

PRESS RELEASE

OUR PEOPLE OUR STORIES
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McCORD MUSEUM INTERGENERATIONAL GET-TOGETHERS: 40 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS GET INVOLVED TO SHARE OUR STORIES

Montreal, November 20, 2013 – The McCord Museum is proud to present *Partageons notre mémoire et nos histoires*, a new and highly inspirational intergenerational program. The initiative, which began on October 14, 2013, has to date seen some 40 enthusiastic teens aged 14 to 17 volunteer to make a difference in the lives of seniors who are alone, isolated or have diminishing autonomy and who are in a nursing home or hospital.

The objective of the visits is to enable these residents or reduced-mobility patients to discover objects meticulously chosen from the McCord Museum's educational collections that are sure to spur memories, while promoting meetings with high school students and providing company for the seniors. It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity to share and gather our stories!

An incomparable human experience

As part of the activity, teams comprised of three young volunteers and a facilitator-guide or volunteer from the Museum travel to a nursing home or certain wards at the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM). The students, who attend the École internationale de Montréal, the Collèges Rosemont, Ville-Marie, Reine-Marie and Jean-Eudes, or the École secondaire Armand-Corbeil, visit with residents or patients once a week for a total of 20 hours of volunteering per school year.

These special get-togethers begin with a brief presentation of one or more historical objects, which act as conversation starters. Information about the objects is then informally recounted to the resident or patient.

During the visit, the artefacts, assembled in kits, are made available to the resident or patient, who is invited to touch them, look at archival photos and tell the young volunteer stories about their life and memories.

"The McCord Museum attaches great importance to not only providing universal access to its facilities but also to its artefacts through various outreach initiatives," affirmed Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum. "As a result, the idea of sharing a portion of our collections with a new audience, such as people who are receiving hospital care or in a nursing home, is completely in keeping with the Museum's mission. These visits not only promote an exchange of knowledge about the objects, but they also foster social connections between people of different generations. The young people's enthusiasm for the program is a testament to their keen interest in talking and listening to these individuals, and we could not be happier with the outcome," she added.

The meetings will continue until February 2014 at the Quatre-Saisons, Quatre-Temps, and Saint-Michel residences as well as at the Notre-Dame and Hôtel-Dieu pavilions of the CHUM. The project receives support from the Government of Canada *New Horizons for Seniors Program* (NHSP),

Fondation J.A. DeSève, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), École internationale de Montréal, and Collège Reine-Marie.

About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city's past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling more than 1.44 million artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions that engage visitors from Montreal, Canada, and beyond by offering them a contemporary look at the world. The McCord Museum also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet.

McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.

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Photographs available on request. Interviews can be arranged with Dominique Trudeau, Head, Education Programs, Sylvie Durand, Director, Programs, and Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Museum.

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