP 3:15 – 3:30	
4	Animation & Storytelling 3:30 – 4:15	Making Vancouver a Key Player for Global Film & TV Deals 3:45 – 4:30	
5 PM			
6 PM	EXNW Ball 6:00 – 12:00 · Parq Ballroom		

SUNDAY, JULY 30

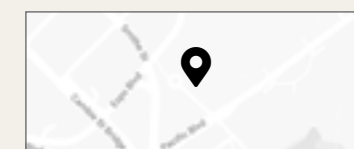
Radical Rest Yoga 9:00 – 10:00 · Parq Terrace
Drag 'N' Dim Sum 10:30 – 2:00 · Floata Seafood Restaurant
Future of AI and Entertainment Featuring Nicholas Ning 11:00 – 11:45 Dim Sum Served 11:45
House of Rice Performance 12:15 Closing Remarks: Future Forward & Grand Finale 1:45 – 2:00

JW MARRIOTT PARQ VANCOUVER - 4TH FLOOR

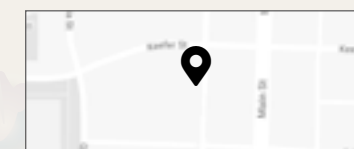
Take the elevator directly to Conference Floor - [CF, 4th Floor]



SESSIONS



4th floor, JW Marriott Parq Vancouver
39 Smithe Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 5E7



Floata Seafood Restaurant
400-180 Keefer Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 4E9

STUDIO TOURS

Virtual Production House Vancouver
110-7858 Hoskins Street
Delta, BC V4G 1M4

Bridge Studios - Griffiths Studios
7705 Griffiths Drive
Burnaby, BC V3N 4P1

EA Vancouver
4330 Sanderson Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 4X1

LUNCH & A PITCH

Anh and Chi
3388 Main Street
Vancouver, BC V5V 3M7

Phnom Penh
244 E. Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6A 1Z7

DINNER & A PITCH

iDen + Quan Ju De Beijing Duck House
2808 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2V5

Vij's
3106 Cambie Street
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2W2

SATURDAY BREATHWORK & SUNDAY YOGA

Parq Terrace
6th Floor, JW Marriott Parq Vancouver
(Outdoor Area by The Victor Restaurant)

EXNW STAGE

SESSION 6B:

SHAPING THE FUTURE WITH IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGY (VR/AR/XR/METaverse)

- Present and future of frontier tech
- Investment and infrastructure
- Why Vancouver is well positioned to lead these areas

MODERATOR



BRIAN PANG / is a Product Development Director at Electronic Arts. He also serves as a lead, advisor, and board member at organizations centered on equity for Asian Americans. Brian is devoted to advocacy for marginalized communities, for-justice initiatives, and systemic improvements to ensure diversity, equity, inclusion.

PANELISTS



RYAN WANG / is recognized globally as a pioneer and leader in the AI, Metaverse, XR, and Web3 industries. He is Co-founder and General Partner of Outpost Capital. In 2020, Ryan co-founded Zebra Labs, a metaverse entertainment company creating new IPs and content with cutting edge technology in gaming and AI.



DAN BURGAR / is a pioneer and influencer in the technology space within the VR/AR/Metaverse industry. He is a Co-Founder at Shape Immersive, a leading innovative VR/AR company that builds 3D and NFT marketplace technology for the world's leading brands.



JULIANA LOH / is the force behind Splash Mango, a creative boutique in Vancouver, Canada. She has worked at the intersection of brand entertainment, games and education and uses human centric design principles to provide a process-oriented framework for discovery.

EXNW Stage

SATURDAY

July 29

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM

Program Partners:



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SESSION 7B:

RACIALIZED CREATIVES WORKING TOGETHER

As the world enters a post pandemic era, and COVID-19 begins to fade in our collective memories, how can BIPOC screen industry organizations continue to advocate and ensure racial equity mandates are committed to and implemented? Now more than ever, BIPOC organizations need to come together to organize, strategize and collaborate to further the gains for racial equity especially with the passing of Bill C-11. This panel discussion will be followed by a facilitated workshop to brainstorm processes and protocols for racialized creatives to work with each other and with Black and Indigenous creatives and then the wider creative community.

MODERATOR



DR. SATWINDER KAUR BAINS / is the Director of the South Asian Studies Institute at the University of the Fraser Valley and an Associate Professor in the School of Culture, Media and Society, College of Arts. She is also the Board Chair of the Knowledge Network.

PANELISTS



SALLY LEE / is the Executive Director of the Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC Creators and sits on the Boards of Wavelength Music and the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. She is actively involved in the Advisory Board of the Reel Asian International Film Festival.



TONYA WILLIAMS / Named one of the 100 most influential Black Canadians by Afroglobal Television in 2022, and Playbacks 2021 Changemaker of the year, Tonya Williams is an award-winning actress and producer who has worked in the entertainment industry for the last forty-five years in Canada and the USA.



NOLAN MCALLISTER / A visionary Métis cinematographer and director from British Columbia, Nolan McAllister has spent the past decade pushing boundaries and redefining storytelling. He pursued advanced training at the renowned American Society of Cinematography to enhance his innate talent.



BARBARA LEE / has spent over 25 years advocating and organizing events to increase opportunities for Canadian Asian artists in the screen industry. She is the Founder of the Vancouver Asian Film Festival (VAFF), Racial Equity Screen Office (RESO), EliminateHate.org and co-Founder of the Mighty Asian Moviemaking Marathon (MAMM).



KADON DOUGLAS / With a reverence for artists and griots coupled with a deep commitment to equity and decolonization, BIPOC TV & Film executive director Kadon Douglas finds her joy in supporting creative talent in building thriving careers.

EXNW Stage

SATURDAY

July 29

11:15 AM – 12:45 PM

Program Partners:



SESSION 8B:

CONTENT CREATOR (TIKTOK) PANEL

I WENT VIRAL. NOW WHAT?

How content creators built a resilient career from a moment. Step into the world of TikTok creators as this panel unravels their early journeys directly from the influencers themselves. We will delve into creators' early days, their transition from fleeting internet fame to enduring careers, and the industry challenges faced along the way. Engage in a dialogue on fostering diversity in content creation, and pick up essential tips on preserving financial and emotional health in this dynamic, constantly-evolving field.

MODERATOR



NATHAN SING / is a journalist, writer and filmmaker. He is a creative producer for STROMBO and the managing editor of The RepresentASIAN Project. Born and raised in Vancouver, Nathan is devoted to creating work that illuminates the complexities behind the food we eat, our connection to the nature that grounds us, the culture that unites us and the systems we power.

PANELISTS



AYLEX THUNDER / is an athlete, musician, and entrepreneur on a mission to providing accessible education to the world. Famous for his viral content in the music, comedy, fashion, badminton, real estate, and luxury lifestyle niches, Aylex has accumulated a following of over 5 million across social platforms.



MICHELLE CHUBB / uses TikTok & Instagram @indigenous_baddie to educate others about Indigenous life and issues while being a first time mom. Through the platforms, she shares her culture, talks about the history of Canada while tackling stereotypes, and encourages others to reconnect with their roots.



MY NGUYEN / is the creator behind @MyHealthyDish on TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube. My develops recipes for wholesome, satisfying food the entire family will enjoy—and as a mother of two, My knows a thing or two about pleasing picky eaters!



SSONIA ONG / is a social media influencer and CEO of Ong Squad Media Inc. She creates wholesome, family-friendly videos on Tiktok, Instagram, and Youtube under the handle @Ongsquad. With her first video filmed in May 2020, she now has nearly 13 million followers and partnerships with brands like Apple, Disney, and McDonald's.



SANDRA 'JEENIE' KWON / is a successful full-time content creator and the founder of Jeenie Media Inc. With a background in the hospitality and airline industries, Jeenie gained popularity on TikTok by sharing entertaining and relatable skits, travel tips, and stories from her time as a flight attendant. Jeenie now manages multiple social media channels with over 20 million followers.

EXNW Stage

SATURDAY

July 29

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Program Partner:



SPECIAL GUESTS



MICHELLE TIANG / With over 20 years of experience in the marketing industry, Michelle Tiang is a Singaporean marketing professional and content creator based in Canada. In her free time, Michelle channels her creative energy into social media, where she has amassed a dedicated following of 1.6 million on TikTok.



MAE BELEN / is a Filipino-Canadian on-camera actor, voice actor, and content creator based in Vancouver, BC. She is most known for her funny, viral TikToks, but has also established her place in the entertainment industry through films, commercials, & collaborations with household names such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Amazon, & Pokémon.



MILTON NG / is a Chinese-Canadian Filmmaker, Content Creator, and Standup Comedian. As a filmmaker, Milton produced his web-series *The Followers* winning Best Directing/Best Comedy at Web Series Festival and *Towel Boy* winning Best Action Comedy at Urban Action Showcase in New York.



MARK Q. / is a Vancouver-based creator on TikTok & Instagram, making light-hearted and humor-driven content. He specializes in creating engaging voice-over style videos revolving around skin care, fitness, and various other lifestyle themes, leading him to partnerships with brands like COSRX and Meridian Grooming.



JOHNNY UNG / is a seasoned entrepreneur with 15 years of experience leading AnimationTech, a trailblazing tech support and computer rental company catering to VFX studios in LA and NYC. Johnny joined his wife @jeenie.weenie in the world of social media and now runs their family channel @the.weenie.family with over 2 million followers.



LASHAAN-RENE TONGE / is a 22-year-old legal student who has always loved anything creative and artistic. Everything changed when she picked up crocheting, posted a progress video of a cardigan, and on Christmas Eve woke up to 50 thousand tiktok followers that continued to grow. She now uses TikTok and Instagram to share her projects, progress, and other parts of her life.

SESSION 9B:

EXPORTING IP: A QUICK INTRODUCTION TO EXPORTING IP

Exporting IP or creative content may seem like a foreign concept to BIPOC creatives, but Joyce Tang, Director of World Trade Centre Vancouver gives a brief overview of the Export process and introduces the exporting program that the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade offers to production companies looking to export their content.



JOYCE TANG / is the Director of World Trade Centre Vancouver, Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. She has 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and business management professional. Her expertise includes process improvement, change management, facilitation, customer service, sales, manufacturing, and negotiation.

EXNW Stage

SATURDAY

July 29

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM

Program Partner:



SESSION 10B:

MAKING VANCOUVER A KEY PLAYER FOR GLOBAL FILM & TV DEALS

As Hollywood North, Vancouver has long enjoyed being the third largest production centre in North America behind only Los Angeles and New York. Despite that, Vancouver is mostly known to be a production service arm for Hollywood, its most desirable characteristic being its ability to pose as any number of cities, including both Los Angeles and New York, to help others tell their stories. With an abundance of infrastructure, lucrative tax credits and one of the deepest talent pools in the world already in place, why is it that creatives here have such a hard time getting their projects made and seen?

Join this panel as screen industry creatives meet venture capitalists to brainstorm in real time about making Vancouver a better place for key creatives to work and create, and giving BC its own voice.



ANDREW OOI / started Echelon Talent Management in 1994. Today, he represents some of the top Asian actors in film and television, including 2-time Golden Horse winner and International Emmy Award nominee Yeo Yann Yann (*Wet Season*, *American Born Chinese*) and 3-time Golden Horse winner Lisa Lu (*Joy Luck Club*, *Crazy Rich Asians*) who is considered a living treasure in China.



OSRIC CHAU / is an actor/producer from Vancouver Canada. He has been a working actor for 20+ years whose work has taken him around the world and across all genres. Over the last 5 years, Osric has produced three feature films and several short films, including one he directed.



DOUGLAS LUI / is a Vancouver-based Venture Partner, actively involved in social and sustainability investment projects in Canada, the US, Asia and Europe. Originally from Hong Kong, Douglas has 25+ years of corporate finance and entrepreneurial experience across media, tech, hospitality and banking industries.



JANICE CHUA / As VP of Imagine International, Janice Chua manages the development and production of local language content in Asia. Prior to that, she was VP of Development and Production Asia at Ivanhoe Pictures where she developed & packaged chinese-language projects for China and, also served as one of the producers on *Crazy Rich Asians*.



SUBI LIANG / is a veteran producer with a media and visual arts background. In 2006, Liang produced her first feature film, *Isabella* winning the Silver Bear for Best Film Music at Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin. In 2010, she produced a Chinese Web series *Four-Night of Strange Tales*, which garnered up to 400 million clicks within two months, breaking records for a Chinese online film.

EXNW Stage
SATURDAY

July 29

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

Program Partners:



EXNW BALL

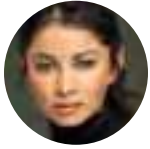
EXNW BALL

Please join us for a glittering evening of celebration, culture, and creative futures, at this special inaugural gala, held at the JW Marriottt Parq Hotel, Vancouver. Mingle with prominent celebrities and stars of both film and television.

This is where Canada's film, media, gaming, animation, and storytelling sectors come together, to celebrate the launch of Canada's new summit for racialized creators.

This is East by Northwest.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



ZARA DURRANI / is a Pakistani Canadian TV host and actress. Her captivating presence and infectious energy have allowed her to work as a television host, actress and content creator around the world. Her show *Life & Style with Zara* was seen nationally on four networks.



YIN WANG / is a multifaceted and promising young actor, whose magnetic charisma and charm leaves a lasting impact on everyone he meets. Yin was recently cast in Netflix's sci-fi thriller *3-Body Problem*, directed by the renowned Oscar-nominated filmmaker, Derek Tsang.

EXNW BALL DINNER & AWARD CEREMONY

Film/TV/Content Creation/Tech/AR/VR/Gaming

The EXNW Global Connector Award is a prestigious accolade that celebrates individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions to advancing creative talent in the global entertainment industry. This award was established with the purpose of acknowledging exemplary and sustained leadership, innovation, and trailblazing efforts within various sectors of the Global Entertainment industry that promote greater equity for underrepresented communities. By acknowledging and amplifying their achievements, we hope to motivate and inspire others to embrace their ability to be "Role Models" and actively contribute to creating a more equitable and representative future for creatives from indigenous, Black and racialized communities worldwide.

The global entertainment landscape encompasses a wide range of creative industries, including but not limited to film, television, broadcast, streaming, digital media, interactive and mobile platforms, M&E production, music, video games and eSports, sports, print, publishing, and eBooks.

AWARDEES

- Joshua Nilson, CEO and co-founder of East Side Games (ESG)
- Poping Auyeung, Casting Director
- Tonya Willams, Founder and Executive Director of Reelworld Screen Institute
- Andrew Ooi, CEO of Echelon Talent Management
- Bruce Lee Foundation, Shannon Lee

Parq Ballroom

SATURDAY

July 29

6:00 PM – 12:00 AM

EXNW Ball - Fashion Shoot

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Grand Staircase

EXNW Reception

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Parq Ballroom Foyer

EXNW Ball Dinner & Award Ceremony

7:30 PM – 10:00 PM

EXNW Ball - DJ Dance

10:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Note: Ball attendance requires Pass add-on.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVATIONS

BREATHWORK FOR CREATIVITY

Awaken your senses and embrace the day with our Morning Breath Work Practice with Steph Keldani from Human Potential Academy. This revitalizing session is thoughtfully designed to leave you feeling refreshed, creatively inspired, and ready to forge meaningful connections. Unblock your creativity by attuning to the sensations in your body, unlocking the flow of energy and unleashing your innate potential. Join us on this transformative journey as we breathe new life into your morning, empowering you to create and connect with a renewed sense of vitality.

Parq Terrace
SATURDAY

July 29

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

OPEN NETWORKING SPACES

Engage with industry colleagues and leaders, build valuable professional connections, or extend conversations and discussions beyond our sessions with EXNW attendees, speakers and guests.

Parq Stanley Room
& Meeting Pods

SATURDAY

July 29

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Free for attendee use.



Global News Hour at 6

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SUNDAY, JULY 30: PROGRAM & SPEAKERS

RADICAL REST YOGA

Embark on a restorative journey of healing and liberation with “Radical Rest Yoga” with IreneYogaFlow. This class redefines yoga as a powerful practice that breaks free from systemic oppression, fostering true empowerment and inner growth. In our fast-paced and demanding modern lives, we are conditioned to believe that productivity defines our life purpose, leaving us disconnected from our true selves. As a Movement Guide, Irene holds a trauma-informed space where racial justice and spiritual feminism inform every aspect of the yoga experience. Regardless of your level, join us in this inclusive and empowering session to reconnect with yourself, nourish your spirit, and embrace a path of authentic transformation.

Parq Terrace

SUNDAY

July 30

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Limited yoga mats available, bring your own if you can!

DRAG ‘N’ DIM SUM

Experience the ultimate fusion of technology, entertainment, and culinary delights at AI Unleashed: Drag ‘N’ Dim Sum Extravaganza! Join us at Floata Seafood Restaurant for an unforgettable event featuring guest speaker Nicholas Ning, Founder & CEO of Farpoint, discussing the future of AI, captivating drag performances by House of Rice, and a delectable meal. Reserve your spot & be a part of this extraordinary celebration!

Floata Seafood

Restaurant

SUNDAY

July 30

10:30 AM – 2:00 PM

SESSION 11C:

FUTURE OF AI AND ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING NICHOLAS NING

Artificial intelligence or AI is the hottest topic these days in every sector and every industry including the screen industry. However, there is also a lot of fear surrounding its potential to wreck havoc onto the world, and creatives like screenwriters are worried that they will become obsolete.

Come out to listen to Nicholas Ning, a rising star in the AI world and Founder of Farpoint and GPTea newsletter (Subscribe if you haven’t for daily AI updates).



NICHOLAS NING / is a serial entrepreneur with a background in robotics engineering and business management. He is best known as the founder and CEO of Farpoint, an AI consulting firm helping companies across traditional sectors leverage AI to unlock potential and transform work with an AI-assisted workforce.

FOLLOWED BY DRAG PERFORMANCES: HOUSE OF RICE

Vancouver drag family House of Rice brings unabashed Asian pride to the city’s drag scene.

CLOSING REMARKS: FUTURE FORWARD & GRAND FINALE

BARBARA LEE (RESO Founder, Creator of EXNW)

Future of AI & Entertainment Featuring Nicholas Ning

11:00 PM – 11:45 PM

Dim Sum Served

11:45 AM

Ft. House of Rice

12:15 PM

Closing Remarks: Future Forward & Grand Finale

1:45 PM – 2:00 PM

Program Partners:



Note: Requires Pass add-on.

HOUSE OF RICE

Vancouver's drag family brings unabashed Asian pride to the city's drag scene.



DRAG 'N' DIM SUM

Sunday, July 30 · 10:30am - 2:00pm · Floata Seafood Restaurant

Get your Pass add-on now!

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RESO BOARD & EXNW TEAM

RESO BOARD



Barbara Lee



Brian Pang



Andrew Chung



Ying Wang



Pezhman Hadavi

EXNW TEAM

Barbara Lee
RESO Founder, Creator of EXNW

Hanna Cho
RESO Interim Executive Director

Brian Pang
RESO Board, EXNW Director

Bing Chen
Gold House Co-Founder,
EXNW Advisor

Jeremy Tran
Gold House Co-Founder,
EXNW Advisor

Selena Shiu
Event Producer

Andy Chu
EXNW Ball and Fashion Show
Producer

Lucy Lei
Event Planner

Karl Chen
Event Planner

Nathan Sing
EXNW Outreach & Researcher

Nico Soule
Marketing, Media Manager

Caitlin Alinsod
RESO Administrative Assistant,
EXNW Social Media Coordinator

Regina Leung
Operations Support

Alister Lee
UX Designer, Web Developer

Cissy Yuan
UX Designer, Web Developer

Pocket Sun
EXNW Ball Co-Chair, Program
Advisor

Vivian Chan
Program Advisor

Osrice Chau
Program Advisor

Yvonne Chapman
Fashion Design Advisor

Jolie Chan
Fashion Advisor and Venue Decor

Clement Lau
Program Advisor

Karen Leung
Sr. Graphic Designer

Evelyn Tindjau
Graphic Design

Alisha Weng
Photography, Graphic Design

Grace Chiang
Stage Manager and Speaker
Coordinator

Digital Marketing Support
Sijia Cheng
Lianne Downey
Kyra Priestman
Bryce Downey

Julia Vu
Guest Coordinator

Event Support
Amy Tsai
Landa Shaji
Vincent Gan
General Event Volunteers

RACIAL EQUITY SCREEN OFFICE (RESO) MANDATE



RESO is a Vancouver-based national office that focuses on the distinct nature of the immigrant diaspora and the opportunities, realities, and stories that live within our communities and our lived experiences. RESO is founded on the core principle of collaboration to address the culture of scarcity within governmental funding bodies. Its mandate is to elevate diverse stories told through our diasporic migrant lens, advocate for equitable funding for racialized Canadian content creators, and develop greater business opportunities and markets for content from racialized communities in and outside of Canada through export.

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