Living Together - 2012

‘Living Together- Intercultural youth program in Saint Laurent’ - Is a unique youth program using young leaders from the Jewish and Arab communities of Saint Laurent. The Montreal Consortium of Human Rights Advocacy and Training (MCHRAT), in collaboration with the Centre de Culture et Loisirs de Saint Laurent and an advisory board of leaders from the Arab and Jewish communities, will all provide their expertise, guidance and support for the length of the program.

The youth enrolled in Living Together this year will use the 'stop motion photography’ technique to explore and present their families and their daily lives to each other and their greater community. It will take place between March 2012 and May 2012.

Through a series of workshops and a weekend retreat - combining entertainment and fun with group building exercises - participants will work towards the creation of a personal stop-motion photography animation and a final exhibition.

The participants of ‘Living Together’ have the exciting opportunity of deconstructing stereotypes, while learning about photography and working towards an exhibition they will organize together.

What is stop-motion animation?

How stop motion photography works: You take a picture of an object, and then take another picture of the same object in a slightly different position. If you repeat this several times and play the pictures back quickly, they will appear to be moving - thus creating the 'animated' effect. The participants of Living Together will take a series of digital photographs, which we will then stitch together using a ‘stop-motion’ software to create the animation.

2012 Program Details

**What?**

* A stop-motion photography program that will meet weekly, and is facilitated by two experienced youth workers.
* Youth who participate will receive community service credits, while having the opportunity to participate in an exciting and unique program.
* ‘Vivre Ensemble’ is guided by an advisory board of community leaders from both the Jewish and Arab Community (list attached)
* The program is supported with grants from the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition feminine, the City of Montreal, and the Brian Bronfman Family Foundation and The Mitzi and Mel Dobrin Family Foundation

**When? Where?**

* Every Tuesday after school for 2 hours
* At the Centre des Loisirs of St Laurent, in the Centre des ADOS (1375 rue Grenet, Saint Laurent)

**Who?**

* Approximately twenty youth in grade 10, will be recruited to take part in the program, from both private and public schools. Students from: **Herzeliah, Maimonides, Lauren Hill Academy, Ecole Secondaire de Saint Laurent, L’Ecole des Jeunes Musulmans, and Biali**k **Highschool** will be invited to take part. As will youth of that age who are residents of St Laurent but who attend different schools outside of the neighborhood.

**How to apply?**

* If you are interested in being one of the participants in this exciting new program, please complete the application form, and send us no more then a 500 word letter of interest.
* You can give these to your school administrative representative or send it to us via email at vivreensemble2011@gmail.com

Why?

Saint Laurent, is a multi-cultural community where 166 listed nationalities reside. One out of every two residents is an immigrant, the highest number in Montreal’s 27 boroughs. Both recently immigrated Canadians, as well as families who immigrated several generations ago call the neighborhood home.

In Saint Laurent , living together is unavoidable for most, and families naturally share the same spaces. However, some communities in Saint Laurent, specifically Arabs and Jews, still remain completely isolated from one another. Saint Laurent, contains 50% of Montreal’s Lebanese community (Christian and Muslim), a very significant Jewish community (both Sephardic and Ashkenazi), and a growing community of individuals from the Arab world. It is within this multicultural yet divided context that many youth are growing up. While there is no visible tension or conflict, our research has found that there is also no communication and little interaction between cultural communities.

Supported by our Advisory Board:

1. **Robert Abitbol** – Directeur Général Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec
2. **Daniel Amar** - Directeur Général -Congrès Juif Québécois
3. **David Azerad** – Assistant Educational Director, Judaic Studies, Herzeliah High School
4. **Michel Boudreau**– Arrondissement de Saint-Laurent, Chef de division, culture, loisirs et développement social
5. **Maurice Casaubon** – Conseiller en concertation civil - SPVM PDQ 07 Saint-Laurent
6. **Maurice Chalom** – Consultant Ville de Montréal
7. **Maurice Cohen** - Conseiller de Saint-Laurent, (Cote de Liesse)
8. **Mitzi Dobrin** – DBRN Holdings
9. **Nabiha El Wafai** – Directrice du primaire, École des Jeunes Musulmans
10. **Nabil Fawaz** - President of The Lebanese Canadian Heritage Association
11. **Eric Lagace** – Director, YMCA Saint-Laurent
12. **David Leduc** - Associate Director, MMEP
13. **Leonie Richler** – Bialik High School Guidance Counselor
14. **Warren Rohr** - Executive Director Beth Ora
15. **Layla Sawaf** - Fondatrice et Directeur Générale de l’École des Jeunes Musulmans
16. **Virginie Simard-Tozzi** – Animatrice sports et loisirs - Arrondissement de Saint-Laurent
17. **Jim Torczyner** - Professor of Social Work, McGill University, MCHRAT Founder and Director

Team

**Amanda Tetrault – Program coordinator / Photographer**

Amanda has coordinated Living Together from it’s initial concept and research stages, to the organization of the advisory board of community members and  overseeing the successful completion of the first year of Living Together. Additionally she was the photography professional who guided the youth through their photography component and curated their exhibition of Self Portraits. Amanda directed and produced the Living Together short film.

Amanda Tetrault, is a photographer based in Montreal. Canada. She is the author of the photographic book ‘Phil and Me’ (Trolley Books 2005). Amanda has received numerous grants in support of her work from the Canada Council of the Arts, The Quebec Council of the Arts and the Fine Arts Work Center- Provincetown MA. Her work has appeared in The Observer Magazine U.K, Saturday Night Magazine, The Globe and Mail, The Montreal Gazette, Newsweek, The Walrus Magazine, The Boston Globe and Photo8 Magazine among others.

Amanda is also an active public speaker and advocate for awareness in regards to mental health issues and their impact to families, and to children living with mentally ill parents.

**Nesrine Saci – Youth Coordinator**

Holds a BA in both communication and politics. Nesrine has long been interested in the complexities and challenges of intercommunity relations for new immigrants in their host country. She was happy to be a youth coordinator for the first Living Together Program and looks forward to the 2012 program.

She herself was born in Algeria, and was only a year old when her family moved to Saudi Arabia. There she spent her childhood and the majority of her teen years among a diverse community of expatriates. That experience, without a doubt, has contributed to her interest in intercommunity relations. On her arrival to Canada, Nesrine completed her university studies and has accumulated numerous experiences in the field of integration of newly arrived Canadians. Nesrine is now studying for her Masters in Public Policy.

**Michal Gomel Blank** **– Youth Coordinator**

Michal is a social worker and community organizer from Israel. She sees social justice as the path to stability and lasting peace. She has focused on empowerment and social policies that support equal participation of minority groups in a multi-ethnic state. After graduating from the Hebrew University with a BSW (Bachelor of Social Work),  Michal was a fellow at the McGill Middle East Program. Upon her completion of MSW (Master of Social Work), Michal ran the Katamon Food Cooperative and the Kiryat Menahem Storefront through Community Advocacy for three years.