

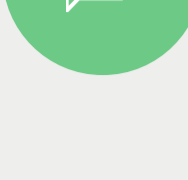
Promise, Skawennati's public art installation, will transform our façade all summer long



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Starting today and running through to the end of September, the Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) invites Montrealers to discover and experience Promise, a temporary public art installation by world-renowned Kanien'keháka (Mohawk) artist Skawennati, which, for the very first time, will transform the façade of the CAM building (located at 1210 Sherbrooke Street East, across from La Fontaine Park).

Vibrantly colourful, this playful, bold and symbolic work is accessible for free all summer long, day and night. All it takes is a smartphone to scan a QR code for an immersive augmented-reality experience of the Three Sisters.

An Art Installation Rooted in Indigenous Heritage

Commissioned by the CAM to celebrate its 70th anniversary, this powerful artistic gesture is being unveiled just days before National Indigenous Peoples Day, on Sunday, June 21. We also invite the public to visit and discover the installation on this highly significant event. It also acknowledges the 325th anniversary of the Great Peace Treaty of Montreal, signed on August 4, 1701.

"In Montreal, the presence of art is an unbeatable force, deeply embedded in its DNA. For 70 years, it has been at the heart of the CAM's work. Chosen from our very first competition for a temporary public artwork, the visionary artist Skawennati brilliantly transforms an iconic building in Montreal. We are thus reaffirming what sets our city apart: artistic vitality is expressed all around us, and right here at the Gaston-Miron building, it comes to life every day through the CAM's initiatives." – Nathalie Maillé, Executive Director of the CAM

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to create a public work for an institution as innovative as the CAM, at this grand scale, in this location, the traditional territory of my ancestors. What is truly transformative is to live with Indigenous signage and symbols in the cityscape where they promote the values inherent in them." – Skawennati

A work rooted in tradition and growing toward the future

Drawing on Hotinonshónni (Iroquois) knowledge, Promise reimagines the Three Sisters –beloved personifications of corn, beans, and squash—as contemporary superheroes whose mission is to re-instill into the values of sustainability, interdependence, and gratitude throughout the city and the world.

The vivid patterns wrapped around the building's columns are inspired by their seeds, while an augmented-reality experience, accessible via a QR code, brings the heroines to life through 3D animation, accompanied by an original song blending Kanien'kéha, French, and English.

Sponsored by daphne, a non-profit Indigenous artist-run centre, this playful installation invites all citizens to contemplate and remember the roots of the city and to envision a shared future grounded in Indigenous values.

Skawennati, a trailblazer in Indigenous digital art

A Kanien'keháka (Mohawk) artist based in Montreal, Skawennati has been developing a practice at the intersection of visual and digital arts for over two decades, blending installations, technologies, sculptures, textiles, and interactive environments to explore memory, identity, and the future.

Centered around the universe of the Three Sisters, the artist is developing a multilayered narrative. She first introduced them as superheroes in *Words Before All Else*, in 2022, followed by *Welcome to the Garden*, presented in 2024 at Gray Area in San Francisco. In 2025, the trio visited New York as part of *ENCODED: Change the Story, Change the Future* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where Skawennati's augmented reality work is surreptitiously superimposed onto the museum's facade. There, she offers a critical reinterpretation of dominant narratives, which is emblematic of her approach.

With *Promise*, the artist adds a new chapter, affirming a strong connection to the territory; the accompanying song is punctuated with references to the Maison du CAM, the City of Montreal/Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang, and nearby Atateken Street.

Rooted in Indigenous knowledge yet future-oriented, her work has been presented on the local and international scene, notably at the MAC, the Smithsonian, the Venice Biennale, and the Seoul Art & Tech Festival. In May 2025, the National Gallery of Canada presented *Welcome to Dreamhouse*, major solo exhibition of her work, tracing 25 years of artistic practice.

Skawennati is co-founder and co-director of AbTeC at Concordia University, a research-creation studio that co-produces digital art projects.

About the Gaston-Miron Building

The Gaston-Miron Building, located at 1210 Sherbrooke Street East across from La Fontaine Park, has been home to the Conseil des arts de Montréal since 2009. Formerly the Montreal Central Library, built between 1914 and 1917 by architect Eugène Payette, this iconic building stands as a testament to the city's rich cultural and architectural heritage. Completely renovated while preserving its original features—including its spectacular atrium topped by a glass ceiling—the building is now a vibrant space dedicated to the creation, support, and promotion of the arts, providing the artistic community with rehearsal and exhibition spaces. At its entrance stands Yannick Pouliot's work *Dialogue* (2017), an aluminum sculpture composed of fragments inspired by the building's architecture

Artwork credits

Commissioned by the **Conseil des arts de Montréal**
 Sponsored by **daphne**
 Co-produced by **AbTeC**
 Concept and design: **Skawennati**
 Production manager: **Nancy Townsend**
 Production supervisor: **Jason Edward Lewis**
 Graphic design: **Tarcisio Cataldi et Julia Fortin**
 Lighting design: **cr34te**
 Printing: **Turgeon**
 Augmented reality specialist: **Meg Summers**
 3D modelling and animation: **Maxime Perreault**
 3D Texturing: **Jiangai Gao**
 Lyrics: **Skawennati**
 Recording and Sound Design: **Shawn Mullen**
 Performers: **Skanaie'a Deer** as Osahè:ta', **Kanikatsistha Hill** as Ó:nenhste, and **Ieronhienhawi McComber** as Onon'ónsera
 Recording Studio: **Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology**

Tiohtià:ke, 2026

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Financial Support for 22 Montréal Projects with Environmentally Responsible or Resource-Pooling Initiatives

The Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) is proud to announce its support for 22 Montréal projects as part of the Programme de partenariat territorial en lien avec la collectivité de l'île de Montréal, carried out in collaboration with the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ).

NEWS July 7 2026 Recipient

The Propulsion Award Goes to La Croustade For Its Playful And Inclusive Event

The Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) and En Piste, the national circus arts association, are delighted to award the third Propulsion Award to La Croustade for La Soirée de la Confiture – Edition Suc' à Crème Deluxe, under the artistic direction of Vincent Jutras.

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