

PRESS RELEASE
UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL FEBRUARY 28, 2023

THE NEXT SERIES: NOW FOR THE FUTURE



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Montreal, February 28, 2023 - An exciting thing about the future: it's always happening, and this spring it's happening at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival.

From March through May, the NEXT series spotlights Montreal literary community leaders with a focus on underrepresented communities and emerging voices. With 6 creative and skill-sharing workshops, 4 carte blanches events and lots of original content featuring local authors, community organizers, emerging writers, and up-and-coming literary curators, there's something for all avid readers, aspiring writers and community members.

Celebrate the work, know-how and initiatives of local creators and community organizations making a difference now, and delve into original writing from some of the most exciting local voices. In person and online, the future is right here, right now.

AUTHOR AND INDUSTRY LEADER WORKSHOPS

From found texts turned poetic intervention to the do's and don'ts of the writing life, podcasting, small press publishing, and more—the NEXT workshop series empowers established and exciting local writers and literary workers to showcase their practices and share their skills.

1. L'Euguélonne: Passer de la marge au centre

Where and when: Librairie l'Euguélonne, le 16 mars, de 17h30 à 19h30

2. David Bradford & Tawhida Tanya Evanson: Writers and CALQ

Where and when: Quebec Writer Federation Offices and online, March 18, 10:00-1:00pm

3. Dimitri Nasrallah: Sustaining the Writing Life

Where and when: Hotel 10, 28 avril, 10-11:30am

4. Sruti Islam: Podcasting in a Weird Era

Where and when: Hotel 10, April 28, 3:30-5:00pm

5. Ashley Opheim: Publishing in the 21st Century

Where and when: Hotel 10, April 29, 4:30-6pm

6. Olivia Tapiero : Écritures et résidus, effacements et extrapolations

Lieu et heure : En librairie ou en plein air, le 22 ou 28 mai

CARTE BLANCHE EVENTS

Live events with some of the city's movers and shakers! Music and poetry, anniversaries and local releases, and a podcasting team on the rise: throughout April, Blue Metropolis presents 4 carte blanche events that empower local curators and artists and are bound to give you a fresh outlook on the Montreal Literary scene.

1. Weird Era

A Literary Podcast on the Rise in the Sud-Ouest! The Weird Era team in conversation with Arizona O'Neill at Librarie St. Henri Books.

2. Marilou Craft x Mardi Spaghetti

The literary and musical scene come together for a bilingual, improvisational evening of sound and fury!

3. Atwater Poetry Project: Liem, Halen, van Schaik

Atwater Poetry Project takes center stage at the Blue Metropolis Festival hub for a performance featuring 3 leading Montreal authors and their exciting new books.

4. Vehicule Press 50th Anniversary Bash

Celebrate a half-century of Montreal literary excellence with acclaimed Vehicule Press authors.

FRESH IMAGINARIES WITH BRAND-NEW PODCASTS

Cuddle up with our latest podcast releases! Discover our newest literary walking tour and explore the worlds of two exciting new short stories on important issues of the moment. Necessary insights, marginalized community perspectives, and some of the most exciting local voices—all available right now wherever you get your podcasts and on the Blue Metropolis website.

1. Tio'tia:ke/Montréal, a Foulée | Strides series: Writing a Decolonial Montreal

Cason Sharpe, Tara McGowan-Ross and Symon Henry with unique insights into their Montreal.

2. Working Fictions tackle the cultural, environmental and personal moment

Original, exclusive short stories from Prathna Lor and Sruti Islam add to the rich Les Inédits | Working Fictions offering.

FIND THE BOOKS AT THE FESTIVAL

Visit the Festival bookshop for titles by NEXT authors, workshop leaders, and organizational partners!

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 International Literary Festival** 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, encourage academic perseverance, and fight against poverty and isolation.

The Blue Metropolis Festival is one of the largest multilingual literary events in North America. For several days each year, writers from Québec, Canada, and around the world converge on Montreal. Festivalgoers are treated to live interviews, round-table discussions, public readings, debates, master classes, readings, and writing workshops. Every year, the Festival is built around several strong themes that bear witness to a keen social awareness and a passion for literature in all its richness.

The NEXT Serie is presented in partnership with COM-Unity, SRQEA, Metatron Press, Librairie l'Euguélonne, Quebec Writers Federation, Librairie St. Henri Books, La Sotterenea, Vehicule Press, RadioVM, Atwater Poetry Project, Weird Era and Vehicule Press.

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Contact: David Bradford, Programmer at Large and Strategic Consultant, Outreach
(438) 777 7548 or david.bradford@metropolisbleu.org

Media relations (English): Janis Kirshner
514 287-8912 or jkirshner@sympatico.ca

THANK YOU TO BLUE METROPOLIS FOUNDATION'S MAJOR PARTNERS WHO SUPPORT THE 2023 FESTIVAL AND OUR 2022-2023 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

