



## THE LATEST NEWS FROM BLUE METROPOLIS

Montreal, April 2, 2020 –

As you know, the public health situation is evolving on a day-by-day basis. While Blue Metropolis Foundation is confident about the future, it is far from inactive in the present. Here are just a few of the new projects and initiatives that we have implemented in recent weeks, in keeping with our mission to promote reading and writing—two activities that now more than ever are vital tools for academic perseverance and social inclusion. Involved year-round with numerous educational and social programs, Blue Metropolis Foundation is proud to announce the implementation of several major projects.

### SCHOOL AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- **There's Something About You**

A social innovation project with the goal of engaging 18- to 30-year-olds in order to promote the riches of Canada's linguistic diversity. This program has provided an opportunity for ten young people to develop and articulate their vision of a better world. Participants were asked to submit an innovative and constructive personal project, inspired by the work of ten public figures from Quebec's business community and from academia. The general public was invited to watch online and to comment on each of the presentations. Aside from the intrinsic value of the presentations, three criteria were taken into consideration when selecting a winner: the number of views, the number of "likes" and the quality of the viewer's comments. The winner will receive a \$5,000 award.

The 2020 winner: Gloria-Sherryl François, with "The Black Book Initiative".

Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gParmOLecRU>

It should be noted that There's Something About You, a project supported by the Government of Canada, took place from September 2019 to March 2020 and that over 60,000 people had an opportunity to take part in this experience.

- **Awards for Excellence in Indigenous Studies**

The Blue Metropolis Awards for Excellence in Indigenous Studies is an initiative of Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and the McConnell Foundation, an initiative which is itself part of Blue Metropolis's social innovation program and which mobilized professors and university students from all across the country. These awards are presented to two students, one francophone and one anglophone, who are enrolled in an Indigenous Studies or Anthropology program, and who have shown outstanding academic performance (demonstrating excellence, perseverance, creativity, and engagement). This year, submissions were received from eleven candidates from the following Canadian universities: the Université de Montréal, Simon Fraser University, McGill University, the University of New Brunswick, the University of Manitoba and the University of Calgary.

In addition to each receiving a \$1,000 award, the two winning students will take part either in a public event, to be scheduled, in fall 2020, or during the 2021 edition of Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival, in an event related to the programming's Indigenous Voices series. They will be invited to read an excerpt from the essay they have written on the topic of social change and the role of the individual in a rapidly changing world, while also touching on the concepts of social inclusion and dialogue. The names of the 2020 student winners will be made public next April 9. For the 2019 winners' essays and presentations:

<https://bluemetropolis.org/firstpeopleawards/>

- **Quebec Roots 2020**

From October 2019 to February 2020, our contributors visited six English-language schools in Quebec, presenting writing and photography workshops for elementary and high school students. With the teachers' collaboration, our cultural mediators encouraged the students to express themselves on a number of issues that inspire, concern, or motivate them to take action. The results of this extensive tour are available in the form of a book (print and digital versions) which will be posted on the Blue Metropolis website in June 2020.

## **ACTIVITIES FOR THE VERY YOUNG AND THEIR PARENTS WHO ARE LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF COVID-19**

### **A spontaneous Book Club to chase away boredom!**

On March 16, 2020, Blue Metropolis created a spontaneous Book Club, providing readers of all ages with an opportunity to come together virtually and exchange opinions and ideas about their shared interest: reading. When the Book Club was first launched, Blue Metropolis gave a number of gift certificates for books to participants whose choice of reading matter was particularly noteworthy. Blue Met's spontaneous Book Club was launched in partnership with *Le Devoir*, Librairie Gallimard, Quebec's network of independent bookstores (LIQ), and Paragraphe Books, all engaged in this effort despite the increasingly difficult conditions under which they are currently working.

### **The Blue Metropolis Cosy Story Hour – 10 authors, 10 tales, each day at 10 a.m., starting April 10, 2020**

In the wake of International Children's Book Day, which takes place April 2, 2020, Blue Metropolis and its partners are delighted to present a daily online rendezvous for parents and children, on Facebook Live: the Blue Metropolis Cosy Story Hour, with 10 authors, 10 tales, each morning at 10 o'clock, starting April 10, 2020.

Children's authors from Quebec will draw young children into the magical world of tales and stories. From Indigenous legends to all things enchanted, while not forgetting the ABCs, this entertaining interlude will appeal to the whole family! The tales read by the authors themselves will highlight, once again, the variety and richness of children's literature, in particular that of Quebec and Canada, and will often focus on topics that are in keeping with the values promoted by Blue Metropolis Foundation.

Connect with Facebook Live, on Blue Met's Facebook page.

### **TD Blue Metropolis Creativity Workshops**

Always available online, these entertaining activities offer parents suggestions for fun-filled stories that the whole family can write and illustrate together. Discover or re-discover them here: <https://bluemetropolis.org/td-creative-workshops/>

## **HIGHLIGHTING QUEBEC AND CANADIAN AUTHORS – OVER 40 PUBLISHERS MENTIONED**

In spite of the difficult circumstances, Blue Metropolis is employing all of its resources to pursue its mission of promoting reading, and, above all, books by Quebec and Canadian authors.

As of March 1, more than 60 Quebec and Canadian authors and 40 publishers have been mentioned on Blue Metropolis's social media platforms and website, in blog posts and various other ways. In particular, currently in *La Presse+*, Blue Metropolis has suggestions for, and comments on, a selection of six titles by Quebec authors, as part of an advertorial made possible by the Godin Family Foundation.

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

Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that brings together people of various languages and cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing, while encouraging creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an

annual international literary festival and offers a wide range of educational and social programs year-round, both in the classroom and online. Because reading and writing are more than simply entertaining pastimes, these programs are also used as therapeutic tools, to encourage academic perseverance and fight against poverty and social isolation.

For additional information or to schedule an interview:

Shelley Pomerance

Tel. 514 270-1199

[shelley.pomerance@bluemetropolis.org](mailto:shelley.pomerance@bluemetropolis.org)

MERCI AUX PARTENAIRES MAJEURS DE LA FONDATION METROPOLIS BLEU QUI SOUTIENNENT LE FESTIVAL 2020 (MALGRÉ LA CRISE DU COVID-19)  
ET NOS PROGRAMMES ÉDUCATIFS ET SOCIAUX 2019-2020

THANKS TO BLUE METROPOLIS FOUNDATION'S MAJOR PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THE 2020 FESTIVAL (DESPITE THE COVID-19 CRISIS)  
AND OUR 2019-2020 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Canada



Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Canada Council  
for the Arts

Québec

Montréal



TOURISME /  
MONTREAL



Fondation  
Cole  
Foundation

La Fondation  
McConnell  
Foundation



UNIVERSITÉ  
Concordia  
UNIVERSITY

GINNYSTIKEMAN



Fondation Lucie  
et André Chagnon

CHADHA  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

Zeller

AIR CANADA



DAVIES

ERIC T. WEBSTER  
FOUNDATION



Fondation J.A. DeSève

Fondation  
FAMILLE  
GODIN

PORT MONTREAL



Paragraphe  
Librairie / Bookstore

LA LIBRAIRIE  
GALLIMARD  
DE MONTREAL



LEDEVOIR