



SPARK CG & Women in Animation Announce WIA Diversity Awards

**Inaugural WIA Diversity Awards will be presented in three categories at
SPARK ANIMATION 2017 in Vancouver, Canada this October**

VANCOUVER, CANADA (July 13, 2017) — Spark Computer Graphics Society (Spark CG) and Women in Animation (WIA) are pleased to announce the inaugural WIA Diversity Awards which will be presented at SPARK ANIMATION 2017 taking place from October 26th to October 29th, 2017 in Vancouver, Canada.

Established to celebrate outstanding contributions to diversity and inclusion in the animation industry, the inaugural WIA Diversity Awards will be awarded in three categories: to an organization, to an individual and to a film. The WIA Board will select the winners of the organization and individual categories. The winner of the film category will be selected from SPARK ANIMATION 2017 festival submissions by the Festival Jury, which will be announced shortly.

In its ninth year, SPARK ANIMATION is the largest animation conference and festival in Western Canada. SPARK ANIMATION is a partnership of Vancouver ACM SIGGRAPH and Spark CG. The festival would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors: Creative BC, Bardel Entertainment, Bron Animation, Capilano University, Vancouver Film School, DLA Piper, DHX Media, Sony Pictures Imageworks, Campbell River Creative Industries, CMPA, Scalar Decisions and MetaPipe with community support from ACM SIGGRAPH. "Spark CG has always been a supporter of diversity," says Marina Antunes, Festival Director for SPARK ANIMATION, "and we are pleased to support WIA on their "50-50 by 2025" initiative by presenting the WIA Diversity Awards at this year's festival."

"WIA's commitment to bringing balance to creative leadership in the animation industry is built upon a foundation of inclusivity, and we aspire to create a working culture in which diverse talent can thrive and share their stories. We advocate for an inclusive rather than exclusive community of artists and filmmakers," explains WIA Co-President Marge Dean. "We are thrilled to inaugurate the WIA Diversity Awards at Spark Festival 2017 with like minds. Sly Provencher and the team at SPARK are such great supporters of diversity and inclusion. The power of animation is more than just making audiences laugh. It's about having filmmakers of all kinds share stories to make a better and safer world," adds Jinko Gotoh, Secretary of WIA.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions are currently open for SPARK ANIMATION 2017. The festival is very proud of the diversity it provides, ensuring a mix of animation styles, a diaspora of cultures, languages and a wide range of storytelling from CG, the traditional to the abstract. Regular submission deadline is September 1st, 2017 while the extended deadline is September 11th, 2017. For more information and to submit a film, visit the Festival Submission page at <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/SPARKANIMATION>

ABOUT SPARK ANIMATION 2017

SPARK ANIMATION 2017 runs October 26th to 29th, 2017 in Vancouver, Canada. The event includes a film festival, conference, business symposium, career fair & exhibition, and artist expo. Festival screenings, conference and business symposium announcements are forthcoming. The job fair runs Saturday and Sunday, October 28th and 29th, 2017. For more information visit <http://sparkanimation.ca/>

ABOUT SPARK CG

Founded to promote and foster Vancouver's computer graphics community, Spark CG Society has been organizing the SPARK ANIMATION and SPARK FX (visual effects) conferences & festivals since 2008. In addition to the two yearly signature events, Spark CG also hosts events which attract internationally renowned speakers and local industry professionals. In an effort to serve and support the dynamic local animation and computer graphics community, Spark CG is constantly highlighting leading artistic and technological advancements through conferences, film festivals, and events that provide insight into the evolution and latest techniques in animation and visual effects.

QUICK LINKS

WEBSITE: <http://sparkfx.ca/>

FACEBOOK: <https://facebook.com/SparkCG>

TWITTER: [#SPARK2017](https://www.twitter.com/SparkCGS) <https://www.twitter.com/SparkCGS>

LINKEDIN: <http://linkedin.sparkcg.ca/>

INSTAGRAM: <https://instagram.com/SparkCG>

Media Contact:

Marina Antunes, Festival Director

marina@sparkcg.ca

SPARK CG SOCIETY PRESENTS...



ABOUT WOMEN IN ANIMATION (WIA)

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. For more information or to join WIA, please visit <http://www.womeninanimation.org>.

QUICK LINKS

WEBSITE: <http://womeninanimation.org/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/wia.animation/>

TWITTER: https://twitter.com/wia_animation <https://www.twitter.com/SparkCGS>

LINKEDIN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/6432334/>

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/wia_animation/

Media Contact:

Fumi Kitahara, PR Chair for WIA

fumi@theprkitchen.com