



Report of the Community Engagement Committee

Submitted for: February 11, 2021

Background

The SSMU Community Engagement Committee has been relatively dormant since the closure of the University Centre in 2018. The impact of this inactivity has been compounded by the 2019 dissolution of the Social Equity and Diversity Education (SEDE) Office, which coordinated McGill's commitments to community engagement with projects like Community Engagement Day, the last of which was in 2017.

Unfortunately, the Community Engagement Committee lacked a chair for the Fall 2020 semester, given the yearslong absence of a Community Engagement Commissioner and the temporary leave of the Vice-President (External Affairs). Further, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely limited the ability to achieve meaningful outreach for community engagement with Montreal's non-profit community organisations.

Activities

That said, some important community engagement initiatives have been developed or are presently in the works in the Community Engagement Committee. For instance, a Clubs Community Engagement Database has been in the works as a collaborative effort with the VP Student Life since December, and A Nous Le Plateau, a residents' assembly event in Le Plateau Mont-Royal co-organised by SSMU External Affairs, is beginning planning for its next annual assembly.

Looking Forward

Ensuring that the SSMU can provide meaningful opportunities for community engagement will require the reinstatement of the Community Engagement Commissioner, which could be funded by the Community Engagement Fee. Further, the Community Engagement Committee should study the feasibility of involving other Executive offices within the committee, specifically those of the Vice-President (Student Life) and the Vice-President (Internal Affairs), who interact on a more consistent basis than the Vice-President (External Affairs) with university stakeholders such as Campus Life & Engagement and the Inter-Residence Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Ayo Ogunremi, Vice-President (External Affairs) | Vice-Président (Affaires externes)

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