



**For immediate release**

Taking steps toward developing a cultural venue in Verdun  
**THE VERDUN BOROUGH LAUNCHES ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION**

**VERDUN, October 27, 2011** – Ville de Montréal – Verdun Borough is organizing a two-phase architectural competition in order to set up a cultural venue within Édifice Guy-Gagnon (at 5190, boulevard LaSalle, corner Desmarchais in Verdun). This former arena will be reconfigured and expanded to house—in the part of the building commonly called "Studio B"—a performing arts and circus arts venue, including an auditorium with seating for 368 to 414 spectators and an exhibition hall. The other part, where Studio A is located and which is being used by École de cirque de Verdun at the present time, will also be renovated.

Claude Trudel, Verdun Borough Mayor responsible for public safety and security on Ville de Montréal's Executive Committee, made the following announcement today: "The architectural competition is one step further in the process eventually leading us up to the construction of this much-awaited venue that Verdun greatly needs—an auditorium in keeping with the professional standards of the entertainment world."

The architectural competition of Centre de diffusion culturel / Édifice Guy-Gagnon comes within efforts to promote the quality of the built environment, in accordance with the City's orientations, as described in the program. This process is intended to be transparent as well as promote equality and accessibility within its rules and regulations. Through concern for a quality architectural structure, translucency, materiality and inventiveness will have to be among the features of this project. Such requalification of the building requires redeveloping the building envelope in harmony with its site along the St. Lawrence River. The project aims at creating a performing arts and circus arts hub in this area.

This will be a two-phase competition with the objective of selecting a distinctive project and engaging professional architectural services to design the cultural venue and ensure site supervision while construction is under way. On the basis of pre-determined criteria, a seven (7)-member panel of judges will be called upon to recommend to Ville de Montréal – Verdun Borough four (4) finalists upon completion of Phase 1, and subsequently, the successful team and project upon completion of Phase 2.

The competition documents (rules and regulations as well as the summary plan) are available through SÉAO (Service électronique d'appels d'offres). These documents

may be obtained by contacting one of the representatives by phone at 1-866-669-7326 or 514 856-6600. Or they may be downloaded from SÉAO's website ([www.seao.ca](http://www.seao.ca)). The documents may be obtained at a cost set by SÉAO.

For the purpose of the architectural competitions, the cost of the project, has been estimated at a total of \$11,473,758 (\$8,361,255 for the cultural venue and \$3,112,503 to redevelop the premises of École de cirque de Verdun). Added to these amounts are the costs related to landscaping, parking facilities, stage equipment and the art piece and estimated at a total of \$3 964 002. The financing package for the Borough's cultural venue is assured. As for the École de cirque de Verdun project, those in charge are waiting for a reply from the *Ministère de la culture, des communications et de la condition féminine du Québec*.

As it may be recalled, Verdun has no professional auditorium, but does have six locations used for professional performing arts shows that are very well attended by residents.

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Source: Verdun Borough

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