IN MONTRÉAL, TALENT HAS MANY NAMES:

Montréal, Cultural Metropolis: a Look at Year II

It has been two years since the inauguration of the collective project for the cultural development of Montréal called Action Plan 2007-2017, with its goal of giving Montréal the means by which it may take its place as a true Cultural Metropolis for the 21st Century.

This document will give you a glimpse of the wealth, diversity and abundance of our achievements and experiences in 2009.

Culture and Montréal are indivisible. Culture defines us, a firm belief echoed in several 2009 studies and surveys. Culture is also very important to us as an economic engine, the precarious financial standing of artists themselves notwithstanding.

We have a responsibility to all citizens to continue to support our creative artists, our entrepreneurs, and our craftspeople through action: by putting into place solutions which will raise Montréal to the peak of its potential.
Beautifying, embracing, illuminating, celebrating, never-ending...
In all its expressions, Montréal’s creativity never fails to dazzle and delight. Montrealeans and visitors alike experience the inventive vitality that courses through life each and every day in our metropolis.
Public Art, the Essence of Urban Living

The urban landscape as point of contact between citizens and art: this is the raison d'être of public art. An expression of artists’ creativity and the diversity of their talents, it reveals the souls of our artists and invigorates the day-to-day lives of our citizens. 2009 will be remembered as the beginning of a new era for public art in Montréal, as public consultations led the City to adopt a new public art policy, taking effect in 2010.

NEW PUBLIC ART POLICY

Basic Principles
- Build on experience and achievements.
- Integrate public art with Ville de Montréal's strategies and projects.
- Encourage private sector participation.

Strategies
- Maintain and preserve.
- Acquire and develop.
- Disseminate and promote.

Look Around!

ART IS EVERYWHERE! For 200 years, Ville de Montréal has acquired, preserved and promoted a collection of permanent works of art. The City is equally supportive of temporary art projects, offering artists and cultural organizations the opportunity to create bold new works.
Les Oursins (Sea Urchins): a temporary work by NIP paysage in Old Montréal, at Place De La Dauversière. This installation resulted from a collaboration between the Château Ramezay and Reford Gardens. An event as rapturous (and as long) as summer itself!

Natura obscura: unpublished works from photographer Linda Rutenberg, located near Les Oursins. The Château Ramezay Museum displayed 32 representations of the Jardin du Gouverneur at night: 32 portrayals of plant life in the dark, illuminated without traditional photographic lighting, just a flashlight! The ordered world of an 18th Century French urban garden in its unguarded moments, touched by honesty and imperfection.

Les Ju Ming au Jardin (Ju Ming Sculptures in the Garden): eleven sculptures in bronze and one in stone by Ju Ming, a renowned contemporary Asian artist, came down from Mount Royal in December to take up residence in the Arboretum of the Montréal Botanical Garden. An initiative by the munificent art collector François Odermatt, this larger-than-life exhibition is the result of a collaboration involving three partners: Ville de Montréal, the Quartier international and the Quays of the Old Port.

Seven Great Contemporary Artists in Old Montréal: Until September 2010, the graceful streets of Old Montréal are enhanced yet further by the sculptures of Colombian Fernando Botero, César Baldaccini and Fernand Léger of France, Americans Jim Dine and Robert Indiana, and Jaume Plensa of Catalonia. This is a gift to Old Montréal from a committed lover of art, who wishes to share some of the works from his private collection.

NEW WORKS *

Le Laboratoire échantillon (Sample Laboratory) by Marie-France Brière at the Conservatoire de musique et d’art dramatique de Montréal.

Lierre sur pierre (IVY) by Geneviève Cadieux, a mural of anodized metal on limestone wall installed on the exterior of a building at Concordia University.

Katsu by Hal Ingberg, an installation on the terrace at the new Théâtre de Quat’Sous.

Monument pour J. (Monument for J.) by Rose-Marie Ekemberg Goulet at École Pierre-De-Coubertin.

Sans titre (untitled), prints by Dominique Blain in the rooms of the Coronary Unit at Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal.

Ayarak by Pierre Bourgault, a sculpture inspired by an Inuit string game, at the entrance to the offices of Héma-Québec.

Mosaïque Jazz (Jazz Mosaic) by Alain Paiement, a digital print for the Maison du Festival Rio Tinto Alcan.

* Under the terms of the Politique d’intégration des arts à l’architecture et à l’environnement des bâtiments et des sites gouvernementaux et publics of the Government of Québec.
So many cultural events reached significant milestones during the year that there isn’t enough room on these pages to mention them all. Here is just a peek at some of those in the various artistic disciplines which celebrated a special birthday in 2009.

—they were the toast of the town!

This City of Winter celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Montréal Highlights Festival and its lively outdoor, artistic and gastronomic program, as well as the 15th edition of Symphonies portuaires (Harbour Symphonies). Open-air concerts blending boat horns, train whistles and other urban instruments attract the curious to the Old Port, even at -30 °C!

This Eclectic and Cosmopolitan City celebrated the anniversaries of a host of events with an international flavour, namely Pan Africa international — Vues d’Afrique (African films), the Festival du monde arabe (Arab culture), and Carifesta (Caribbean carnival), as they flowed joyously through the streets of Montréal.

This City of Letters paid tribute to the Festival international de littérature (FIL) (international literature), the Festival interculturel du conte du Québec (intercultural story-telling), and the Marché de la poésie de Montréal (poetry).

— many happy returns!

Elektra _ 10 years
Festival du monde arabe _ 10 years
Festival interculturel du conte du Québec _ 10 years
Marché de la poésie de Montréal _ 10 years
Montréal Highlights Festival _ 10 years
MUTEK _ 10 years
Quatuor Bozzini _ 10 years
Cinemanía _ 15 years
Festival international de littérature (FIL) _ 15 years
Les Symphonies portuaires _ 15 years
Nouvel Ensemble Moderne _ 20 years
Studio 303 _ 20 years
Cirque du soleil _ 25 years
OBORO _ 25 years
Pan Africa international — Vues d’Afrique _ 25 years
Carifesta _ 35 years
Jeunesses musicales du Canada _ 60 years
National Film Board of Canada _ 70 years
Orchestre symphonique de Montréal _ 75 years
A DECADE OF DIGITAL ARTISTRY

Montréal owes its international fame and status as a centre of digital creation to remarkable organizations such as the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT), and unique festivals like MUTEK and Elektra. Over the past 10 years, Montréal artists have made their mark on the world of digital creativity.

MUTEK, a festival dedicated to digital arts (musical and visual), has added a new series called EXTRA_MUROS. This outdoor program of four interactive art happenings uses the city’s outdoor architecture as a projection canvas. 2-22 Sainte-Catherine Street East, in the Quartier des spectacles, became host to the presentation of Make Out, by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, a world-recognized artist of Mexican origin who has made Montréal his home. MUTEK now also celebrates festivals in Mexico City (Mexico), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Santiago (Chile) and Barcelona (Spain).

For its part, Elektra forge[s] links amongst various creative media such as video, cinema, design, music, and dance, by way of the most recent digital technologies. In 2009, for the third time, it hosted the International Market-place for Digital Art, considered a not-to-be-missed event for major players on the international digital arts scene.

THE WORLD BOWS IN HONOUR TO THE NFB

The National Film Board’s 70th birthday was celebrated far and wide: in London, Cannes, Paris, Brussels and Venice, not to mention China, Germany and countless other places. The scope of these celebrations is in full measure to the greatness of this institution which, since its foundation, has earned 5,000 awards for some 13,000 creations.

Today a digital multi-platform organization, the NFB has put its films online, resulting in more than 3.7 million viewings last year alone. No fewer than 1.5 million of those requests came from foreign shores, and more than a half-million were made from the iPhone Films application, released only near the end of 2009.

Montréal paid tribute to the NFB in several ways. Among the most memorable was at the World Film Festival, which offered free outdoor showings of more than 40 of the NFB’s finest vintage films. Twenty artists, within the gaze of danseuse extraordinaire Marie Chouinard, pooled their creative resources for an impressive choreographic gathering to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Studio 303. Founded by choreographers Martha Carter, Jo Leslie and Isabelle Van Grimde, Studio 303 remains a hotbed of creation, performance and training in dance and live arts… on the edge. Because of studios like 303, Montréal has an international reputation for excellence in contemporary dance.

THE ARTISTS OF LE GRAND BAISER

Diane Dufresne
Champion and his G-Strings
Le Grand Charivari
Michel Cusson
Louis Bellemare and the Samajam World Band
The Society for Arts and Technology (SAT)
MUTEK
Callye A. Robinson and Hervé Courtain of Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal

LE GRAND BAISER: an Outpouring of Love

What better way to inaugurate Montréal’s brand new Place des Festivals than with a big party! Artists and citizens came together for LE GRAND BAISER (Big Kiss), starting with the Grands Bisous du Grand Charivari parade on McGill College Avenue and leading to a memorable show staged by Érick Villeneuve, with artistic direction from Danielle Roy and Luc Petit. A unique evening in a unique setting, LE GRAND BAISER christened the city’s new public space in the midst of its gushing fountains and joyful participants. Montréaliers revelled in a fabulous gathering, which culminated in a special screening of Imagine: John Lennon, presented by the World Film Festival.

A GRAND CHOOREOGRAPHIC CONGREGATION FOR 303’s 20TH

Twenty artists, within the gaze of danseuse extraordinaire Marie Chouinard, pooled their creative resources for an impressive choreographic gathering to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Studio 303. Founded by choreographers Martha Carter, Jo Leslie and Isabelle Van Grimde, Studio 303 remains a hotbed of creation, performance and training in dance and live arts… on the edge. Because of studios like 303, Montréal has an international reputation for excellence in contemporary dance.
“All the World’s a (Brand New) Stage...”

For months, we waited for them to re-open. The Théâtre de Quat’Sous finally came back, handsomely costumed in brick, glass and aluminum. The Théâtre Denise-Pelletier, whose players had been living their dramatic lives on various other Montréal stages, also returned home, to the welcoming applause from the rows and balconies.

FRESH FACES

As the public found their seats in the “new Quat’Sous” and the “new Denise-Pelletier,” other establishments commenced or continued renovations of their own:

- Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (TNM) announced major upgrades to its equipment and installations;
- Théâtre les Deux Mondes expanded to accommodate the Aux Écuries collective;
- Théâtre d’Aujourd’hui added a new rehearsal space and new seating, and replaced a portion of its equipment;
- La Licorne staged an expansion, with the construction of two new rooms and the installation of new equipment;
- La Casa d’Italia, the jewel of Montréal’s Italian community since the 1930’s, became the scene of major renovations and expansion.

All of these projects received support from either the Government of Québec or of Canada, or both.
Welcome to the Zoo

In July, the very first Zoofest commandeered seven different locations to present more than 70 dance, comedy, circus and music shows. It was a great debut for Montréal’s newest festival, which has a mandate to present “a bit of everything for everybody, with lots the public doesn’t get to see… and at a reasonable price.” Organizers also wish to give stages to emerging artists, during the Just for Laughs Festival.

Better, Brighter Venues

“Keep Getting Better” was a key phrase in 2009, in describing the approach to Montréal’s cultural experience. And that phrase had many different definitions, depending on where it was spoken. It was heard at Théâtre de Verdure, as well as in the main rehearsal studio at the Conseil des arts de Montréal, in the Gaston-Miron Building, in the La Roulotte theatre, the Centre communautaire de l’Est and Théâtre Outremont… It meant better lighting, better seats, and better sound at the Centre des arts de la scène Pauline-Julien… And it meant relocating the Occurrence, Espace d’Art et d’Essai Contemporains gallery into a more affordable rent on Du Parc Avenue. There are many ways to put creative minds into the best possible situations, perhaps as many ways as those minds have in providing us unforgettable art.

Commerce Design Goes Further Abroad

Following in the footsteps of the City of Luxembourg, the cities of Eindhoven and Toulon signed agreements in 2009 with Ville de Montréal to take up the concept of the Commerce Design competition. They join a list of destinations that includes Trois-Rivières, Saint-Étienne, Marseille and Lyon (France), Brussels (Belgium) and New York (USA). As in the original Montréal model, the various Commerce Design contests reward businesses for the quality of their premises, while giving valuable exposure to the work of architects and designers.
Montréal, North America’s Shining Light

KEEPING IT “LIGHT”

The Quartier des spectacles Lighting Plan is progressing well. In 2009, several cultural facilities added to the neighbourhood’s colour with distinctive lighting schemes. The Centre Pierre-Péladeau at UQAM, the Maison Théâtre and the Just For Laughs Museum are now highlighted in red, the Quartier’s visual signature. Several other institutions have facades newly resplendent in architectural and stage lighting.

TRIPPING THE LIGHT… FANTASTIC!

It was the gift of light for Montréalers at Christmastime from the Quartier des spectacles Partnership. Champ de pixels (Pixel Field), a joyful and interactive installation comparable to a giant Lite-Brite, was installed down the entire surface of Place des Festivals. Anyone could easily “play” with the lighted pixels, which would change colour due to their motion detectors. This original concept, from Jean Beaudoin of the firm Intégral Jean Beaudoin and Erick Villeneuve of Novalux, subsequently inspired a Berlin choreographer. In residence at École de danse contemporaine de Montréal (LADMMI), Sebastian Matthias took the initiative to invite dancers, as well as the public at large, to participate in a huge, free-style performance amongst the pixels.

And so it happens that the Place des Festivals, like the ever-changing seasons, becomes inspiration and playground for artists, visitors and the city’s population.

IN 2009, MONTRÉAL CREATIVITY SHONE BRIGHTLY AT:

- Maison du festival Rio Tinto Alcan
- Cinémathèque québécoise
- Monument-National
- Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal
- Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts
BIXI: Québec Creativity on Two Wheels

Innovation, design, and ingenuity. These three characteristics of Montréal creativity come together in BIXI, the new public bike system which became an overnight success and the pride of the city. A natural fit with Montréal’s long-standing love of cycling, BIXI is one of the latest symbols of creative vitality in this metropolis. A vitality which, in 2009, pedalled its way to adoption in the cities of London and Boston.

A PROJECT THAT BENEFITS MONTRÉAL AND ALL OF QUÉBEC

This project bore collective fruit for Montréal and various other centres in the province as a job creator. BIXI is a proud Made-in-Québec invention. Conceived by Michel Dallaire, an internationally-renowned industrial designer, BIXI is the product of a multi-disciplinary team which includes:

- Cycles Devinci of the Saguenay, as manufacturer;
- 8D technologies of Montréal, which created and supplied the system’s technological platform;
- Robotics Design Inc. of Montréal, with the technological innovations of the terminal system;
- CIF Métal of Thetford Mines, manufacturer of the bike supports;
- Caoutchoucs et plastiques Falpaco of Granby, supplier of the protective plastic for the handlebar cables and the mudguards;
- Rio Tinto Alcan, Beauharnois, raw material supplier for 60% of the bicycles’ components;
- Cyclochrome, of Montréal, a social enterprise in charge of maintenance for the bicycle fleet.
Culture in our heads and hearts and at our very fingertips... With artists and citizens in a constant dialogue, culture nurtures our social bonds, which is as essential to Montréal’s true identity as the sun is to life.
Montréal Libraries: On-Site and Online

_AND COMING SOON... THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY

They are harbingers—the changing habits, the eager usage of new services—that people are ready for the library of tomorrow. Today, libraries are innovating rapidly with wireless service and increasing presence on social networking sites. The flexibility of on-line reservations has increased their numbers exponentially as members can reserve a title from any one of the 44 libraries in the system, pick it up at another, and return it to a third! Now that's a network that works.

Several measures undertaken in the past two years have succeeded in improving customer service. Libraries and their collections have developed; facilitators have been hired; opening hours have been extended; collections have been gathered into a single catalogue; borrowing is now universal. These measures have all had positive effects, leading to increased usage everywhere in the system, while in some boroughs it has resulted in a veritable boom (up to 34% in the borough of Ville-Marie).

_LEARNING TOGETHER

Organized activities focused on reading attract all kinds of people to libraries: youths and the young at heart, natives and immigrants, giving them the opportunity to be part of their community, their borough and their city. In each borough, these activities encourage people to explore language and knowledge through books and other sources. How about a floating book for the tots’ paddling pool? Just a small example of the innovations at a Montréal neighbourhood library.

_NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Since its arrival early in the year and with its focus on children and families, the Père-Ambroise Library has become a popular destination in the Centre-Sud neighbourhood. Twice as big as the Central Youth Library (which closed its doors in 2008) and with a richer collection, Père-Ambroise has quickly built a strong usership. Its secrets are simple: being open, accessible and welcoming with quality services tailored to its clientele.

_FIRM ROOTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Montréal's libraries are grounded in the many communities of the metropolis, planting the seeds of activities which nourish the lives of our residents. For the past ten years, Les mots partagés (Shared Words) offers Montréalers of all origins the chance to share and exchange, read and write in the French language. Kids aged 0 to 5 discover reading in the Contact, le plaisir de lire program, also marking its 10th anniversary. It is a beautiful first experience with books, during which they look, touch, and read out loud... very loudly!
Culture Brings Cultures Together

It is a unique concept, and one that is magically unifying. For the past three years in one of the most populous and diversified boroughs of Montréal, people have been coming together for Hors les murs (Out and About). Created by the Maison de la culture de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension, this outreach program does just what its name suggests, taking art and cultural activities outside the walls of their traditional venues. To date, it has made contact with close to 20,000 people in medical clinics, cafeterias, youth and daycare centres, and many others. Through meetings, exchanges, guided visits and performances, Hors les murs brings artists and citizens of all cultures together, to simply brighten their day.

Shattering Attendance Records

In 2009, more than three million people walked through the doors of the Grande Bibliothèque in Montréal! Since its opening in 2005, that number is 13 million. The phenomenal success of the Québec national library surpasses all initial forecasts—even the most optimistic—which estimated annual visitorship at 1.5 million. It is likely that it will continue to welcome traffic to the tune of more than 58,000 people per week, coming to read, listen to music, watch films, learn and play.

Another attendance record was set in 2009, at Pointe à Callière, Montréal’s museum of history and archaeology. The year was its busiest since it opened in 1992, with an impressive 400,356 visitors going through the turnstiles. That was a 23% increase over the previous year. This fresh success is credited to a more aggressive marketing plan, the establishment of partnership deals, and above all, two tremendously popular exhibitions. Costa Rica, terre de merveilles (Land of Marvels) impressed with the quality of its artifacts, not to mention its warm Southern orientation during our cold winter months. The other was dubbed Pirates, corsaires et filibustiers (Pirates, Privateers and Buccaneers), and did not fail to provide an exciting and pleasurable outing for families.
The Quartier des Spectacles... Transformed!

FROM FABULOUS TO MORE FABULOUS

It was ready for the kickoff of the outdoor festival season, the much-anticipated 30th anniversary of Festival International de Jazz de Montréal. Since then, the Place des Festivals has been home to a succession of events that, from June to December, brings the heart of the metropolis to life in an ambiance that has no parallel.

Historically a less desirable area of the city, these few blocks have undergone a complete transformation. With its innovative lighting, water jets set in the ground surface, the improved configuration and a spare, pure design, it now has an open, airy feel, welcoming and vibrant, a perfect place to meet and mingle.

Welcome to the new Place des Festivals! Designed by Daoust Lestage, this first project of many by a firm dedicated to creating the new public spaces around Place des Arts was awarded a Silver Medal in the Urban Design category at Canada’s esteemed Design Exchange Awards 2009.

A BUSTLING SCHEDULE AT PLACE DES FESTIVALS

- Festival International de Jazz de Montréal
- Just For Laughs Festival
- Les FrancoFolies de Montréal
- Montréal World Film Festival
- The Culture pour tous project and “Je m’affiche pour la culture”
- En ville sans ma voiture (In Town Without My Car)
- La Marche Centraide (United Way Walkathon)
- Le Rallye énergie alternative (Alternative Energy Rally)
- The Montréal Alouettes... and the Grey Cup!

THE WORK CONTINUES

The transformation of the Quartier des spectacles is a long-term project. 2009 saw the first of many improvements to come:

- Development of the Promenade des artistes;
- Construction of the Parterre, a new public space in front of the new Symphony Concert Hall, where work is already well underway;
- Creation of the Grand foyer culturel in the Hall des pas perdus of Place des Arts, which is on the road to completion.
The “Window” to Montréal Culture

In a few short years, la Vitrine has become the best portal to metropolitan Montréal’s cultural offerings. Citizens and visitors alike rely on this service for tickets and information. In order to better respond to these needs and to stay current with the latest trends, la Vitrine (the Window) has had to stay ahead of the technological curve. Today, more than 100 artistic companies involved in all disciplines take advantage of its services. And thanks to new media partnerships and a well-orchestrated promotions strategy, ticket sales at la Vitrine culturelle de Montréal saw momentous growth in the past year. Its progress has not gone unnoticed: la Vitrine won the Prix Coup d’éclat 2009 in the Promotional Strategies, budget of more than $500,000 category, at the Festivals et événements Québec (FEQ) and the Société des attractions touristiques du Québec (SATTQ) convention. La Vitrine plays a key role in the culture and tourism industry of the Montréal metropolitan area.

Underground Art

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) is not only entrusted with the city’s public transit system but with guardianship of Montréal’s heritage of subterranean art. To that end, the STM has completed restorations on several works in its vast network of 50 metro (subway) stations.

Most spectacular has been the restoration of the majestic Histoire de la musique à Montréal (1967), Frédérick Back’s monumental glass work of art at Place-des-Arts station. This living, luminous masterpiece retraces the musical history of Montréal, from the arrival of Jacques Cartier to the present day.

The STM also plays a vital role in the once-a-year All-Nighter at the Montréal Highlights Festival. The metro trains keep going all night for the benefit of the thousands of insomniacs, hyper-active beings and other enthusiasts who stay out to enjoy our cultural treasures until morning. For last year’s 6th edition, in collaboration with Héritage Montréal, the STM invited festival-goers to Rallye Métro-Art to (re)discover the fabulous art collection of Montréal’s transit system.

Also of note, Mont-Royal station was home to a series of photos by Ivan Binet and Colwyn Griffith. The exhibition was produced by Odace Événements, with the collaboration of MétroMedia Plus which donated the use of a dozen illuminated billboards.

ART RESTORATION UNDER WAY... IN THE SUBWAY

- Place-des-Arts station: Histoire de la musique à Montréal (1967), glass work by Frédéric Back.
- Charlevoix station: multi-coloured glass works (1978) by Mario Merola and Pierre Osterrath, master glazier.
- Lionel-Groulx station: L’arbre de vie (The Tree of Life), sculpture by Joseph Billeset (originally mounted at the entrance to Expo 67), a gift to Montréal from the United Nations.
- Papineau station: Les Patriotes de 1837-1838, three murals in enamel on steel (1966), by Jean Cartier and George Juhasz.
Montréal’s Pride: The CCA

Founded in 1979, inaugurated in 1989 and proudly celebrated in 2009, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) has made the venerable art and science of architecture accessible to the general public. Conceived and built through the remarkable determination of Phyllis Lambert, the CCA is one of Montréal’s crown jewels, and the envy of the world’s major cities. It is a centre of living history which allows citizens to better understand their city and its development.

Its anniversary programming—which included the public event 20 ans: 20 heures—marked the 20th year of the museum, which is also a bookstore, a theatre, a library, plus an archive and research centre. The CCA is no less a tourist attraction for the sheer beauty of the Shaughnessy mansion (identified as a historic monument), the contemporary architecture of the museum building designed by Peter Rose and Phyllis Lambert, and the Sculpture Garden by Melvin Charney.

Open the Doors to Creativity

The month of May just couldn’t come fast enough last year for aficionados of interior design. When it finally arrived, so did close to 21,000 people at the doors of Portes Ouvertes Design Montréal. There were two days of exchange amongst the public, designers and architects in inspiring settings; two days of creativity and talent from more than 65 firms; two days of a new program to heighten youth awareness to the possibilities of interior design (an experiment which resulted in tremendous success in its very first year). The “Great Youth Design Experience” contest produced two winners who would spend a day with internationally recognized stars: industrial designer Claude Mauffette, and fashion designer Marie Saint-Pierre.
Teen Thrills at TAZ

TAZ is for young people, and first and foremost a place for expression, where they can play out their passion for sports: skateboarding, BMX biking or inline skating. Situated on the edge of the Complexe environnemental de Saint-Michel, this sports and recreation centre is one of the largest of its kind in Canada. It is also a zone of integration, of prevention, and of creativity, thanks in large part to partnership with Cyberclap, which offers guidance and multimedia workshops to youth in situ. Young people have access to video and still photography equipment to capture their athletic exploits and self-expression. The reopening of TAZ also involved the acquisition of a staff of thirty, and the integration of a non-profit organization to this area in transition, where sustainable development is of primary importance.

Montréal’s Jewel: Mount Royal

The Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan was adopted in 2009 as a roadmap for years to come. Among its recent accomplishments is the new Salamander playground. This completely renovated space borders the Path for Children’s Rights, constructed in honour of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations International Convention for Children’s Rights. Families have easily and quickly taken to this new spot on the mountain to meet, play and relax.

INVESTMENT IN THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC BOROUGH OF MONT-ROYAL WILL...

- enhance its precious green spaces;
- preserve its biodiversity;
- restore its works of art;
- rearrange certain areas to make the mountain more pleasant to visit;
- preserve a heritage dear to Montréalers.

Montréal, a Geotourism Leader

Montréal is the first major city in the world to produce a “geo-tourist” map in collaboration with the National Geographic Society. This ground-breaking guide illustrates a hundred cultural, historic and natural attractions, including those all-important suggestions from the “locals.” The admirable goal is to promote the new concept of “best practice” tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place.
Montréal's profusion of creativity emanates from its wealth: not only artistic but financial as well. Our artists and citizens, public institutions and private sector each in their own way play essential roles in this passionate cultural environment so that it continues to develop and endure.
**Vive the Blumenthal**

The Festival International de Jazz de Montréal accepted a magnificent 30th birthday present: the Blumenthal Building. This precious heritage property has regained its lustre, thanks to the Government of Québec which subsidized its renovation and ceded its usage to the Festival.

Additional support flowed from the Government of Canada and generous private donors, notably Rio Tinto Alcan and Astral. The doors of the Blumenthal soon opened to the public with a cabaret-style showroom to host jazz, blues and world music concerts sponsored by Astral. Meanwhile outside, a few steps away on the brand new Place des Festivals, the Jazzfest did not fail to do what it has done for 30 years: provide a memorable time for fans, old and new.

**Roots and Remembrance**

On an autumn day in 2009, *L'Arc* (The Arch) was unveiled in the Floralies Gardens of Parc Jean-Drapeau. This homage to Salvador Allende by Michel de Broin is of a tree bending back down to the ground, a representation of the roots Chileans retain forever in their native land as well as those which they have planted in North America. The work was made possible by financial contributions from l’Association des Chiliens du Québec, the Fondation Salvador Allende de Montréal and Ville de Montréal.

The choice of Jean-Drapeau as home to *L'Arc* was guided by the park’s international and inter-cultural character, established through numerous events held on its soil since 1967. This sculpture was selected in a competition to best commemorate the 100th anniversary of Allende’s birth in 2008. de Broin’s oeuvre stands in an area populated by other gifts of art to Montréal, notably from Mexico, France and Portugal.

**They’re Happy Little “Wolves”**

A new summer camp brought joy and pride to the lives of 30 children between the ages of 7 and 12. An initiative of the Festival du nouveau cinéma in collaboration with Dr. Gilles Julien’s Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale, the *P’tits loups* (Little Wolves) camp took these kids into the fascinating world of animated film.

The three-week program included creative workshops mingled with sport activities and… cooking lessons! Guided by a team of enthusiastic professionals, campers united their talents and efforts for a collective film project. They also participated in a play workshop led by musicians to create the film’s soundtrack, another essential element of the final product.

So what came out of it? A docu-fictional short film titled *Porte-bonheur* (Amulet), which was screened at the Festival’s official opening in October, proud friends and families in attendance. After its premiere, the film travelled to several other international festivals.
Fertile Ground for Contemporary Music

Le Vivier takes its name from the man considered to be one of the most influential Québécois composers of his generation. Born in Montréal in 1948, Claude Vivier built a repertoire of over 40 compositions before his tragic death in 1983. Vivier’s work continues to be performed around the world, while in his native city he is a formidable symbol of the contemporary music genre.

With its mandate to create an environment "favourable to the development of ideas, ideologies and people," Le Vivier is a collective of 22 organizations, including the Canadian Music Centre—Québec (CMC), Constantinople, the Ensemble contemporain de Montréal+ (ECM+) and the Société de musique contemporaine du Québec (SMCQ). Le Vivier’s cooperative programming process has produced a first season schedule of 15 concerts featuring musique actuelle, contemporary and electroacoustic music. Innovation is at home in Montréal.

One River, Three Cities

Three river cities of the majestic St. Lawrence—Montréal, Trois-Rivières and Gaspé—are united in their economic, scientific, cultural and sustainable development plans. This is why, in 2009, Montréal City Council paid special recognition to the 375th anniversary of the founding of Trois-Rivières and the 475th anniversary of the arrival of Jacques Cartier in Gaspé, both momentous events in the history of Québec.

In addition, for the festivities in Gaspé, the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT) called upon Montréal electronic group The National Parcs to create a show based on the theme of exploration, using the PropulseART teleconferencing software suite. The performance played out simultaneously at SAT in Montréal and at Cégep de Gaspé, 900 kilometres apart. It was a first for SAT, one which they reproduced for the digital edition of the Cultural Olympiad of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics.

_CULTURE DOWNSTREAM: FROM MONTRÉAL TO THE SEA

Among the several commemorative events held was De l’île à la mer (From the Island to the Sea), a bright spotlight on the talent emerging in the Gaspé and Bas-Saint-Laurent regions, and Magdalen Islands. Set in autumn by the Accès culture network (in partnership with le ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine), De l’île à la mer put together a collective project called Confluences featuring 11 artists, 8 solo exhibitions and 7 network locations. The second element of the program focused on stage arts: shows, stories, songs and concerts. The project was a success, convincing the Accès culture network to proceed with similar collaborations with other regions of Québec. In the autumn of 2010, the work falls to artists from Abitibi-Témiscamingue.
Dancing in the Streets

The 7th edition of Transatlantique Montréal / Quartiers danses took place at 11 locations in 8 neighbourhoods and 6 city boroughs. In order to make these performances as accessible as possible, they were staged in diverse locales such as the city’s maisons de la culture, theatres, universities, colleges, public and community spaces, churches, parks… even on the sidewalk! More than 5,000 people took in the activities, a two-fold increase from the previous year. And this year, something new and exciting: simultaneous dance performances in Vancouver and Quebec City! Already a success and growing with every step!

Stars on Ice, Stars in the Sky... at the Library

The Mission: the public library network must reach out to youth; get them interested in coming to the library; increase their appetite for reading; pique their curiosity and help them learn.

The Plan: do what they like to do. For instance, several libraries joined in with the city-wide celebration of the 100th anniversary of their hockey team, and staged special activities, including a contest, "Les Canadiens de Montréal à la bibliothèque" for kids from 6 to 14 years old. The Centre d’histoire de Montréal joined in with its online program, Les Canadiens de Montréal 1909-2009, and numerous readings, films, interview segments, links to Web sites, and player portraits. Mission accomplished!

On the science front, 2009 was the International Year of Astronomy. In concert with the Montréal Planetarium, libraries created monthly Astrobiblio "astro-capsules" with fun quizzes, as well as a contest (Les moments Galiléens) available online and in-house. This was an occasion when parents didn’t mind if their children’s minds were in space!


Ever since Cirque du Soleil (which marked its 25th anniversary in June 2009) came to be, our artists, clowns and acrobats have had their ambitions set on the whole world. The excellence and dynamism of this field in Canada, particularly in Montréal, led to the recognition of circus arts as a distinct discipline by the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Conseil des arts de Montréal. In 2009, the Canada Council followed suit.

The circus atmosphere in the metropolis can be experienced by all at the Quays of the Old Port, which in summer transforms into the Promenade des arts du cirque. The Québécois troupe Les 7 doigts de la main joins with the French company La Loupiote to elevate the already-popular tourist attraction to the absolute pinnacle of fun with their antics: often funny, even poetic, always original. Is there any question that Montréal is the circus capital of the world?
A Pint of...
Solidarity

Our famous giant pint labelled Guaranteed Pure Milk has regained its lustre, thanks to the enthusiastic work of Heritage Montréal and its partners: the Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, the Sid Lee agency, paint manufacturer AkzoNobel, Trans-Optique, Du-For Scaffolding, and Ryan Affaires publiques. The original Sauvons la pinte campaign and its successful efforts to restore this unique Montréal landmark is a brilliant example of how the business sector can engage in the protection and enhancement of our heritage and culture.

Giving the Gift of Culture

Ville de Montréal launched a new element of its source-reduction campaign to coincide with the 2009 Christmas gift-buying season. This interesting approach asked Montréalers to think about sustainable development as they made their decisions on holiday gifts, and to buy tickets and gift certificates to shows, museums and concerts. The Faites un cadeau de Noël à l'environnement, offrez la culture! project made people think about what a gift we have in Montréal’s cultural offerings. Unsurprisingly, it was received with success and appreciation, the way anybody would want a gift to be given, and accepted.

Participants in the Offrez la Culture! Campaign

- Conseil des arts de Montréal
- La Vitrine
- Montréal Nature Museums
- Pointe-à-Callière – Montréal Museum of History and Archaeology
- Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal
- Culture Montréal
- The Quartier des spectacles Partnership
Across the Ocean with a Piano

Its clear, rich sound has made the Fazioli piano the pride of the Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur for the past 20 years. To mark its anniversary, the famed instrument was repatriated to Italy and the home of its maker Paolo Fazioli, who performed a full restoration (with his compliments). The dearly anticipated return of the Fazioli to Montréal was celebrated on October 1st, International Music Day, with a moving performance by Montréal chamber musician and soloist Wonny Song. The chapel also feted the occasion with the acquisition of new specialized equipment.

Another highlight of 2009 for “la Chapelle”: the Conseil québécois de la musique bestowed upon its director, Guy Soucie, the 13th Opus award (2008-2009 season), naming him Artistic Director of the Year.

Encouraging Patronage and Donations—A Collective Effort

The financial backing of culture is a key and ever-present concern. 2009 saw the exploration of several ways and means to increase donations, stimulate patronage, and diversify sources of revenue.

Arrimages

This project is aimed at young adults who are professionals, entrepreneurs, independent workers or students. A collaborative effort between the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Jeune chambre de commerce de Montréal, Arrimages introduces young businesspeople to the world and work of cultural organizations, so as to encourage a sensitivity about the importance of art patronage. It is a simple but effective strategy: by going to cultural events, participants have an opportunity to network while taking enjoyment from the experiences themselves. And while developing their taste for culture, they learn about what the milieu needs to survive.

Patronage

Another initiative undertaken by the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM), patronage is an increasingly attractive method of support for artistic organizations. It allows companies without charitable status to diversify their revenue sources by giving them access to foundation, business and special donations. Acting as an intermediary, CAM offers guidance to organizations, and forwards grants to them from donors, who then also benefit from the appropriate tax deductions.

Private Donations

The Placements Culture program encourages Québec individuals, companies and foundations to make generous donations to non-profit groups in the cultural and communications sectors. The Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ), which manages the program, matches the amount of each private donation. The program has stimulated significant private sector support for the arts.

In June 2009, le ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine (MCCCF) and CALQ tabled a report detailing the first three years of the Placements Culture program. It showed undeniable support for 193 organizations since its launch in 2006. Five community foundations have made considerable efforts to emphasize the importance of patronage to culture. As a result, additional investments were committed to the 2009-2010 program, a portion of which is earmarked as recurrent.

Additional Federal Support

The Government of Canada has committed to further incentives for the provision of endowments through the Canada Cultural Investment Fund. This support consists of matching donations to Montréal cultural institutions.

Donations of Art

Donations remain a major avenue by which museums expand and diversify their collections. Donations account for 85% of the works in the collections of the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts. And in 2009 alone, the Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal accepted close to $4.8 million worth of artwork, a new record for its foundation.

One of the greatest challenges facing curators here and everywhere is to make their collections accessible to the general public, so that citizens can see the priceless treasures still hidden in their vaults.
The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal released in November a study entitled *Culture in Montréal: Economic Impacts and Private Funding*. It analyzed data demonstrating how culture has been an economic engine for Montréal over the past ten years, creating jobs at three times the average market rate. In its portrait of the private sector’s contribution to arts and culture, the study documents, in numbers, the precarious economic status of artists themselves. It furthermore examined the involvement of the private sector with cultural groups. There is a clear message to business people that support for the development of culture to its greatest potential is beneficial to all in Montréal.

**CULTURE AND THE MONTRÉAL ECONOMY**

- Revenues: $8 billion*  
- Direct Jobs: 96,910  
- Metropolitan GDP: 6%*  
- Annual Growth: 4.6% over 10 years  
- More indirect jobs than the majority of businesses in the service industry

*Culture in Montréal: Economic Impacts and Private Funding. Study by the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal, 2009*
The cultural energy of a city radiates from the fusion of its multiple talents. By providing artists with new opportunities to express themselves, the fires of their imagination burn even more brightly.
The Shuko Challenge

The Mayor of Montréal launched the Shukos in September 2008, a competition to find solutions to a series of urban design challenges. These challenges are being met. A corollary benefit is that a growing number of designers are gaining access to public tenders for architecture.

DESIGN COMPETITION: PORTABLE FESTIVAL STREET FURNITURE

The winning design for this category came from Morelli Design and Signature Design Communication. Its strength is the simplicity of its technical and visual concept. Moreover, it brings ease and harmony to festival sites with its rapid deployment and removal capabilities. Take simple concrete blocks, temper their edges, choose the appropriate size and voilà! They are suitable for signage, traffic management, crowd control or simply as benches. Practical and ingenious!

DESIGN COMPETITION: BUS SHELTERS

Conducted in association with transit agency Société de transport de Montréal (STM), this competition attracted entries from 31 design groups and offices in Québec. Five were singled out by the jury as finalists: Arium Design Inc. and Tak, Leblanc + Turcotte + Spooner, Messier Designers Inc., Godbout, Plante, Associés Enr., and Morelli Designers and Signature Design Communications. In the second stage of the competition, these designers will develop concepts fulfilling the STM’s requirements concerning security, accessibility, cleanliness and public-use standards.

IDEA COMPETITION: CHAMP-D’MARS & TAXIS

Design Montréal presented two more challenges. The first, a Canada-wide competition, involves the re-design of the immediate area surrounding the Champ-de-Mars metro station. The second is the creation of an original visual signature for Montréal taxicabs.

Target: Shanghai

This year, the Centre d’histoire de Montréal exhibition The Adventures of the Unpredictable Dr. Bethune is on display at the Montréal Garden of Centennial Park in Pudong. Meanwhile, Montréal prepares for its participation at Expo 2010 Shanghai with the chosen theme of “Better City, Better Life!” It will include:

- the mosaiculture L’homme qui plantait des arbres (The Man Who Planted Trees), created by Mosaiculture internationale de Montréal, in collaboration with Frédéric Back;
- Espace Montréal developed by the firm GSMPRJCT°, presenting the creative and groundbreaking achievements of the Saint-Michel Environmental Complex;

The uniforms for Espace Montréal hosts and hostesses were designed by Marie St-Pierre, selected in competition.

A Life’s Passion

A visionary with a passion for literature, Lise Bissonnette enjoyed a remarkable year in 2009. This resolute woman gained entry to the Academy of Great Montrealers, accepted the Prix Fleury-Mesplet at the book fair Salon du livre de Montréal, and then… retired, surrendering her position as Chief Executive Officer of the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec to Guy Berthiaume. The stunning number of honours that have been granted to Madame Bissonnette bears witness to her tenacity and the legacy she’s left to Montréalers and all Québecers: the Grande Bibliothèque, a grandiose repository of proud history and knowledge. She had been at the helm of this monumental institution from its infancy. Its tremendous popularity eloquently demonstrates not only her wisdom, but proof that libraries play a significant role in the future of our society.
Excellence in Architecture and Design

Several competitions were undertaken in 2009 to promote excellence in architecture and design, another initiative suggested in Action Plan 2007-2017 – Montréal, Cultural Metropolis.

_The Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium_

The Cardin Ramirez Julien + Adélica consortium won the international architecture competition for design of the new Planétarium Rio Tinto Alcan. Being erected at Olympic Park, this science museum will observe the highest standards of eco-friendly construction. Architectural highlights include a green roof and two truncated cones pointing to the sky, evocative of telescopes gazing into our universe.

_Literary Laureates_

On the occasion of its 25th anniversary, the Centre Jacques Cartier joined hands with Ville de Montréal to create a French-language novel prize. The first Prix Jacques Cartier du roman de langue française went to Monique LaRue, for her _L’œil de la marquise_, and included a purse of $10,000 from the organization based in Lyon. The prize is given to a French-language novelist whose work, through its technique and originality, enriches the literary heritage of the French-speaking world.

There was another premiere of great note: l’Association internationale des études québécoises (AIEQ) gave an award of excellence, the Grand prix du livre de Montréal, which would enable the winner to tour one of its 80 member-countries. Dany Laferrière accepted the award for his novel _L’énigme du retour_ published by Boréal and Grasset, giving him the opportunity to make a promotional trip to the country of his choice in 2010. Also in 2009, Mr. Laferrière collected the Prix Médicis and the Blue Metropolis International Literary Grand Prix, and was named Personality of the Year by La Presse/ Radio-Canada.

_New Libraries_

Two architectural competitions were announced in 2009 under the Rénovation, agrandissement et construction de bibliothèques program (Library Renovation, Expansion and Construction).

In the borough of Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie, the four finalists for architectural design of the future Marc-Favreau Library were announced in September:

- Les architectes Corriveau Girard + Éric Pelletier,
- Dan Hanganu Architects,
- les Architectes FABG,
- Manon Asselin + Jodoin Lamarre Pratte Architectes.

In the borough of Saint-Laurent, the four finalists were:

- ACDF*Architecture (Allaire Courchesne Dupuis Frappier Architects)/SNC Lavalin/CLA Ingénieurs,
- Cardinal Hardy/Labonté Marcil/Éric Pelletier Architects Consortium/SDK et Associés Inc./Leroux Beaudoin Hurens et Associés Inc.,
- Chevalier Morales Architectes/Les Architectes FABG/Tecsult-AECOM Inc.,
- Provencher Roy + Associés/Anne Carrier Architects Consortium/LES Consultants S.M. Inc./Bouthillette Parizeau et Associés Inc.

In both cases, LEED certification is required. The final jury choices, announced early in 2010 were Dan Hanganu Architects for the Marc-Favreau Library, and Cardinal Hardy/Labonté Marcil/Éric Pelletier Architects Consortium/SDK et Associés Inc./Leroux Beaudoin Hurens et Associés Inc. for the Saint-Laurent library.
In Montréal, creativity and capability are two sides of the same coin. With innovative programs and a tradition of sharing expertise as paths to excellence, Montréal training stands out in the diversity of its schools and the openness of its creative artists.
New Spaces for Knowledge and Training

After 67 years, two sister institutions in Montréal, the Conservatoires de musique et d’art dramatique, moved to a new home in the heart of Plateau-Mont-Royal. The two new schools were inaugurated in September after several months of work intended to better suit the conservatories’ needs.

Since the end of 2009, the National Circus School has been offering housing services to its students. The new, contemporary-design residences have exceptional rooms and living areas. That will allow students who come from other parts of Quebec, Canada and around the world to devote themselves fully to their studies, while enjoying life in Montréal.

And Espace VERRE, dedicated to the education, exposure and creation of glass arts, took a new step forward in November with the opening of its renovated headquarters. Located since 1986 in a former fire hall on Mill Street in the Sud-Ouest borough, Espace VERRE successfully modernized, bringing its home building up to standards.

THE NEW CONSERVATOIRE D’ART DRAMATIQUE
- 12 recording and rehearsal studios
- Television, radio and dubbing studios
- Set and costume making workshops
- A 225-seat Italian-style theatre

THE NEW CONSERVATOIRE DE MUSIQUE
- 65 teaching and rehearsal studios
- A multimedia studio which can accommodate 100 spectators
- An opera studio
- A 100-seat recital room
- A 225-seat concert hall

A Musical World

The sounds of tam-tams, gumboots and African dance have become familiar to residents of the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough over the past four years. And in 2009, percussion group Samajam upped the ante when the Government of Québec recognized it and its new social and educational mission. Now developed into a school and social economy collective, Samajam can teach music to many more children, but also to disabled clientele and school dropouts. The group’s professional musicians have, from the outset, been involved with a large number of people, charity organizations, events and places including: the Old Brewery Mission, Dans la Rue, the Wishmaker Walk for the Children’s Wish Foundation and the Quebec Foundation for the Blind. More proof of how the cultural community contributes to a better society.
Libraries 2.0

Ever since the advent of the Internet, libraries have had to re-position themselves in society. The changes are dramatic, with almost daily adaptations necessary in the new era of information. Libraries have learned new ways of doing what they do, taking into account our relationship to information and how it's communicated and received.

From this new perspective and in the face of the implications for the future of reading, learning, knowledge, and services, Montréal libraries staged the Forum bibliothèques de Montréal 2.0. Over two days, librarians from across Québec studied the gamut of technological tools and their potential, discussed how to position libraries in the virtual world, and shared their own experiences.

Ever-conscious of their new responsibilities in a rapidly changing world, Montréal libraries need support from all stake-holders in making these critical adjustments, and taking on their new roles... This forum gave them the means to go forward.

Re-thinking Light

International experts in urban lighting design met at Monument-National in February to see what light Montréal could shed on the field. The LUCI—Montréal à la loupe 2009 (under the magnifying glass) colloquium included international workshops organized by Lighting Urban Community International (LUCI), of which Montréal is a founding member. Participants discussed sustainable and innovative technologies, many of which are employed in Old Montréal's lighting plan as well as in that of the Quartier des spectacles.

The Arts in Times of Crisis

Anxious to observe the effects of crisis on the cultural milieu, Culture Montréal organized in 2009 L'économie des arts en temps de crise (The Arts Economy in a Time of Crisis) in collaboration with the Alliance de recherche université-communautés (ARUC) and the Carmelle and Rémi-Marcoux Chair in Arts Management of HEC Montréal. The event allowed participants to better understand the perspectives of cultural managers over the short-, medium- and long-terms of an economic crisis. The measures that they intend to take were also discussed. The study L'économie des arts en temps de crise was released, documenting the repercussions of the financial crisis on the revenues of Montréal cultural organizations, and suggesting solutions to attenuate the impact.

Presentations from Claire Hopkinson, Executive Director of the Toronto Arts Council, and John Nicholls, founder and managing partner of Arts Quarter, allowed comparison with the prevalent views from Ontario and Great Britain, whose economic contexts are relatively similar. In conclusion, three cultural managers related their experiences and described their innovative solutions to keep their organizations in good financial health.

The Design Connection

HEC Montréal and the University of Barcelona got together for a second consecutive year at an intensive seminar on design. Alternating cities year by year, industry leaders and professionals sit down to discuss, join together in workshops and even make field trips to hotbeds of innovation. In Montréal, that meant visits to veritable “creative laboratories” like Cirque du Soleil, Ubisoft and Sid Lee.
Memorable

Montréal see and feel remembrance everywhere: from downtown street corners to the most far-flung corners of the Island. History is a part of our daily life... of our identity. It is our duty to preserve and proclaim our inheritance, as much for our own pleasure as for the benefit of future generations.
Hommage to Oscar Peterson

The Sud-Ouest borough is today the proud and happy home to a park in memory of the great Montréal jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, who passed away in 2007. It was in this Petite-Bourgogne (Little Burgundy) public green space, previously named Campbell Centre Park, that Oscar used to play as a child, as did his friend and protégé Oliver Jones years later. By renaming this small urban oasis in the memory of the jazz giant, Ville de Montréal has consecrated Petite-Bourgogne as the cradle of Montréal jazz music. It also celebrates the memories of the days when Montréal was a hotbed of jazz nightclubs. To keep the artist's memory alive and vibrant, Parc Oscar-Peterson will be home to an open-air concert stage. A discovery walk will also be created on neighbouring streets, telling the story of his life and work, as well as the history of jazz in Montréal's south-west quarter.

In Memory of Gaston Miron

The renovated and newly renamed Gaston-Miron Building was formally inaugurated in February 2009 at 1210 Sherbrooke Street East. The former central library is a magnificent structure, housing the Conseil des arts de Montréal and the Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal. Ville de Montréal executed a master stroke when, with support from the Government of Québec, it renovated this majestic building for the use of Montréal’s most ardent promoters of our cultural heritage. In addition to its immense heritage value, the building retains a tangible cultural mission by offering artists and cultural groups the rental of its rehearsal rooms. There can be no doubt that Gaston Miron inspired Montréal culture and Québécois literature. Ville de Montréal truly and deservedly honours the memory of this writer emeritus by placing his name on a building linked to books and literature.

Artistic Programming with Originality

Having drawn thousands of readers to the classic architecture of its confines over several decades, the Gaston-Miron will now host artistic programs in its atrium (which is also available for rental). It was the scene of an exhibition of women’s works in October 2009 as part of the first Mois de l’histoire des femmes à Montréal (Women’s History Month). The general public was invited to appreciate the work of artists chosen for the Grand Prix du Conseil des arts de Montréal, as well as for the Pierre-Ayot and Louis-Comtois awards for excellence in visual arts, and the François-Houdé prize for craft work.

Permanent works are also on display:
- the Lion citadelle (the Castle Lion) by Romain Lardanchet, a gift from the city of Lyon;
- the Porte du paradis (The Gates of Paradise), a replica of Ghiberti’s Eastern door of the Baptistery in Florence.
Better than Ever: the Centre d’histoire de Montréal

It was a fire station that dated back to 1893. For the past 25 years, it has served as an exhibition space sharing with visitors the history and heritage of Montréal. In 2009, the Centre d’histoire de Montréal received a Grand Prix du tourisme québécois in the “tourist attraction serving 100,000 and fewer” category for welcoming some 20,000 people from near and far. This was a tremendous accomplishment for a small, dynamic team which had, just in 2008, celebrated the municipal museum’s 25th anniversary.

In the spring in 2009, major work began on the foundation and building envelope to bolster and restore the Flemish-style structure in a way that would preserve its unique character.

And to finish the year in fine style, the Centre opened its exhibition The Adventures of the Unpredictable Dr. Bethune. The Bethune project commemorated the 70th anniversary of the death of this remarkable man, who left his mark on the histories of Montréal, Spain and China.

Saluting the Arrival of the First Lebanese Immigrants

A public art competition was launched to mark the 125th anniversary of the appearance on Montréal soil of people from the land which is today known as Lebanon. A work by Montréal artist Gilles Mihalcean, entitled Daleth, was chosen and installed in Parc Marcellin-Wilson in the Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough.

New Splendour for a work of art

Montréal sculptor Linda Covit’s 1991 work Caesura underwent major restoration. Dedicated to Burmese civil rights leader (and that year’s Nobel Peace Prize winner) Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as all who strive for peace, Caesura stands in Parc Jarry in the borough of Villeray-Saint-Michel-Parc-Extension. Its three elements: a graceful concrete spiral, granite benches and a triangular central piece in stainless steel. Much of the restoration was performed by the nationally and internationally recognized company Dolléans Inc.

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Everything Old Is New Again

The beauty of Place d’Armes reached new heights in 2009. Established in the 17th Century, and subsequently the city’s financial core, this public area is one of Montréal’s main connections to the founders of Ville-Marie. With its panorama spanning four centuries of architecture, Place d’Armes symbolizes our history and culture, visited by countless tourists who flock each year to the monument of Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve. Renovations to be completed in 2011 will open a new window to this rich history, expanded and in harmony with the incomparable Notre-Dame basilica. The reinvented Place d’Armes will still have at its heart the one-of-a-kind monument to the Sieur de Maisonneuve, with newly-added plant life and fixtures.

Another locus of historic poignancy, Dorchester Square, will see the completion of its make-over in 2010. This magnificent location provides a breathtaking view of unique architecture. The bronze memorial to the heroes of the Boer War (the only equestrian monument in Montréal and a rare breed in Canada), the statues of Robert Burns and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the Lion of Belfort have all been restored, with some already remounted. As the work was being carried out, visual barriers, designed by the firm Orange Tango, replaced the usual blank boards used to hide construction. This humorous, pleasing campaign is regarded as another Montréal original.

The Maison Saint-Gabriel: a Past with a New Future

Maison Saint-Gabriel has long been one of the best-kept secrets in Montréal, but that is coming to an end... In the past few years, it has enjoyed resounding success, with visitorship going from 7,000 in 1997 to 75,000 (!) in 2008. Taking note of this remarkable increase, its Board of Directors decided to look to the future with the annexation of the Jeanne-Leber pavilion and site. That has added a boutique, terrace, a “soup and sandwich” café, interpretation areas and meeting rooms. With contributions from several levels of government, the gift of the house and grounds from the Notre-Dame Congregation and generous private donations, the Maison Saint-Gabriel is set to play an outstanding new role in Montréal’s heritage community.

Fresh Wind in its Sails

Erected by the Sulpician Order of priests in 1720, the Vieux-Moulin de Pointe-aux-Trembles underwent rejuvenation in 2009. One of the three surviving windmills on the island of Montréal, and the tallest of the 18 that still exist in Québec, it was classified as an archaeological treasure in 1983. Work conducted by the architectural firm Beaupré Michaud has secured the building, making it accessible to the public. Thus a fresh page is opened, revealing the history of life under the French regime. It represents a special occasion to experience one of the first villages on this island. The new interpretive trail, incorporating the windmill, the riverbank and surrounding park, opened in summer.
Historic Status for Five Buildings in 2009

Ville de Montréal identified three buildings as historical monuments in the past year:
- The farmhouse of Robert Bélanger, built between 1803 and 1806 in what is now the borough of Saint-Laurent;
- The Mary Dorothy-Molson house (Manoir MacDougall), situated in the Bois-de-Saraguay nature park of Ahuntsic-Cartierville borough;
- The Esso service station by architect Ludwig Mies Van der Rohe, created and erected in 1967 on Nun's Island in the borough of Verdun.

The Québec Government classified two major Montréal structures as historic:
- Habitat 67 by Montréal architect Moshe Safdie;
- Windsor Station and its Richardsonian Romanesque interior.

A Bright New Light Shines from the Cross on Mount Royal

In 1643, the Sieur de Maisonneuve planted a wooden cross on Mount Royal to thank God for protecting Ville-Marie from flood. The lighted structure standing there today was erected by the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste, and has been a signature of the Montréal landscape since 1924. In 2009, restoration work was completed, including the installation of a more effective, energy-efficient system that is easier to maintain. The monument base is re-configured to allow visitors better access to the magnificent view of Montréal and its surroundings, as well as to the site itself.

Some Examples of Financial Assistance

Financial aid for restoration of religious heritage
- Reinforcement of the Carmelite ring wall in Montréal
- Restoration of the masonry, and preventive maintenance on the windows at Saint Patrick and Saints-Ange-Gardiens churches

Fonds du patrimoine culturel québécois for the preservation of a rich, unique history
- Restoration and standardization of the Brignon-dit-Lapierre house
- More than a hundred projects at small residential units across Montréal

Operation Restoration

Several heritage restoration projects were set in motion in 2009, thanks to various financing programs. New windows gaze from the Bonsecours Market, and the ancient fortifications of Champ-de-Mars are re-born.
Pooling resources, sharing knowledge, trading ideas... All of these roads lead to the development of Montréal as a cultural metropolis. Does organization have anything to do with creativity? This city affirms that it does.
New Jury Committees at the Conseil des arts

In September 2009, the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) modified the structure of its jury committees, charged with the responsibility of evaluating grant requests. The re-organization aimed to better understand the expectations, aspirations and priorities of the artistic milieu: in short, to strengthen the committees’ expertise. Previously the jurisdiction of CAM members only, evaluations will now be carried out by peer committees overseen by a board member. Each committee will be composed of six to nine peers—artists or other art professionals—chosen for their personal experience and their keen knowledge of the arts milieu as well as the various aspects of the specific discipline to be evaluated. The composition of committees reflects the diversity of artistic practices and fields of specialization. Generational factors will be taken into consideration, as will the equitable representation of men, women and minorities. 58 people who work in the art disciplines eligible for grants have agreed to take volunteer seats on the jury committees. The CAM has in this way joined with other arts councils in evaluating and awarding grants.

PEER GROUPS IN THE EIGHT CAM COMMITTEES
- Digital Arts
- Visual Arts (including crafts, design and architecture)
- Film and Video
- Dance
- Literature (including culture periodicals and story-telling)
- Music
- Theatre
- New Art Practices and Circus Arts

The Innovative Quartier des spectacles Partnership

The advent of the new Place des Festivals is the dawn of extraordinary potential for the area surrounding Place des Arts. Ville de Montréal has entrusted management of cultural development for this vibrant quarter to a collective of individuals already deeply involved in the project, called the Partenariat du Quartier des spectacles. Yet more boldly, the group has been given the means and resources it needs to make the area the best it can be: a cultural destination of international stature. Consequently, the partnership has revised its mission to that of becoming a major cultural player in Montréal. From now on, it will develop cultural programming in concert with various groups to emphasize Montréal’s creativity. It will support the promotion of Quartier des spectacles as a destinations and oversee the maintenance of its public spaces and specialized facilities.
Neighbourhood Cultural Programming: Well Done!

As the candles were blown out on the 20th birthday cakes of the Frontenac and Mercier maisons de la culture and the Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur and its concert hall, celebrations were also underway in Plateau-Mont-Royal and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. Regulars of these boroughs’ maisons de la culture and libraries marked their 25th anniversary of having access to culture and knowledge. These cornerstones of municipal service to communities represent large investments which never fail to be worth their weight in art and cultural gold.

**The Accès Culture Network**

The Accès culture network came to life in 2007, the fruit of the labours of municipal leaders wishing to advance the dissemination of culture. Regarded as one of the city’s strengths in terms of public access, the network is well-entrenched in the community. It draws close to 650,000 spectators annually (of whom 200,000 fall into the youth demographic), at the same time granting precious exposure to 2,000 musicians, dancers, artists and actors. In 2009, Ville de Montréal released an analysis that demonstrated the depth and dynamism of the network, while making proposals for its improvement. This tool serves to support the development of the Accès culture network as an essential and original component of Montréal’s growth as a cultural metropolis.
Film and Television: Action!

The Quebec Film and Television Council (QFTC) created a co-ordinating committee for the film and TV cluster, without question the highlight of the year for the sector. Bringing together 30 industry leaders to work on framework projects, the committee will see that film and TV is a full player in Montréal’s economic development. To date, three targets have been defined: financing, innovation and market development. By focusing on specific projects, the committee will advance the growth and competitive edge of companies in this arena.

A Design for Togetherness

Réalisons Montréal Ville UNESCO de design is a collective project which citizens, elected officials, businesspeople and designers must support and make their own. Its missions: to create opportunities for design in Montréal; to highlight design initiatives which stimulate Montréalers and to reinforce our status as a UNESCO City of Design. The project is primarily a series of contests to enhance the quality of design for projects, buildings and public spaces in Montréal. It has also given birth to a new vehicle by which Montréal design initiatives can gain exposure: the web site realisonsmontreal.com, updated monthly with rich new content.

United They Stand

Last April, organizers for Fringe Montréal, MEG Montréal, MUTEK, PIKNIC Électronik, Pop Montréal and Escales Improbables of Montréal decided to unite their forces under one flag, and formed the Regroupement. This coalition of independent, multi-disciplinary events pools all their resources, networks and advertising for the benefit of all. This is another way that Montréal’s cultural star will be made to shine more brightly, here and abroad.
Cultural Quarters, A Growing Concept

The concept of the quartier culturel, or cultural quarter, is becoming more and more concrete. In 2009, all available information was gathered through research of other cities’ experiences, and the first exploratory meetings were held with Montréal’s boroughs. Of these, Ville-Marie has formed a working group, and Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie has struck a consultative committee to advise officials and management in cultural matters.

LES FAUBOURGS CREATIVE CIRCLE

To support the development of the Sainte-Marie and Saint-Jacques quarters in the Ville-Marie borough (regarded as veritable hotbeds of style and avant-garde), various local players decided to support the Les Faubourgs creative circle, thus recognizing their neighbourhood’s artistic and cultural vitality.

Dance... Taking a Step toward a Master Plan

The art of dance has also engendered many exchanges of ideas in Montréal, due to the Seconds États généraux de la danse professionnelle au Québec conference, staged in April by the Regroupement québécois de la danse (RQD). This spring summit followed up on an ambitious consultation undertaken in 2007 which served to mobilize close to 250 dance professionals, including dancers, choreographers, researchers, teachers and presenters. From the 80 resolutions debated in 5 large-scale round tables, a master plan will be elaborated and tabled by year’s end 2010. This is to be a 10-year plan aimed at the consolidation and improvement of dance industry practices and increasing the genre’s profile. 2009 was clearly a watershed year for the RQD whose members also took time to celebrate the organization’s 25th anniversary.

_ CITIES BY DESIGN... WHAT ARE THE STAKES?

- Montréal recognizes that design is an avenue of development for the metropolis, but how exactly does it fit in to the region’s strategic development?
- What measures, actions and projects have been undertaken to deal with the design landscape as it stands today?
- What effects have they had on the development of cities and their regions?
- What is the foreseeable central role of design in cities?

Within the framework of Entretiens Jacques Cartier, the Espaces de la danse colloquium raised the prospects of dance as a public mode of expression, and explored several methods by which contemporary dance could communicate with the population at large. Les Biennales de Lyon and the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM), in partnership with the Maison de la danse de Lyon, arranged this much-appreciated encounter for choreographers, dancers, artistic directors, promoters and students from North America and Europe.

_ DANCE SPACES... THE GREAT DEBATE

- What prompts artists and dancers to perform in public places or to explore unused spaces?
- How does this influence their artistic approaches and their rapport with the public?
- How does commandeering new spaces change their relationship with the public and does it create a new experience for spectators?

Entretiens Jacques Cartier

The Les villes laboratoires du design (Cities By Design) conference, hosted by the Cité du Design in Saint-Etienne (France) as part of the XXIth Entretiens Jacques Cartier, gave voice to design experts from around the world. A collaborative project including Design Montréal, Ville de Montréal, and the Chaire UNESCO en paysage et environnement de la Université de Montréal, the colloquium allowed an exchange of ideas on the integration of design into project management centred on urban and social rehabilitation.

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Bathed in the brilliant light of its artists, Montréal glitters the world over. Intensified by the reflections of adoring critics wherever they go, artists carry with them the spark of creativity that is Montréal... a true cultural metropolis.
Montréal’s Ambassadors of Creativity

So numerous and diverse are they, it would be impossible to name them all. Montréal owes its artistic radiance in the world to its myriad cultural and artistic stars. Here are a few who, in 2009, made Montréal the toast of other towns.

_FESTIVAL D’AVIGNON_

The year saw Québec being honoured at the Festival d’Avignon, the biggest theatre festival in the world. Led by Wajdi Mouawad, associate artist for the Festival, many Québec artists were in evidence: Théâtre UBU choreographer Dave St-Pierre, Danse création Lynda Gaudreau, Théâtre Péril and poet Renée Gagnon. These Montréalers shared their talents and creativity throughout the event which again shattered its attendance records. For Wajdi Mouawad, the laurels were just beginning to accumulate on his brow. L’Académie française bestowed upon him its Grand Prix du théâtre for his body of dramatic work and he received his first doctorate _honoris causa_ from the prestigious École normale supérieure de lettres et de sciences humaines of Lyon, at the opening of the XXIIIrd Entretiens Jacques Cartier.

_THE INTERNATIONAL CERVANTINO FESTIVAL_

The 37th edition of this esteemed festival, the largest in Latin America, was staged in Guanajuato, Mexico in the autumn, choosing Québec as its featured cultural region. Montréal artists stole the spotlight!

_AT THE CERVANTINO_

- Le Carré des lombes
- O’Vertigo
- Susie Arioli
- Le Théâtre sans fil
- L’Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (directed by Jean-François Rivest)
- Ex Machina
- Les Foutoukours
- Cirque Éloize
- Le Carrousel
- L’Ensemble contemporain de Montréal
- Marc-André Hamelin
- Claude Beausoleil, Nicole Brossard and Jean-Marc Desgent
- MUTEK presented several activities including an open-air concert featuring four digital music artists: Guillaume Coutu-Dumont, Vincent Lemieux, Stephen Beaupré and Marc Leclair, better known as Akufen.
_FESTIVAL TITIRIJA_

- Le Théâtre sans fil
- Le théâtre Motus
- Le théâtre de la Pire Espèce
  (Accès culture network award 2009-2010)
- Le théâtre des Petites âmes
- Le théâtre des Deux mains
- Les Poupées [K]rinquées

_ FESTIVAL TITIRIJA_

As guest of honour at Titirijai, the celebrated International Puppet Festival at Tolosa, Spain, Québec charmed young and old with performances from several Montréal troupes.

_ FESTIVAL DE CANNES_

Young director Xavier Dolan won international attention and awards in 2009 with his film *J’ai tué ma mère* (I Killed My Mother). He notably took home three of the four prizes awarded during the Directors’ Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival. Also screened during the event were the works of directors Denis Côté (*Carcasses*) and Denis Villeneuve (*Polytechnique*).

_ MAGIC MOMENTS_

Paris was the backdrop for a Michel de Broin celestial spectacle at the City of Light’s Nuit blanche (All-Nighter) in 2009, as visitors were dazzled by a unique light show over the Jardin du Luxembourg. For one October night, Michel de Broin was a fantastical “light magician” with his work entitled *La maîtresse de la Tour Eiffel* (The Mistress of the Eiffel Tower). A gigantic mirror ball was suspended high in the air and bombarded by projected light, creating a “starry” sky for the night and its celebrants.

In Lyon, the night came alive with *Danse des lumières*, a spectacle inspired by the inventive film pioneers, the Lumière Brothers. Montréal multi-media studio Moment Factory and the dancers of Acte performed a ballet of images and sounds revisiting the early days of film to close Lyon’s *Fête des lumières* (Festival of Light).

Director of the Orchestre Métropolitain since 2000 and musical director of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra since 2007, Yannick Nézet-Séguin began the year on tour in Scotland, celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn. And, for his role as principal guest conductor for the London Philharmonic, the UK honoured him with the Royal Philharmonic Society Award in the "Young Artists" category. As a grand finale to 2009, he conducted *Carmen* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. This international notoriety won him the Prix Opus of the Conseil québécois de la musique for his work abroad.

The Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal embarked in 2009 on its first European tour in 10 years, under the direction of Maestro Kent Nagano. All told, the OSM performed 13 concerts in 12 cities and 6 countries. Led as always by founder, conductor and cellist Yuli Turovsky, I Musici celebrated its 25-year anniversary during the 2008-2009 season. The permanent chamber orchestra and its vast repertoire touching genres from baroque to contemporary is recognized as one of the most important of its kind in the Americas. In 2009, the ensemble was showered with praise in the People’s Republic of China… for a fourth time.

Yet again, the Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal affirmed its presence on the international stage. The ballet company was greeted with enthusiasm at the centennial celebrations in Tel Aviv, the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations between Canada and Israel, the Big Stage Festival in Tel Aviv, and the Israel Festival – Jerusalem. The Grands Ballets Canadiens also dazzled crowds in Cairo before going on to Ljubljana (Slovenia), Baden Baden (Germany), and Becket (Massachusetts, USA) before wrapping up at the Fall for Dance Festival at New York City Center.

Free and Independent Video

In January of 1999, a group of friends with a passion for video set for themselves a creative challenge: to produce one short film a month and show it to the public. This was the birth of the Kino movement for the promotion of free, independent and democratic video. Since then, Kino has spread around the world, with over 50 cells in 14 countries on 4 continents. Members of the movement, called Kinoïtes, participate in exchanges and tours, exploring new avenues of creation without the constraints that come with public financing, and distributing their experimental works. The Kino movement, and its “mother cell” in Montréal, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2009!

In the same spirit, Montréal’s public library system started its Biblioclip contest in 2008, inviting video enthusiasts to create a short film on a collective theme. Thanks to the idea’s lightning-quick travels via the Internet, the city of Limoges, France, adopted the concept in 2009 for its library. That success inspired Montréal to launch the contest throughout the Francophonie, gaining the participation to date of Limoges, Libreville, Romans-sur-Isère, Marrakesh, Rouyn-Noranda and Bujumbura. The video collection lives on a web site originating in Montréal.
Culture Days: the Québec Model

Strongly inspired by the Culture pour tous experience in Quebec over the past 12 years, the cross-Canada movement Culture Days seeks to sensitize all Canadians to art. The public partnership project funded by the Canada Council for the Arts seeks to encourage understanding and cooperation amongst citizens, the artistic milieu and public leaders. In 2009, volunteer committees in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec collaborated in a spirit of cultural togetherness which will undoubtedly bear fruit. In Montréal, the Journées de la culture event innovated again by inviting the public to an interdisciplinary and participatory activity called je m’affiche pour la culture! (I’m Showing My Support for Culture!) A beautiful way to celebrate the new Place des Festivals!

Agenda 21 for Culture: 5 Years!

As a member of the culture committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) since 2007, Ville de Montréal, along with Culture Montréal chairman Simon Brault, was invited to contribute to the world report marking the 5th anniversary of Agenda 21 for Culture. To date, more than 300 cities, local governments and organizations from around the world have accepted the responsibilities and principles enshrined within the reference document, which defines culture as a hallmark of local development. Montréal’s City Council voted unanimously to adopt Agenda 21 in June 2005. Le ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine has committed to adapt Agenda 21 for the whole of the province by 2013, to place culture at the heart of Quebec society for years to come.
What They’re Saying About Montréal

_A VISUAL ARTS “DREAM CITY”_

The British magazine _Next Level_, one of the best-selling photography publications in Europe, devoted its 18th edition to Montréal, with its editor-in-chief categorizing it as a “dream city.” Montréal was portrayed as a brilliant mixture of creativity and cultural diversity which has embraced photography as a way to explore its rich variety.

_ MUSIC CAPITAL OF CANADA, THIRD IN NORTH AMERICA_

According to a study published last November by the Martin Prosperity Institute of the University of Toronto, Montréal is home to the greatest concentration of enterprises active in Canadian music, in proportion to its population. Its North American ranking of cities with a population of more than 500,000 put Montréal in third place, just behind Los Angeles and Nashville. With a rate of 3.13 enterprises per 100,000 people, Montréal comes out ahead of Toronto (2.38), Vancouver (2.23) and even New York (2.20)!

_THE SEDUCTIVE CITY_

Montréal was one of the cities profiled by the respected magazine _National Geographic Traveler_ in its March edition called _The Magic of the City: Celebrating the Urban Places that Captivate Us_. In addition to Montréal, spotlights were given to Sydney, London and Shanghai. The French language, the neighbourhood parks, the sidewalk cafés, the food, the circus arts, the architecture, the Old Port, the St. Lawrence River, the festivals, but also the emotion, the imagination and the expressions of art… In short, all that characterizes the unique spirit of Montréal was described and lavishly illustrated. A beautiful tribute to a city of seductive charm that knows how to live well!
The partners of Action Plan 2007-2017 wish to thank all the people (artists, photographers, organization representatives) who contributed to this publication by sharing with us their photos images.

**Photo Credits**

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