

# IFEA WORLD BOARD



The IFEA's 61st Annual Convention, Expo & Retreat just held at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort and Spa this past September in Tucson, Arizona was a resounding success as a result of your support and engagement!

Thank you for taking the time out of your crazy schedules to join us and allow friends and colleagues from our industry to benefit from your expertise and wisdom. Kudos to all of the members of the IFEA World Board and IFEA Foundation Board for the guidance and support provided to Steve Schmader and his 'dream team' for a spectacular industry gathering.

The 2016 Convention crystallized how important festivals and events can be for the economic sustainability and for the social fabric of any city, big and small. I have the honor of leading such a strategic process for Canada's Capital in 2017 as we celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Canadian Confederation.

Ottawa is on the cusp of a transformative year. Our whole country is. We're building on Canada's "cool factor" with a renewed, refreshing image of who we are. On the international

scene, our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, is leading the way, and we at #Ottawa2017 and our Mayor, Jim Watson, are keeping step to ensure that Ottawa shines brightly as we welcome Canadians and visitors from all over the world.

Next year will be about celebrating our past and igniting our future. It will be about sharing. Sharing our stories and values. Sharing our culture and experiences. Sharing our hopes and dreams for the future and sparking the imagination of a generation with memories that will last a lifetime.

We all came out of the 2016 IFEA Convention boosted by new ideas and a renewed sense of inspiration. Let's make sure we transform such positive energy in tangible actions to grow the profile and recognition of our industry as essential pillars in building of our communities.

This will be my last communication as Chairman of the IFEA World Board as I pass on "flamme" to our beloved Stephen King, Executive Director at the Des Moines Arts Festival in Des Moines, Iowa, who, I am sure, will guide us to new horizons.

It was an honor and a privilege to assist in leading our unique organization over the last 12 months.

"Merci pour cette merveilleuse expérience!!"

**GUY LAFLAMME**

2016 IFEA World Board Chair  
Executive Director, Ottawa 2017  
Professor, Telfer Executive  
MPA Program, University of  
Ottawa ON, Canada