maxine bailey is a deeply committed member of Toronto’s arts community. For 18 years, maxine served as the Vice-President of Advancement at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), creating critical opportunities for women in film and raising awareness about the systemic barriers facing women filmmakers, script writers and producers.

maxine was the principal liaison and chief fundraiser for the organization’s government partners, donors, and members in their support of TIFF’s festivals and year-round programming. She is particularly proud of founding Share Her Journey, TIFF’s five year commitment to achieving gender parity both behind and in front of the camera.

Launched in 2017, Share Her Journey has already driven significant change at TIFF. The 2018 Festival showcased a record number of films by women directors — 121 in total. And, over 100 women filmmakers have participated in Share Her Journey programming.

Prior to TIFF, maxine worked in theatre. Recently, Sistahs, an award-winning play she co-wrote, was remounted to critical acclaim. An active representative in arts and community-based projects, maxine co-founded the Black Artists Network in Dialogue (BAND), which showcases black cultural contributions nationally and internationally.

A committed volunteer, maxine has served on the advisory boards and steering committees of the Toronto Arts Council/Foundation Advocacy Committee; ArtsVote; the City of Toronto’s Film, Television and Digital Media Board; The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery Board; and, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund. A voracious reader, maxine sat on the jury for the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize and was recently named one of NOW Toronto’s Local Heroes.

Through her initiatives at TIFF and beyond, maxine’s efforts have provided real opportunities for women in Canada, and around the world, to share their stories and be heard. maxine’s unwavering commitment to gender and racial equity is paving the way for women in film to assume their rightful spotlight.