Engaging Citizens in Co-Creation

Montreal urban innovation lab

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About The Montreal Urban Innovation Lab

- The Urban Innovation Lab’s mission is to foster and support the emergence of innovative solution to major urban challenges.

- Working together with citizens, city employees and our partners, we strive to provide Montrealers with the tools needed to build a more open, integrated and efficient city.
Urban Innovation Lab goals

● Accompany the various city departments in their own innovation efforts.

● Establish citizen and partner reflection activities and working groups in order to identify the city’s important challenges and cocreate the solutions needed to meet them.

● Ensure the transparency of the government apparatus both internally and externally, most notably through the open and humane use of data.
Examples of our projects:

- Autonomous vehicles testing
- Innovative procurement
- Data-driven decision-making
Montreal won the Smart City Challenge!
Montreal won the Smart City Challenge!

- Infrastructure Canada launched the competition with the aim of using data and connected technologies to raise the quality of life of citizens (November 2017)

- Over 200 communities responded to the Challenge

- On May 14th 2019, the city of Montréal was awarded the top, $50 million prize in Canada’s Smart Cities Challenge competition.
Challenge Statement

The Montreal community is shaping an efficient and dynamic neighbourhood life by innovating mobility and access to food.

Through a co-creation and citizen participation process, the accessibility of services and the well-being of Montrealers are increasing significantly.
Citizen participation and innovation at the center of our strategy

- Efforts in engagement and mobilization that aim to constantly integrate citizen expertise in our projects.

- Collaborative governance model that proposes new tools to incorporate and formalize citizen input;

- Approach for measuring impact that gathers and learns from citizen perceptions in order to measure results for continuous adaptation.
A community shaping itself

- The starting point of our approach is that the community “knows”

- To be useful and decisive, community knowledge must be used throughout the life of a project.
Our approach

1. Involve the community in the transformations that affect it and rely on its expertise.

2. Collect useful feedback to measure and support systemic change.
The Civic Innovation Lab for Regulatory Testing

- Iterative process in which Montréal’s municipal governance experts, supported by citizens and civil society actors, explore and redefine municipal regulations

- Space for diagnosis, reflection and co-creation of the desired changes in municipal regulations

- Better meet the needs and realities of communities and foster local innovation
The Civic Innovation Lab for Regulatory Testing

goals

- Modernize municipal governance, particularly in the face of digital realities.

- Make Montréal a collaborative city by renewing the social contract between residents and the City’s institutions (both in terms of resources and results).

- Accelerate municipal, institutional and civic innovation by removing barriers to innovation.
Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.

— Jane Jacobs —
Thank you

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