



PRESS RELEASE  
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## YEAR-ROUND EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**Montreal, April 3, 2019** – Each year, in addition to its Festival programming, Blue Metropolis Foundation develops and produces a number of educational and social programs for children and adults. Six projects are taking place in 2018-2019. All of them will present activities as part of the Festival.

### **Words to Change... in Ville-Marie**

How do you make the world a better place? By starting with yourself, your neighbourhood, your city. This is the essence of this cultural mediation project that takes place in the classroom and the urban environment. Words to Change is facilitated by author and speaker **Samuel Bricault**, with collaboration by **Charlem**, a visual artist. When the workshops are completed, a mural created by Charlem, using the children's writing, will be exhibited at the Frontenac Library, as well as in Parc Coupal.

### **Power up ton potential**

What happens when you team up students from an English-language high school with francophone seniors? A wonderful project where all involved learn to break down barriers, improve their second-language skills and navigate the digital universe with greater confidence. Written work produced in French by students from Lindsay Place High School, with guidance from author **Linda Amyot**, will be published in a digital format on the Foundation's website. The final project will take the form of a making-of-type documentary, to be presented during the Festival.

### **Simply Hilarious!**

The effect of laughter and humour on our well-being is well-known. The aim of this project, intended for anglophone seniors in Greater Montreal, is to provide a different perspective on the challenges of old age: illness, living far from one's children, loneliness, etc. On the program: writing and storytelling workshops, and video clips of the participants' performances, to be presented during the Festival.

### **Dia Azul**

This is the second edition of this project, which seeks to encourage high school students across Quebec to learn a third language. Students enrolled in language and international programs are invited to write a composition in Spanish on one of the Festival's major themes: social injustice, social inclusion and the environment. Prizes worth \$300, \$200 and \$100 will be awarded for the three best compositions, to be selected by a jury made up of Spanish-speaking individuals from the arts and educational communities. Participating schools will have the chance to win a prize: \$250-worth of Spanish-language books from Librairie Las Américas.

### **Quebec Roots**

For 13 years, the Quebec Roots project has given voice to young anglophones from Quebec and Nunavut, allowing them to express their dreams, memories and concerns, through photography and writing. Writing workshops are facilitated by authors **Monique Polak**, **Larissa Andrushsyn** and **Raquel Rivera**, while photography workshops are led

by **Monique Dykstra** and **Thomas Kneubühler**. The students' work will be published in an anthology, to be launched the morning of Friday, May 3, with the students, teachers and artists in attendance. In addition, an exhibition of selected writing and photography will be presented during the Festival, from May 3 to 5, at Hotel 10.

### **Projet M**

Body image is of crucial importance in the development of self-esteem among the young, both girls and boys, starting in the middle years of elementary school. Projet M, which has already been presented in several Montreal-area schools, is now in its fourth year. Facilitator **Tania Baladi** helps children in Grades 4, 5 and 6 see this issue in a positive light. The series of workshops, to take place in March and April at École Louis-Colin, will wind up April 25<sup>th</sup> with the vernissage of a mural created by the students, with their families in attendance.

To find out more about these social and educational projects, please consult our website: [www.wordstochange.org](http://www.wordstochange.org)

### **Blue Metropolis at a glance**

Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 that brings together people from different cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing, and encourages creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an **annual literary festival** of international calibre and offers a wide range of **educational and social programs** year-round, both in classrooms and online. These programs use reading and writing as therapeutic tools, to encourage academic perseverance, and fight against poverty and social isolation.

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MERCI AUX PARTENAIRES MAJEURS DE LA PROGRAMMATION POUR ENFANTS ET À CEUX DE NOS PROGRAMMES ÉDUCATIFS 2018-2019  
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