



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Submitted for: 11-23-2023

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.

Unfortunately, the Community Engagement Committee lacked a chair until January of 2023. Coming into the role, it had been empty since 2020. Further, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has severely limited the ability to achieve meaningful outreach for community engagement with Montreal's non-profit community organizations.

Activities

That said, some important community engagement initiatives have been developed or are presently in the works in the Community Engagement Committee. For instance, the Community Engagement Committee will have its first meeting on November 25th. So far this past year, Community Engagement Day has been organized twice, once in the Spring of 2023 and then again at the end of October of 2023 in collaboration with Campus Life and Engagement. Trash 2 Treasure is another initiative that was organized last spring and was a huge success. We hope to run it again this year as well.

Looking Forward

Ensuring that the SSMU can provide meaningful opportunities for community engagement will require not only an active Community Engagement Commissioner but collaboration with the Community Affairs Commissioner and ideally an active Committee. 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. Looking forward the committee will be meeting and creating an outline of goals and plans for the current and future student years.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Radu, Community Engagement Commissioner