As an important vector for dynamism and vitality, arts and culture, again in 2015, contributed with strength and vigor to the positioning of Montréal across the planet.

More than ever, the work of our creative professionals has raised the city’s reputation abroad. The whole world is discovering the talent of our artists, musicians, designers and dancers. Our major events, exhibitions and performances are acclaimed internationally. Montréal has become a source of inspiration, a successful model for cultural development that is both bold and harmonious.

The overflowing of talent and expertise that characterizes our city is also changing things locally, as different neighborhoods and boroughs downtown resonate to the distinctive creativity of Montréal. This issue of At a Glance shows this on every page—describing close to a hundred successful productions from 2015.

We are proud that Montréal, along with its partners on the Steering Committee, does so much to encourage this creative impulse that is the driving force behind so many rich and visionary collaborations.

The Steering Committee is continuing the implementation of the 2007–2017 Action Plan, which is stimulating and boosting the cultural development of our city in advance of celebrations for the 375th anniversary in 2017.

We invite you to discover, inside these pages, a cultural metropolis that is accessible, united, organized, creative, memorable and influential.

Enjoy your reading!

The Steering Committee
BGL is easily the most well-known contemporary art trio in Canada. Last September, Jasmin Bilodeau, Sébastien Giguère and Nicolas Laverdière unveiled a monumental public artwork entitled *La vélocité des lieux.*

Located between Pie-IX and Henri-Bourassa boulevards, where you enter Montréal-Nord, this giant Ferris wheel (18 metres high!) is formed by the cages of five city buses joined in a vertical ring, one after the other, to evoke the endless circular flow of municipal road traffic.

Equipped with stained glass and reflectors that play with nocturnal light, this huge sculpture caps the urban redevelopment of the intersection. It offers a bold representation of the flowing vehicular activity in the area.

BGL was chosen after an extensive competition launched across Canada. Their approach is tied to social and environmental concerns, in a way that gets people to form new perspectives on their environment. As a brilliant sculpture illuminating the north of the city, this installation represents a crowning achievement for BGL.
The art

Boulangerie Guillaume, the boutiques Mylène B and Cahier d’Exercices, the bars Furco and Mimi La Nuit, Restaurant Impasto, the gardening store Le Balconier and the Simons department store: they all share one great feature.

They are among the 20 winners of the 2015 Commerce Design Montréal awards. Created in 1995, these awards recognize Montréal merchants and restaurant owners who invest in the quality of their premises with the help of professional experts in design and architecture.

Located in seven different Montréal boroughs, the jury grand prize winners offer a fabulous range of products, styles and experiences. The main trends observed include an emphasis on recycling, the reuse of raw but noble materials (wood, copper and concrete), and warm colours.

To shop, eat or drink while enjoying smart interior decor—this is part of what makes Montréal a great place to live!

New park for old memories in Saint-Michel

Located in the old Miron quarry, the Saint-Michel environmental complex (CESM) is slated to become the second largest park, after Mount Royal, in Montréal. The redevelopment will transform the site into a vast green space with playgrounds and bike paths.

The artist and performer Alain-Martin Richard will create the first work of public art to be installed in the park. Trou de mémoire will memorialize the site and its history through the eyes of area residents. A series of workshops, happenings and poetic events (such as an exhibition on alleyway clotheslines) was organized to encourage meetings among Saint-Michel residents and sharing of stories and images dug from the collective memory of the neighbourhood and in the history of the quarry.

Inspired by this trove of material—the names and testimonies and photos of people and landscapes—Richard aims to assemble a permanent and emblematic work of public art for presentation to Montréalers in 2017, during the 375th anniversary of the city, in solidarity with the people and memories that live there.

After spending years on the move, Les 7 doigts de la main, a circus arts company, will soon be established in the old Just For Laughs Museum, on Saint-Laurent boulevard. The job of renovating their new production centre was decided by an architectural contest.

The winning team of scenographers Lupien+Matteau (Montréal) and architect Jacques Plante (Québec City) were selected from the four finalists. It paid special attention to the distinct needs of circus producers, and devised innovative solutions that make the building as multipurpose as possible.

Jacques Plante has designed many different theatres, including Robert Lepage’s Caserne Dalhousie in Québec City. The Lupien+Matteau firm are veterans at scenography for cultural institutions such as the TOHU, a creative and performance centre for the circus arts. This new design is a great addition to their long list of remarkable projects.

With help from such experts, Les 7 doigts now have a firm grip on the “Main”. Perhaps it is the hand of destiny!

photo : Bureau du design de la Ville de Montréal

photo : Alain-Martin Richard

photo : Alain-Martin Richard
In seeking to improve access to arts and culture, to promote the work of artists and to improve the quality of our living environment, the Ville de Montréal gives special importance to mural art. As part of a pilot project established in 2014, five murals were completed in 2015, in four different boroughs.

Tribute to Norman McLaren, on Saint-Laurent boulevard, is one such mural. Part of a series entitled Montréal’s Great Artists, it was designed by Jason Cantoro for MU. The mural features five panels inspired by the stroboscopic ballet dancers of Pas de Deux (1968), a landmark NFB short film by the animation pioneer Norman McLaren. In Cantoro’s mural, the panels flash along the side of the building, with lively, fluid images that give passers-by a truly kinetic experience.

On Fleurimont street, in Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie, Mathieu Bories (a.k.a. Mateo) has created a giant yellow-and-blue mural entitled MÁS. It depicts a slender woman whose eyes are covered by a banner inscribed with the Spanish word más (“more”). She sits cross-legged, holding her finger to her lips—as if calling for silence, as if encouraging and reminding us to take the time to reflect.

A different flavour of street art is grabbing our attention at the corner of Sherbrooke and Jeanne-Mance. Produced for Mural (the Plateau’s yearly international festival of public art), the work was created by Favio Martinez (a.k.a. Curiot). This artist is known for his frescoes depicting mythical creatures in vibrant colours. They blend human and animal forms while alluding to a number of Mexican traditions.

Where the city is adorned in works of art like these, the walls seem to communicate with us through words and images and colour, in a silent urban dialogue.
A bridge of light
Interactive light show to illuminate Jacques Cartier Bridge for Montréal’s 375th anniversary.

Entitled Living Connections, the project is designed with lighting that is activated in real time by the seasons and by the energy of the city. Different kinds of data (road traffic, virtual exchanges, weather patterns) will trigger changes in the movement, speed and intensity of the illuminations. Residents of Montréal will perceive, in real time, the true pulse of their city.

This innovative concept fuses art and technology to celebrate our urban heritage and spotlight the dynamism and creativity of Montréal artists. This is sure to be an attraction that touches the hearts of local residents and visitors alike.

La Roulotte gets on a roll!
La Roulotte travelling theatre launches a writing contest.

For nearly 20 years, the Perte de Signal centre has fostered the development of digital arts and of artistic innovations tied to new technology. They produce group exhibitions, arrange for video art from Montréal to be seen at festivals around the world, and help digital innovators and artists gain influence on the scene.

To keep growing as a centre, Perte de Signal has opened an accessible new space for experimentation, research and creativity. RUSTINES|LAB operates like an open laboratory where projects, methods and events in the digital arts can be presented to the public. A place for artists and audiences to meet, discuss and discover, it will serve as a showcase and proving ground for avant-garde contemporary work by local and international talent. It will also let skills, knowledge and inspiration be transferred to the next generation of digital artists in Montréal.

Signals of intelligent life
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La Roulotte travelling theatre launches a writing contest.

A mobile theatre founded in 1953 by the late Paul Buissonneau, La Roulotte tours the parks of Montréal every summer with shows for a wide audience. The performers are all graduates from the Conservatoire d’art dramatique de Montréal and the National Theatre School of Canada.

To follow the great success of their Pippi Longstocking show, which delighted audiences in 2015 with the adventures of a lovable red-haired brat, La Roulotte has launched a writing contest for young authors with help from the Centre des auteurs dramatiques (CEAD), the Conservatoire, and the NTS.

The winning play was submitted by Lauriane Derouin. In addition to receiving a grant, this young author will take part in a writing workshop with Geneviève Billette and see her work produced for the stage in summer 2016.

Encouraging the growth of new talent, giving young actors a chance to perform in a professional environment—these were important ideals for founder Paul Buissonneau during his long career. This contest is a great way to honour his work and his memory.
Vue sur la Relève is 20 years young!

What’s the link between singers Daniel Boucher, Yann Perreau and Pierre Lapointe, dancers Rubberbandance, author Évelyne de la Chenelière, storyteller Fred Pellerin and choreographer Estelle Clareton? All were discovered at Vue sur la Relève, a festival for new talents.

Founded in 1996 by Créations Etc., Vue sur la Relève celebrated its 20th edition in 2015. The festival shines the spotlight on the creations of young artists from throughout the French-speaking world, offering them access to a big stage for the first time. By revealing today’s trends in music, song, dance, theatre and circus arts, the event serves as a powerful springboard for original works and young talent.

In addition to presenting some forty performances, the festival hosts professional meetings, training workshops and networking parties. By virtue of these many kinds of support, Vue sur la relève acts as a guide and coach for the artists of tomorrow.

Catherine Planet, musician and sociologist, had a simple yet brilliant plan: to play traditional folk music on the traditional balconies of Montréal. Once a week, she and her fellow pickers gave surprise concerts in six different boroughs of the city. The music brought families, neighbours and passers-by together for dancing, singing and celebrating to old-time jigs and reels. After a long winter, this proved a wonderful way to warm up social ties among neighbours.

The impromptu shows were a real hit, and Planet’s band of street performers could hardly believe the rave response they got from the festive audiences. This sunny group has promised to perform again next spring, to bring Montrealers out of hibernation once again!
If someone asks to meet you “at the banana,” don’t worry about their state of mind. Some highly original street furniture—a banana bench, in fact—has been installed on Place Gérald-Godin, outside Mont-Royal metro station. The bench is two gigantic banana peels, spread apart as if thrown nonchalantly on the square. Designed and fabricated by DIX2, a young Montréal company, this big yellow bench has quickly become a favourite meeting point in the neighbourhood.

This playful design concept is a great example of unifying art. It was selected from numerous proposals made to the Société de développement de l’avenue du Mont-Royal (SDAMR). The finished work was immediately embraced by young and old, as either playground or rallying point.

Prior to renovating its special zone for teens, the municipal library in St-Léonard launched a design competition among Grade 8 students at Antoine-de-Saint-Exupéry high school, to allow them to contribute their ideas.

More than 90 students participated in this friendly competition, which was organized through their visual art class. Supervised by designers Simon Marcotte and Madly Fuss, the students had ten creative workshops so they could sketch and then build representative models and furniture for the library’s new “teen space.” The kids presented their models to a panel of adult judges and then to the public so people could vote for their favourite. The winning project was the work of Feriel Saudia Adghir, Misjah Elindelle Andress Metge and Robert Apostu, who created a giant rocking chair for reading. Two prototypes were made life-size, and they will be added to furnishings in the library.

Combining sound pedagogy with the spirit of play, this competition was a chance for students to learn new skills and make their mark on a place made for them—and now by them as well!

The stadium was designed by Saucier + Perrotte and HCMA, two firms that specialize in sports facilities, after they won an architectural competition. Emphasizing transparency and perfectly integrated into the urban landscape, this exceptional work was also a real engineering challenge.

The horizontal roof alone is considered a great technical feat. Evoking the image of a mineral stratum, it references the site of the former Miron quarry and rests on a lattice-work of beams four meters high. The façade is wrapped in glass on three sides, so that the building is bathed in natural light and enjoys stunning views of the park. Training rooms, indoor and outdoor playing fields, cafeteria and adjoining spaces were all designed in accordance with sustainable development standards.

Will this new facility be a launch pad for Neymars of the future? One thing is certain—its bold design and creative energy will inspire all who play there.
Saul-Bellow Library was named in honor of this author born in Lachine in 1915. To match its success and its growing number of users, the Saul-Bellow Library, in Lachine, has undergone extensive renovations and expansion. The work was entrusted to the Chevalier Morales architectural firm.

In addition to bright, friendly and comfortable spaces, and an array of hi-tech technology, the new Saul-Bellow Library features a particularly innovative design.

A public artwork, Yannick Pouliot’s Perte de signal, has also been added to the library, based on his contest-winning proposal. Inspired by the industrial tie-beams that are part of Lachine’s architectural heritage, the artist has pixelated, deconstructed and transposed their form onto the main building.

With a diverse program of activities for a wide audience, the library is an ideal place for meetings, creative projects and discussions. It is highly valued by visitors and neighborhood residents as “a place where the generations cross paths” says one of the chief librarians. The new spokeswoman for the library is Kim Thúy, a highly regarded novelist.

Contemporary and functional, the new Saul-Bellow Library is sure to inspire pride among Montréalais, both young and old!

For 30 years now, the Maison Théâtre has staged Canadian and international plays for children and youths in a hall specially designed for young audiences. Still, in order to pursue its artistic and pedagogical mission of introducing young people to the theatre, the Maison needed to create more space and open a second hall.

Cégep du Vieux Montréal, next door, also had need of additional space so its multimedia students could have the optimal conditions, in a functional and inspiring environment, for their specialized classes.

The two institutions have agreed to share the use of a new facility which has been built on the Cégep campus. The college will use it as a venue for scholastic, socio-cultural and institutional activities. For Maison Théâtre, this space will allow it to offer unusual or experimental shows, as well as small-scale performances designed for very small children.

When education and the arts join forces, everyone comes out a winner!
A place in the heart of Montréal

The concert halls, theatres, museum, shops and restaurants of Place des Arts make it a great destination for anyone who loves the arts. And at the centre of this giant complex is the Esplanade, a place for gatherings and artistic events that is highly valued by Montréalers.

This large public square will be completely restructured and transformed into a huge open-air stage. More welcoming, more accessible, it will become a place where large-scale public events can be held.

The architecture firm of Provencher Roy, a specialist in urban planning, has designed this ambitious project as a large area planted with trees like maple, elderberry, lilac and crab-apple (Montréal's emblematic tree), to provide shade and freshness to passersby. There will be two water basins (over 1,000 metres square) with fountains and a flexible system for lighting and lighting effects. All these changes will make the Esplanade an accessible, welcoming and festive place, a zone for celebrating the vitality and creativity of Montréal in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles.

Papier15 unfolds in a Mile End setting

Celebrating works on paper or installations related to paper as a material, the Papier 15 contemporary art fair has become a prestigious event over the years, welcoming over 15,000 visitors. Forty different galleries from around the country take part, making the event an important catalyst for the Canadian contemporary art market.

The festival had previously been held under a big tent downtown. For Papier15, it moved to the Pôle de Gaspé, located a few steps from Laurier metro in the Mile End district. This cultural crossroads is attracting more and more people to its six different arts centres and to its hundreds of arts and crafts workshops led by some of the city's most active exhibiting talents.

Thanks to the new locale, participants in Papier15 can enjoy spacious and bright exhibition halls, a video room, and a reception and dining area. Another bonus: in the background, a stunning view of the city…

photo : Jean-Michael Seminaro
The art of healing

Hospitals are not always regarded as the most pleasant places to visit. Yet some of them, like the Glen site of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and the Centre hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM), offer visitors a bona fide arts tour within their halls, thanks to works of art that celebrate humanity and vitality in a way that is conducive to healing. “Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life,” said Picasso, in words now engraved on the wall at the MUHC.

Chosen for their high artistic quality, the works complement the local architecture and appeal to visitors and patients by their soothing nature. Taken together, they represent an intriguing tour of contemporary art within a hospital environment.

The Glen site of the MUHC offers a tour of its public artworks that is spread through 11 different architectural spaces. It features sculptures and installations by Michel Goulet, Cooke-Sasseville, Denis Farley, Gilles Mihalcean, Michel Saulnier and Martha Townsend. There is also a collection of posters, drawings and acrylic paintings by David Hockney, Henri Matisse and Picasso. Heritage pieces from the 19th century are on display, including two paintings by Robert Harris and a marble sculpture of Queen Victoria by Lady Feodora Gleichen. A tour of these works has been mapped out and documented for visitors.

Over at the CHUM, ten proposals for public artworks have been selected and they will be installed there by the end of 2016. Three other creations will be added to these by 2020. Made of glass, metal or steel, they all share a theme of natural light.

A special initiative was recently unveiled in Chameran, a multicultural neighbourhood in the borough of Saint-Laurent. Since March 2015, readers large and small can access a Mini-library located in the Painter Park chalet.

A dress that shines bright

At the entrance to Plaza St-Hubert, on the Place Hector-Prud’homme, you can now enjoy a sculpture by Louise Viger entitled Une architecture d’air.

A multidisciplinary artist, Louise Viger has worked and lived in Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie for the past eight years. Her project was selected among 20 proposals in a public art competition. Another piece by Viger, Des larmes pour mémoire, is a tribute to Jean Duceppe and will be installed in the park that is named for him in the same borough. She also has a piece that will be integrated into the new CHUM hospital in 2016. It is entitled La traversée des lucioles.

Having works of art in public spaces contributes to the dynamism of the city. Montréal is proud to exhibit the works of its artists all through the metropolis, so that everyone can see and enjoy them.
Since about two years ago, several districts in Montréal have adopted the “little free library” concept to encourage book reading. These micro-bibliothèques are outdoor self-service book boxes that operate in the spirit of give and take. You deposit a good book in the box, take one for yourself, read it and bring it back. It’s a great way to give people direct access to books outside of the places that are traditionally dedicated to reading.

Through support from the Bureau du design, the borough of Ville-Marie launched a major contest to elicit proposals for a self-service library system in the city centre. The contest was open to everyone and gave Montréal’s the chance to join creative workshops hosted by architects from the Rayside Labossière firm. They were able to try out all the different design stages, from creating a concept to building a model. Among the 41 proposals made, it was Les Pigeonniers (the pigeon lofts) from the ALLY collective that won the day. The first one has been installed in Cabot Square, right near the southeast entrance to Atwater metro.

In addition to helping us share the joys of reading, these mini-libraries have allowed city residents and designers to express their creativity and design a new kind of urban furniture.

Legendary hip-hop DJ Grandmaster Flash wheeled in from New York and got 8,000 people dancing along De Maisonneuve and Sainte-Catherine. With M pour Montréal in charge of the bookings, the crowd got to see top-ranking performers from abroad and local favourites like Socalled and Canailles.

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This year La Vitrine teamed up with the AESG to produce a comedy gala that drew 800 spectators. Alexandre Barrette was the host for a hilarious three-hour marathon, featuring rising talents like Phil Roy, Mehdi Bousaidan and Charles Deschamps, as well as a surprise visit from François Bellefeuille.

Judging by this edition’s success, the OUMF Festival has earned itself a permanent spot in Montréal’s summer series of great festivals.

**Youth Fusion** is a Montréal-based organization that forges ties between the school system and the community by providing at-risk students with innovative educational projects that foster learning, skills and social integration. The programs cover arts and culture, fashion and design, film and video, and science and technology.

To maintain educational projects that are inspiring for the teenagers, Youth Fusion calls upon university-level volunteers who get involved in the classes as coaches and guides.

In 2015, Youth Fusion offered 180 educational projects, 91 of them in Montréal, and 42 of them related to arts and culture. Their innovative formula is great for everybody—the city, its cultural scene, and most important of all, its young citizens!
The Grande Bibliothèque celebrates 10 years in operation

Two million books. Seven thousand visitors per day. More than 360,000 members. The Grande Bibliothèque is truly a beacon for culture and knowledge in the city, one that has shone brightly since the doors first opened in 2005.

The Grande Bibliothèque also serves as a central library for Montréal residents and the city’s municipal libraries. Befitting its era, the Grande Bibliothèque is fully at home in the digital age. Its Web portal gives members access to 270 different databases, 100,000 digital books that are available for borrowing, and nearly 13 million documents with important heritage value.

Exhibitions, conferences, workshops and shows for young people continue to draw a large and loyal audience to the library. For its tenth anniversary, it welcomed Gilbert Turp as writer in residence, assigning him the project of writing the diary of the Grande Bibliothèque. The library also organized a special exhibition and performance entitled The Library at Night, a collaboration with Ex Machina/Robert Lepage and the writer Alberto Manguel.

In the space of ten years, the Grande Bibliothèque has found a place in the life of the city, on the Web, and in the hearts of Montréalais, fulfilling its role as a hub of knowledge and cultural expression.

Temple of knowledge

The golden career of Janine Sutto

An outstanding actress, Janine Sutto is among the best known and most respected theatrical talents in Canada. Born in Paris, she arrived in Montréal at the age of nine. The lady whom many affectionately call Notre Dame du Théâtre has played the great classical roles and graced many smaller-scale productions as well.

She was Lisette de Courval in Les Belles-sœurs (Michel Tremblay) when it was first staged in 1968. She came back to the play in 2010, in its adaptation as a musical, to play the role of Ovivine Dubuc. She has toured Québec and France with this same production.

Janine Sutto is also a pioneer in television and cinema. She has performed in classic films like Le père Chopin, Les belles histoires des pays d’en haut and Deux femmes en or, and was part of the hit TV series Symphonien. Her long and wonderful career is virtually a history lesson in the arts and culture of modern Québec.

In April, Janine Sutto joined a prestigious group by receiving the title of Citoyenne d’honneur from the Ville de Montréal. She is the first woman to hold this distinction.

We should recall that Janine Sutto was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1986 and a Knight of the National Order of Québec in 1998. She received the Governor General’s Performing Arts Award in 2014, the summit of artistic achievement in Canadian theatre.
Mordecai Richler, Mile End’s literary hell-raiser

What better tribute for a writer than to have a library named in his honour?

Born and raised in the Mile End district of Plateau-Mont-Royal, Mordecai Richler (1931-2001) made this the main setting for many of his stories. An ardent defender of Montréal’s identity, he is considered one of Canada’s great authors. Along with essays, screenplays and children’s books, Richler wrote ten novels, several of which became feature films (the last being Barney’s Version). Known for his insinuitive and fearless pen, he published many controversial opinions about Québec and Canada.

In March 2015, Mordecai Richler was posthumously named citoyen d’honneur by the Ville de Montréal. At the same time, it was announced that the Mile End municipal library would be renamed after him—a fitting recognition for this ambassador of Montréal’s identity.

Elsewhere in the city, Concordia University (through a bequest from the estate of Mordecai Richler) offers a three-year residency program that also bears his name. The author, actress and playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald was the first to be appointed as Richler writer-in-residence. There is also a reading room named for Richler at the same university. It was inaugurated in 2013.

Over the next two years, five Richler novels (including the epic Solomon Gursky Was Here) will be reissued by Éditions du Boréal, in new translations by Lori Saint-Martin and Paul Gagné. A great literary endeavour to honour the memory of a great literary figure!

A home for Habs history

Fans of sports and music, people from the business and tourism community, and Montréalers generally will soon have the pleasure of discovering the new indoor and outdoor spaces of the Bell Centre, which are being redesigned and upgraded with an investment of $100 million over a period three years.

Modernizing the existing restaurants and the mechanical and stage facilities, transforming Avenue des Canadiens into a pedestrian street, and constructing a spectacular glass covering for the entrance hall are some of the projects that will offer visitors an even better welcome to the centre.

The plan will preserve and reclaim design-sculptures on the site like Agora and Mastodob even as it redesigns the Daudelin and Chénier sections in a creative and contemporary way. There will be service areas, a café with terrace, and a bicycle repair shop, as well as many planted trees. Montréalers will appreciate the harmony of this new square, which respects artistic heritage while also improving safety and quality of life for people in the city.

The current site was designed by Charles Daudelin, Claude Théberge and Peter Gnass in the early 1980’s. A much-needed redevelopment was recently launched by the Ville de Montréal. Starting with the Daudelin section, it will create a vibrant, friendly and accessible space that links the downtown core with Old Montréal.

The walkway is composed of 20,000 bricks personalized with the names of supporters. Resonating with team history and resolutely contemporary in its design, Place des Canadiens will serve as a wonderful rallying point for Montréalers who share the same passion.

Thanks to the generosity of the Molson family, the Bell Centre can play an even greater transformative role in the development of Montréal’s downtown.
Elliot and his winning duo

Each year, the Prix du livre jeunesse des Bibliothèques de Montréal is decided by a jury of librarians and literary figures. The award recognizes Montréal-based authors and illustrators who specialize in literature for children, a field whose exceptional creativity is recognized worldwide.

On its tenth anniversary, the award went to Elliot, written by Julie Pearson and illustrated by Manon Gauthier. Their book was named from a group of five finalists. It was published by Editions Les 400 coups. Elliot tells the story of a child who is shuffled from one foster family to another. The author deals with delicate issues such as abandonment, attachment, adoption and the child’s longing for love. The intimate page settings and soft-touch illustrations particularly impressed the jury. After this prestigious award, Elliot is sure to figure prominently on the shelves of bookstores and libraries both here and abroad.

Built in 1876, on the site of the old Saint-Antoine cemetery, Place du Canada had not been renovated since 1923. Now, like Dorchester Square, it has been completely redeveloped as a great public space in the heart of downtown.

Directed by architect Claude Cormier, historians and landscape designers have worked together to return Place du Canada to its former glory—to promote its heritage value and renew it as a welcoming and inclusive place, one that will serve Montréalers as vibrant urban square.

Le Gésu, 150 years of history

Both historic place of worship and centre for the arts, Le Gesù church celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2015. This coincided with the opening of a new cultural venue managed by Groupe Le Vivier, a union of 35 different music ensembles and creative organizations. The new space, Espace Custeau, has transformed the gallery into a cabaret hall that can accommodate 50 to 75 people.

To mark the event, Le Gesù presented a special series of musical performances, and published a commemorative book that pays tribute to its 150 years of history. In addition, the Portrait sonore agency recorded a podcast documentary, Le Gesù de 1865 à aujourd’hui, to accompany visitors wishing to discover the history of the church and the transformation of its various centres for meeting, creating and performing in the arts. All told, it’s a wonderful way to promote our heritage while fostering the city’s cultural development.

On June 19, 2015, Montréalers celebrated the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Carignan-Salières Regiment in New France. On that anniversary day, to mark this historic event from the beginning of the country’s history, it was officially designated a part of our cultural heritage. At a ceremony which took place at Château Ramezay, filiation certificates were awarded to 40 descendants of the soldiers of the regiment—one of whom is none other than the mayor of Montréal!

The Carignan-Salières Regiment (around 1100 men) was sent by Louis XIV, the king of France, with orders to defend the colony against attacks from the Iroquois and pacify the St. Lawrence River valley. When peace was established, in 1667, the king offered land to soldiers and officers who wished to settle there. Around 400 of them remained.

The work of two renowned genealogists, Marcel Fournier and Michel Langlois, made it possible to trace 285 officers and men who decided to settle here at that time—with many being married later to the Filles du Roi. Their decision was an important factor in the development of New France and, of course, in the history of Montréal.

As the storyteller Fred Pellerin says, History with a capital H is written with a series of small stories in dotted outlines—and we must colour them in!
Marcel Côté
Award honours the memory of a great visionary

Marcel Côté (1942–2014) was a brilliant economist leader and a tireless advocate for good public policy. He was a founding partner of SECOR Inc., which he helped build into Canada’s largest independent management consulting firm. His advice was sought by corporations, community and cultural organizations, and senior-level governments in our country. Dedicated to his community, he served many different institutions as a board director, and made important contributions to the economic and cultural growth of Montréal.

In 2015, the Frédéric-Metz Award was given to Boulangerie Guillaume, to honour the inspired vision of its owner, Guillaume Vaillant, and the work of architects L. McComber Itée and graphic designers Atelier Chinotto.

To beautify and simplify life: that is the function of design, said Frédéric Metz. This award honours him yearly by recognizing designs that bring added value to our everyday.

More than 14 new toponyms were created in Montréal in 2015 to honour great figures in the history of the city. Among these place names are Jean-Doré Beach and Robert-Bourassa Boulevard.

Frédéric Metz was an esteemed teacher at the UQAM design school and a founding member of the Centre de Design and the École supérieure de mode. He devoted more than 30 years of his life to graphic design and its professional practices. An outstanding pedagogue and communicator, he trained and inspired several generations of graphic designers.

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Marcel Côté Award for Leadership in Public Policy was created. The award is presented by Canada’s Public Policy Forum in partnership with the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montréal and the Jeune Chambre de commerce de Montréal.

The Marcel Côté Award recognizes lasting contributions to good governance.

It was bestowed for the first time in May 2015 upon Louise Roy, Chancellor and Chair of the Board at the University of Montréal, and Jacques Ménard, Chairman, BMO Nesbitt Burns and President, BMO Financial Group. They both embody the values that were so dear to Marcel Côté.

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A tribute to his memory and legacy, the Société des designers graphiques du Québec (SDGQ), UQAM and the Bureau du design de la Ville de Montréal created the Frédéric-Metz Award. It recognizes one business (among the 20 winners of a Commerce Design Montreal award) that has shown special rigor, coherence and audacity in redesigning and renovating their interior space.

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Jean-Doré Beach was named for former Montréal mayor

First opened in 1990, the public beach on Île Notre-Dame has always been closely linked with Jean Doré, the man who initiated the project to build it. From the beginning, it was nicknamed “Doré Beach”. It runs along the southern edge of the regatta lake.

Jean Doré (1944–2015) was mayor of Montréal from 1986 to 1994. It was he who first equipped the city with a Culture Department and with programs to support festivals, public art and design while getting the Communauté urbaine de Montréal (CUM) to triple the budget of the Conseil des arts. In 1992, during his second term, the 350th anniversary of Montréal took place, and the celebrations left an important legacy: the Biodôme, the Pointe-à-Callière museum of archaeology and history, the redevelopment of the Old Port, and upgrades to major public sites like the Place Émilie-Gamelin.

Robert-Bourassa Boulevard, in the borough of Ville-Marie

Since March 15, 2015, Robert-Bourassa Boulevard has been the new name for the section of University Street that runs south from Sherbrooke to Notre-Dame, in the borough of Ville-Marie.

Lawyer and economist Robert Bourassa (1933–1996) was Premier of Québec from 1970 to 1976 and from 1985 to 1994. Born in Montréal, he spent his childhood in Plateau-Mont-Royal and part of his later life inOutremont. In 1992, his government adopted the Politique culturelle du Québec. Under his leadership, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec was founded.

Montréal honours some great names

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Memorable
Montréal’s 375th anniversary is a great opportunity to celebrate the founding of our city—and to make major improvements that residents will appreciate well beyond 2017. Better access to the river and to green spaces and renewal of infrastructure are just two ways the city is remaking itself for the future.

History in situ
Walking through the historic district of Montréal, passers-by can discover Cité Mémoire, a unique multimedia experience that takes us back in time through Montréal’s history. It brings the city’s past to life using projections on the actual landscape where events took place.

Gardens of history
At the Maison Saint-Gabriel, the gardens have been designed as works of art that reflect a bygone time in Canadian history.

One such garden, the Jardin des origines, is a lively tribute to First Nations women and to Marguerite Bourgeoys, the founder of the Congregation of Notre-Dame. It features flowers and plants which grew in their era, and resemble embroidery, lace and pearls. The visitor is invited to wander through a miniature paradise where the most delicate scents vie for our attention with the brightest of colours.

…and parks of the future
The transformation of the park at the Saint-Michel environmental complex (CESM) is one of the most ambitious environmental rehabilitation projects ever initiated in Montréal. Four areas of the park will be redeveloped and made open to the public in 2017. Known for its avant-garde projects, the park is set to become one of the largest green spaces in the city after Mount Royal.

Over the entire Mount Royal heritage site, the discovery tour and its points of interest will be recast and redesigned with new itineraries that offer strollers an intuitive, sensory experience for exploring the nature and history of the park.

Hidden treasures
Montréal has some well-hidden secrets—but we can discover them at the Pointe-à-Callière archaeology and history museum. The remains of Fort Ville-Marie and the Louis-Hector de Callière residence, primary sites for the city’s early history, will be the centre of a new exhibit.

Between river and mountain
Starting from the Pointe-à-Callière museum and finishing at the gates of Mount Royal, a pedestrian route will connect the two most emblematic places of the city, the river and the mountain. Extending over 3.8 km, it will include fascinating stops along the way that reveal the history, heritage and cultural resonance of the sites it crosses. This Signature Project will be carefully planned so it can serve as a “benchmark” for similar urban walks in the future.

A new look at City Hall
The redevelopment of the area around City Hall and Place Vauquelin will reveal the key elements of their identity and enhance their civic and symbolic dimensions. This project forms part of a broader study of the whole territory covered by the city’s administrative headquarters.

Crossroads redesigned
A major hub for Montréal institutions, heritage and culture, the Sherbrooke–Pie-IX intersection is currently being redesigned. The Pie-IX boulevard will become the main corridor for public transport in the east of the island. A new rapid bus service (the SRB) is being developed by the Agence métropolitaine de transport, for launch in 2020. This will bring 70,000 people through the crossroads each day. A work of public art will be installed there, given by the City of Québec.
The memory of an elephant!

Movie buffs love it when they can see classic films again on the big screen. There's an event in Montréal that gives them the chance! Éléphant ClassIQ is a festival that lets us discover (or revisit) cinematic history in newly restored digital versions of the films. The first edition of the festival was dedicated to French-language cinema. It presented rare gems from the silver screens of France, Belgium, Switzerland, Africa and Québec.

Claude Fournier and Marie-José Raymond are the directors of a digital archive project called Éléphant, mémoire du cinéma. They had the idea of creating this mini-festival, running three days in November, to celebrate our film heritage and even give a second life to movies that were forgotten too soon.

The Éléphant project is gradually restoring all of Québec feature films and transferring them to HD digital media for distribution online. Since the project was launched in 2008, more than 225 fiction films have been digitally remastered. Some have had the privilege of being shown at prestigious events like the Lumière Film Festival in Lyon, France.

Shaping the house of words

Among the greats of Québécois poetry, Gaston Miron stands out as one of those who shaped the identity and soul of his people. L'homme rapaillé, the collected poems, is a masterpiece that has inspired generations of writers and singers. It was written mostly while the author resided on the Plateau Mont-Royal.

In tribute to his memory, the Ville de Montréal unveiled the first Cabinet des auteurs, located on Place Villeneuve at the corner of St-Denis and Gilford. Completed by multidisciplinary design studio La Camaraderie, this urban installation represents the archetype of a working-class house. The structure “literally” invites you to enter the heart of Miron’s poetry, between walls of laminated glass that project transparencies of his verses: me voici en moi comme un homme dans une maison / qui s'est faite en son absence.

Like a sly wink, the last two verses (je ne suis pas revenu pour revenir / je suis arrivé à ce qui commence) also decorate the façade of the Conservatoire de musique et d’art dramatique, two streets away.

Named World Book Capital by UNESCO in 2005, Montréal honours its literary heritage and declares, with this first completed tribute, its commitment to honouring the city’s great literary figures. Let us hope that similar tributes appear soon in many other corners of the métropolis...
Through an agreement with 18 partners that own the art works involved, public art in Montréal is now accessible to everyone through the Web, via artpublicmontreal.ca, a site that is entirely dedicated to this outdoor collection.

The site contains nearly 600 works of art along with biographies of the artists and new information about the arts scene in Montréal. You can also follow virtual tours and get the chance to vote for your favourite creations.

This is the first phase of a major project to celebrate Montréal’s exceptional collection of public art. The partnership has set itself the goal of cataloguing more than 1,000 works and so of presenting the work of 500 different artists in a variety of practices, materials and forms.

The Art public Montréal site is a great tool for promoting art and culture in the city. It bears witness to the extraordinary creativity of our artists and confirms the reputation of our metropolis as an open-air museum.
Culture, economic lever

The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montréal has published an eagerly awaited study on the economic impact of arts and culture in the city. The study, entitled *Culture in Montréal: Numbers, Trends and Innovative Practices*, confirms the data collected in 2009, namely that culture is an important economic lever for the city and contributes to its development.

Economy and culture are two essential and converging sectors. Arts and culture represent a dynamic and productive sector that generates nearly 83,000 jobs. Supporting the private funding of small organizations and encouraging their creativity in terms of development are the main directions that emerge from this study.

The cultural industry in Montréal is a perfect match with the city itself: vibrant, innovative and always ready to meet new challenges.

Rejuvenating the Old Port!

Rue Saint-Paul is the oldest street in Montréal, and the main thoroughfare for its historic district. It will be redeveloped so as to strengthen its identity, showcase the heritage buildings that line it—the Bonsecours Market and the Place Royale, to name just two—and satisfy the needs of local residents and merchants.

The new Saint-Paul will be even better for strolling thanks to changes that give priority to pedestrians. At the same time, the needs of motorists and cyclists will be integrated harmoniously into the shared space.

A great place for historical discoveries, and for meeting, strolling and shopping, rue Saint-Paul promises to be a renewed attraction for Montréalers and for visitors to the city.

Books are a garden for the mind

“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library,” said Jorge Luis Borges. As a portal to knowledge, dreams, adventure and escape, the book is a marvelous tool—a way to discover and understand the world around us. But like a garden which we hope to cultivate and harvest, books and reading must be cared for, maintained and stimulated.

That is why a robust new plan to promote book culture, the *Plan d'action sur le livre*, was announced in April by the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Several measures will be put in place to promote access to books, with support to the independent bookstores and libraries that are working tirelessly to promote books and reading.

Writers, publishers and booksellers make our literature an extraordinary garden, and their work should be encouraged. “If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need.”
Schooled in fashion

Can anyone doubt that high fashion is a form of art? Philippe Dubuc and Marie Saint Pierre, like other local luminaries, are true ambassadors for the creativity and savoir-faire of Montréal. Twenty years ago, the École supérieure de mode (ESM) was established at UQÀM as a fashion school for the next generation of designers and stylists. To celebrate this anniversary, the ESM has moved into a new pavilion.

As the only school in Québec that offers a university-level program in fashion, the ESM numbers 500 undergraduate students and offers three fashion-related majors: design and styling; management; and marketing. Internationally recognized for the skill of its teachers and graduates, the ESM contributes to the growth and reputation of Québec artists by training competent professionals who are equipped to tackle a market that never stands still.

The new pavilion has large windows opening onto Ste-Catherine Street—perfect for exhibiting the creations of staff, graduates and students from the school and for making our local talents known to a local audience… before they hit the world stage!

South-east hub for creativity

In recent years Hochelaga-Maisonneuve has become a hotbed of artists and artisans. They will now have a permanent hub for creativity, located in a former office building that is being turned into fifty studios, for individuals or groups, by Ateliers créatifs Montréal.

With large windows and high ceilings, the building seemed perfect for this type of repurposing. When the renovations are complete, the building will provide secure and affordable working conditions to over a hundred artists. These include members of Atelier Graff, a contemporary art centre that will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2016.

This new hub for creativity will also be a crossroads where artists and disciplines intersect, an ideal place for dialogue among residents. It also promises to add to the revitalization and cultural vibrancy of a thriving neighbourhood, in addition to supporting the artistic productions and talents that are hallmarks of Montréal.

Saving the memory of things past

By classifying a site as heritage property, we collectively recognize its value while ensuring it will be protected and transmitted to future generations. For these very reasons, the Studio Ernest-Cormier and the Maison Alcan complex received their notice of classification in 2015.

Ernest Cormier was one of the most important architects of the 20th century. He played a large role in the renewal of the city’s architecture all during the 1920s. The studio he built was at first his own creative space before becoming a ceramics workshop and later a sculpture workshop for the École des beaux-arts de Montréal. The red brick building, with its distinctive large canopy, currently hosts artists in residence.

In different periods and styles, the buildings of the Maison Alcan complex bear witness to the ways that architecture has evolved since the late 19th century. The structures integrate several older buildings whose restoration, which took place in the 1980s, has preserved the heritage facade inside a modern complex—creating a space whose harmonious design makes it a pioneering project in urban planning.

Now protected for generations to come, these historical sites have a bright future!
Ever wished to carry an entire library in your pocket? Now you can, thanks to Opuscules, a mobile application for digital tablets and smart phones. The app is dedicated to Québec literature.

It contains unpublished texts by writers who have won literary awards, news from the Québec literary scene, and a blog aggregator for browsing and reading blogs that focus on creative writing in French.

Designed and supplied by the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains du Québec (UNEQ), this application gives us access to the works of Montréal-based authors like Jean Bédard, Perrine Leblanc, and Larry Tremblay. Around thirty different titles are now available, as well as short biographies, bibliographies and author websites, all of them accessible to members. Links for purchasing printed or digital copies of books are also available. An encouraging initiative for the writing and publishing scene in Québec!

Your cultural passport

Visit a contemporary art exhibition, discover the history and archaeology museum at Pointe-à-Callière, enjoy a show at Centaur Theatre Company or a concert at the opera—and use public transit to get there: all of these activities are now easily accessible for tourists and city residents with the MTL Culture Passport.

The MTL Culture Passport is valid for 24 or 72 hours, and gives you unlimited access to cultural activities, major theatres, museums and public transit in the city. The passport is supported by prestigious partners such as the McCord Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Opéra de Montréal and the festivals Montréal en lumière and Montréal complètement Cirque. It also relies on advanced technology implemented by La Vitrine. Tourisme Montréal, the Ville de Montréal and the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications have joined forces, as part of their agreement on cultural tourism, to support this new cultural initiative. Each passport includes price of admission for one adult, so you can experience the city’s exciting cultural scene through dance, history, music, film, theatre and more!

Montréal is teeming with original and creative cultural activities. The MTL Culture Passport means “All aboard!” for fun!
Built in 1918, the Wilder building, on the western side of the Quartier des spectacles, is undergoing a huge renovation to become Wilder Espace Danse Québec. The new complex, which will include two glass-walled additions, is to welcome four dance organizations in September 2016: the Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Tangente, l’École de danse contemporaine de Montréal and l’Agora de la danse. With rehearsal and choreography studios, a production studio, a costume workshop and a 240-seat auditorium, Wilder Espace Danse will be a grand meeting point that affirms the vitality of contemporary dance in Montréal and Québec.

To finance the last stages of the renovation, the future tenants asked Canadian business leader Danièle Henkel to organize and chair a major fundraising campaign. The founding president of Danièle Henkel Enterprises is known to a wider audience for her role as a Dragon on “Dans l’œil du dragon,” a TV show that promotes entrepreneurship in Québec.

The involvement of business leaders in cultural projects is a solid guarantee that they will be achieved. With the support of such an ally, this campaign promises to be exceptional, in the image of the project it supports.

Following a public call for ideas in 2013, and a call for proposals in 2014, Ateliers créatifs Montréal and the WeArt collective were put in charge of the restoration and repurposing of this exceptional heritage building.

Slated to become a meeting point for artistic, culinary and urban cultures, the new Wellington Tower will house an art gallery, a cafeteria managed by chef Stefano Faita and a workshop for designers, artists and residents. In this way, the tower will once again taken on the role of nerve centre, but now as a hub where ideas and people intersect—and as a new urban icon on the city’s cultural and heritage scene.

This restoration project is part of the broader District Griffin project and the redevelopment of the Smith promenade, on which work was completed in the fall of 2015. The new centre will form part of a completely revitalized neighborhood.
On this occasion, the Conseil des arts de Montréal launched the first Soirée Composite as a meeting between digital artists and digital industry representatives from here and abroad—an opportunity for them to present their projects to each other and to the public. The goal was to inspire new ideas, develop existing projects, and pave the way for future collaborations.

**MUTEK_IMG** is a forum on current practices in digital creation with a strong focus on visual technology. At this year’s event, which drew a large number of artists and professionals in the field, a major exhibition was held at the Phi Centre with virtual reality as its theme. The public was invited to discover thirty achievements in this new artistic platform, including those by Québec artists Vincent Morisset and Félix & Paul. Montréal already had many exciting events during its “digital spring” series. Now, with MUTEK_IMG, it has a digital autumn too!

In parallel with the Mutek_IMG forum, Common Space was a tour of 8 digital artworks in the Quartier des spectacles. Born of a creative process exploring humanity at the heart of technology, it combined the talents of 13 artists from 7 countries. Sébastien Pierre and Daniel Canty, both Montréalers, contributed Les îles invisibles, an interactive rediscovery tour of the Quartier des spectacles, starting at the Saint-Laurent metro station.

Located in St. Joseph’s Church, a magnificent heritage building from the Victorian era, Salon 1861 aims to unite business leaders, universities, cultural groups, community organizations and local residents who share a common set of beliefs and want to work together on building a more sustainable, inclusive, productive and happy society. A full-service event space in the heart of Little Burgundy, Salon 1861 contains an event hall, a restaurant and an entrepreneurial co-creation hub. The new space arose from the I See MTL project, driven by the ideas of Natalie Volant, president of Quo Vadis real estate, in partnership with Quartier de l’innovation. Its mission combines training and networking, economic development, community integration and innovation.
Seconds to the stars

Place Émilie-Gamelin, above Berri-UQAM station, was remade as a perfect spot for summertime. A large terrace lined with flower boxes, a restaurant area, public screenings, and cultural events all renewed it as a place for meeting and relaxation in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles. All through the season this temporary installation, dubbed Les Jardins Gamelin, welcomed passers-by and tourists into a green and friendly environment designed by Pépinière & Co.

A floating dynamic sculpture was installed in the air above the gardens by Janet Echelman, an American artist. Entitled 1.26, this work was a giant kaleidoscopic net whose billowing surfaces were animated by the wind. (The title refers to the 2010 Chile earthquake, which momentarily sped up the earth’s rotation, shortening the length of the day by 1.26 microseconds.) At night, special lighting transformed the work into a floating, luminous form that drew graceful swirls of colour in the summer sky.

The installation has been presented in Denver (2010), Sydney (2011), Amsterdam (2012) and Singapore (2014). Its appearance in Montréal shows how the Quartier des spectacles is positioning the city at the creative forefront of bold new art projects in public spaces.

Arts and culture are forever young!

How do we improve cultural participation and access for young Montréalers—regardless of their background or the area where they live? How do we foster collaboration between stakeholders in the fields of arts and culture, education, recreation and business?

These issues were discussed at the Montréal Forum on Youth Cultural Citizenship, organized by Culture Montréal in collaboration with the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts. Entitled La culture, mon avenir, the forum was part of a consultation process for the entire province, guided by the Réseau des conseils régionaux de la culture, which sought to develop a comprehensive action plan on developing the cultural citizenship of young people.

The forum united 200 people from diverse backgrounds who are interested in cultural development and work with young people. This day of reflection served as a way of generating ideas and mobilizing all those stakeholders who are committed to improving arts and culture participation by youth. A number of inspiring projects based on new technologies and cultural mediation were presented, as well as numerous activities for raising awareness and introducing young people to art, reading and theatre. Because the future is theirs for the taking!
The word *ashukan* means “a bridge” and that is exactly what the **Ashukan Cultural Space** represents: a bridge between cultures.

Located on Place Jacques-Cartier, in the heart of Old Montréal, the Ashukan Cultural Space opened in May. It includes an exhibition hall, a boutique and a training centre promoting the integration of Aboriginal artists into the international art market.

Traditional carvings, landscape paintings, original jewelry and many other arts and crafts are on exhibit or for sale. The centre is accessible to the general public—to local art lovers and tourists alike—as a place for sharing and dialogue that promotes the greater recognition of Aboriginal art and culture.

The Ashukan Cultural Space is managed by **Sacred Fire Productions**, a not-for-profit organization that supports the professional, economic, personal and social development of Aboriginal artists.

Encouraging excellence

An alumna of McGill University, **Elizabeth Wirth** is now a business leader, a philanthropist and an opera lover. In 2015 she made a landmark gift of $7.5 million to her old university—the funds will enhance programs at the Schulich School of Music. These programs include a suite of student excellence awards, a new student initiatives fund for internships and student travel opportunities, and a $25,000 prize in vocal performance.

A committed philanthropist, Wirth has supported and championed an array of initiatives for the Schulich School of Music, including a brilliantly successful fundraising campaign that she chaired. In recognition of her exceptional generosity and dedication, McGill has renamed its New Music Building in her honour as the Elizabeth Wirth Music Pavilion.
A stitch in time...

Over 70,000 outfits, 20,000 accessories and countless memories—the costume department of the CBC in Montréal held enough treasures for it to be regarded as one of the largest such collections in North America.

Although the department was recently shut down, the CBC has transferred its collection to Le Grand Costumier, a new social enterprise launched by CDEC Centre-Sud/Plateau Mont-Royal, Culture Montréal, and three production houses (KOTV, Groupe Fair-Play and Salvail et Co.), with support from the governments of Québec and Montréal.

As of April 2016, Le Grand Costumier will be located in the Gaston-Miron building—where the Bibliothèque centrale de Montréal was located and the Conseil des arts de Montréal had its offices. The new company will offer clothing and accessories for rent to movie, television and theatre productions. Costume design will also be continued so as to enrich the existing collection. And its many sartorial wonders will be viewable online through an interactive catalog.

As the keeper of a valuable cultural heritage, Le Grand Costumier has taken on a grand vocation—serving the local and visiting arts community with the finest of threads!

All at the Museum—a Museum for all!

Because art and culture should be accessible to all, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts is continuing and expanding its educational mission. Working with 450 different associations, the museum welcomes visits and special tours by school groups, community organizations and people in difficulty.

Opening in late 2016, the Michal and Renata Hornstein Pavilion for Peace will endow the MMFA with the largest educational spaces for a museum in North America. Thanks to a grant from benefactor and educational publisher Michel de la Chenelière, an international atelier for education and art therapy will be part of it.

Also, a partnership with Concordia University will see university researchers working with the museum to develop projects for the well-being of society. A new art hive—a community space for creators—will be opened. And there will be a university course, Peace Trail, based on the collection of the Pavilion for Peace.

At the same time, the museum will continue its partnerships with companies and hospitals to further research projects aimed at documenting art therapy.

More than ever, the MMFA is fulfilling its vocation to be a home for the arts that is cross-cultural, interdisciplinary and open.
A small circus that has grown mighty, Les 7 doigts de la main now has a sterling reputation, and every new show is a hit with the public and the critics. These artists take their productions all over the world, conveying their own creative vision, their Montréal-brand expertise—and international values of solidarity and cooperation as well.

Artistes pour la paix (Artists for Peace) praised several of their productions as emblematic of a strong pacifist commitment. The interactive show entitled A Muse revels in the creativity of children by getting young spectators (and inspiring their parents) to add elements to the performance. Traces puts displaced artists in a makeshift shelter where art is the only response to destruction. Cuisine et confessions revives the sharing of ancestral traditions through different food recipes. All these shows have toured in North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

As true ambassadors for peace, the entire team of Les 7 doigts de la main are a fine choice to receive this mark of honour.

Eyes on the prize of diversity

In Montréal’s contemporary dance world, Zab Maboungou holds a unique status. As director of the Nyata Nyata African dance company, founded 25 years ago, the choreographer is renowned for her powerful and poetic performances—and for her complete dedication to her mission of creating new works, training young dancers and educating audiences around the world.

In 2015, the Conseil des arts de Montréal presented its inaugural award for cultural diversity in dance to Zab Maboungou and Nyata Nyata—in recognition of the exceptional quality of her work, her great emphasis on teaching, and her outstanding commitment and contribution to cultural diversity.

Established in 2011 by the choreographer Marie Chouinard, the annual Prix de la danse de Montréal applauds excellence among Montréal dance artists and reaffirm the city as a major dance destination.
The artistic director and conductor of the OSM has a busy life—he’s also musical director of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. And Yannick Nézet-Séguin has even been named 2016 Artist of the Year by Musical America, a venerable trade magazine for the performing arts.

This title, awarded by a jury of specialists in classical music, honours the young maestro and the musicians who work under his direction.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin is the first Québécois to earn this prestigious recognition. Past recipients include famous names like Leonard Bernstein, Herbert von Karajan and Anne-Sophie Mutter.

Regarded as a phenomenon by members of the Orchestre Métropolitain, Séguin is now a world-famous conductor—and the pride of every Montréalais who loves classical music.

The Global Cultural District Network is a federation of global centres of arts and culture. It fosters co-operation and knowledge sharing among those responsible for conceiving, funding, building and operating cultural districts, to ensure these projects are vital assets for their communities and contribute to the vitality of 21st century cities.

Thirty experts in urban planning came from New Zealand, the United States, England and Scotland to explore and study the Quartier des spectacles. After two days of meetings and debates, they took the time to enjoy some winter events in the city, such as the Nuit Blanche. These experts see the Quartier des spectacles as a model for such districts, because it was designed as a function of the city—and Montréalais have made it their own. The international observers were especially impressed by our unique cold-climate style of joie de vivre. They departed with many new ideas based on the district’s great success.

The Alliance française in Toronto offers an annual cultural program of over 130 events that celebrate and sustain Francophone culture in the city. A number of Montréal-based artists and performers were among the most honoured guests in 2015.

Three evenings featured Marc Laberge (storyteller, photographer and explorer), Stéphanie Beneteau (whose stories are drawn from folklore, both Québécois and international) and Franck Sylvestre (a Québec author with roots in the Caribbean).

The celebrated Marie Rioux exhibited new paintings such as Histoire de pont.

On the musical side of things, Torontonians were treated to concerts by Trifolia (a jazz trio inspired by the sculptor Camille Claudel), Gerineldo (a Montréal-based ensemble that explores Moroccan music), Yves Léveillé and the Japan Project (modern takes on traditional Japanese music) and Tango Boréal, a trio of tango enthusiasts.

By hosting this diverse and vibrant programming, the Alliance française is strengthening the bond between our two cities—maintaining a cultural bridge that promotes lasting relationships.
The future of things past

Montréal enjoys a good position on the map of Connecting Cities, a global network of wired cities that broadcasts artistic images on façades or public screens. So it was quite natural that we take an active part in Human Futures, a European project that questions how we conceive our surroundings and the place of humans in technological development. Given the projection sites installed in the Quartier des spectacles, Montréal has become a strong example of this kind of integration.

Michel de Broin, Sébastien Pierre, Daniel Iregui and Darsha Hewitt are four Montréalais who enjoy international recognition for their work on projects like MUTEK, Elektra and the Quartier des spectacles. In 2015, Human Futures invited them to a creative seminar and residency. Paired with artists from Berlin, Liverpool, Vienna and Aarhus (Denmark), they were asked to create works that emphasize concepts of space, habitation and memory. The aim was to foster community development, identity building and communication among city inhabitants—exactly the kind of project that Montréal’s digital talents have been refining for years.

Rodeo FX, a studio based in Montréal, was responsible for the special effects used in the opening sequence in January 2015. They won this prestigious contract in competition with three U.S. studios. The studio made a strong impression on people at NBC, the network in charge of the broadcast, thanks to the holographic effects they created for the caper film Now You See Me. Rodeo FX is also well known as the creator of stunning visuals for Birdman (Alejandro González Iñárritu), Unbroken (Angelina Jolie) and the popular series Game of Thrones.

Rodeo FX goes long at the Super Bowl

The Super Bowl is the single most popular sporting match in the world—over 110 million people watch the big game every year. That also represents a great opportunity for visibility, to artists and advertisers alike.

A crew of 35 designers spent five months to achieve the sequences used in the Super Bowl—a sequence which lasts less than two minutes! A great example of made-in-Montréal talent “going long” to meet the biggest challenge in sports broadcasting.
The Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards were created to encourage Canadian talent in arts and fashion. In the second annual gala, which was held in Toronto in January, several designers from Montréal were honoured with awards.

Based in London but originally from Montréal, Erdem Moralioglu was selected as International Canadian Designer of the Year. And in 2015, his fashion label Erdem won a fourth straight British Fashion Award for its prêt-à-porter collection for women. This great success on the world stage has also drawn attention to other Canadian fashion designers.

Another Montréal native, Marie Saint Pierre, received an Outstanding Achievement award for her 25 years as a leading pioneer in fashion industry. Philippe Dubuc, also a pioneer, was honoured as Menswear Designer of the Year. This leading figure in the Québec fashion world celebrated 20 years of professional creativity in 2015. Dubuc has stated that the identity of a city is shaped by the development of its artists. If that is true, we can safely say that Montréal is growing in style!

Piknic around the world

A group of electronic music fans—Pascal Lefebvre, Nicolas Cournoyer, Michel Quintal and Louis David Loyer—were still just twenty when they decided, in 2003, to launch Piknic Électronik. Their stroke of genius was to convince Parc Jean-Drapeau to let them hold their event on Saint Helen’s Island, which in those days was a little overlooked by Montréalers.

The first edition had 2,000 spectators. Last year’s had 100,000—it’s safe to say that this regular Sunday event is now a fixture of summer in Montréal! Piknic Électronik lets people meet in a verdant island location by the river, in a friendly environment where they listen to music, eat, dance and relax.

In light of their great success here at home, the Piknic team has taken this festive and friendly concept overseas, to charm new music fans in major cities all over the world. In 2012, Barcelona enjoyed its first Piknic Électronik, to be followed by Melbourne, Paris and Dubai in the years to come. Cities in South America, Central America and the United States are also on the list of future stops. It seems that when Montréalers put their ideas and know-how in motion, all the world’s their picnic basket!
The Montréal dance company **Cas Public** was invited to the Royal Opera House in London, in September, to perform *Symphonie dramatique*—a ballet inspired by *Romeo and Juliet*.

**Cas Public** gave six performances of *Symphonie dramatique*, as part of an event organized by the Royal Opera House to mark the 50 years since choreographer Kenneth MacMillan created his modern ballet based on Shakespeare’s tragic romance. The première, with Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn in the leading roles, received 43 curtain calls—the audience refused to leave for 40 minutes!

**Hélène Blackburn**'s company is very active on the international scene. Since 1989, **Cas Public** has been developing a powerful and singular choreographic language. This adaptation of Shakespeare’s masterpiece uses a highly contemporary vision to evoke the desperate romantic passion of history’s most famous lovers. Performed by eight virtuoso dancers, *Symphonie dramatique* will also be presented at the Paris Opera in March 2016.

Now more than ever, with their great success abroad, Montréal dance companies are exemplifying to the world the extraordinary creative vitality of our city.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) is a United Nations body that unites 116 cities where creativity, diversity and cultural industries are at the heart of development plans. The network covers seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Arts, Media Arts, Film, Design, Gastronomy, Literature and Music. Since 2006, Montréal has been part of the UCCN in the Design category, just like the city of Graz, in Austria.

Last spring, Montréal was the guest of honour at *Designmonat* (Design Month) in Graz. The Montréal contingent produced an exhibit entitled *I was there – Montréal meets Graz*. Six different zones took visitors through Montréal via surprising immersive experiences. They could walk through a Tempo shelter to escape from a snowstorm; view textile objects, posters and souvenir cards hanging on the laundry lines of an alleyway; pedal a Bixi bike to power a variable-speed film projector; and wander through emblematic urban sites visualized in 3-D shadow plays by *Mere Phantoms*, an artists’ collective.

**Guillaume Sasseeville** was among the six designers making the trip. He presented *Common Glass*, the project which earned him the 2011 Phyllis Lambert Design Montréal Grant—a crystal glass inspired by Montréal’s industrial production of drinking glasses and designed in Graz based on ancient Austrian techniques. An excellent international collaboration—and a great showcase for talented Montréal artists.
A leading figure among Québec’s couturiers, Marie Saint Pierre enjoys international acclaim for the avant-garde textures and architectural lines of her clothing designs. In 1989, she became the first Québec-born designer to be an official participant at the Fashion Coterie event in New York. Her creations are sold throughout Canada and in many cities in the United States.

This Montréal-based designer recently opened a shop in Miami’s thriving Wynwood district, close to prestigious fashion houses like Louis Vuitton, Hublot and Chrome Heart. With its many galleries, museums and collections, and an eye-catching fashion scene, it’s a famous hub for modern art and design.

In addition to displaying Saint Pierre collections, the shop will unite elements of fashion, art and interior design to present creations by artists from Québec. For the inauguration, a painting by Marc Seguin adorned the walls of the new store.

Known for her generosity and dedication to social causes, particularly on behalf of women and children in need, Marie Saint Pierre has received numerous awards in her career, including the Rare Pearl distinction from the Montréal Chamber of Commerce, in 2002, for her community involvement.

Cisco Systems, the world leader in information systems and Web networks, has partnered with the Conseil des arts de Montréal to award a grant designed to recognize and encourage talented Montréal artists.

In 2015, the Mural public art festival was the lucky recipient. For three years now, Mural has invited around twenty world-renowned artists to paint murals along Saint-Laurent boulevard, right before the eyes of passersby and festivalgoers. This lively urban art event also features live music concerts, lectures, seminars, exhibitions and installations.

For eleven days in June, Saint-Laurent becomes a destination for avant-garde, open-air creativity that exemplifies and unifies the visual arts scene in Montréal.

By contributing to the creative identity of the city with exciting public art, Mural has proved to be a visionary and innovative festival, true to the spirit of Montréal.

To commemorate the arrival in Ontario—400 years ensemble—of Samuel de Champlain, the Écriture en mouvement writer’s group assembled a team of 24 literary talents from France, Ontario, Acadia, Québec and the First Nations. They followed, by train, in the explorer’s “tracks” with an ambitious project—produce a book by 24 authors in a 24-hour, cross-country writing marathon.

The event took place as part of the Saison de la lecture de Montréal. Among those riding the literary train were the authors Bertrand Laverdure, Daniel Grenier, Jean Sioui, Virginia Pésémapéé Bordeleau and Rodney Saint-Éloi.

The train departed from Moncton, with the writers devising the story for their novel and creating its 24 characters, all of which have a link with Samuel de Champlain. The train stopped in Halifax, in Toronto, and of course in Montréal, where they received a special welcome—not just at the station, but at the Salon du livre Express, where they took part in a public discussion of Champlain’s legacy.

The culmination of their journey is a traveler’s book, Sur les traces de Champlain (“in the footsteps of Champlain”), published by Éditions Prise de parole—an impressive trophy for their bold gamble of exploration!
Pictograms on the move

Cultural diversity is part of Montréal’s identity. Yet the realities of immigration are not very visible in the public space.

At the invitation of the Goethe Institute, a Berlin collective called Migrantas came to North America for the first time. Seeking intercultural dialogue about immigration issues, these facilitators meet with migrants in their own collective spaces (at community centres or cultural institutions, for example), to hold workshops where they can express their ideas through art. The collective studies the images and transposes their message into pictograms, a visual language everyone can understand. Next, the pictograms are displayed as posters and postcards here and there in the urban landscape—on billboards, in the metro, in shop windows.

Migrantas holds workshops and exhibits in many different cities around the world. In addition to their work in Germany, they have visited Norway, Mexico, Portugal, Austria, Spain and Argentina.

With its spirit of friendship, unity and creative expression, the Migrantas project was right at home in Montréal.

The visual effects industry is a fast-growing sector. Feature films, television series and animation projects all make use of increasingly sophisticated special effects. In 2014, no less than 35 Hollywood companies drew upon the talents of Montréal-based creators. With over $100 million in local contracts, the sector “effects” some real value here!

Held for two days in June, as part of the Digital Spring series, Effects MTL was an international business conference that drew 800 people from the industry. Workshops, networking events, research seminars and a job fair were all on the program. The event was the first of its kind.

By positioning Montréal as a leader in the field, Effects MTL aimed to consolidate the Québec industry, encourage high-level collaborations and raise the international profile of its professionals. This first edition met the challenge brilliantly.

The MMFA is also very active as a producer of “Made in Montréal” touring exhibitions—such as The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier or Peru: Kingdoms of the Sun and the Moon, both of which have gone to Paris, Stockholm, New York and Seattle.

According to The Art Newspaper, a British monthly, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts is Canada’s most visited cultural institution, with over a million visitors in 2014. More frequented than the Royal Ontario Museum or the Art Gallery of Ontario, the MMFA ranks 12th in North America, and 58th in the world, in terms of popularity.
Making stories of our senses

Fly like a bird above Manhattan, live the story of Goldilocks with your sense of smell, walk inside a cube of interactive movies, sketch the movement of shadows using a mobile sculpture—all these experiences were part of an entertaining and playful virtual reality exhibition entitled Sensory Stories: An Exhibition of New Narrative Experiences.

Presented for the first time in Canada by the Phi Centre and the Future of Storytelling (FoST), Sensory Stories are narratives that merge traditional storytelling with new technologies based on full-body immersion and interaction.

The exhibition featured 16 works by artists from all over the world who are redefining the way we experience narrative. Five of these were created by Canadians, including three works by Québécois and three produced with the collaboration of the National Film Board. Sensory Stories let visitors enjoy immersive experiences and new technologies that engage our senses of sight, sound, touch and smell. Virtual reality trumps science fiction, it seems!

Mons and marvels...

Montréal—style!

Around 80 Québec artists gathered in Belgium for 11 days of shows, exhibitions and performances during Ailleurs en folie, an event presented by the Maison Folie in Mons, one of two cities designated European Capital of Culture in 2015.

Their showcase of contemporary art, entitled Seconde nature, was a prestigious opportunity to present works by Montréal’s artistic vanguard in theatre, dance, music, digital installations and film.

Among the many artists attending were Étienne Lepage and Frédérick Gravel (with the wild cabaret choreography of Ainsi parlait), Félix-Antoine Boutin (his Orphée-Karaoké gets ancient Greek gods and goddesses to sing), the filmmaker Stéphane Lafleur (he also plays in the band Avec pas d’casque), the choreographer and dancer Manuel Roque, and many playwrights taking part in L’Abécédaire by Olivier Choinière, a literary project that saw 13 Québec authors join forces with 13 Belgian ones.

As one of eight cities being honored at Mons 2015 (alongside Casablanca, London, Tokyo, Melbourne, Milan, Lille and Pilsen), Montréal gave ample proof of the extraordinary vitality and creativity of its young artists.

Montréal’s reputation in cinematic fields like special effects and animation is recognized internationally. As a real hotbed of digital talent, it has attracted big-name production houses like Framework and Moving Picture Company, both of which recently planted their flags here with new studios.

Since early 2014, the British company Cinesite has also had a studio in Montréal. This leading global producer of visual effects and animation for film and TV has been achieving brilliant results and tremendous growth. In the space of 18 months, Cinesite created 220 jobs—double what was expected!

Anchored by the innovative approach and deep expertise of its digital artists, Montréal is positioning itself more than ever as a leader in cinematic arts and the home port of many specialized companies in the field.

Reaching new heights—for sight!

Montréal’s reputation in cinematic fields like special effects and animation is recognized internationally. As a real hotbed of digital talent, it has attracted big-name production houses like Framework and Moving Picture Company, both of which recently planted their flags here with new studios.
Québec art in the Most Serene Republic

The Venice Biennale, the largest international exhibition of contemporary art in the world, held its 56th edition in 2015. The theme for this year’s edition was All the World’s Futures. The event drew artists from all over the globe, including a large delegation from Québec and Montréal.

The National Gallery of Canada delegated the BGL trio of Jasmin Bilodeau, Sébastien Gigouère and Nicolas Laverdière to create a major work for the Canadian pavilion. They built a large-scale installation using jumbles of cans, paint and recycled objects—reconstituting the scene of a “dépanneur” (corner store), a loft space and an artist’s studio. Like a carnival obstacle course, it led us through several stages (some of them on the roof) that were full of visual tricks, surprises and discoveries. This inventive and daring project was a big hit with visitors to the Biennale.

The UQÀM art gallery presented Electrasmog Venice, a sonic installation by Jean-Pierre Aubé. During his visit to Venice, Aubé carried out field recordings and registered the electromagnetic waves emanating from the lanes and alleys of the Floating City. He then processed the data into images for projection onto the façades of the ancient public buildings. The video artist Frédéric Lavoie produced a short film to document this creative project.

Elsewhere, the sculptors Simon Bilodeau and Guillaume Lachapelle (both represented by Art Mûr) took part in a large group exhibition entitled Time, Space, Existence. It was held at the historic Palazzo Bambo, on the banks of the Grand Canal.

By presenting their works at prestigious international events like the Venice Biennale, these artists demonstrate the vitality of the contemporary art scene in Québec. Their attendance at this event was made possible by support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ).

Libraries of the world in 3-D

Created and directed by Robert Lepage and Ex Machina in tandem with BAnQ, The Library at Night is a virtual exploration of the world’s 10 most fascinating libraries—both real and imaginary—at the Grande Bibliothèque.

The show is a collaboration with Alberto Manguel, a Canadian-Argentine author whose book of the same name served as its inspiration. Visitors take an inspiring journey through the unique book culture of other eras and cultures.

Using virtual reality goggles for immersive 3-D, they wander from one library to another. Manguel’s own library in France is first, then the Library of Parliament, in Ottawa; the Library of Congress, in Washington; other libraries in Alexandria, Sarajevo, Copenhagen and beyond—even Captain Nemo’s library inside the Nautilus submarine, from Jules Verne’s Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea. The journey also includes, quite naturally, a forest—where all those books were born. This ambitious project takes advantage of cutting-edge technology to let us travel through time and space. Some of these places, like the great library of Alexandria, disappeared long ago. “Libraries are our memories,” writes Alberto Manguel. They also represent our future.

The Library at Night is one of several events honouring the tenth anniversary of the Grande Bibliothèque.

Know thyself!

Ten Montréalers were among 50 young people from five different French-speaking cities taking part in Avoir 20 ans en 2015, a project launched by stage director and actor Wajdi Mouawad with teenagers who would be 20 years old in 2015. Their goal was to learn independent thinking—for four years, they lived an artistic and personal journey of intellectual projects and cultural trips abroad (France, Africa, Poland ...), in addition to workshops and discussions with Wajdi Mouawad and the experts accompanying the group.

Cultural outings were held throughout the year so they could attend shows or participate in events. Each evening included dinner and discussion followed by meetings with professional artists. These activities helped the budding philosophers discover the richness and diversity of Montréal’s cultural offer.

The project began in 2011, in Athens, and concluded there in 2015. The return to the starting point let them assess their progress and reflect on how experiences, trips and exchanges had influenced their identity. The project had posed the following challenge: “Learn to think.” Beyond this goal, the project was an unforgettable experience for all of the participants. Now adults, just beginning their twenties, they returned from their odyssey with full suitcases—and a wealth of new ideas.
Montréal designers “byte” into the Big Apple

The Montréalers who devised musical swings for the Quartier des spectacles, and many other innovative installations, are Daily tous les jours. In 2015, in New York, they designed a new kind of boutique for littleBits, a tech-toy company.

The boutique celebrates the spirit of invention, with installations they built using “littleBits”—small electronic components which can be assembled with magnets into new gadgets. A colouring machine, a book on wheels, a musical wall… there’s an inventor dormant in each of us, and the littleBits shop awakens her creativity!

Ayah Bdeir, the founder of littleBits, asked Daily tous les jours to design a stimulating environment where customers could create, invent and innovate: where experience is at the centre of everything. By combining the functions of store and laboratory, the designers created a fun and colourful space that will inspire the building blocks brigade and other budding geniuses. An achievement that reflects nicely on expertise à la Montréal!

In the Scottish limelight

Every year in August, the Edinburgh International Festival and its accompanying events draw stellar performers in music, theatre, opera and dance. Leading the Québec @ Edinburgh 2015 showcase was theatrical visionary Robert Lepage with the European premiere of his new show, 887.

Many other Québec-based performers and artists also made the trip to Scotland. Patin Libre and Infinithéâtre were there to present a show at The Fringe. Jason Beck a.k.a. Chilly Gonzales and the Kaiser Quartett played music inspired by Bach and Daft Punk. Richard Reed Parry from Arcade Fire had a composition performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Circus arts à la Montréal were represented by Les 7 doigts de la main and Cirque Alfonse. Flamenco artists La Otra Orilla and North African musicians Ayrad were lively musical participants at the Mela Festival. Inuit poets Josephine Bacon, Natasha Kanapé, Naomi Fontaine, Samuel Mercier and Jonathan Lamy were among the literary talents invited to the Edinburgh International Book Festival. Québec @ Edinburgh 2015 brought strong media exposure to all these artists, along with the promise—or confirmation—of greater influence on the international stage.

Every two years, the town of Charleville-Mézières, in France, hosts a world puppet theatre festival—a giant gathering of puppet artists from all five continents. In 2015, more than 40 puppeteers from Québec were there to perform 10 different shows. Among them were Magali Chouinard and Émilie Racine, as well as the Montréal-based companies Tenon et mortaise and Théâtre de la Pire Espèce.

There were also many professional events happening in tandem with the festival’s performances. Many Québécois were there to take part—including Marthe Adam, founder and former director of the modern puppetry school at UQÀM, and Louise Lapointe, director of the Casteliers festival.

As the world’s largest gathering of its kind, this biennial event is an essential showcase for Montréal artists—and they are well prepared to shine on the international stage.