

## New chair for Melbourne International Film Festival

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MIFF 2019 Media Centre



Teresa Zolnierkiewicz (left)  
Claire Dobbin (right)

Teresa Zolnierkiewicz has been appointed Chair of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), following Claire Dobbin AM who steps down from the role this month.

The festival and its board acknowledge the immense contribution that Claire Dobbin has made – both as a Board Member and as Chair - to the festival's growth and success as a Melbourne cultural icon and the Southern Hemisphere's largest film festival.

"I have been privileged to serve as both Board Member and Chair of MIFF and now I am delighted to be passing the baton to Teresa and the dynamic MIFF board and management," Dobbin said. "MIFF is a revered event that is just shy of turning 70 - a giant achievement on a global level. During my time at MIFF I've seen the evolution from celluloid to digital and the continuous growth of the festival under the direction of a number of talented artistic directors."

Teresa Zolnierkiewicz joined the MIFF board in 2016. Previously Head of Philanthropy at ANZ, Zolnierkiewicz more recently co-founded *filantropia* – a consultancy that provides strategic advice and guidance to private philanthropists, as well as to companies wanting to engage with them. She is an experienced representative on a number of charitable foundation boards and has served as director and advisor to various not-for-profit organisations.

"To chair MIFF is an enormous privilege and one which I do not take lightly," Zolnierkiewicz said. "I commit to approaching this work with passion, responsibility and humility with MIFF's talented Board and Management."

"On behalf of the festival's Board and staff, I thank Claire for all that she has achieved for MIFF," Zolnierkiewicz added. "Claire worked tirelessly to position MIFF as the world's largest showcase of Australian cinema, a powerhouse of talent development via the MIFF Industry programs and MIFF Premiere Fund, and a much-loved festival of the best of contemporary cinema – all of which is deeply adored by our loyal audience. I also acknowledge and thank outgoing Board Members Sam Mostyn and Dennis Tomaras for their valuable contributions and welcome to the Board, Ms Jirra Harvey and Dr Andrew Lu OAM."

An Industry Fellow of Indigenous Enterprise and Innovation at RMIT University, Jirra Harvey is also the founder of Kalinya Communications – an agency that promotes the voices of First Nations people through communications strategy, brand development and event design.

A partner with law firm HBA Legal, Dr Andrew Lu has substantial experience representing the insurance industry, health practitioners and government; as well as serving as a non-executive director of the Arts Law Centre of Australia, Australian Youth Orchestra and the National Gallery of Australia Foundation.