

Vice-présidence (Vie étudiante) de l'AÉUM
SSMU Vice-President (Student Life)

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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Service Overview

- Service Mandate/Mission
 - To represent a secular, political and integrative perspective of Arab culture
 - To provide adequate resources, support and awareness derived from the heritage of the Arab world, for the demand of the student body
 - To facilitate the interaction of the network of local Arab professionals, employers, associations or institutions along with making their presented resources and mandates more accessible to the student body.
 - The ASN constitution can be found here: [CONSTITUTION](#)
- Services Offered
 - The ASN vision is to stabilize a secular, political and cultural integrative body, that connects all presented resources in Montreal inspired by Arab culture and heritage, whether provided by an association, employer or institution, and converging them onto one portal, in the aim of making them more accessible to the student body. This is manifested in the form of professional and networking events, social events, cultural events, language classes and a yearly journal.
- Contact Info:
 - Email: asnmcgill@ssmu.ca
 - Instagram: [@asnmcgill](#)
 - Location: Fourth floor room 427, 3480 McTavish St, Montreal, Quebec H3A 0G3

Activities & Operations

- **Key Activities this Semester:** This semester, all Arab Student Network (ASN) events were free and open to all students, fostering inclusivity and community engagement. Our events included:
 - **ASN BBQ (September 16):** A welcome event featuring food from local Arab-owned businesses including Mizan, Knafe Stop, Falafel Blvd, and Chelow BBQ. Over 150 attendees joined us to kick off the semester.
 - **Board Game Night (September 24):** Featured a Tarneeb and chess competition with prizes with tea and snacks; over 50 participants joined for a relaxed social evening.
 - **Hiking Mount Royal (September 28):** A casual hike to encourage wellness and connection, followed by a free Poulet Rouge meal.
 - **Apple Picking (October 4):** In collaboration with the Syrian Students' Association (SSA), we visited Petit Fils et Verger, promoting cultural exchange and outdoor fun.

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- **Story of Resilience: We Will Never Forget (October 8):** A reflective evening held in collaboration with the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) to build hope for Palestine.
 - **MSA X ASN Charity Game Night (October 29):** Featured a trivia game with a prize and board games with tea and snacks; over 50 participants joined. Co-hosted with MSA, combining entertainment and philanthropy to help raise funds for children in need around the world, like those in Yemen, Syria, Palestine, and Sudan.
 - **Upcoming: The Olive Trees Still Grow (November 5):** In collaboration with the Palestinian Cultural Club (PCC), this event centered on cultural resilience and solidarity.
 - **Upcoming: A laser tag social (November 15)** to strengthen community ties in a fun, active setting.
 - **Upcoming: Blurring the Borders (November 19):** A collaborative cultural night with MASS (McGill African Students' Society) and SLASA (Spanish & Latin American Students' Association) celebrating diversity and unity.
 - In addition, we host free weekly **Arabic classes** at both beginner and intermediate levels, each with 20+ students enrolled, promoting language learning and cultural appreciation
- **Usage/Participation statistics**
 - 150+ attendees at our September BBQ.
 - 50+ participants at each subsequent event on average.
 - 40+ students enrolled in our weekly Arabic classes.
- **Highlights & Success**
 - Successfully created a welcoming space for first-year students to connect with upper-year peers.
 - Partnering with MSA, PCC, SSA, MASS, and SLASA fostered meaningful cross-cultural collaboration and expanded ASN's reach beyond the Arab community.
 - Events like *The Olive Trees Still Grow* and *Story of Resilience* deepened awareness and empathy for Palestinian identity, while lighter events like the BBQ and game nights balanced community-building with enjoyment.
 - The Arabic classes became one of ASN's most popular ongoing initiatives, with steady participation and positive feedback from learners.
 - Maintained high participation and positive feedback across all activities.

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- **Challenges/Barriers Faces**

- Delays with SSMU's finance team, including late reimbursements and receiving the club credit card later than expected, affected event planning timelines.
- Difficulty in finding meeting times that accommodate all executive members' schedules.
- Limited office space for an executive team of 10+, making coordination and storage more challenging.
- Hosting frequent events while maintaining high-quality planning placed time and workload pressures on the team.

Finances

Budget Allocations:

- ASN's budget this semester was dedicated to organizing free and accessible events that foster community engagement, cultural awareness, and advocacy. Funds were mainly allocated to food, venue rentals, decorations, media materials, and collaborative initiatives with other student associations.
- To improve financial organization, we implemented an ASN Reimbursement Form, making it easier for our finance team to process and track expenses efficiently and transparently.

Previous Year Surplus: A surplus of \$3,201.08 was carried forward from the previous fiscal year.

Funding Sources: ASN is funded through its opt-outable SSMU fee levy of \$1 per semester per student.

Event & Initiative Expenditures (Fall 2025 Semester)

- **ASN BBQ (September 16): ~\$3,000+**
 - Equipment, decorations, outdoor venue rental, and multiple catering services. Additional costs arose due to unexpected vendor issues.
- **Hiking Mount Royal (September 28): ~\$100**
 - Snacks and water (meals were sponsored by Poulet Rouge).

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- **Apple Picking (October 4): ~\$1,450**
 - \$950 for transportation and \$500 for apple-picking bags.
- **Board Game Night (October 24): ~\$575**
 - \$150 in prizes, \$200 in snacks, \$125 SSMU tables/chairs, and \$100 in board games and chess sets.
- **The Olive Trees Still Grow (November 5 – Upcoming): ~\$450 (projected)**
 - \$150 in equipment and \$300 in food.
- **Laser Tag Social (November 15 – Upcoming): ~\$900 (projected)**
 - Venue and equipment rental.
- **Blurring the Borders (November 19 – Upcoming): ~\$2,000 (projected)**
 - Food, performances, decorations, and equipment for the collaborative event with MASS and SLASA.
- **Exec Bonding Activities: ~\$500**
 - Strengthening collaboration and communication within the executive team.
- **ASN Hoodies: ~\$900+**
 - Custom-designed hoodies to promote unity and visibility on campus.
- **Media & Promotion: ~\$500**
 - Flyers, posters, and stickers for event promotion and advocacy initiatives.
- **Advocacy Events: ~\$300**
 - Snacks, posters, and supplies for educational and awareness-based programming.
- **Weekly Arabic Classes: ~\$500**
 - Room rental costs for **free beginner and intermediate Arabic classes**, each with **20+ students enrolled**, fostering language learning and cultural appreciation.
- **Journal Printing (from previous year): ~\$1,000**
 - Printing and production costs for ASN's annual journal, which showcases student writing, art, and reflections on Arab identity and culture.

Budget Plan Updates:

Our service budget plan included several projected events that were later adjusted or replaced based on evolving student interests and campus circumstances. Some activities originally listed were not held, while others, including collaborations and advocacy events, were added in response to community needs. The updated financial plan reflecting these adjustments will be submitted as soon as possible.

Documentation: [ASN Service Budget Plan](#)

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Future Plans/Projects

Upcoming Projects This Semester

- **The Olive Trees Still Grow (November 5 – Upcoming): ~\$450 (projected)**
 - \$150 in equipment and \$300 in food.
- **Laser Tag Social (November 15 – Upcoming): ~\$900 (projected)**
 - Venue and equipment rental.
- **Blurring the Borders (November 19 – Upcoming): ~\$2,000 (projected)**
 - Food, performances, decorations, and equipment for the collaborative event with MASS and SLASA.
- **PSSAR (Palestinian Students & Scholars at Risk) tabling and fundraising events.**

Long-Term Goals

1. Strengthen Community Engagement

- Host at least two major social events per semester that bring together first-year and upper-year students.
- Launch a peer mentorship program connecting upper-year students with first-years to support academic, social, and cultural integration.

2. Expand Cultural and Educational Programming

- Offer weekly Arabic classes at multiple proficiency levels, targeting 30+ students per class within the next 2 years.
- Organize annual cultural festivals and workshops, such as Arab Fest, highlighting Arab art, music, and food.
- Publish an annual ASN journal featuring student writing, artwork, and reflections on Arab identity.

3. Enhance Collaboration and Partnerships

- Collaborate with at least three other cultural student associations each year for joint events.
- Build relationships with local Arab-owned businesses and community organizations for event sponsorship and educational programs.
- Develop a campus-wide intercultural dialogue series in partnership with other student groups.

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4. Increase Advocacy and Charity Impact

- Launch biannual fundraising initiatives supporting causes relevant to Arab communities locally and globally.
- Host awareness campaigns on issues such as human rights, displacement, and cultural preservation.
- Incorporate service opportunities for students into at least one major event per semester.

5. Ensure Financial and Institutional Sustainability

- Maintain a transparent financial system, including reimbursements, detailed tracking of SSMU levy funds, and post-event budget reviews.
- Establish a succession and leadership training program to ensure continuity for incoming executive teams.
- Secure at least one external sponsorship per year to diversify revenue sources and support new initiatives.

6. Increase Campus Visibility

- Promote ASN events through targeted social media campaigns, flyers, and campus newsletters to reach at least 50% more students than previous years.
- Develop alumni engagement strategies, such as mentorship, guest speakers, and networking opportunities.