

NEWS RELEASE

UNESCO Urban Design Workshop “Imaginer la place d’Armes” **General public invited to join in activities**

Montréal, October 18, 2007 – Montrealers are invited to take part in several free activities being organized as part of the UNESCO Urban Design Workshop “Imaginer la place d’Armes,” which will take place from October 20 to 27. During the workshop, seven designers from Berlin and Buenos Aires will join three Montréal teams as they reflect upon strategies and map out design proposals illustrating possible new layouts for Place d’Armes. The free activities are designed to encourage the public to take part in the exchanges and discussions on redeveloping this highly emblematic heritage site, and to follow the work of the design workshop creators as it happens.

Montréal 

Culture,
Communications et
Condition féminine

Québec 

An open, participatory brainstorming exercise, this type of design workshop is part of a wider urban initiative that aims at establishing constructive dialogue between the various stakeholders in the redevelopment of Place d’Armes: neighbourhood residents and merchants, the general public, representatives of public administrations, designers, elected officials and urban planning professionals.

Free activities for the public to help envision the new Place d’Armes

For the duration of the design workshop, architecture gallery MONOPOLI will become the “workshop watch” venue and a crossroads of exchanges and get-togethers.

MONOPOLI will be an exclusive strategic space, open to everyone, where all of the ideas developed by the designers will be accessible, and where visitors can get a sense of the atmosphere resulting from this intensive creative exercise – spontaneous, feverish, constantly and rapidly evolving. Each day, the designers will be submitting the results of their work at the gallery, building toward a final exhibition made up of the sum of their reflections during the workshop.

Imagine your place d’Armes

The public is invited to voice their opinion on the development of Place d’Armes by responding to the questions that will be broadcast on the Web at www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/placedarmes.

Tours of Place d'Armes and Old Montréal

Place d'Armes, the Seminary Garden and the surrounding built environment are eloquent witnesses to the evolution of architecture and planning in Old Montréal. A 90-minute guided tour will be offered on two occasions. Meet-up location: Place d'Armes, right at the feet of Sieur de Maisonneuve!

Sunday, October 21 and 28

Leaving from the foot of the Maisonneuve monument, Place d'Armes, at 2:30 p.m.

Come and meet the designers

MONOPOLI will be holding midday get-togethers on Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25. Bring your lunch, find out what the designers have been up to, talk to them about the development of Place d'Armes.

Midday get-togethers

Tuesday, October 23 and Thursday, October 25

12 p.m.

MONOPOLI, architecture gallery

181, rue Saint-Antoine Ouest

Admission free

Take part in the debate and discussions on the development of Place d'Armes

Come and hear the students in development and design at the universities of Montréal, McGill, Concordia and UQAM present their views on the development of Place d'Armes during the "Stake Your Claim!" event organized along the lines of a "Pecha Kucha" evening.

Launched in Tokyo by the Klein Dytham firm, in 2003, the Pecha Kucha evenings—Japanese for "the sound of conversations"—consist of a series of presentations where creators from all fields present a project or a concept in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to the exchange of ideas.

"Stake Your Claim!" evening

Wednesday, October 24

7 p.m.

Fabrique Notre-Dame, Parish Hall

426, rue Saint-Sulpice

Admission free

See the presentation of the proposals developed by the three teams of designers

The public is invited to the presentation of the results of the UNESCO Urban Design Workshop during which the three teams of designers will present their development strategies and proposals. A debate with guest experts will follow the presentations of every team. Moreover, an exhibition will showcase the work produced by all the designers.

Presentation of the results of the UNESCO Urban Design Workshop “Imaginer la place d’Armes”

Saturday, October 27

1:30 p.m.

Palais des congrès de Montréal (Viger entrance), Room 524 A

Admission free

For more information about the UNESCO Urban Design Workshop “Imaginer la place d’Armes” and its related activities, visit www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/placedarmes.

Place d’Armes will be redeveloped by the City of Montréal in cooperation with the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec under the Montréal Cultural Development Agreement between the two governments. In addition, several municipal specialties (heritage, parks and green spaces) will be contributing to the UNESCO Urban Design Workshop “Imaginer la place d’Armes, project led by Design Montréal in partnership with the UNESCO Chaire en paysage et environnement de Montréal.” The workshop will also benefit from financial support from the Montréal Cultural Development Agreement and from the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions du Québec under its Fonds de développement de la Métropole.

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