



FONDATION  
michaëlle jean  
FOUNDATION

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

TRANSFORMING  
LIVES.

REVITALIZING  
COMMUNITIES.

## OUR VISION

We share a vision of a Canada in which all youth use their voice and the most disadvantaged among them are included. We recognize that the arts and creativity are vectors of expression, action sensitization, civic mobilization, prevention, reflection and solutions in the face of social challenges that many youth and their communities. We also advance the power of arts, creativity, culture and education in their capacity to transform the destiny of excluded youth or facing difficulties to reinforce dialogue for social cohesion in favour of revitalized communities and for the common good.

## OUR MISSION

Through its programs and activities, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation accompanies, supports and ignites youth-driven civic initiatives, which call upon the arts, culture and education as tools of expression and action.

## OUR VALUES

Our approach is unique: it consists in building ties of trust and collaboration with youth and their communities. It is founded on the following values:

- Active citizenship •
- Innovation and creativity •
- Dialogue, collaboration, and inclusion •
- Individual and collective social responsibility •



## LET US DO A BETTER JOB AT LIVING TOGETHER

On October 1, 2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation celebrated its seventh anniversary and took the measure of the path it took since its beginnings. Today the Foundation is established on solid pillars and its programming is well established. In particular, the flagship program, entitled the **4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible**, fosters dialogue with marginalized youth, who use arts in spaces for conversation and become stakeholders capable of finding concrete answers to situations of crisis they confront. Through workshops, exhibitions and forums, young people set up action plans, which the Foundation helps to fund the implementation over a period of three years, in partnership with local youth organizations. This approach fits perfectly with the needs of underserved youth across the country, be they in northern areas, underserved urban neighborhoods, whether they are Indigenous or of immigrant background, racialized, refugees, homeless or stigmatized for their ethnic origin, their religion, their sexual orientation, their gender or their economic situation.

This program, **"The 4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible"** was designed by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation and launched in February 2014, in partnership with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts as part of *Black History Month* and *FRO Festival*. Then, on the occasion of *World Pride*, with the *Art Gallery of Ontario* (AGO), the program proved to be a springboard for using arts to include youth facing difficulties. It was also successfully implemented in Halifax since September 2014, based on the theme **"Justice, Arts and Youth"**. In April 2015, a second edition of the 4th Wall entitled "the **Scratch and Mix Project**" was a great success at the AGO, presented in parallel with the great retrospective of the renowned American painter of Haitian origin, **Jean-Michel Basquiat**.

In 2016-2017, the *Art Gallery of Nova Scotia* organized a second edition of **"Justice, Arts and Youth"** that helped shape the provincial government's cultural action plan as well as a province-wide youth action strategy, whose implementation was funded by the private sector through the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. That

same year, the *Musée de la civilisation of Quebec City* accepted to become a partner for a 4th Wall dedicated to homeless youth, entitled **"J'habite la ville"**, in partnership with *Maison Dauphine* (a shelter and a school for street-involved youth) and *Laval University's School of Architecture*. The exhibition and the forum sensitized key institutions about the realities faced by homeless youth in Quebec City.

Then, from November 7, 2016 to January 8, 2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation joined again with the *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts* for a 4th Wall dedicated to young victims of Islamophobia under the title **"The Art of Inclusion: Muslim Youth take the Lead."** The event had a very wide impact, since three museums in France (Lyon, Toulouse and Montpellier) decided to get involved and hosted activities in the spirit of the 4th Wall in their own spaces. French youth involved in the project were even invited to a forum in Montreal about the exhibition, which opened up a space for sharing, exchange and networking.

Finally, in 2016-2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation and the *Toronto Public Library* teams started preparing the first **National Black Canadians Summit**, which is to be held in Toronto in December 2017, and should allow hundreds of Black youth from across Canada to speak, to tell their stories, and raise awareness about the challenges they face, on the occasion of the *International Decade for People of African Descent*, proclaimed by the United Nations.

As of September 2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation and the *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts* have started preparing the great **"Power of the Arts Forum: Arts as Tools for Peace"**, which will take place from February 16 to 18, 2018 in Montreal. We will have the opportunity to review these two major events in the 2017-2018 report.

We can say that the Michaëlle Jean Foundation pays great attention to the needs of young Canadians experiencing social exclusion and who are just seeking



to better their lives. We support them so that they can be heard, included, and respected and so that their civic initiatives are taken into account. In 2016-2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation continued to support them by offering means to regain self-esteem and full civic participation in a Canadian society open to itself and to the world, more inclusive and aware of the socio-economic and cultural challenges that youth must overcome.

The Michaëlle Jean Foundation, through its activities across Canada, remains vigilant and sensitive to the global dimension of problems and challenges. In an increasingly interconnected world, where all of our destinies are tied, Canada is no longer *A mari usque ad mare* (from one ocean to the other). It also faces the shocks, the noises and the furies that shake the planet. Everywhere criminal, radical or extremist organizations engaged in all forms of trafficking are operating, whether it is at the local, national or transnational levels. Everywhere vulnerable, isolated, disadvantaged, and less informed young people are in their sight, especially through social networks and other platforms. Everywhere, these organizations—these radical and extremist groups—are trying to gain ground, fuel hatred, division and seek to destabilize institutions and the social body, in a constant denial of universal values. Everywhere a populist discourse of misinformation seeks to win over minds ideologically, by stigmatizing groups, often also using conventional media. Some countries are more affected than others, but no country, no society is immune. Hence the urgency of sensitizing and educating to consolidate collective links, by putting forward the values of solidarity, fraternity and mutual understanding with respect for diversity and dialogue. Young people have the ability and will to live together,

to think about the world in its entirety and the planet in its uniqueness. This is the task in which the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is involved, with all its resources: to support creative youth, who often hold solutions to some of these problems when we give them the means to articulate their ideas freely, frankly and effectively, which have the power to gather and especially to mobilize a spirit of good will.

We are moved and always inspired to see these youth appeal with ease and intelligence to the arts, culture, imagination, new technologies. They convey the world they want, they call for peace to be built and cultivated, and they articulate the values, fundamental rights and freedoms to defend, in the name of an integral and universal humanism.

Every day, we learn of these young people who thrive as soon as they are listened to and their contribution is recognized. We wish to honor the trust they place in us: the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is theirs. It is the legacy of the 27th Governor General of Canada, formed at the request of young people in 2010 as an extension of her commitment in 2005, when she took office and made youth a priority. Today, to move forward, we can count on a dedicated team, strong links on the ground, throughout our vast country, and the unwavering support of a Board of Directors that share the values that drive our action.

H.E. R.H. Michaëlle Jean

Jean, 27th Governor General of Canada (2005-2010) and  
3rd Secretary General of La Francophonie

Monsieur Jean-Daniel Lafond

Filmmaker, Writer and Co-Founder, Co-Chair and (voluntary) Executive Director  
of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation

Welcome to Canada  
مرحبا بكم في كندا

Please have a seat !  
You're home !



## A CORNERSTONE PROGRAM WITH TWO STAGES



### Step One: "The 4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible"

The phrase "The 4th Wall" refers to the invisible wall that separates the spectator from the theater or the cinema. It is a convention that allows the spectators to observe the actors' play and the actors to forget the spectators. On the other hand, when an actor or actress addresses the audience directly, it is said that they "break the fourth wall"; the same is true for a spectator who challenges the actors. In both cases, the fundamental convention of theatrical or cinematographic play is broken.

The program entitled "The 4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible" by the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is built on the ability to give young people the power to break the sealed wall behind which silence, anger, violence, isolation, disenchantment, exclusion, ostracism, and discrimination—all the frustrations, so much violence and suffering—are hidden. Art in all its forms and manifestations makes the invisible visible. In a tangible way, it allows these young people facing social exclusion and deep solitude to find in artistic expression a space, a path, and a way of speaking so that a gaze is placed on crucial challenges they confront and so that society takes a grasp.

"The 4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible" is a unifying societal project, involving cities, neighborhoods, communities, community groups, associations, institutions, experts, government and private sector partners. First, there needs to be a perfect identification of the problem and the theme. This comes from attentively listening to young people and learning from the initiatives on the ground. It is then necessary to know how to establish a partnership with a cultural institution to house the dialogue, the artwork, the creations, the demonstrations that concerned youth (aged from 15 to 30 years) submit to the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. These are evaluated by jurors hailing from the arts community, specialists and social workers. The modes of artistic expression vary (photography, painting, video, music, dance, writing,



poetry ...). In any case, once completed, the projects are exhibited in the partner museum, which gives rise to a real exhibition and a public forum. For the young people as for all participants, this is an experience that is always striking, dynamic, and emotionally charged with rewarding encounters. With awareness comes also strong community mobilization, which leads to concrete initiatives, even plans of action and public policies.

### Step Two: Youth Community Action

After art as a catalyst and a public forum to initiate reflection and mobilization, the second phase called "Youth Community Action," focuses on the design and implementation of a targeted action plan, for interventions capable of transforming the social environment.

The strategic action plan is always the result of a concerted and coordinated effort among youth, various actors in the community, government (justice, health, and education), private companies, academic institutions, and other sectors. In its design and implementation, the action plan itself becomes a participatory activity spread over several years to ensure real community ownership of the process, the assurance of truly going to the root of the identified social malaise, with sustainable projects and an evaluation of practices and results.

## OPENING CULTURAL SPACES TO YOUTH



### MONTREAL

#### **"The Art of Inclusion: Muslim Youth Take the Lead"** at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (from November 22, 2016 to January 8, 2017)

The Michaëlle Jean Foundation organized this multidisciplinary art project, organized as a partnership with the *Montreal Museum of Fine Arts*, the *Institute for Research and Education on Race Relations (IRERR)* and the *Silk Road Institute*. It sought to give Muslim youth in Quebec, ages 15 to 30 and from different backgrounds, an opportunity to address the stigmatization and generalizations that target them, their attachment to universal values, and their grounding in Quebec and Canadian society.

Through a juried process, ten artists—Aissatou Balde, Mercedeh Baroque, Abdelhamid Beniani, Serine Bentaya, Yousra Benziane, Hejer Chelbi, Essraa Daoui, Wurood Habib, Chaimae Khouli et Zahraa Sbaiti—were selected and produced astounding pieces of work. The budding creators had the privilege of working with two professional artists tied to the Museum (Mohammed Makhfi and Naghmeh Sharifiet), who accompanied them throughout the entire creative process. In the end, the result was breathtaking, gathering installations, paintings, videos and photography on display at the MMFA until January 2017. The artwork directly confronted issues of particular concern to young people, like exclusion, integration, ostracization and Islamophobia, radicalization and extremism. Several works freely addressed spirituality, and religious dogmatism, racism against Blacks in some Muslim spaces, diverse perspectives and practices within Muslim communities and inter-faith dialogue. Out of the ten artists, nine were young women very involved in addressing their role within Muslim communities, highlighting different forms of oppression they face as well as multiple opportunities for empowerment, with a feminist tone, which also inspired the only young man in the group.

The exhibition concluded with a public forum, gathering youth, creators, Muslim community representatives, elected officials and businesspeople. The young artists discussed issues raised by the exhibition and brought forth solutions, to tackle Islamophobia, undo prejudices and preconceptions, and encourage democratic participation, employment opportunities for youth and value the economic contributions of Muslim communities. The outcome was so compelling that the *Vancouver Foundation*, the *Edmonton Community Foundation*, the *Winnipeg Foundation* as well as the *Oakville Community Foundation*, decided to donate to the Michaëlle Jean Foundation for a national exhibition.



As the fruit of a partnership between the educational and community programs run by the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, the exhibition was the second time the MMFA had worked with the Foundation as part of the **"4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible"** initiative. The project reflects the importance of a vigorous collaboration around a shared vision of the arts serving peace, dialogue, mutual understanding, citizenship and inclusion. The impact of **"The Art of Inclusion"** was felt internationally as well. Museums in Toulouse, Marseille and Lyon, France, inspired by the project at the





MMFA, developed their own versions. Young people from French suburbs made the trek to Montreal to meet their counterparts in Quebec, to compare their experiences and best practices and explore common solution, during the official event launch.

#### QUEBEC CITY

##### **J'habite la Ville Exhibition at the Quebec Museum of Civilizations (September 27, 2016 to November 1, 2016)**

With much fanfare, October 2016 saw the much anticipated opening of the **J'habite la Ville** 4th Wall exhibition. Featuring the artwork of three youth from Quebec City—by Alexandrine “Bob” Duclos, Samuel Tremblay and Jasen Gagné—who had lived in the streets for several years, brought unprecedented attention to the plight of the youth homelessness, by attracting attention of media, government officials, creators, scholars, and the broader public. They were drawn by this unprecedented opportunity to discover the perspectives of street-involved youth on the city they share. Over the course of four months, the youth

created with students from *Laval University's School of Architecture*. What began as a formal exercise in team-building soon became an exercise in cross-gazing, a relationship of reciprocity and mutual listening, which quickly produced a rich and elaborate expression of perspectives coming from homeless youth on urban planning, organizing public spaces, the green economy, their place in the city, indifference, emotional breakdowns, insecurity, and measures of solidarity to fight against poverty and exclusion. The exhibition opened with a public forum, where young people and experts spoke about the issues raised in the exhibition and proposed strategies on a human scale to improve the quality of life in Quebec. From September 28 to October 9, 2016, the *Musée de la civilisation de Québec* presented “**J'habite la ville**”, a small exhibition that considerably attracted the attention of the public. Put together by Alexandrine “Bob” Duclos, Samuel Tremblay and Jasen Gagné, three remarkable youth who participated in the project, overseen by Jean-Daniel Lafond, Co-Founder and volunteer Executive Director

of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, with the help of Alice Mutezintare, Administrative Assistant at the Michaëlle Jean Foundation. The *Musée de la civilisation de Québec*, the *Maison Dauphine*, the organization that houses and offers school and training programs to street youth, and the *Laval University's School of Architecture*, were precious partners of “**J'habite la ville**”, which was eloquently grounded in the **4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible** initiative, as a real dialogue with the countless young people we meet without really seeing them; but do they look at us and say that homelessness is not a choice but a contest of circumstances, a sum of hardships.

As a result, members of the public were able to re-discover the urban landscape from the point of view of the homeless, people who walk through the city day by day, have a deep and expansive knowledge of it. They also pointed out how the weekly meetings between these young people, students and professors from the *Laval University's School of Architecture* helped to broaden horizons within the institution of higher education, helping the move from theoretical frameworks to lived reality.



Alexandrine’s photographic essays are peopled by these invisible people, women, men and young people, who are all too often ignored, invisible, who know about homelessness, and whose essays show the impressive support network they create in the street itself. Samuel’s model showed how decommissioned downtown buildings can be reconverted to provide decent shelter for the homeless. Reinventing Château Frontenac, Jasen paid tribute to a historic



figure in the old city of Quebec, Anne Gasnier who, in the seventeenth century, came from Europe to help the poorest of the poor. At the forum hosted by architect and urban planner Erick Rivard, participants had an opportunity to think more about these issues with street youth and ask themselves how homeless people can actively participate in planning the revitalization of urban space, to make our cities more inclusive and to make urban planning a social justice factor.



## YOUTH IN ACTION



### HALIFAX Youth Community Action

The heart of the Foundation's programming is the notion that youth using arts for social change can serve as a catalyst for action. Our "arts for collective impact model" uses 4th Wall exhibitions to initiate conversation, which are then followed by a public forum to kick-start critical thinking and strategic planning. The next phase is called "**Youth Community Action**," as it focuses on devising and implementing a targeted plan of action, towards collective interventions capable of transforming society. The action plan is the result of dialogue and cooperation between various stakeholders from the private, public and cultural sectors, community organizations, academia, jurists, urban planners, and healthcare professionals. How-

ever, it is driven in a coordinated and consolidated way by and centered on youth. As it is devised, the action plan itself becomes a participatory and inclusive piece of work, articulated in its implementation, in medium and long-term, on different factors and manifestations of the problem, to truly get at the root causes of the identified problems. And this is how the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, by allowing marginalized youth to engage in dialogue, to share their realities, and to call on the rest of society on numerous issues, through the effectiveness of the arts, ignites interest which leads into reflection and then encourages multisector cooperation in the search for solutions. The action plan galvanizes collective action, participatory governance, with greater inclusiveness and social justice and cohesion as net results.

### Youth, Arts & Justice in Action Initiative

**Justice, Arts & Youth in Action Initiative** began as 4th Wall exhibition held at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in 2015. Since then the Michaëlle Jean Foundation joined with *Youth Art Connection* to enable over 100 dynamic young creators, from a variety of backgrounds, to showcase artwork on the theme of justice and peace. Two exhibitions transpired at a time in which the province was wheeling from an unanticipated spike in gun violence involving youth. Some of the artwork addressed themes of youth criminalization, violence and incarceration, while others addressed the rights of Indigenous peoples, Transphobia, and domestic partner violence. Each exhibition was kicked-off with a public forum in which over 150 participants, from sectors as varied as government, community, arts, health, justice, and education, celebrated the featured artists and began laying the groundwork for a province-wide action plan to advance peace, security and justice. The forums were then followed by yearlong programming at the Art Gallery, in which members of the public were invited to view the artwork, create their own responses, and engage in dialogue on the themes raised. It is estimated that over 40,000 people were engaged in the programming.

To prepare the second phase of JAYA, or **Justice, Arts and Youth in Action**, which will evolve into a "**Youth Community Action**" initiative, the organization *Youth Art Connection* crisscrossed the province

and held several public forums and consultations. The purpose was to ensure the participation, along with local community partners, Nova Scotians of all generations and to collect testimonies, and see how the arts are also being used to serve peace, security and justice across the province. Several provincial cabinet ministers, business people, mayors, chief of police, Indigenous leaders, and African Nova Scotian leaders, took part in the forums. The conversations were quiet animated and touched on difficult and sensitive questions, in order to find concrete and achievable solutions collectively. The forums took place in:

- **Halifax, January 21, 2017**  
Celebrating Black Nova Scotian Youth Leadership in Building Peace;
- **Antigonish, April 1, 2017**  
Celebrating Nova Scotian Leadership in Reducing Intimate Partner and Gender- Based Violence;
- **We'kwistoqnik' (Eskasoni), April 19, 2017**  
Celebrating Indigenous Nova Scotian Youth Leadership in Building Peace and Reconciliation;
- **Wolfville, April 22, 2017**  
Celebrating LGBTQIAP+\* & Two-Spirited Youth Leadership in Building Peace.

*Youth Art Connection* is collaborating with the Michaëlle Jean Foundation and the Art Gallery of Nova

Scotia to compile the information gathered from each forum, which mobilized close to 1,000 Nova Scotians, to constitute an action plan. Now the task is to define the plan, which will then be used to drive **Youth Community Action** projects run across the province over a three-year period. Each project will see youth engaging different sectors of their community to use arts to advance peace, security and justice, which are the four priority pillars.





## THE BURSARY PROGRAM

### TD Michaëlle Jean Bursaries

Effective solutions to major challenges facing disadvantaged communities across Canada require fresh, bold, imaginative, and transformative ideas. They also require developing new ways of looking at social problems and leveraging game changing collaborations. Challenging Canadians, particularly youth, to come up with innovative life-changing and boundary-pushing ideas, and methods, ways of doing things and thinking require resources, patience, time and supports. That is why creating spaces and opportunities that enable social and cultural innovation to flourish is at the heart of our TD Michaëlle Jean Bursaries initiative. Bursaries are offered to young socially-engaged artists wanting to hone exemplary, innovative and scalable practices. Once completed and tested, the successful practices are introduced to groups working on our collective impact initiatives, during national forums.



#### Christine Huang (Montreal, Quebec)

With her TD Michaëlle Jean Bursary, Christine Huang has been leveraging her close relationship with the youth of St-Michel to ignite transformative opportunities for young people to share their ideas, their solutions and their knowhow to revitalize the district and make it more inclusive, safe and prosperous space. Through the *St. Michel Youth Forum*, she is overseeing a drop-in project: *Drop-in: Place aux 18-30 ans!*, to help young people fulfill their dream of a community space that reflects their needs and perspectives. With the help of the bursary, she is helping over 1,000 youth in Montreal's multicultural St. Michel district expand or strengthen their capacities, acquire social competencies, develop entrepreneurial aptitudes, enhance professional insertion, and obtain greater self-confidence.



#### Tabitha McDonald (Ottawa, Ontario)

Tabitha McDonald young adult from Ottawa, who is a former ward of the crown who transitioned out of government care without a permanent family. Tabitha currently coordinates the *Adoption Council of Canada's Youth Speak Out* program, which allows youth in and from government care to share their stories, as experts, and bring about a call to action on a national scale. Thanks to the TD Michaëlle Jean Bursary, Tabitha has been connecting with youth across the country, making presentations about her initiative, receiving training, and touching the lives of hundreds of youth who are being heard, through the power of video. Her project is connecting youth with professional adult supports in six regions across Canada to coordinate and facilitate the use of digital storytelling in their advocacy and educational pursuits to help empower young people involved in the *Adoption Council of Canada*.



#### Shira Taylor (Toronto, Ontario)

A playwright and advocate for social justice in public health in Toronto, Shira Taylor created **SExT: Sex Education by Theatre**, which empowers youth for whom sexuality is a taboo to reflect with discernment on their realities as well as on sexuality and sexual health. With the help of the Michaëlle Jean Foundation, Shira will be bringing SExT to wide audiences in Toronto and working towards program sustainability and expansion. She has partnered with the *Flemingdon Health Centre* to train youth in these communities as peer educators through theatre. In the age of cyberbullying and the trivialization of and rape culture, she is seeking to expand SExT by giving youth a platform to have their voices heard through the creation of skits, songs, poems, raps and dances that reflect their experience and concerns.



#### Chu Zang (Toronto Ontario)

Chu Zang, 28, is an artist specializing in comics, pottery, and drawings. Through the **Where Are you From Collective** (WAYF Collective), and thanks to the TD Michaëlle Jean Bursary, she has been elevating the voices and profiles of many artists in her community, as she shares and empathizes with their struggles. Key to her efforts is working from the vantage point of an art-based, anti-oppression and activism program for Asian-identified youth. From an anti-oppression perspective, the Collective has been empowering Asian Canadian youth to develop critical art practices and build activist spaces that challenge dominant culture after decades of collective silence. While celebrating Asian identities and achievements, building capacity for Asian-identified youth, and connecting diasporic Asian communities so that they can create intentional dialogue that disrupts status quo, the WAYF Collective has also been engaging directly with other marginalized groups, through such groups as *Black Lives Matter TO*, to align struggles and raise awareness about multiple forms of oppression. The other members of the Collective include Karla, Rain and Effy.

### The Power of the Arts in Family Medicine Fellowship

The Michaëlle Jean Foundation has partnered with the *College of Family Physicians of Canada* (CFPC) for the Power of the Arts in Family Medicine Fellowship. The fellowship supports individuals or teams engaged in research related to the inclusion of arts in family practice, as a means to foster social inclusion, recovery, health and well-being. A requirement is that at least one CFPC family physician member be part of the team. The results of the research benefit Canadian communities by improving the quality of life through the arts and the discipline of family medicine by evidence-based support of using art as a health and wellness initiative.

#### DR. STEPHEN DARCY

For the research fellowship, Dr. Darcy and his team are piloting the two-year **SMART Youth** program, which collaborates closely with the *Shea Heights Youth Council*. It combines several aspects of art to allow for some flexibility in terms of when content was covered. In an effort to promote mental health and wellness, this project aims to use health topics of interest to youth as content for some of the artwork produced. The health topics were identified by the youth council as topics of interest to them and included: alcohol, anxiety, body image, bullying, dating, depression, drugs, exercise and supplements, gaming, getting help / where to get help, healthy eating, internet/web use, LGBTQ health, safer sex, smoking, social networking, and stress. Throughout the course of the program, youth participants were encouraged to use art as a healthy and non-judgemental outlet for expressing themselves creatively.



AMAZING  
PEOPLE



## AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING



On May 26, 2017, the first in a series of fundraising events sponsored as part of a partnership between the Michaëlle Jean Foundation and the charitable initiative Amazing People delighted about 200 people in the Trillium ballroom of the Shaw Centre in Ottawa with an intimate concert by well-known Canadian singer-songwriter Chantal Kreviazuk. As part of Ottawa Race Weekend, many athletes, business leaders, municipal officials, cultural figures and community leaders from the national capital region gathered to celebrate the arts, creativity and social engagement. Chantal Kreviazuk captivated the audience with her soulful renditions of some of her past hit songs, inviting people in the room to singalong while she peppered each song with humour and personal anecdotes. The event set the tone for a planned fundraising “Disco Inferno” gala slated for October 2017.

## OPEN TO THE FUTURE



The 2016-2017 fiscal year was one of transition, as changes among staff as well as in the Michaëlle Jean Foundation’s strategic programming priorities, provided for opportunities to begin establishing an account of its achievements, positioning, projections and future perspectives. Key to the shifts was a more deliberate focus on generating collective impact through community-driven projects that used arts to foster collaboration to generate tangible outcomes over a given timeframe. The following is our list of upcoming activities being planned within this new strategic framework.

### National Black Canadians Summit

Through funding from TD Bank Group, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is gathering over 400 Black Canadian leaders from across the country, to build a strategic action plan to combat racism and improve social and economic outcomes for Black communities, particularly, in areas as varied as generating wealth and property, community safety, physical and mental health, migration, innovation, creativity and arts and culture. With the help of Deloitte Canada, participants will engage in strategic planning sessions to develop the action plan that will see Canadians implement the aims of the International Decade for People of African Descent proclaimed by the United Nations.



### Combating Hate, Advancing Inclusion

Starting May 20, 2017, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation joined forces with the Vancouver Foundation, the Edmonton Community Foundation, the Winnipeg Community Foundation and the Oakville Community Foundation to sponsor a video arts competition among youth from Muslim communities living across Canada, aged 15 to 30. The young artists were invited to submit proposals for a digital video production that articulates a vision of Canada’s diverse identity and offers suggestions on ways to foster the full inclusion of Muslim youth in Canadian society. Selected videos will join a travelling video art exhibition

project entitled **Combating Hate, Advancing Inclusion**. There are plans for the exhibition to be presented at Nuit Blanch Toronto as well as during a variety of cultural events across the country.



### Power of the Arts Forum: Arts as Tools for Peace

After three editions at Carleton University’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in Ottawa, the Michaëlle Jean Foundation is teaming up with the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. From February 16 to 18, 2018, everyone from across Canada and the province of Quebec who uses the arts as tools for individual and social change is invited to share on the theme, “**The Arts as Tools for Peace**”. Speakers from Canada and abroad, artists of all stripes, researchers and scientists, as well as activists and representatives from groups and institutions that use the arts as part of their mission will be presenting, facilitating workshops, moderating debates, and performing. The Forum will also provide an excellent opportunity for individuals, cultural institutions and establishments to extend or maintain their networks. It will also be a great way to round off the 375th anniversary of Montreal and Canada’s 150th anniversary.



OUR FEATURE CORNER:

## AN INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDRINE DUCLOS



Excerpts from an interview with Alexandrine Duclos who participated in the “4th Wall: Making the Invisible Visible - J’habite la ville” exhibition. She worked more than three months to prepare her artwork for the exhibition that opened at the Musées de la civilization of Quebec City on September 27, 2016.

**What was your project?**

**Alexandrine:** We created small buildings: mine was a little like a little house, outside the walls, there were pictures of the city, what we see first; and when you enter inside, you could see people, the homeless, their problems and, at the same time, see humanity. So by bringing people inside the space offered by the artwork, it allowed them to see from another angle what they do not want to see in their city.

**Was it based on a personal experience of the city?**

**Alexandrine:** Yes. Because I was on the street for a year and a half, between one year and two years of instability. I slept outside; I was exposed to many things; so yes, it started using my personal experience. I was able to understand, having experienced the hard reality of those who live on the streets. Now I have taken some distance and I got out; but whether you’re on the street or not, no matter how you live, people are distant in this city, and I’ve always had a hard time with that.

**You, alongside two other people who were involved in the street, were able to participate in the opening of the exhibition at a Forum with architects, urban planners, decision-makers. Do you three think this has contributed to raising awareness - and understanding - of this issue?**

**Alexandrine:** To make people know about the issue, I am not sure; but to make people understand, maybe yes. The architects helped me a lot to create my artwork. They were the ones who had the idea of making buildings for everyone, and we all agreed. So yes, I think it helped to make people think differently about the issue.

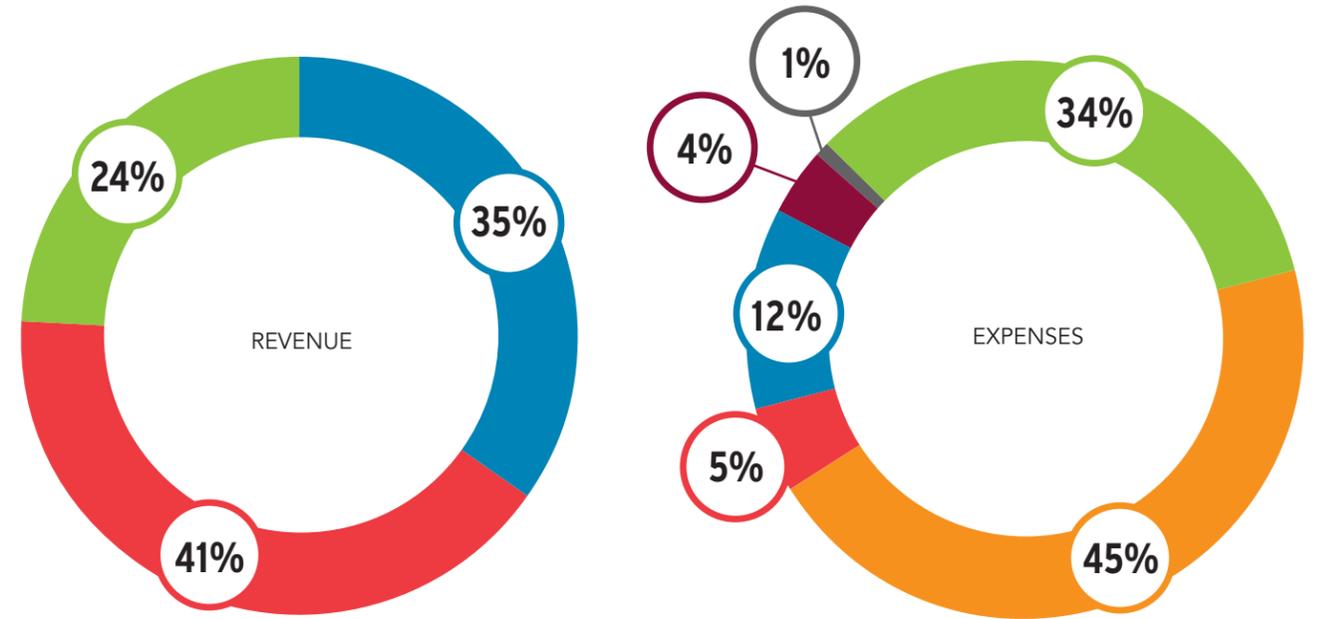
**Did this experience help you positively in your life?**

**Alexandrine:** Yes. Absolutely, confidence aside, when you say that you have exposed your work at the Museum, already people are impressed. It validated me. After that, it helped me decide to reenroll in a photography class. So when I returned to the program, I did not return without any experience. I found this project inspiring and a great opportunity for my future.

*Today, Alexandrine has completed solid training in photography. She has now become a professional photographer and has projects she wants to develop with youth centers and organizations that take care of street-involved youth, like Maison Dauphine in Quebec City. She is also a volunteer photographer for the newspaper “La Quête”. Moreover, from her experience on the street, she has maintained a deep love for animals and is developing competencies in pet therapy, as an assistant. Lastly, she tells us that right now she is “working on her life.”*



## FINANCIALS YEAR ENDED September 30, 2017



REVENUE		EXPENSES	
Grant-Department of Canadian Heritage (220,581)	41%	Programs (128,709)	34%
Donations-Private sector (266,898)	35%	Administration (171,702)	12%
Investment Income and Other (151,444)	24%	Communications (19,904)	5%
		Development (43,942)	1%
		Professional fees (16,799)	4%
		Other (2,448)	1%

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We would like to thank the following visionary individuals, corporations, foundations and agencies who made gifts to the Foundation from October 1, 2016, to September 30, 2017. Your generosity is enabling us to transform the lives of underprivileged youth, and, in many cases, receive matching grants from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Alice Mutezintare  
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143 Séraphin-Marion Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5  
**TF** 1-855-626-8296  
**T** 613-562-5751

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