

PRESS RELEASE
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SPRINGTIME AT BLUE METROPOLIS: NOT DONE YET!

Montreal, June 16, 2021 - Okay, summer's nearly here: but spring programming continues at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival. Want proof? Project NEXT, One Word to Change the World, Reading to Heal, My Perfect Prom, The Secret is in the Sauce. Those are the headlines. Now the details.

PROJECT NEXT



Project NEXT gives authors aged 18 to 30 their own unique editorial space. It starts in June, with events in 4 cultural hotspots known to support emerging BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ literary voices.

On the programme: a preview of future publications at Metonymy Press; revisiting Kama La Mackerel's *Gender Blender* at L'Eugélonne bookstore; meeting up-and-coming talents from Metatron Press, in translation; a spotlight on Afrofuturism at the Racines bookstore. Expect all kinds of hybrid forms and presentations — an effervescent mix of offbeat experiences, virtual or in-person (with the usual health safeguards.) Among the invited guests: Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch, Helen Chau Bradley, Daphné B., Marcela Huerta, Alex Manley, Ashley Opheim and Gabriella Kinté Garbeau. There'll be bold thinking, starting with the present, because whatever future is worth having has to be nurtured now. A dozen creators and their digital works, highly poetic and socially engaged, will be yours to discover in mid-June.

For dates, names, and details, go to our site www.bluemetropolis.org/next, or visit one of our partner locations.

ONE WORD, ONE SINGLE WORD, TO CHANGE THE WORLD, RIGHT AWAY!



Young people have taken up our challenge: find a word — strong, basic, telling, stirring — that will get people moving and bring change now. A word that will help us break free of the crisis mode (health, environmental, social) and redefine the parameters of a more open and adaptable society, better equipped to meet future challenges. So, what word would you choose?

Join the movement at: www.bluemetropolis.org/oneword-2/

READING TO HEAL AND TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS



Surely, kids in hospitals and special needs centres have the right to dream! Having a dream is healthy. Our series Reading to Heal and to Spread Your Wings is in its fifth year. To mark the event, the TD-Blue Metropolis Children's Festival has launched a new digital series that calls on the talent of 9 renowned children's authors — francophone and anglophone — and specialists who work with children.

The writers, Camille Bouchard, Pierrette Dubé, Valérie Fontaine, David Gutnick, Maryse Peyskens, Monique Polak, Anne Renaud, Jean-François Sénéchal and Frédérick Wolfe, came up with stories that are touching, imaginative and lighthearted.

We then asked health care professionals and special needs teachers to read the pieces for use as podcasts. Our talented narrators, in alphabetical order:

- Sandrine Alarcon, nurse in family medicine at Centre medical Laval
- Jillian Barnes, Executive Assistant to the Director of Donor Development, Communications and Marketing, Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada
- Evelyne Bernard, special needs teacher at l'École Victor-Doré for children with motor and organic impairment
- Dr. Camille Costa, physiatrist at Shriners, Ste-Justine, Centre de réadaptation Marie-Enfant, Centre de réadaptation MAB-Mackay
- Dr. Dominique Desmarais, pediatrician at the Hôtel-Dieu de St-Jérôme and at the child developmental clinic, CISSS des Laurentides
- Dr. Rolla Hraibeh, general practitioner, founder of the Clinique Medisalus in Saint Lambert
- Dr. Joanne Liu, pediatric emergency physician, Ste-Justine hospital
- Michèle Marcoux, nurse at the Enfance-famille unit, CLSC de Repentigny
- Dr. Michèle Vartian, pediatrician at the Maison Caracol, Social pediatrics centre in Pierrefonds

Reading to Heal was produced with the financial support of the Eric T. Webster Foundation, and thanks to the generosity of our health care professionals. Our heartfelt thanks to all.

www.bluemetropolis.org/heal

MY PERFECT PROM



The senior prom... that all-important evening that marks the passage from adolescence to adulthood. Alas, most proms have been cancelled, delayed, or stripped down, because of COVID. A huge disappointment for graduates.

Writers Nadine Descheneaux, Stéphanie Deslauriers, Emmanuel Lauzon, Monique Polak and Lori Weber have come up with stories about the perfect prom. Their characters — teenagers all — would fit right in with the current batch of disappointed graduates.

This series of original podcasts has been added to the Blue Metropolis Foundation's Teenage Well-being Platform.

www.bluemetropolis.org/prom

THE SECRET IS IN THE SAUCE – THE BEST FAMILY RECIPES IN ONE BOOK, AS OF JUNE 14



Author, blogger, journalist Monique Polak and photographer Monique Dykstra visited 20 English-speaking grandmothers in their kitchens (virtually, of course), in Quebec's immigrant and Indigenous communities. Our two pals went looking for mouth-watering dishes and hearty conversations. As they record traditional dishes and life-stories, they explore how knowledge and culture are passed down through the generations. These precious recipes have been brought together in one unique cookbook, to be launched on June 14, 2021. And the icing on the cake: the book is free.

The Secret is in the Sauce was made possible by a grant from Canadian Heritage's Official Languages Support Program.

www.bluemetropolis.org/educational-project/secret-sauce/

BLUE METROPOLIS LITERARY WALKING TOURS - LACE UP YOUR WALKING SHOES!



On May 20, Blue Metropolis launched 6 podcast-guided walking tours that offer a novel look at some of Montreal's neighbourhoods: Yiddish Montreal, Hispanic Montreal, Queer Montreal, Montreal Shopping & Books. The podcasts are scripted by local authors and narrated by themselves or by professional actors. Once you've learned all you can about

those 4 versions of Montreal, head out to Contrecoeur, with its 300 year + history. Then, keep driving, on a literary tour of the spirits of the terror.

It's free. It's online. Soon to be in your ears.

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

A LOOK BACK AT THE BLUE METROPOLIS INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL

The 2020-2021 edition of the Festival, digital version, started last autumn. 12 virtual events entitled Hope to Remember joined the fight against racism in conjunction with the Salon du livre de Montréal, l'Espace de la diversité, and several actors from the literary scene. Our spring programming ran April 24 – May 2, 2021, under the banner "Challenges for our Times?" In all, 60 events (award ceremonies, roundtables, interviews, literary conversations) brought together writers from Canada and abroad. The Festival's Youth programming ran from September 2020 to May 2021 and featured 90 activities. More than 133,000 people took part.¹

Nearly all the videos can be accessed at www.bluemetropolis.org/2021festival/

¹ Number of active users: viewers on Facebook Live, YouTube, or of archived videos on the Blue Metropolis website; podcast listeners; people reading original material or visiting thematic webpages on the Blue Metropolis site, as well as in-person attendance, when possible. Does not include conversations on social media.

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MERCI AUX PARTENAIRES MAJEURS DE LA FONDATION METROPOLIS BLEU QUI SOUTIENNENT LE FESTIVAL 2021
ET NOS PROGRAMMES ÉDUCATIFS ET SOCIAUX 2020-2021
THANKS TO BLUE METROPOLIS FOUNDATION'S MAJOR PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THE 2021 FESTIVAL
AND OUR 2020-2021 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

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