



PRESS RELEASE
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The TD-Blue Metropolis Children's Festival and Educational Programs From April 22 to May 1... and year round!

OVER 70 ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES

Montreal, April 5, 2022 – Fascinating themes and captivating authors and experts to introduce youngsters to math, ecology and astronomy or simply to move them or make them laugh. This year, the TD-Blue Metropolis Children's Festival and its education programs propose a hybrid format adapted to all circumstances and which launched last September.

Bringing in-person formats to children and families

From Friday, April 22, to Sunday, May 1, the Festival will present 30 in-person activities at libraries, Childcare Centres, and daycares. The in-person program of the Festival will conclude later in June with author visits in specialized schools and children's hospitals in the Greater Montreal area.

These 10 activities will launch with the second Daycare Day of this edition, with readings and performances focussed on the theme of ecology taking place at Childcare Centres across Quebec. Note a first Daycare Day was held in early December, with the theme of introducing children to numbers learning.

Beloved children's authors, such as **André Marois, Sandra MacMillan Dumais, Andrew Katz, Mireille Levert, Sandra Dussault** and many others, will join their audiences in libraries and schools. These visits will be reserved for school groups on weekdays, but will be open to the whole family on weekends.

Playtime goes virtual

Regardless of the weather outside, children and their parents can always access our virtual activities. Blue Metropolis proposes *La récréation | Playtime*, a podcasts series that presents original texts by **Fabienne Gagnon, Bonnie Farmer, Sylvain Rivard, Mireille Messier**, and others. Moreover, our website proposed fun quizzes and reading recommendations for all ages.

Fascinating educational programs

This year, students of École de la Seigneurie in Mascouche and Allion Elementary School in Lasalle are embarking on the **Project Neptune** shuttle! Combining history, science, writing, reading and technologies, this bilingual educational program gives free rein to young people's imaginations in order to innovate and invent. Cartoonist Laurence Dea Dionne and multidisciplinary artist and Concordia creative writing professor Tara McGowan-Ross support them in this endeavor. What's more, various scientists, astronomers and astrophysicists lend their expertise to students' fascinating projects.

Don't miss the virtual exhibit, which will be followed by the launch of the project zine, at the end of May. In the interim, discover the in-person exhibit of our fantastic educational programming from May 3 to 8 in the lobby of Hôtel 10, our Festival hub.

For our 21st edition, youth from the Indigenous and cultural communities of seven anglophone schools in Quebec and Nunavut participated in our **Quebec Roots** educational program this fall. The book produced by these young people, which pairs texts and photos around various issues particular to their ages and realities, will be available at the Hôtel 10 public exhibit mentioned above before heading out on tour. Participating students were supported throughout their projects by photographers Pierre Charbonneau, Michael Abril, Monique Dykstra and Thomas Kneubhüler and by authors Monique Polak, Tess Liem, Raquel Rivera and Tara McGowan-Ross.

TD Bank a major partner of Blue Metropolis children's programming

"Books allow us to connect and come together around a common passion: reading. At TD, we believe that by investing in opportunities that aim to improve the reading skills of children, we are helping them build a more confident future built on a solid foundation. Therefore, we are very happy to work with a valued partner like Blue Metropolis, who offers an interactive learning, coaching, and sharing environment for children, in addition to allowing them to immerse themselves in a world of imagination and fun!"

Ms. Sylvie Demers, Chair Quebec Market, TD Bank Group

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Contacts:

Linda Amyot, Youth Programming Director
Frédéric Gaudin-Laurin, Assistant Director, Operations & Educational Programs
514 932-1112 #33 or frederick.gaudin-laurin@metropolisbleu.org
Céline Fernandes, Assistant Director, Programming and Communications
514 932-1112 #21 or programmation@metropolisbleu.org

Media relations:

Felipe del Pozo, francophone media relations
(514) 616-4713 or felipe@feliperp.com
Janis Kirshner, anglophone media relations
(514) 287-8912 or jkirshner@sympatico.ca

MERCI AUX PARTENAIRES MAJEURS DE LA PROGRAMMATION POUR ENFANTS ET À CEUX DE NOS PROGRAMMES ÉDUCATIFS 2021-2022
THANKS TO THE PRINCIPAL PARTNERS OF OUR YOUTH SECTOR AND 2021-2022 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

