

Winter 2014 Newsletter
Office of Community Engagement
Concordia University

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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

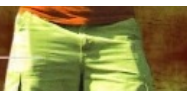


We may be having a particularly cold winter in Montreal this year, but things are continuing to heat up at the [Office of Community Engagement](#)! In this newsletter, you will read about a special feature of our recently redesigned webpage, discounted rental rates for community groups, exciting events ahead, and much more:

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A Documentary to End Gender Violence





On February 23, we partnered with Concordia professor, Liz Miller, to invite women's groups from across Montreal to the North-American premiere of her latest documentary, [En la casa, la cama y la calle](#). In this film, Miller profiles an inspiring Nicaraguan women's group, [Puntos de Encuentro](#), as they work to end violence at home, in bed, and in the streets, through an innovative television program.

To kick-off the night, the Office of Community Engagement hosted a pre-screening reception at the [Rendez-vous festival](#). This was a chance to foster dialogue between the many generations of women working to enhance the lives of women both locally and around the world. As part of the event, Miller also gifted copies of the film to women's groups and several repeat screenings are expected in the coming months.

For those who were not able to join us at the premiere, En la Casa will be screened again in Concordia's [J.A. de Sève Cinema](#) on Monday, March 10, from 12:30 to 1:30pm to honour [International Women's Day](#).

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Partnerships for the Living City Conference



The Office of Community Engagement is pleased to support the upcoming Partnerships for the Living City Conference, which will take place on March 7, 2014. Hosted by the [Loyola Sustainability Research Centre](#) in partnership with the [UN Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), and the [Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science](#), this conference will feature international guests, policy-makers, researchers, and community leaders working towards change at the local and global level. If you are interested in learning more about how cities can take the lead in sustainable development, please visit the [conference webpage](#) or [register here](#).

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Spotlight on Community Engagement

We are thrilled to launch a new series on our website, [Spotlight on Community Engagement](#). This feature will allow us to draw attention to some of the innovative community-university partnerships happening in and around Concordia. Check out our first two video profiles below:

The first video features part-time faculty member Israël Dupuis and his [Design Outreach](#) class. This course, offered through Concordia's [Department of Design and Computation Arts](#), gives students the chance to work one-on-one with community members on a variety of design related projects.

The second video is about [The Neighbourhood Theatre](#) (TNT), a course offered through the [Theatre and Development](#) program. This partnership between Eric Craven, Coordinator of the [Digital Literacy Project](#) at the [Atwater Library and Computer Centre](#), and Concordia professor, Ted Little, gives students from all faculties the chance to work as artists-in-residence with the Atwater Library as well as the library's community partners.

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University of the Streets Café





We are already almost half way through the Winter 2014 semester of [University of the Streets Café](#) and so far we have been having an absolute blast! Since January, we have gathered in different neighbourhoods around Montreal to talk about food systems, age-based stereotypes, the role of activism in parenting, the interplay between theory and practice and the future of employment in Montreal. If you have not had the chance to join us so far, please make sure to take part in one of the six remaining conversations this season! Next week, on Thursday, March 13, we will be meeting at [Café Verdure](#), near Concordia's downtown campus, to talk about our relationship with toxic products. For more information about this conversation or our other upcoming events, check out the [complete schedule](#).

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Connecting to the Internet and Each Other

After teaming up with the [Mobile Media Lab](#) to recognize the achievements of seniors this past fall, we were delighted to once again work with one of the lab's founding directors, Dr. Kim Sawchuk, on a new partnership with [Groupe Harmonie](#). Groupe Harmonie is a non-profit organization that offers services to those aged 55 and over with addiction issues, and they were excited to work with the Mobile Media Lab to improve digital access for their clients.

First, a survey was conducted to assess the digital needs of two habitations à loyer modique. Then, the Mobile Media Lab, Groupe Harmonie, and the Office of Community Engagement celebrated the arrival of wireless internet at the residences by hosting two Internet launch parties. During the parties, volunteers helped seniors access the internet and offered them tips and tricks to navigate the web more easily.

In continued support of Groupe Harmonie and its effort to introduce more clients to the World Wide Web, the Office of Community Engagement is collecting donations of clean and functional computer parts including keyboards, laptops, and accessories. To donate equipment, please contact [Eryn Fitzgerald](#).

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Touring Quebec to Profile Seniors





We are thrilled to report on the developments of our partnership with [Seniors Action Quebec](#) (SAQ). SAQ is a provincial advocacy group that seeks to help English-speaking seniors live, work and play in their communities. Following National Seniors Day in October, students from Concordia's [Design Outreach](#) course traveled to the Laurentians, Outaouais, and Quebec to document the accomplishments of seniors living in these regions. The result is a beautifully-designed book to complement the [first-set of profiles](#) completed by the Mobile Media Lab.

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Opening Concordia's Campuses



Are you part of a community engagement initiative in need of a meeting room or event location? Both our downtown and Loyola campuses have a wide variety of spaces available. The Office of Community Engagement is proud to partner with Concordia's [Hospitality department](#) 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. To book a space, contact [Eryn Fitzgerald](#) or visit [MyEvents](#), the university's online booking system.

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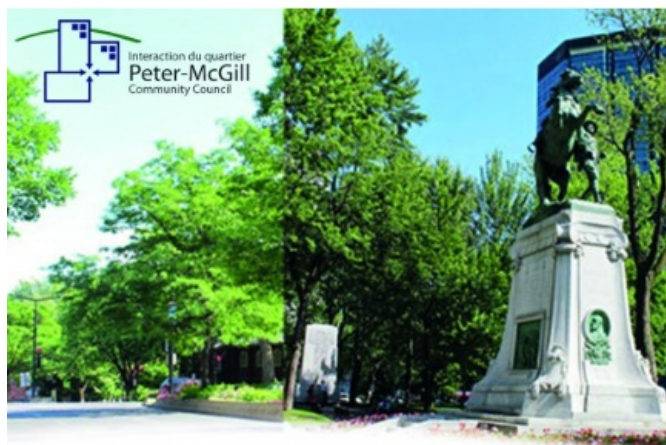
Let's Talk Science at St. Gabriel



We are happy to have brokered a new partnership between Concordia's student-run chapter of [Let's Talk Science](#) and [St. Gabriel](#) elementary school. Let's Talk Science is a national organization that offers diverse programming to activate and sustain an interest in science among children and youth. Concordia student-volunteers are heading to Pointe-Saint Charles on a weekly basis during the winter semester to mentor the elementary school students and help them with projects for their upcoming science fair.

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Party with the Peter McGill Community Council



On April 15, 2014, we are teaming up with the [Peter McGill Community Council](#) to host a 5 à 7 for residents of the neighbourhood. This event will be the first in a series of community-building events designed to foster connections between residents and community organizations,

while also showcasing many different sites of community engagement that exist in the neighbourhood. The April 15th reception, which will take place in Concordia's [Molson building](#), is open to all those who live in the area and will be an excellent opportunity to meet a wide array of people who care deeply about neighbourhood vitality. Please RSVP to Marion at communications@petermcgill.org or (514) 934-2280.

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Attend a Community-Engagement Conference

Did you know that there are several upcoming community-engagement conferences? We strongly encourage staff, students, faculty, and community members to consider taking part in one or more of these gatherings. Details are listed below:

- [From Rhetoric to Reality: Achieving Authentic, Equitable & Transformative Partnerships](#)
Chicago, Illinois
April 30 to May 4, 2014
- [Beyond Engagement: Creating Integration, Innovation, and Impact](#)
Victoria, British Columbia
May 20 to 22
- [Healthy Resilient Communities](#)
Ottawa, Ontario
May 28 to May 30

If you are planning to attend one of these exciting events, please let us know!

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Français

Si vous préférez recevoir nos nouvelles en français, cliquez ici pour changer vos [préférences d'abonnement](#).

Connect with Us



Facebook Website

Upcoming Events

March 7

[Partnerships for the Living City Conference](#)

March 10

[En la casa la cama y la calle](#)

March 9 – 14

[5 days for the Homeless](#)

March 10 – 13

[Stories from the Red Earth](#)

March 13

[Necessary Evils: Has the market normalized toxic products?](#)

April 15

[5 à 7 with the Peter McGill Community Council](#)

5 Days for the Homeless

From March 9 to 14, universities across Canada will be taking part in this year's [5 Days for the Homeless](#) campaign. For the seventh year in a row, Concordia participants will give up the comforts of home for five days and nights to raise awareness and funds to help underprivileged youths get back on their feet. Proceeds from the campaign will be donated to [Dans la Rue](#).

Stories from the Red Earth

The [Concordia Volunteer Abroad Program](#) (CVAP) invites members of the public and the campus community to a [multi-media exhibition](#) from March 10-13, in the EV Atrium. The exhibition will feature a series of captivating photographs and poetry created by Concordia volunteers who have had the opportunity to travel to Uganda with CVAP.

Coldest Night of the Year

We would like to congratulate Team Concordia, led by Kelly Mackay, for their participation in the winter walking fundraiser, [Coldest Night of the Year](#). In total, this fundraiser raised nearly \$25,000 for the [St-James Drop in Centre](#). Way to go team!

Concordia Volunteers

Interested in participating in individual or group volunteer opportunities? Want Concordia volunteers to lend a hand at your organization?

Concordia's [LIVE Centre](#) is here to help!



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