

AN ENCOUNTER WITH REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS **CUISINE TA VILLE 2019**

**Art takes action and asks how immigrants and refugees
are received in Québec society.**

Montréal, April 11, 2019 – With **Cuisine ta ville**, ATSA, When Art Take Action, in partnership with TCRI, invites the public to an **important event, to meet refugees and immigrants; to step out of their comfort zones and limited ways of seeing the world; and to examine topical issues** such as the legitimacy of Bill 9 on immigration and Bill 21 on secularism, the role of Indigenous populations, and the political, economic and climatic issues surrounding migration in the current international context.

Each April, a **historic decision by the Supreme Court of Canada** is commemorated—one that changed the fate of many refugees seeking asylum in Canada. The decision upheld that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms safeguards the right to justice of all persons whose life, liberty and safety are in jeopardy. Unfortunately, the current reality is that all too often **immigrants must endure a state of isolation and vulnerability that prolongs their marginalization.**

Cuisine ta ville is an artistic and social event that brings the public to reflect on how immigrants and refugees are welcomed into our society. Set in the heart of the Quartier des spectacles, the site proposes an immersion into a world evocative of flight and the memory of a life left behind. A row of “Tempo” tent shelters evokes certain refugee camps.

This second edition proposes a multidisciplinary experience that takes place in both the public space (“*Dans l’espace public*”) and inside the tents (“*Sous les tempos*”). It allows us to better know the living conditions faced by refugees and immigrants of all generations and to **discover, through the lens of the ages of life, their courage and resilience as they set out to build a better future here.**



Photos : Daniel Robillard

- **Over 50 socially engaged artists** speak out about the human aspects of migration, such as: difficulties related to integration, the memory of the place left behind, the journey from one country to another, meeting people in the host society, tolerance and peace. The artists will present installations, live performances and visual exhibitions to share their message. These will take place both in the public space of Place des Festivals and inside the tents. For full arts programming details, visit www.atsa.qc.ca
- **Over 25 speakers and witnesses** of forced immigration will share their stories and insights on topics related to migration issues, such as: the selection process for new arrivals to Canada, sponsorship programs, difficulties encountered during immigration, the role of Indigenous cultures in a host society, and the ramifications of bills 9 and 21. For full programming notes, visit www.atsa.qc.ca
- **Over 40 persons with immigrant roots** will prepare a traditional dish of theirs while sharing with members of the public their migration story. It all takes place inside the tents. For programming details, check out the “**Party de cuisine**” (kitchen party) section at www.atsa.qc.ca
- **The relational intervention *Le Temps d'une soupe*** (conversation “over soup”), which has to date been presented on three continents and in six languages, invites passersby to pair up with perfect strangers for a short, spontaneous conversation about current issues concerning social harmony. Discover *Le Temps d'une soupe* at www.atsa.qc.ca
- **Several cultural organizations contribute to the programming content** as it pertains to their respective fields of work and expertise. Among them: TCRI (Table de concertation des organismes au service des personnes réfugiées et immigrantes — council of organizations serving refugees and immigrants) and the Peace Network for the general programming content; NFB for virtual reality; FIFEQ for the screening of films and documentaries; and SINGA, PRAÏDA, Amnesty International Canada’s Francophone Branch, CSAI, CANA and RIVO-résilience for activities and crowd facilitation.
- **Fèt en Ayiti**: A special informative focus on maternal and child health in Haiti, offered in partnership with the Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation. Sunday, April 12 is an opportunity to celebrate Haitian Mother’s Day.

ATSA, When Art Takes Action’s wish is to make this themed event a **biennial gathering** where issues surrounding migration may be delved into from a perspective of social harmony and mutual recognition.

In this spirit, the ATSA team invites Montrealers to participate in this intense experience of humanity and solidarity by being an on-site volunteer. For more information, visit www.atsa.qc.ca


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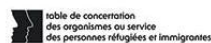
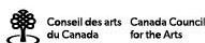
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