



A very successful season
for les jardins Gamelin

Description

Over 600 artists and 123 days of activities to celebrate the city's cultural and artistic diversity

The fifth season of **Les Jardins Gamelin** will end Sunday, September 29. The season brought fun and excitement to summer in downtown Montreal with 123 days of activities, a packed 100%-Montreal program and a large and diverse audience. In all, over 600 artists of every kind appeared in the Jardins, celebrating our city's cultural and artistic diversity. The 2019 season in Les Jardins Gamelin caps five years of activities for Montrealers, artists and visitors, in the heart of the Quartier des Spectacles.

There's always something to see and do... making the Jardins a great place to be all season.

Both a transitional space and a gathering place, Les Jardins Gamelin offers Montrealers a well-earned, absolutely free break from their routine, seven days a week. Whether visiting to stretch some muscles or meditate before going to the office, listen to music at lunchtime, chill out with friends or have a snack on the beautiful terrasse, there's always something to see and do in the Jardins. There's the Maison Jaune for the kids, a large participatory vegetable garden, the butterfly house, a market featuring local products and a unique ambiance, making the Jardins a great place to be all season.



Jardins Gamelin – Ambiance soirée © Bruno Destombes.jpg

COLLABORATION, THE KEY TO SUCCESS FOR LES JARDINS GAMELIN

One of the main goals for Les Jardins Gamelin was to revitalize Place Émilie-Gamelin in the Quartier des Spectacles. Originally this was a temporary animation and design project aimed, among other things, at enticing more people to return to this part of downtown and restoring the vitality of the square itself, a symbolic central space. In 2015, just a few weeks after the Jardins opened, it was clear that the people behind the project were right: Place Émilie-Gamelin was becoming a green, dynamic and inclusive place.

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Five years later, the big coexistence and revitalization project that is Les Jardins Gamelin has proven successful on several fronts. In addition to becoming a community space for all, Les Jardins Gamelin is also a place for culture and education, particularly in urban agriculture. The number of visitors has grown steadily, with a notable increase in the number of families as well as people who live or work in the Quartier. Visitors feel safer than ever, while the increase in vegetation helps combat the heat-island effect.



Jardins Gamelin © Bruno Destombes

The Jardins' success is due largely to the exemplary spirit of collegiality and collaboration shown by a number of stakeholders, including the borough of Ville-Marie, the Montreal police service, Sentier Urbain, the Société de développement social and Jardins staff. All have contributed to social outreach and intervention at the site by sharing their expertise while tackling the challenges involved in animating the space.

MORE MONTREALERS THAN EVER IN THE JARDINS

From start to finish this season, from morning to lunchtime to cocktail hour and into the evening, tens of thousands of people visited the Jardins, appreciated its free urban green space and participated in its many activities.



Les matinées familiales avec Petits bonheurs, Jardins Gamelin © Martine Doyon

Once again this year, Les Jardins Gamelin offered the public an extensive program of arts and culture, free of charge and 100% made in Montreal. Visitors had varied experiences, as inspiring and unifying as they were entertaining. Thanks to *Sentier Urbain*, visitors and passers-by gained plenty of new knowledge about urban agriculture and the environment, with more than 20 practical workshops and talks, and casual meetings with the gardeners in the greenhouse throughout the season.

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Families and day camps came back for the fun creative activities offered at *La Maison jaune* and art workshops with the *Matinées familiales avec Petits bonheurs*. Thousands of people got together to dance under the stars in the Jardins, thanks to *Les Bals de l'été* and the ever-popular *Soirées Salsafolie*. Still others relaxed to listen to the sounds of the world with the DJs of the *Apéros Criollo* and *Ce soir on danse!*

The fifth edition also reinforced the Jardins' growing reputation as a great venue for musical discovery. Artists of every genre, as diverse as Montreal itself, appeared throughout the season for series such as *Midis jazz*, *Midis en chanson* and *Mmm / Montréal musique du monde*.



Jardins Gamelin © Elias Touil

Each Sunday, trivia nights with Randolph brought together dozens of teams of all ages. The BANQ's discovery workshops, offering an encounter with the heritage of Place Émilie-Gamelin and nearby neighbourhoods, inspired many people to look back on bygone days. When the weather was nice, outdoor yoga and meditation sessions in the Inspirez, expirez series were more popular than ever.

'The fifth edition also reinforced the Jardins' growing reputation as a great venue for musical discovery.'



Jardins Gamelin © Elias Touil

In August, the *Cabaret* series – four highly original and utterly unforgettable evenings – returned to the Jardins for a second season. And for the first time, the space was the venue for the large-scale multiplayer werewolves game *Loups-Garous*, a big success for everyone who participated.

Lastly, the *Marché Solidaire* was part of Les Jardins Gamelin this season with fresh local food for visitors and neighbourhood residents.

THE 2019 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS...

- 123 days of daily animation, from May to September
- 346 activities
- More than 600 artists from numerous disciplines
- 32 programming partners
- 16 family mornings with *Petits bonheurs* and 32 day camps hosted
- 1,666 hours of music from ICI Musique (Radio-Canada)
- 4,200 plants and 100 butterflies in the Sentier Urbain butterfly house
- ... And thousands of drinks and fries served at the snack bar!



PROGRAMMING PARTNERS FOR 2019

BAnQ | CHOQ | Debout : Actes de parole | Donner pour aider | École nationale de Ballet du Canada | Festival international de la chanson de Granby | Festival international Nuits d'Afrique | Festival international de la littérature | Festival Présence autochtone | Festival Quartiers Danses | Fierté Montréal | Francouvertes | Haïti en Folie | Le Pictographe | Les Productions Carmagnole | Les Filles Électriques | Ma première Place des Arts | Montréal complètement cirque | MU | MUZ – Vitrine des musiques locales métissées | Petits bonheurs | Phénoména | POP Montréal | Radio-Canada | Randolph Pub Ludique | Salsafolie | Sans oublier le sourire | Sentier Urbain | Syli d'Or de la musique du monde | Under Pressure | UQAM | Yo-Yoga

ABOUT LES JARDINS GAMELIN

In the spring of 2015, Place Émilie-Gamelin showed a new face to Quartier des Spectacles residents and visitors with Les Jardins Gamelin, open from May to September. A large, green and inviting civic space in the heart of downtown, Les Jardins Gamelin return every year with an original temporary layout and a versatile set of facilities. The space's unique, accessible and human-scale programming, now in its fifth season, has become a part of daily life for residents and visitors, making Les Jardins Gamelin an inclusive gathering place in true Montreal style. The initiative is produced by the Quartier des Spectacles Partnership in collaboration with Pépinière & Co, Sentier Urbain and numerous partners, with the support of the Borough of Ville-Marie.

#jardinsgamelin

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More information at quartierdesspectacles.com

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Feature image: Jardins Gamelin – Elias Toui

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The **Quartier des Spectacles** is Montreal's cultural heart, boasting North America's most concentrated and diverse group of cultural venues as well as numerous festivals and events. The Quartier also hosts innovative urban installations involving cutting-edge lighting design and immersive environments. The Quartier des Spectacles has become an international showcase for digital public art.

Hatley



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