

The *Le Canal* project to include a cultural centre

Space donated to the Griffintown arts community

Montreal, Friday, May 11, 2012 -- Capitalizing on the most beautiful site under development in Griffintown, the *Le Canal* project's developer expands his concept, **pledging to give the community space** fronting on William Street to **create a cultural centre** to house an array of art forms (installations, lectures, happenings, get-togethers, etc.). Talks with creators and neighbourhood organizations will continue this Spring to design a space that fits them. Use of this space will be dedicated to the **Cultural Corridor movement**. It will help develop an Arts pole, along with the Montreal Art Centre and the galleries and facilities located within this perimeter.

"Right from the outset, our team has been careful to design a project that fits the Griffintown spirit and considers its distinctive social and cultural features. The idea of taking this even further came to us following comments that were generated during the public consultation on the neighbourhood's future and during our open house. We are now pledging to give the neighbourhood a space that pays homage to its spirit of creation and innovation. Its location and vocation will make this space a natural part of the Cultural Corridor and help attract and retain artists and creators who help form Griffintown's identity," stated Mr. Patrick Varin, President, Développements Le Canal.

Le Canal, reflecting the vision of Griffintown's future

"Building this cultural centre at the heart of *Le Canal* is another way of showing our desire to donate a 'structuring project' that enhances the neighbourhood's enviable points while respecting its characteristics and diversity. We are very proud to point out that *Le Canal* is fully aligned with the City of Montreal's inclusion strategy, as well as the development principles set out by the *Office de consultation publique de Montréal* for Griffintown's development planning," stressed Mr. Varin.

Located along the Lachine Canal, the *Le Canal* project is surrounded by Williams, Basin and des Seigneurs streets. Focused on a integrative, multifunctional concept, *Le Canal* includes condominiums, affordable and community housing, as well as services. It is a balanced project that is rooted in the life of the neighbourhood whose heritage is commemorated by the buildings' architecture.

In addition to extending the bike path along the water, the project is also environmentally distinctive: the project provides unparalleled green space over nearly 50% of its area, helping to reduce heat islands and enhance the quality of life in the neighbourhood. Many other improvements will benefit the community in addition to the cultural centre announced today. These include turning Basin Street into a pedestrian street, correcting the dangerous curve on des Seigneurs Street, the addition of a daycare centre, and a cafe with an unbeatable view of the bank.

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Source: Patrick Varin, Les développements Le Canal

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