



Innovation Jeunes
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Innovation Youth Connections

We are Innovation Youth Connections program, located in the district of Peter-McGill. This program brings together individuals so they can succeed in getting a high school diploma, build life skills and social skills. Connections provides space for young people to come do their academic work; a space that fosters motivation and inspiration. At Connections, we develop academic, professional and personal skills, gain job experience, and develop independence.

As we imagine what could become of the former Royal Victoria hospital, we want to focus on three areas: highlighting its history, accentuating its natural beauty, and developing services for those in our city in greatest need.

First, we believe a history museum should inhabit the space, to tell the story of medicine through the ages. Who were the nurses and doctors? What tools were used? How were patients cured, what means were used to cure illness? How did medicine evolve at the Royal Vic? It is very important to tell and retell the story of the hospital and how it addressed the issues it encountered decade to decade. This could serve as an educational tool for school groups and guided tours. Short videos, time capsules and the like would make for a vibrant and educational museum.

Second, the site sits next to the Mount-Royal and provides beautiful views of both the city and of nature. We believe the natural beauty of the site and of the mountain needs to be at the forefront of plans. Let's create community gardens where neighbours together cultivate fruits and vegetables. Let's create walking gardens, in the style of the botanical gardens, with benches for rest and respite. Let's remarry the site to the mountain!

Finally, our city is filled with people who are faced with tremendous challenges every day. We believe the Royal Vic can address some of those needs. There is space for homeless shelters and housing, care for veterans and for the elderly. Free daycare and food banks would be a great service to the vulnerable. French classes and cultural studies for newly arrived immigrants would be a beautiful use of this space.

We at Connections benefit greatly from a place at Innovation Youth that takes the good of people to heart. Every day, we have access to the space that helps us flourish in life. Royal Vic could be the same for the city of Montreal, and for the people of Peter-McGill.

Thank you,

Signed: Katya, Nancy, Adamo, Kedar, Wilmark, Sarah, Alex, Jamal, Hocine, Zack, Kushai, Jade, Rayden, Davanni, Miss Khrystelle (Connections coordinator), Christa (Community Development Coordinator)