



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

**ATSA, WHEN ART TAKES ACTION**  
**CUISINE TA VILLE 2019**  
**AT PLACE DES FESTIVALS FROM MAY 9 TO 12**

**An artistic and social happening.  
An encounter with the refugees and immigrants  
who make up the social fabric of Montréal.**

Montréal, April 2, 2019 – **Cuisine ta ville** 2019 will take place this coming **May 9 to 12** at **Place des Festivals**, in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles. This one-of-a-kind artistic and social happening has been created by **ATSA** to help us meet the refugees and immigrants who make up the social fabric of Montréal.

**Combining art, exhibitions, performances, conferences, testimonials and kitchen parties, as well as moving one-on-one encounters through *Le temps d'une Soupe*** (a relational work that has been touring the world for three years), **Cuisine ta ville offers a multidisciplinary, multilayered experience** so we can better know refugees and immigrants **of all generations**. How does one perceive migration as a child, and how does that differ from the experience of an elderly person? What role does age play in the construction of our identities? The 2019 edition of Cuisine ta ville will examine in greater depth the ages of life in relation to the experience of immigration.

Set in downtown Montreal, the site proposes an immersion into a world evocative of flight. A row of white “Tempo” shelters evoke certain refugee camps. **Inside the tents** and in the **public space**, people listen to and share the **recollections of those who have had to precipitously abandon their homes, suffer through unimaginable distress and precarity, and rebuild their lives here.**

**“It’s important for me to participate in this kind of event, because it facilitates a human encounter between the host nation and the refugee. (...) Without such an encounter, we remain two entities occupying the same territory, but whose parallel paths never cross.”**

- Ketty Nivyabandi, Cuisine ta ville 2017 participant and refugee from Burundi

**The 2019 edition examines topical issues and recent international developments:** the legitimacy of Bill 9 on immigration; the role of Indigenous populations and political, economic and climatic immigrants in a host society.



**“Cuisine ta ville deals with the issues surrounding migration. It emphasizes the necessity of getting to know one another by stepping out of our personal comfort zones and limited ways of seeing the world. ATSA’s wish is to make this event a biennial one.”** – Annie Roy, ATSA co-founder

**Cuisine ta ville is organized in partnership** with the Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes (TCRI — council of organizations serving refugees and immigrants). There will be a special focus on maternal and child health in Haiti, offered in partnership with the Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation. As well, the event forms part of the activities of the Peace Network for Social Harmony.



Full programming details for **Cuisine ta ville 2019** will be unveiled soon. Volunteers are key to the success of such an event, and time slots for citizens who wish to get involved will open up starting April 4. Those interested can inquire and sign up on ATSA's Web site, at [www.atsa.qc.ca](http://www.atsa.qc.ca)

### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### Cuisine ta ville 2019

- May 9 to 12, 2019
- At Place des Festivals, in the Quartier des spectacles
- Accessible and open to all

#### Schedule

- Launch, with official speeches : Thursday, May 9 at 5 p.m.
- Thursday and Friday, May 9 & 10, from 5 to 11 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, May 11 & 12, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



### ABOUT ATSA, WHEN ART TAKES ACTION

The first intervention produced by artists **Annie Roy** and **Pierre Allard**, **La Banque à Bas** (The Sock Bank), was held December 5, 1997. An ersatz automated teller machine, serving to deposit and withdraw warm socks, was illegally placed in front of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal to shine a spotlight on the indecent profits generated by banks. Over the 20 years that followed, the Montreal duo went on to produce nearly **50 urban interventions** in the field of social art, including 16 editions of **État d'Urgence** (State of Emergency), an event established to build awareness and solidarity, presented as a round-the-clock urban refugee camp providing homeless Montrealers three meals a day and donated clothing, with entertainment and activities for everyone.

The 2019 edition of Cuisine ta ville marks a watershed for ATSA following the death of co-founder Pierre Allard. It is his wish and that of Annie Roy, co-founder and Pierre's life partner, that their message continues to be heard. The entire ATSA team invites Montrealers to be part of this momentum of resilience and continuity.




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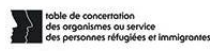
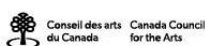
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