

CONCORDIA

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

concordia.ca

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

Charmaine Lyn, Senior Director
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 4863
Email: Charmaine.Lyn@concordia.ca

Jennifer Dorner, Manager
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 7030
Email: Jennifer.Dorner@concordia.ca

Susan Edey, Senior Coordinator
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 4803
Email: Susan.Edey@concordia.ca

Alex Megelas, Programs and Communications Coordinator
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 4893
Email: Alex.Megelas@concordia.ca

Lina Shoumarova, Administrative Assistant
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 5840
Email: Lina.Shoumarova@concordia.ca

Sandra Margolian, Associate Coordinator
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 4867
Email: S.Margolian@concordia.ca

Geneviève Sioui, Indigenous Community
Engagement Coordinator
Phone: 514-848-2424 ext 8968
Email: Genevieve.Sioui@concordia.ca

Marcus Bankuti, Promotions Assistant
Email: Gordon.Bankuti@concordia.ca

We would also like to recognize our former colleagues Leslie Goldstein and Emma Haraké, whose contributions were a valuable part of our work this year.

LOCATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

1550 De Maisonneuve Blvd. W., GM-801
Montreal, QC, H3G 1N2

514-848-2424 ext 5840
communityengagement@concordia.ca

concordia.ca/offices/oce
facebook.com/ConcordiaCommunityEngagement
facebook.com/UnivCafe
Twitter: [@univcafe](https://twitter.com/univcafe)

Satellite sites

The OCE is committed to basing its work out of community. As such, you can also find us at:

Bâtiment 7
1900 Le Ber Street
Montreal, QC, H3K 2A4

L'Esplanade
5605 De Gaspé Avenue
Montreal, QC, H2T 2A4

If you'd like to meet us at one of these locations, please get in touch beforehand.



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Office of Community Engagement acknowledges that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters we now call Montreal. Tiohtiá:ke (Montreal) is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

This territorial acknowledgement was adopted on February 16, 2017.

For more info: concordia.ca/about/indigenous/territorial-acknowledgement

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THE YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been marked by a proliferation of new initiatives and collaborations and an intentional deepening of our engagement with existing partners. The OCE's capacity for impact continues to exceed our modest size, thanks to the ongoing renewal of our relationships with community stakeholders. We are proud that our work helps to position Concordia as an accessible institutional partner in Montreal, creating tangible avenues for learning while advancing several of the University's strategic directions.

A key priority for Concordia is exemplified by the Indigenous Directions Action Plan. Launched in April 2018, the Action Plan advances the University's efforts to decolonize and Indigenize. This document sets out the practices and principles of reciprocity and respect that our office upholds in our relationships with external and community stakeholders, and we commit ourselves to those values with respect to the Action Plan. We are proud of our ongoing and deepening work in this area, led by Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator Geneviève Sioui, and we invite you to learn more in our section on Indigenous engagement on page 8.

One example of the OCE's alignment with the Action Plan's objectives was our support of StartUP Nations, a multi-day conference on social and collective entrepreneurship for Indigenous youth from across the province, which returned to Concordia in May for its second edition. We see this return as a signal of the trust we've developed with our partner, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission. This trust enabled us to work with our partner to integrate Concordia student participation in the program. Our Office developed, coordinated, and secured funding positions for six student mentors who supported the youth teams throughout their time on campus. Participants got personalized guidance and support from Indigenous students at Concordia, and the University contributed directly to the initiative's mission of empowerment.

Another major highlight this year was the launch of Concordia's on-site partnership with Bâtiment 7, a resident-led community hub in Pointe-Saint-Charles, where we have an anchored presence led by Programs and Communications Coordinator Alex Megelas. We facilitated the introduction of new entities to the ecosystem and collaborated broadly with existing initiatives. This involved identifying and developing opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate with the community for hands-on learning and mutually beneficial research arising from community-identified needs. The site also hosted three events during the fall 2018 season of our flagship University of the Streets Café series of public conversations. You can find more on our work with Bâtiment 7 on page 12.



I'm pleased to report that effective July 2019, the OCE reporting lines moved from University Advancement into the Office of the Provost. This move signals the increasing connection of community engagement efforts to the University's academic priorities of research, teaching, and learning. We are eager to build upon the work we have already been doing with diverse units within the provost's portfolio around experiential learning, Indigenous Directions, cities, and social

transformation. The year ahead will certainly bring more growth and development, and we are delighted to welcome Jennifer Dorner as OCE manager effective fall 2019. Jennifer is an engaged community activist, a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, a member of the Canada Council for the Arts, and was previously director of Concordia's FOFA Gallery.

We are heartened by the growing and layered impact of our work over the past year as we continue to root ourselves at the intersection of community and institutional commitments to the social good. We welcome and challenge you to join us in imagining new and exciting ways to create meaningful change through partnership.

Charmaine Lyn
Senior Director, Office of Community Engagement

THE OCE AND WHAT IT DOES

The OCE exists in the rich and fertile landscape of community-engaged teaching, research, and action that is Concordia University.

Our work is grounded in commitments to equity, accessibility, inclusivity, reciprocity, humility, accountability, responsiveness, transparency, and social justice. We reflect these values through our commitment to accessibility, community-based education, and challenging power divides.

As a bridging initiative, the Office of Community Engagement supports, connects, and promotes mutually beneficial partnerships between the University and larger communities. The OCE contributes to Concordia's Embrace the City strategic direction and strives to connect Concordians to a broad slate of community resources. We spearhead a number of initiatives, including the Living Knowledge events and research project, the University of the Streets Café series of public conversations, the partnership with Bâtiment 7, and other emerging collaborations held in conjunction with both internal and community-based partners. We also assist community stakeholders, be they local non-profits or informal citizen coalitions, in accessing University resources—our researchers, engaged students, and facilities.

The OCE draws on critical pedagogy and decolonization theory as we approach our work through a commitment to mitigating unintended impacts by understanding how our actions carry implicit power dynamics and are situated in complex contexts. In that regard, our actions are first and foremost informed by community leadership and our commitment to neighbourhood-based engagement. Our team leads social impact projects, engages in popular education, and brings together people from different backgrounds to enable powerful and reflective actions.

OBJECTIVES & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Office of Community Engagement's (OCE) mandate is to develop and support meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships between the University and the diverse communities of Montreal.

HOW WE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

We connect faculty, staff, and students with members of the wider Montreal community.

We promote community-led initiatives and community-based knowledge through our networks and media platforms.

We support new and ongoing community engagement efforts with financial assistance, award applications assistance, and discounts on campus space rentals for non-profit community events.

We build partnerships by taking part in the planning and design of community engagement projects. This can include financial support, promotion, facilities discounts, and making strategic introductions.

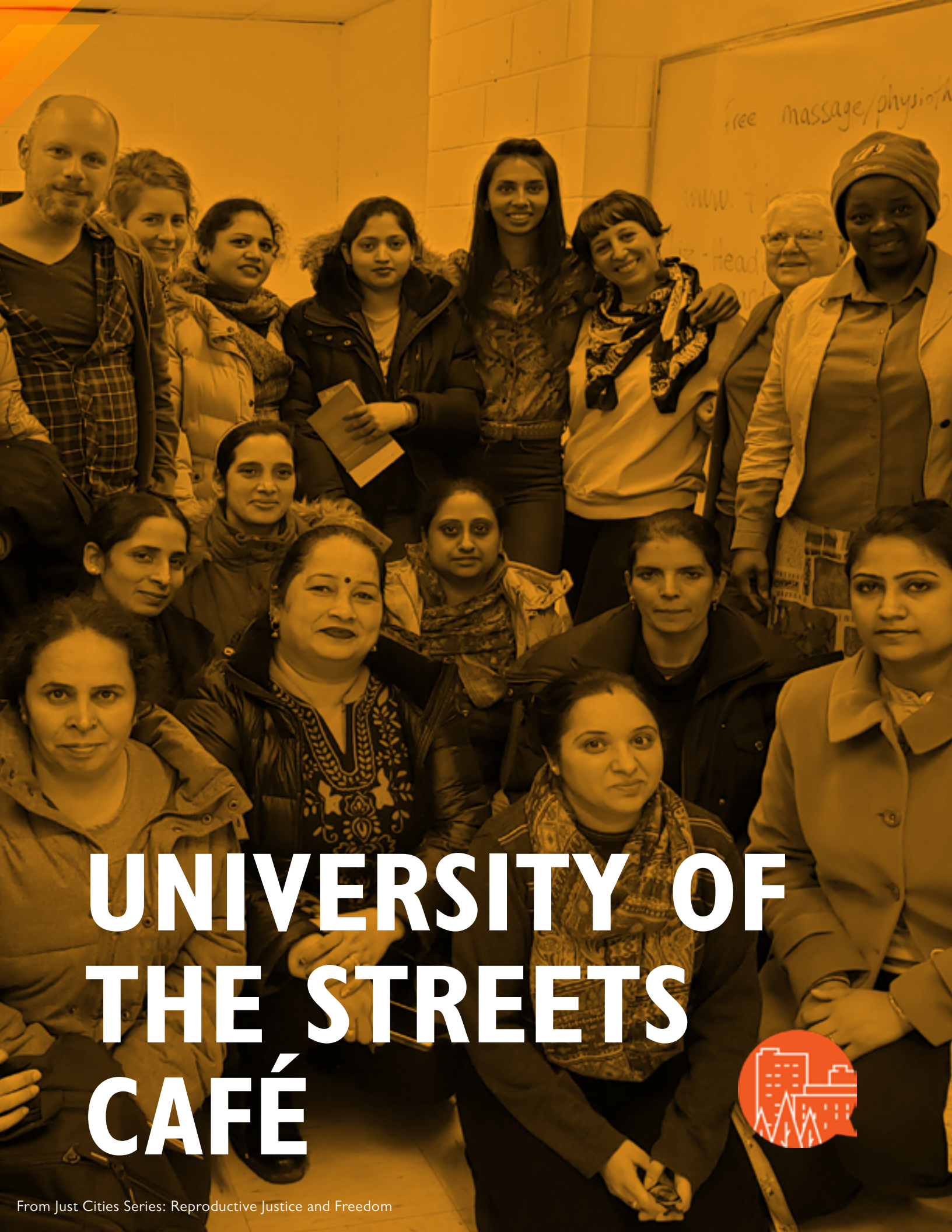
We experiment by co-creating and developing ambitious and innovative programs with community-led organizations and groups.

We also place a concerted focus on the **cultivation of relationships**, including with Indigenous communities. In this respect we are fully engaged in Concordia's Indigenous Directions.

Concordia's Strategic Direction #7: Embrace the City, Embrace the World Achieve public impact through research and learning

Community and public engagement are deeply rooted in the Concordia identity. In addition to the impact of our ongoing commitment to providing accessible advanced education, Concordia faculty, staff, and students affect the city and the world by mobilizing around important contemporary issues, bringing their understanding, expertise, and commitment with them.

By identifying specific domains for intervention, developing appropriate partnerships, and then focusing our research and teaching on the targeted issues, we can amplify our impact and become a more effective agent of change with respect to the major challenges of our times.



UNIVERSITY OF THE STREETS CAFÉ



JUST CITIES — JUSTE VILLES

University of the Streets Café organizes bilingual, public conversations in community spaces across Montreal, allowing us to embed ourselves in local work and organizing efforts.

Since its inception in 2003, the program has focused on creating welcoming spaces where diverse groups of citizens can gather to share their unique experiences and perspectives on issues they would like to address or have experienced firsthand. To date, we have organized close to 500 public conversations in cafés and community spaces across Montreal.

We believe that the simple act of talking with one another provides an incredible opportunity for growth, empowerment, community-building, and social change. With this in mind, the programming we offer is about real-time, people-centred, face-to-face, public conversations. As a flagship program of the Office of Community Engagement, the bilingual events organized by University of the Streets Café are free and open to participants of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of education.

Our 2018–2019 season flowed from the theme of Just Cities, revealing the connections between inequity and the negotiation of physical space in urban contexts. By understanding cities as a fundamental unit of experience, we were able to explore some of society's most encompassing issues while fostering the exchange of community-grounded knowledge, oftentimes providing an outlet to those affected negatively by systemic initiatives framed as beneficial.

We were privileged to situate ourselves in community spaces across four Montreal neighbourhoods, each associated with a different set of lived realities. Each venue's unique character played a substantial role in shaping the tone and direction of our conversations and helped us advance our goal of expanding the meaning of education.

We held a total of 12 events during our 2018–2019 season, bringing together nine moderators, 33 guest speakers, and hundreds of participants. We held series of conversations on community autonomy at Pointe-Saint-Charles community space Bâtiment 7 and at NDG youth organisation Head & Hands. We were anchored in the Concordia downtown Art Hive for a series on institutional accessibility and featured a three-part collaboration with Park Extension's Afrique au féminin and the Tiger Lotus Co-op, through which we examined how national healthcare realities manifest at a local level for communities facing a deficit of social power.

Coordinated by Alex Megelas.

Safe for Whom/Safe from Whom?

This conversation provided a forum in which to discuss the prevalence and impact of racial profiling by police and others. Stories shared by guests and participants included personal experiences and multigenerational perspectives, helping to put the question into a local historical context.

Venue: Head & Hands is an NDG-based organization focused on a holistic, non-judgmental approach to the physical and mental well-being of youth.

Reproductive Justice and Freedom

Each of the three events held in collaboration with Afrique au féminin and the Tiger Lotus Co-op focused on healthcare availability and featured extensive translation, facilitating the inclusion of local community members not yet fluent in English or French, many of whom expressed obstacles to obtaining healthcare services. This conversation examined barriers and limits to reproductive rights and services, including access to alternative forms of care.

Venue: Afrique au féminin, based out of Centre William-Hingston, is a Park Extension community organization serving new immigrant women.

School and Oppression

This conversation spurred participants to ask whether post-secondary institutions live up to the concept of education as a means of personal and social empowerment or if institutional needs and priorities can lead to the imposition of values and practices without regard to reciprocal benefit. It reflected our program's emphasis on reflecting on the meaning and value of education.

Venue: Concordia University Art Hives, part of a larger Art Hive network, is a downtown-based inclusive community art studio dedicated to creating opportunities for dialogue. These conversations touched on art, therapy, and education.

Date	Question-Topic	Venue	Moderator	Guests
September 26	Why Not in My Backyard?: How can we build solidarity movements in our neighbourhood?	Head & Hands	Liz Singh	Jessica Quijano, Fred Burrill
October 2	Public Art, Private Spaces: How do art and artists change our cities for the worse?	Bâtiment 7	Emma Haraké	Nico Williams, Mélanie Binette, Guillaume Adjutor Provost, Rahul Varma
October 24	The Intent vs. the Impact of Youth Protection: What is our responsibility to youth in care?	Head & Hands	Jayne Malenfant	Arisha Khan, Marcelle Partouche Gutierrez
October 30	Social Mixing or Social Exclusion?: Should people with money decide what our neighbourhoods look like?	Bâtiment 7	Michelle Duchesneau	Hassan El Asri, Eduardo Della Foresta
November 28	Safe for Whom/Safe from Whom: How does profiling affect community safety?	Head & Hands	Ralph of Head & Hands	Rachelle Rose, Karl Thomas
December 4	Beyond Lip Service to Inclusion: How do we meaningfully make room for those we aim to support?	Bâtiment 7	Zeina Allouche	Nicolas Delisle, Stéphanie Gendron, Wayne Robinson
February 5	Whose Art? Our Art!: How could art meaningfully contribute to social justice struggles?	Art Hives	Emma Haraké	Johnny El-Hage, Salima Punjani, Jane Reväe McWhirter
February 21	Profit and Medicine: How can we resist private interests in our healthcare system?	Afrique au féminin	Leonora Gangadeen-King	Sonia Osorio, Hirut Melaku, Rose Ngo Ndjel
March 5	Unheard Voices and Mental Health: How do public policies stigmatize mental health and chronic conditions?	Art Hives	Rehab Mahmoud	Tiffany Ashoona, Motunrayo Oyelohunnu, Ellen Smallwood
March 21	Reproductive Justice & Freedom: How can we dismantle barriers to reproductive rights?	Afrique au féminin	Courtney Kirkby	Vincia Herbert, Liz of Head and Hands, Millie Tresierra
April 9	School and Oppression: How does post-secondary education reinforce domination?	Art Hives	Michelle Duchesneau	Michelle Smith, Leslie nikole, Emanuel Guay
April 25	Access to Care: Is healthcare a right or a privilege?	Afrique au féminin	Leonora Gangadeen-King	Anne-Marie Bellemare, Adina Ungureanu, Gytana The NuNu Specialist



INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT



StartUP Nations Participants.



A graphic representation of principles and values of the Youth Network Chair. (<http://www.chairejeunesse.ca>)

STARTUP NATIONS

COLLECTIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS YOUTH

For a second year, Concordia University played a key role as a partner of StartUP Nations. This initiative of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission was hosted on campus from May 23–25, 2019. Its objective is to support a new generation of Indigenous social and collective entrepreneurs through intensive workshops and conferences. This year's edition brought together 30 youth from eight Indigenous communities across the province, including Quebec City, Mashteuiatsh, Mistissini, Manawan, Uashat-Maliotenam, Ekuanitshit, Pessamit, and Listuguj.

The programming was designed to equip participants with the tools and competencies needed to make a positive impact in their communities through social enterprise. Each team arrived with a project that was the focus of their activities, and the conference culminated in a Dragons' Den-themed pitch, during which teams received feedback from subject matter experts.

The OCE led the mobilization of staff, students, and faculty members to ensure the best possible experience for participants. These efforts ranged from the provision of space to promoting an overall positive experience at Concordia by hiring one graduate student and five undergraduates to act as student mentors to the teams.

Coordinated by Geneviève Sioui.

For more about StartUP Nations or to find a full list of partners, visit concordia.ca/about/community/events/startup-nations

PARTNERSHIPS

CANADIAN ROOTS EXCHANGE

The OCE's Indigenous community engagement coordinator brought two Concordia students to the Youth Gathering in Saskatoon in November 2018. These students led a workshop on how to be an Indigenous ally that was attended by 30 participants. Our office also funded the attendance of two youth and an animator from Press Start Youth Cooperative in Pointe-Saint-Charles and accompanied them to the conference, leading to an emerging relationship between Press Start and CRE.

MONTREAL INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY NETWORK

Our office supported the creation of the Indigenous Ally Toolkit, an initiative of the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK that outlines how an individual can approach the task of being a good ally to Indigenous peoples. On April 3, 2019, our Indigenous community engagement coordinator took part in a public conference at Esplanade to mark its launch.

YOUTH NETWORK CHAIR

The OCE is supporting the work of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis stream of Youth Network Chair: Pathways towards youth autonomy and fulfilment in a transforming society, funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture and the Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec. Led by Prof. Natasha Blanchet-Cohen, the cross-institutional and community-based research network began working in 2018 and will continue over a six-year term. Our office is facilitating access to Concordia space and the development of synergies between the University and communities. We are also supporting experiential learning and professional opportunities for our Indigenous students and co-developing training on topics such as group facilitation and capacity building.

Coordinated by Geneviève Sioui.



Uhu Labos Nomades Creative Spirit workshop.



Inuit carving during First Voices Week.

EVENTS

FPST 341 – GLOBALIZATION AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (NOV. 2018)

Our office provided coordinating and financial support for this First Peoples Studies course taught by part-time lecturer Ioana Radu. We facilitated research collaboration between Ioana and her students and the City of Montreal's Commissioner for Indigenous Relations to access the City's archives. The students met with the lead archivist to dig out news clips that highlight Indigenous presence in Montreal. The course culminated with interactive student presentations.

CREATIVE SPIRIT (JAN. – FEB. 2019)

This was a series of four on-campus workshops initiated by two Indigenous organizations, Native Montreal and Uhu Labos Nomades, teaching the creation of visual effects in video games to Montreal-based Indigenous youth. The OCE funded the hiring of a workshop assistant and lab technician and assisted with logistics support and contributed to activity costs. Our office also coordinated a visit to the studio of Jason Lewis, professor of Computational Arts in the Department of Design and Computational Arts.

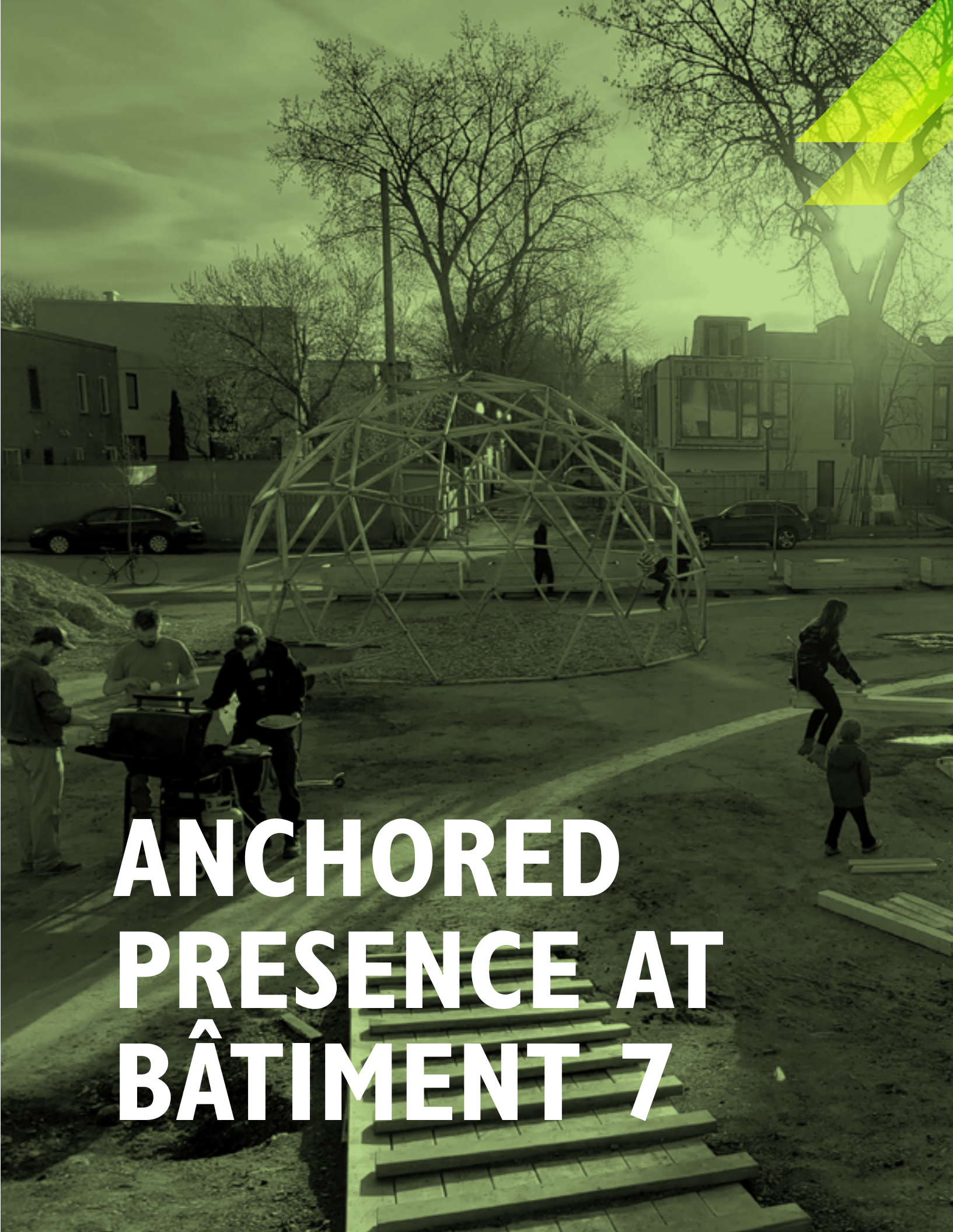
FIRST VOICES WEEK (FEB. 2019)

The OCE provided organizational and financial support to this student-led, week-long celebration of Indigenous Peoples and facilitated collaboration with Indigenous community partners.

FPST 497 - PROSEMINAR COURSE (MAR. 2019)

The OCE provided financial support for Prof. Louellyn White in organizing an educational visit for students to Kahnawake. Students learned about land sustainability and animal tracking with a community Knowledge Keeper.

Coordinated by Geneviève Sioui.



ANCHORED
PRESENCE AT
BÂTIMENT 7

ANCHORED PRESENCE AT BÂTIMENT 7

In August 2018, Concordia finalized a partnership with Bâtiment 7, a resident-led initiative in Pointe-Saint-Charles. This partnership takes the form of a three-year anchored presence to facilitate the emergence of a broad range of community-university collaborations.

Located on former CN lands, this heritage industrial site has been reclaimed and is now emerging as a unique model of collectively governed, citizen-led community organizing. Home to 16 locally led initiatives, Bâtiment 7 includes a broad range of community-run cooperative businesses and arts and non-profit organizations.

Bâtiment 7 is an integral aspect of a neighbourhood that has been a crucible of resident-led community initiatives. As a successful, large-scale project, Bâtiment 7 inspires ongoing reflections on the role and impacts of such institutions in evolving urban spaces.

The OCE has been instrumental in facilitating the introduction of a broad range of initiatives on site, including the recruitment of new projects into the Bâtiment 7 ecosystem such as the Tiger Lotus Co-op, a cooperative of alternative health practitioners, and Abjad Howse, which supports the emergence of Montreal artists of Arabic descent.



Hangin' out in front of Bâtiment 7.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

The anchored, on-site presence at Bâtiment 7 has presented opportunities for research and programs through which the University can apply its city-based educational commitment.

PRESS START COOP

Funding support provided by the OCE paid honoraria to artists performing at Hip Hop as Resistance, an event organized by the Press Start Coop and held on site. The OCE also assumed travel and registration costs for two youth members of Press Start and one youth animator of St. Columba House to attend the Canadian Roots Exchange National Youth Gathering in Saskatoon.

DESIGN CHARRETTE

A multidisciplinary design charrette was designed and led by professors Carmela Cucuzzella and Alice Jarry (Computational Design), Gregg Hetherington (Anthropology), and Shauna Janssen (Institute for Urban Futures). Twenty-five undergraduate and graduate students took part in the three-day charrette, leading to a final presentation at Concordia's 4th SPACE. The OCE assumed all production costs for this activity.

NEEDS-ASSESSMENT AND WORKSHOPS

Further supported instances include the production of on-site needs-assessment research conducted by Emma Haraké (MA, Art Education) and workshops led by Eduardo Della Foresta (MFA candidate, Studio Arts) in collaboration with Bâtiment 7-based Sidetracks, a silkscreening collective.

CONCORDIA CENTRE FOR CREATIVE RE-USE

The CUCCR, a student-led initiative dedicated to reducing waste, provided Bâtiment 7 with equipment and furniture with an estimated value of \$2000. The OCE gifted \$750 to CUCCR in exchange for this donation.

COMMUNITY COMPASS

Five students spent a week on a broad range of maintenance projects as part of the Dean of Students Office's Community Compass alternative spring break program.

The partnership with Bâtiment 7 is supported by the OCE in conjunction with the Office of Research and SHIFT.

Coordinated by Alex Megelas and Charmaine Lyn.



INITIATIVES

LIVING KNOWLEDGE EVENT SERIES

The Living Knowledge community of practice brings together faculty, staff, and students who share a passion for community-engaged scholarship, with the goal of creating connections, sharing ideas, and strengthening our collective practice.

During the 2018–2019 academic year, the OCE hosted two lunch-time Living Knowledge events. In the winter semester, we used the case studies of the Community-Based Action Research (CBAR) Network and the Critical Feminist Action Research (C-FAR) project as a starting point to consider

solidarity approaches to research and the role that post-secondary education can play in neighbourhood-based rights advocacy.

In spring, participants were invited to consider the role that project staff play in the execution of large research partnerships and to explore how the University might better support this work. Key challenges and potential solutions were identified.

Coordinated by Susan Edey.

Date	Question	Guest(s)	
January 21	City-Based Research: How can research meaningfully contribute to community?	Faiz Abhuani Meghan Gagliardi	Annick Gold Alex Megelas Naomi Nichols
May 2	Research as a Team Sport: What does it take for large research partnerships to succeed?	Constance Lafontaine Kim Sawchuk Kathryn Urbaniak Mark Watson Nally Weetaluktuk	



Screen shot of Embrace the City Map.

EMBRACE THE CITY MAP

For over three years, the OCE led an institutional effort to map Concordia's city-engaged initiatives, identified as a key objective in the Embrace the City strategy prepared in fall 2015 as part of Concordia's Strategic Directions plan. This year, the map was brought to fruition, going live in January 2019 and being introduced at an event with the Cities Cluster at 4th SPACE.

This online interactive map showcases the wide array of projects that Concordians are undertaking across the City of Montreal in collaboration with city constituents. The goal is to share information, inspire new connections, and clarify pathways for individuals and groups wishing to get involved in the initiatives that are already underway.

At the project's outset, the OCE convened a working group of faculty and staff from District 3, the Office of Research, University Communications Service, and Instructional and Information Technology Services. Our office oversaw brainstorming and prototyping and hired Plank Design to develop the tool. More recently, we coordinated finalizing development with Plank by participating in quality assurance testing and debugging. Coordination of the map is being transferred to Cities Cluster in acknowledgment of its strategic alignment with their priorities.

Coordinated by Susan Edey.

CONCORDIA'S PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

Concordia's Public Art Collection was brought to life over 50 years ago with the integration of painted glass windows by Jean McEwen into the newly built Henry F. Hall building at Sir George Williams University, one of Concordia's founding institutions. Today the collection features over 40 artists and is presented across Concordia's two campuses on building facades, city sidewalks, in tunnels, and in numerous atria.

The eclectic collection is a compilation of donations, commissions, and works created during the rapid expansion of the University since 2000, thanks to the Ministère de la culture et des communications and the Politique d'intégration des arts à l'architecture program. From First People's artwork and mid-20th century stained glass to renowned contemporary artists, the collection is open to the public for free year-round. This project promotes open access to arts and culture and is a natural extension of the OCE and its mission.

Coordinated by Sandra Margolian.

To see our entire collection online and plan your visit, consult our Public Art website at concordia.ca/arts/public-art. For a city-guided tour see Art Public Montreal (artpublicmontreal.ca). Take the Montreal, City of Culture and Knowledge tour in the Golden Square Mile and its museums.



The kinetic sculpture by Walter Fuhrer called *Transcendance* is one of 20 artworks commissioned by the House of Seagram for the Expo 67 World's Fair and was donated to Loyola College in 1968. It was recently completely restored, including the rotating centre sphere, which is functional between May and November.

MAX STERN ART RESTITUTION PROJECT

A social justice project at its core, the Max Stern Art Restitution Project, which had its beginnings over 12 years ago, continues to be internationally renowned. It is a coordinated effort of government agencies, educational institutions, museums, collectors, and members of the art trade who are committed to resolving the injustices caused by Nazi cultural policies forced upon the Jewish German gallerist Max Stern during WWII.

After being forced to close his art gallery and sell the contents at Auktion 392 of Lempertz Auction House in 1937, Max Stern was able to flee and resettle in Canada, where he rebuilt his life and opened the Dominion Gallery in Montreal.

During the archiving of his estate documents, it was learned that he sought restitution of artworks from his private collection seized by the Gestapo. While he had some success in recovering a few pieces, the majority of his property was never returned.

Committed to continuing where he had left off, the executors of his estate and university beneficiaries (Concordia University, McGill University, and Hebrew University Jerusalem) established the Max Stern Art Restitution Project. It was agreed that the moral and financial imperatives underlying this cause were worth pursuing as long as necessary. Twenty artworks have thus far been recovered. This year's most recent recoveries are *Storm at Sea* by Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek, *Stormy Sea* by Martinus Schoumann, and *Happy Family in Garden* by Otto Heichert.

Coordinated by Sandra Margolian.



Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek, *Storm at Sea*.

The Max Stern Art Restitution website was created to help further research and to track the development of the project and recovery. concordia.ca/arts/max-stern



Shift Centre for Social Transformation Design Session Consultation.

SHIFT CENTRE FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation is being created to support existing and emerging social transformation initiatives that unite the efforts of Concordians and their partners with the goal of creating a more just, inclusive, and broadly prosperous Montreal.

OCE team members served on the SHIFT Interim Leadership Team (ILT), which was tasked with preparing the ground for the launch of SHIFT. This included ensuring the broad engagement of the Concordia community in the development of the Centre. The ILT oversaw the emergence of a mission, vision, and set of values for the Centre, which were incorporated in the leadership and governance structures it drafted.

In addition to participating in the ILT, OCE staff were part of a project team that worked intensively to operationalize ILT recommendations and to design and deliver multiple consultations in Spring 2019 to gather input from a diverse range of internal and external stakeholders. The project team integrated input into the plan for SHIFT's pilot year.

Facilitated by Charmaine Lyn and Susan Edey.



Enable Montreal workshop.

INCLUSIVE INNOVATION GUIDE

In 2018, the OCE collaborated with several partners to deliver Enable Montreal, a non-competitive design challenge that provided a forum for the co-creation of solutions towards an inclusive and accessible city for people living with physical disabilities.

To document key learnings from this complex project, the OCE published a living document called the [Inclusive Innovation Guide](#). It distills what our office discovered by navigating a steep learning curve and applies it to the prioritization of accessibility at a wide range of events. We benefited from the input of steering committee partners, including Maison de l'innovation sociale, District 3, and the Critical Disability Studies Working Group.

By sharing this document with key partners in the field of social innovation, we hope to expand the legacy of Enable Montreal by placing accessibility at the heart of innovation in Montreal.

Coordinated by Susan Edey.



William Hingston Centre in Park Extension.

COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION RESEARCH (CBAR) NETWORK IN PARK EXTENSION

Park Extension is a dense, culturally diverse area, home to some 33,000 Montreal residents. This past year, the OCE continued its collaboration with Park Extension residents, community organizers, and researchers from various universities through the Community-Based Action Research (CBAR) Network, which seeks to apply resident engagement, equity, and social justice commitments to research-anchored undertakings.

OCE staff supported the drafting of analytical pieces and participated in conferences relating to the Park Extension context while contributing to a range of CBAR initiatives. This includes the creation of an anti-eviction mapping project, a collaboration with the Comité d'action de Parc-Extension (CAPE) in gathering data and stories from residents in an effort to provide a framework for subsequent mobilization actions.

Participants in the CBAR Network also provided support to Brique par brique, a community-based housing initiative that seeks to counter displacement and promote housing self-determination.

The OCE coordinated and facilitated five CBAR meetings last year, including three at the William Hingston Centre and two at the Alliance des communautés culturelles pour l'égalité dans la santé et les services sociaux (ACCÉSSS), a provincial network that advocates for access to health services for ethnocultural communities.

Coordinated by Alex Megelas.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

THE (TED) LITTLE PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORAL HISTORY PERFORMANCE AND CREATION

The OCE would like to congratulate Shahrzad Arshadi, the first ever recipient of the Little Prize, awarded in fall 2018.

The (Ted) Little Prize is presented annually to a community-affiliated researcher or artist of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling (COHDS) at Concordia. The award honours Prof. Ted Little, chair of the Department of Theatre and former board member of COHDS.

Prof. Little was a dedicated contributor to community-engaged scholarship and was a core member of the Right to the City, which brought students from theatre, history, art history, and communications into place-based learning environments in the nearby neighbourhood of Pointe-Saint-Charles. He retired in 2017 after 19 years at Concordia.

Steven High, professor in the Department of History, worked with the Office of Community Engagement and Advancement and Alumni Relations to establish a prize in Prof. Little's name through Concordia's annual Community Campaign.



Shahrzad Arshadi, first recipient of the (Ted) Little Prize.

SPACE SHARING POLICY

WELCOME TO CONCORDIA

Through its space sharing policy, the Office of Community Engagement is proud to partner with Concordia's Hospitality team to offer discounted rental rates to small, not-for-profit community organizations as well as students, staff, and faculty members who engage external communities in their activities. During the past year, over \$2500 of fees were waived under this policy towards the fee accessibility of Concordia spaces to community groups.

Events held at Concordia-affiliated spaces as part of our space sharing policy include LEARN Quebec's Remix Ed unconference (October 2018), a meeting of Community Campus Engage Canada (November 2018), and Youth Stars Foundation's Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium (November 2018), and Montreal Hip Hop Town Hall Conference (February 2019). We also provided meeting and workshop space for Youth Network Chair: Pathways toward youth autonomy and fulfillment in a transforming society, and Native Montreal.

The Office of Community Engagement continued to strengthen its relationships with non-profit Indigenous organizations by facilitating full-time space for ten people from the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK and Canadian Roots Exchange from summer 2018 through January 2019 at Temps Libre, a Mile End co-working space of which Concordia is the founding institutional partner. This partnership contributed to community capacity building and Concordia's reconciliation efforts.

Coordinated by Susan Edey, Sandra Margolian, Geneviève Sioui, and Charmaine Lyn.



Hip Hop Town Hall Conference, Youth Stars Foundation.



Remix Ed Unconference, LEARN Quebec.



FFAR 250 Dance workshop with Zab Mabongoue of Compagnie Nyata-Nyata.

EVENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Office of Community Engagement is regularly approached to take part in a variety of community engagement initiatives invested in promoting positive social change. These initiatives are diverse in nature and require different types of involvement on the part of the OCE and/or Concordia. In 2018–2019, we were proud to support the following:

CREATIVE VIDEO DAY SUMMER CAMP (JUNE – JULY 2019)

In two-week sessions, this day camp introduces creative youth to digital art, particularly aspects of filmmaking. The OCE sponsored students from Verdun Elementary School who would not otherwise have been able to afford the camp.

FAMILY INFORMATION FAIR (SEPT. 2018)

The OCE provided catering for this daylong event, which connected students with children to services they need. It was hosted at Concordia and organized by Familles centre-ville in collaboration with Concordia University Student Parents Centre and the McGill Family Care Program.

POP MONTREAL / LEANNE BETASAMOSAKE-SIMPSON (SEPT. 2018)

The OCE co-presented and sponsored this POP Symposium artist talk featuring Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, a Michi Saagiig Nishnaa-beg writer, musician, and academic, alongside Moe Clark, a Métis multidisciplinary artist.

SPARKING MIYEU PIMATISHIWIN (OCT. 2018)

This Métis Kitchen Table Talk contemplated critical art discourse and Indigenous value systems as well as the power of curation in combating colonization and racism. The OCE provided funding and co-presented the event with the Department of Art History.

INUIT CARVERS / SCUL 210 (NOV. 2018)

The OCE sponsored this workshop coordinated by Eduardo Della Foresta, MFA candidate (Sculpture and Ceramics) in Studio Arts at Concordia University, for students of SCUL 210. Abelie Napartuk Jr. and Simiuni Nayya, two Inuit carvers, visited the class to give a demonstration of stone carving to approximately 17 undergraduate students.

ZAB MABONGUE COMPAGNIE NYATA-NYATA / FFAR 250 (OCT. – NOV. 2018)

The OCE sponsored this pedagogic program for Concordia students around a work created by Compagnie Nyata-Nyata. It included a dance workshop, drumming masterclass, and guest lecture in Associate Prof. MJ Thompson's FFAR 250 class.

LANDSCAPE OF HOPE (NOV. 2018)

Landscape of Hope is a youth-led digital art initiative that aims to help marginalized groups to express their experiences with hate, discrimination, and bullying through multimedia. The OCE covered travel expenses for Associate Professors Vivek Venkatesh and Owen Chapman to perform at the Arctic Pride Festival in Norway.

PROTESTS AND PEDAGOGY (JAN. – FEB. 2019)

This 10-day series of events commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Sir George Williams Affair, a sit-in at one of Concordia's founding institutions in protest of discriminatory pedagogical practices. The OCE provided financial support.

CHAMPAINT: RACE AND PEDAGOGY (FEB. 2019)

This event took place at Heads & Hands on two consecutive days and complemented the main programming of Protests and Pedagogy. Thirty-five participants discussed navigating systemic barriers that impact racialized students and expressed themselves on this theme through painting. The OCE furnished the event with art supplies.

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND BOARDS & COMMITTEES





Launch of the Indigenous Ally Toolkit.



Members of the Indigenous Directions Leadership Group.

PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCES

“SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN AND HOMELESSNESS: VECTORS OF INVISIBILITY,” CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (SEPT. 2018)

The OCE's Geneviève Sioui facilitated a table at this event, which featured community organizations, academics, and community members in an effort to identify opportunities for concrete action.

COMMUNITY CAMPUS ENGAGE CANADA, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (NOV. 2018)

On November 5, 2018, the OCE's Charmaine Lyn presented Concordia's approach to community engagement at a gathering of the CCEC held at Concordia University.

“DESIGNING PARTNERSHIPS THAT WORK: CANADIAN PERSPECTIVES,” ASHOKA U EXCHANGE (FEB. 2019)

The OCE's Charmaine Lyn presented in San Diego with representatives of Vancouver Island University, Simon Fraser University, and HEC Montréal, sharing perspectives on how to develop meaningful, impactful, reciprocal, and sustainable partnerships between post-secondary institutions and their external communities.

“HOW TO BE AN ALLY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES?,” L'ESPLANADE (APR. 2019)

The OCE's Geneviève Sioui presented at the launch of the Indigenous Ally Toolkit at Esplanade in Montreal with Vicky Boldo, Leilani Shaw, Kortanie Ray, and Allison Reid of the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK.

“BEST PRACTICES FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,” CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (MAY 2019)

The OCE's Charmaine Lyn and Geneviève Sioui presented on the topic of best practices in Indigenous community engagement at the Faculty of Fine Arts Faculty Council meeting.

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE POUR L'AVANCEMENT DES SCIENCES (ACFAS) CONGRESS, GATINEAU (MAY 2019)

The OCE's Geneviève Sioui presented a talk titled “Accompagner la décolonisation dans l'environnement éducatif collégial: Trousse d'outils pour les alliées aux luttes autochtones” with Vicky Boldo and Brooke Deer of the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK at the 87th ACFAS Congress.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Members of the OCE team contribute their time to governance boards and standing committees in Montreal neighbourhoods and internally at the University. This participation is an important way for us to connect with stakeholders and community partners.

INDIGENOUS DIRECTIONS LEADERSHIP GROUP (IDLG)

Charmaine Lyn and Geneviève Sioui are both members of the University's IDLG, which leads the decolonization and Indigenization of Concordia.

4TH SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charmaine Lyn served as a member of the committee that advised on the emergence of Concordia's 4th SPACE, which opened in January 2019.

COMITÉ DES PARTENAIRES, MAISON DE L'INNOVATION SOCIALE

Charmaine Lyn represents Concordia at this committee, which brings together a broad range of partners working with the Maison d'innovation sociale.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

Charmaine Lyn represents the OCE at this University committee.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Susan Edey represents the OCE at this committee of the Office of the VP Partnerships and Experiential Learning.

PARC-EXTENSION ANTI-EVICTION MAPPING PROJECT COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Alex Megelas is a member of the advisory board of this CBAR initiative.

SHIFT INTERIM LEADERSHIP TEAM

Charmaine Lyn and Susan Edey served as members of the leadership team dedicated to preparing the successful launch of the SHIFT Centre for Social Transformation.

PETER-MCGILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL STEERING COMMITTEE

Susan Edey represents Concordia at this committee of the Peter McGill Community Council's Collective Impact Project, supported by Centraide du Grand Montréal.

WESTHAVEN NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMITTEE

Susan Edey represents Concordia at this standing committee of the NDG Community Council.

WORKING GROUP ON THE CREATION OF A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT CONCORDIA

Geneviève Sioui takes part in this working group that has members from across the University.



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As a current PhD student in Concordia's English Department, I'm grateful that the University co-sponsored Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's conversation with Moe Clark at POP Montreal and facilitated our attendance to her concert that same evening. Simpson, as cultural critic and poet, is an important figure in my dissertation research. Being able to learn from her in person and to experience her powerful multidisciplinary art practice is not only inspiring but invaluable to a deeper understanding of her work.

Jesse Ruddock, attendee, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson in Conversation with Moe Clark

A huge thank-you to the Office of Community Engagement, the Indigenous Office of Community Engagement at Concordia, and the Canadian Roots Exchange for the opportunity to fly to Saskatoon and attend the National Youth Gathering last week! Shane, Samara, and Akki returned and shared about new friendships made and a whole new understanding of reconciliation. Genevieve Sioui, Charmaine Lyn, and Alex Megelas—thanks so much for making this happen!

Press Start Coop attendees on their trip to Canadian Roots Exchange National Youth Gathering

Champaint was a wonderful event. As a visible minority, it is very rare for me to find spaces where I feel comfortable and welcomed... Champaint definitely provided that. We were able to have great open discussions about our shared experiences as people of colour, which is something that was very new to me outside of an academic setting.

Participant, Champaint: Race and Pedagogy

Avoir une personne du Bureau de l'engagement communautaire qui travaille sur place renverse complètement notre rapport à l'université. Cette personne en vient à participer à nos instances, à comprendre les besoins et à proposer des possibilités de collaborations, recherches, stages, projets et financement de l'université, mais en fonction des besoins réels que nous vivons. Par cette approche, l'Université Concordia révolutionne ni plus ni moins le lien université-milieu... et travaille tous les jours à renforcer le Bâtiment 7, à tous les niveaux.

Judith Cayer, Coordination - Développement et Viabilité, Bâtiment 7

When Head & Hands was approached about participating in the 2018–2019 University of the Streets Café season, I was thrilled as the experience of folks on our team as speakers and participants had been excellent. We were able to co-design a series with Alex that reflected important themes in our work and created a space for our community to engage in critical reflection guided by folks with lived experience and expertise. It has been a pleasure to work with the program, and we look forward to future seasons!

Andrea Clarke, General Director, Head & Hands

I can't thank Eduardo, the University, and the Inuit carvers enough for the experience I had today. Having access to experts in the tradition of soap stone carving was a pure pleasure. Side by side, we worked together with the whole class. They gave us insight into how important communication with the medium is and how it would react. With the presence of the Inuit carvers we were all reminded of the importance of the connection and sharing of such an ancient skill on land that we are settlers on. I felt their generosity with their time, energy, and love of their craft. I hope that in the future the University employs more Indigenous and Inuit.

Ella Webber, Participant, SCUL 210 Inuit stone carving workshop

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