

SAF Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 29th, 2026

[ONLINE]

Meeting Time: 16:00 - 18:00

Meeting Facilitator: Abraham Dawidziak Kiermaier

Meeting Minute Taker: India-Lynn Upshaw-Ruffner

Members in attendance:

Duha Elmardi (SAF)

Iqbal Hussain (SAF)

Mai Pradhan (SAF)

Paige Keleher (Sustainable Concordia)

Rhonda Chung (GSA)

Snigdhodeb Dutta (Arts & Science)

Somayeh Rashvand (Student-at-large)

Annick Davignon (Concordia Faculty)

Members absent:

Sarah Aspler (CSU Council)

Zoe Erika- Okoye (CSU Executive)

Mia Cataquiz (FASA)

Yasmine Kaced (Student-at-Large)

Juliette Weil (Concordia Staff)

1. Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the [April 1st 2026] March minutes is tabled to the next meeting for more time to review.

India-Lynn will catch up on past minutes and more should be available to approve.

3. Review and Adoption of Agenda

Motion to approve the [June 29, 2026] agenda:

- **Moved by: Rhonda**
- **Seconded by: Annick**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: none
 - Abstain: none
- *Motion passes*

4. SAF General Updates

a. Welcomes + updates

- i. Welcome Zoe (CSU exec) & Mia (FASA exec) to the SAF board! Jonah and Mia K. have completed their terms in their respective roles
- ii. AGM committee
 - Will happen this year in September - date will be decided in committee
 - Coco has offered pro-bono support for facilitation, it would be great to have a few board members to meet online with Duha and the Coco consultant
 - AGM will also be moved to in-person on campus

5. Committee Updates

a. HR/Governance

- i. No updates

b. SPC

- i. The committee met last week, but only Somayeh, Paige & Zoe attended so we did not have a quorum to vote or make official recommendations.

c. Finncomm

- i. Mia C. is interested in joining

d. Marketing/Outreach

- i. No updates

6. Project Funding

Short summary of 2025-26 funding:

- a. 40 projects approved for funding
- b. Total amount funded: \$121,230.80.
- c. So far, we have sent out \$65,406.88
- d. \$4,093.88 has been reallocated back to the fund.
- e. We have \$55,823.92 left to process once claimed

Regular Project Funding Annual Budget (2026-27): \$150,000

Funding Allocated so far: \$0

Total Project Funding Remaining until May 31 2027: \$150,000

Total requested for this funding period: [\$48,200]

SPC committee approved projects

- [Summer 2026 applications](#)
- [Summary of the applications](#)

Board of Directors Project Funding Discussion

Project 1: [Rooting Concordia]

- Requesting [\$3,000]
- Timeline: September 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Project is based out of Loyola campus: food and education, food sovereignty
 - Focused on food sovereignty and seed health
 - Free open access seed library
 - A Three-year, student-led research and community infrastructure project focused on seed sovereignty, soil health, and circular sustainability at Concordia.
 - Addresses two key gaps on campus:
 - Lack of a seed library and system for tracking what the community grows.
 - Lack of evidence on the effectiveness of locally produced compost and soil amendments compared to imported compost.
 - The project has two components. Component 1: Concordia Collective Seed Library and Component 2: Soil Health and Compost Research.
 - The collective seed library establishes a free, open-access seed library for students, staff, and community members.
 - It provides access to locally adapted and heritage seeds, including Abenaki bush bean varieties.
 - It also combines a physical cataloguing system with a digital sign-out platform.
 - It collects community-generated data on: Gardening practices, Seed-saving experience and Soil and fertilizer use.
 - The project uses Participatory Action Research and Indigenous research methodologies to ensure knowledge is generated collaboratively with the community.
 - Some of the indigenous research method books that guide this project are: Decolonizing Methodologies - Research and Indigenous peoples - Linda Tuhiwai Smith; Research is ceremony - Indigenous Research methods - Shawn Wilson; Kaandossiwin - How we come to know Indigenous re-Search Methodologies - Kathleen E Absolon (Minogizhigokwe) and Research and Reconciliation - Unsettling ways of knowing through Indigenous relationship - Shawn Wilson, Andrea V. Breen & Lindsay Dupré.
 - Through seed borrowing and feedback mechanisms developed with the Vanier Loyola Library team, students contribute to a longitudinal knowledge-sharing initiative that helps shape the library's evolution and better respond to community needs.
 - The second component compares three soil amendments: ABCompost vermicompost, black soldier fly exoskeleton frass, and commercially imported compost. The research is conducted across four growing sites, from Concordia campus gardens to rural farming sites and laboratory environments.
 - It evaluates soil health indicators including: Nutrient levels, pH, Organic matter and Microbial activity.
 - It investigates how different soil amendments influence both soil microbiomes and Microbial communities within the next generation of seeds.

- This project produces the first long-term, multi-site dataset on the performance of locally produced campus soil amendments. It examines whether campus organic waste streams can be transformed into effective, locally sourced growing inputs and integrates environmental science, microbiology, agriculture, sustainability, and community-based research.
- This will help in creating a lasting resource for campus seed sovereignty, strengthening local food-growing capacity and community participation, and ensuring all project equipment and infrastructure remain with the seed library after the research project concludes.
- The project is supervised by Prof. Govind Gopakumar (Centre for Engineering in Society) and supported by the Office of Sustainability, with Jackie Martin serving as institutional monitor throughout the study period.
- The project lead, a Concordia PhD student, has been mentored for almost 12 years by Stephen McComber from Kahnawake (Haudenosaunee) and Fred Wiseman from Swanton Vermont (Abenaki) on how to produce, relate to and engage with seeds.
- She runs a social enterprise called [Le Noyau Education](#) on a farm in Stanbridge east, Quebec. Part of the research for the project happens there.
- 3 of the 6 members of Le Noyau are first nations land and seed experts.
- The project also consults with the Office of Indigenous directions at Concordia.
- They anticipate engaging a minimum of 75–100 Concordia students in Year 1 through the Seed Library alone, with additional reach through the Loyola gardens volunteer network and at least one public presentation of soil research findings open to the full Concordia community.
- Coop cultivation Senneville site is also part of this project, as well as ABCompost and LeNoyau Farm
- SPC thought it was a good project and supported full funding
- Budget: refurbished iPad and Dewey Decimal system: \$400 each, \$942 soil test
- Rhonda: The Coop Cultivation already has a seed library, its very cool and its a little house with drawers full of seeds. A major issue in seed saving is non-viable seeds with commercial plants, so seed sovereignty through projects like this is so important. Seeing where the seeds are planted also helps to keep track of biodiversity
- Annick: I'm all for it, knowledge like this is so important

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,000] to the [Rooting Concordia] project.

- **Moved by: Annick**
- **Seconded by: Rhonda**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 2: [Concordia Bridges: Inclusive Arts Initiative pt 2]

- Requesting [\$3,000]
- Timeline: September 2026

- Presented by [Duha]

- Notes

- SAF funded the first part for winter semester programming
- Community, health and wellbeing and accessibility
- Mainly based out of Loyola campus
- This project brings community performers, artists, and cultural facilitators to campus to share artistic practices with both Concordia students and participants from the Centre for the Arts in Human Development (CAHD).
- CAHD is a non-profit charitable centre based at the Loyola campus. It provides creative arts therapies, education, clinical services, and research for neurodivergent adults and adults with disabilities.
- The first part of this project was funded through the September funding cycle last year.
- The project creates accessible arts and cultural experiences for neurodivergent adults and adults with disabilities who may face financial, mobility, and social barriers to participation.
- It also fosters connection, belonging, and interaction between CAHD participants and the broader Concordia Loyola community.
- Programming includes:
 - Monthly Zumba classes
 - Weekly biofeedback relaxation and play sessions
 - Theatre performances
 - Drumming or toning workshops
 - Weekly ceramics activities
 - A circus arts visit by Le Collectif 4237
 - A Creative Arts Therapies Techniques demonstration during Concordia's annual Open House
- Funding would support ongoing visits from local artists and expand access to arts programming for both CAHD participants and students.
- They prioritize reciprocal partnerships with local artists and community organizations rather than one-time or extractive collaborations and seek to build a stable network of collaborators, including potters, theatre groups, workshop facilitators, bakers, writers, dancers, and musicians.
- The project aims to provide experiential learning opportunities for neurodivergent students in accessibility, inclusive facilitation, and community-engaged arts practice and their inclusion in regular campus culture rather than treating it as a temporary or special initiative.
- Based out of Concordia but are always seeking funding from outside sources, they are not a fee-levy group. Non profit org housed in but not funded by Concordia
- Spectrum productions (neurodivergent film production company) and Le Collectif 4237 (circus) are partners. They also have a psychology internship program with Concordia undergraduates to volunteer at the organisation
- Budget: Zumba facilitators, bio feedback machines, circus visit, open house, promo and marketing
- SPC didn't have any issues, liked the project
- Rhonda + Annick: support project. Annick has met folks from Spectrum productions and has great opinions on them

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,000] to the [[Concordia Bridges: Inclusive Arts Initiative pt 2](#)] project.

- **Moved by: Somayeh**
- **Seconded by: Rhonda**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 3: [Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill Black feminist speaker series - 4th edition]

- Requesting [\$3,000]
- Timeline: October 2026
- Presented by [[Duha](#)]
 - Notes
 - SAF funded previous edition of this event (1st and 3rd)
 - The 4th Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill Black Feminist Speaker Series organized by Black PhD students in collaboration with Dark Opacities Lab and Feminist Media Studio.
 - Esmeralda M. A. Thornhill is a pioneering Canadian legal scholar, human rights advocate, and Black feminist educator whose work has significantly shaped anti-racist and feminist scholarship in Canada. She is widely recognized for developing Canada's first university-accredited course in Black Women's Studies at Concordia University in 1983, challenging the exclusion of Black women's experiences from mainstream academic discourse.
 - Throughout her career, Thornhill has advanced research and advocacy on human rights, critical race theory, discrimination law, and social justice, while also becoming the first Black woman in Canada to hold a tenured full professorship in law.
 - She was also a founding member and later national president of the [Congress of Black Women of Canada](#).
 - This year, it will feature Afro-Cuban interdisciplinary artist and scholar [Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons](#), whose work explores gender, sexuality, history, memory, religion, identity, colonialism, ancestry, and migration through photography, painting, sculpture, film, video, and performance.
 - It will include a public lecture and a workshop engaging students, faculty, staff, and community members in discussions on Black feminist scholarship, artistic practice, and social justice.
 - The event explores how Campos-Pons' personal and ancestral histories, including African, Chinese, and Afro-Cuban lineages, inform her work on exile, motherhood, colonialism, spirituality, and belonging.
 - This series serves as an annual platform for Black feminist research, art, activism, and community engagement, connecting academic scholarship with real-world social change.
 - It also responds to recommendations from Concordia's Anti-Black Racism Task Force by supporting, preserving, and increasing the visibility of Black knowledges and Black scholarship.

- It promotes greater access to Black-led and Black-centred research while highlighting the historical and contemporary contributions of Black feminisms in Canada and beyond, while advancing anti-racist, anti-oppressive, abolitionist, and transformative educational approaches.
- Super well attended event
- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships:
 - Black Graduate Students: Marlihan Lopez, Temple Marucci Campbell, Kelann Currie Williams (organizers)
 - Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill Black Feminist Speaker Series organizing committee (organizers)
 - The Simone de Beauvoir Institute (funders and participants)
 - Black Studies Concordia (participants)
 - Dark Opacities Lab (funders and participants)
 - Feminist Media Studio (funders and participants)
 - Office of Community Engagement (funders)
 - Black Montreal wider Community (participants)
 - Harambec Black Feminist Community Organization (funders and participants)
 - ReQEF (funder)
 - Caribbean Studies Group (participants)
 - Fine Arts Student Association, Women's Studies and Sexuality Studies Student Association
- Other resources:
 - [Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill Black Feminist Speaker Series | Simone de Beauvoir Institute - Concordia University](#)
 - [Concordia University \(via Public\) / Concordia's Simone de Beauvoir Institute honours trailblazing Black educator and human rights advocate Esmeralda Thornhill](#)
- Total budget: \$17,900, Asking for: \$3,000 for catering from Chef Sean

Motion to approve full funding of [\$3,000] to the [[Dr. Esmeralda Thornhill Black feminist speaker series - 4th edition](#)] project.

- **Moved by: Rhonda**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 4: [School Schmool]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: Retroactive from 2025 Agenda
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - SAF funds the agenda every year, there was an issue with the application last year and

SAF was not sent a request. QPIRG approached SAF to ask the board if retroactive funding would be possible. They will also be applying for funding for the 2026-27 agenda

- School Schmool is an annual, ad-free, social justice-oriented planner, resource guide, and literary publication produced jointly by QPIRG McGill and QPIRG Concordia since 1994.

- This project is funded by SAF every year.
- Designed primarily for new students, it connects readers with anti-oppressive resources, grassroots organizations, activists, artists, and community initiatives in Montreal.
- It features articles, creative writing, visual art, and a comprehensive directory of local social and environmental justice organizations, with a focus on Indigenous, Black, migrant, Queer, Trans, disabled, and low-income communities.
- The 2025–2026 edition centred on the theme of “rogue archives,” exploring how marginalized communities preserve memory, knowledge, and histories outside institutional structures.
- They published 1,000 copies of the 2025-2026 year, distributed free or by donation across Concordia, McGill, and community organizations, with a launch event held at Frigo Vert.
- School Schmool also provides paid publishing opportunities for students and local artists while supporting skill development in editing, graphic design, budgeting, and publication management through student coordinator positions.
- It serves as a longstanding alternative activist handbook that helps students connect campus life with grassroots organizing and social movements, including migrant justice, anti-colonial struggles, housing justice, environmental sustainability, and Palestine solidarity work. It also maintains and updates an extensive resource guide and online archive, preserving decades of student writing, activism, and community knowledge.
- School Schmool's alternative agenda promotes anti-oppression, intersectionality, social and environmental sustainability, and meaningful student engagement with local communities beyond the university.
- Due to unforeseen circumstances, unfortunately, last summer/fall funding applications were not completed as they should have been, and they are only now able to try to make up the budget difference.
- This past edition can be found in full here:
<https://schoolschmool.com/category/article/2025-2026>
- It was distributed at numerous on-campus spaces, resource centres, and social justice groups such as Frigo Vert and The Otsenhákta Student Centre as well as off-campus community spaces that attract student communities such as DIRA and Head & Hands.
- Students who contribute to magazine are compensated
- Total budget: \$13,387.67, Asking for: \$5,000 to cover part of the printing costs
- Rhonda: since we have a history of funding them it would be strange not to. But I’m not sure about precedents of retroactive funding with SAF
- Paige: ok with funding School Schmool retroactively as long as we make clear this cannot form a precedent but can be an exception this time.
 - Rhonda: agrees
 - Paige: given the hectic year we just had it could be good karma to fund this all of our orgs this year had struggles
 - Rhonda: feels positive about it due to our connection with QPIRG and School Schmool

- Annick: likes this idea, we have to insure its clear why we decided this when delivering the verdict
- Snigdhodeb: we have a longstanding connection with them so he's ok with giving them the exception this time

Motion to approve full funding of [\$5,000] to the [School Schmool 2025] retroactively, this will be a one time exception.

- **Moved by: Snigdhodeb**
- **Seconded by: Annick**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 5: [Solidarity with the soil: Rooting for reconciliation through land-based learning]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: June-July 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
- Notes

Rhonda goes to breakout room since she is project lead

- Solidarity with the Soil is a six-week land-based workshop series for immigrant and newcomer ESL/FSL teachers in Montreal that combines environmental justice education, colonial history, biodiversity learning, and curriculum development.
- Participants engage in hands-on activities with educators, Indigenous knowledge holders, and community partners to strengthen their understanding of land, sustainability, and place-based learning.
- The project develops and launches two educational tools:
 - Environmental Attunement Resource (EAR): a framework created with Concordia's Office of Sustainability to measure environmental literacy, including knowledge of colonial history, biodiversity, emotional connection to land, land stewardship skills, and participation in environmental activities.
 - Landguaging Template: a curriculum-design tool that helps language teachers create anti-oppressive, land-based lessons incorporating Indigenous perspectives, environmental issues, and plurilingual approaches to language learning.
- The initiative addresses a gap in English and French language education by supporting teachers in integrating land-focused learning and Indigenous knowledge into their curricula
- Participants collaborate to create teaching resources that can be freely used by future language educators, building a repository of place-based lesson plans and activities.
- The project progresses through three stages: an initial workshop pilot (done in Sept 2025 by Rhonda Chung and Inuk artist Jason Sikoak), a 2026 course focused on pronunciation and curriculum development, and a longer 2027 growing-season program where teachers cultivate plants and co-create multilingual educational field guides.
- Short-term goals include testing and improving the Landguaging template and assessing

- educators' environmental literacy through the EAR.
- Medium-term goals focus on expanding land-based language teaching resources, refining the EAR, and developing additional curriculum materials.
- Long-term goals are to make both the EAR and Landguaging templates freely available to educators, supporting broader adoption of ecopedagogical and Indigenous-informed approaches in language education.
- Expected outcomes of the project include enhanced environmental awareness among educators, increased capacity for land-based curriculum design, publicly accessible educational resources, and stronger integration of sustainability and Indigenous perspectives within second-language education.
- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships:
 - Nico-Isabella Ploumis (ABComposting): workshop facilitator on composting
 - Jason Sikoak: workshop facilitator on botanical drawings
 - TBA - Indigenous garden representative: workshop facilitator on Indigenous gardening in Montreal
 - (2) student interns from the Office of Sustainability
 - Concordia dept of education
 - Walcir Cardoso: Faculty project supervisor (letter of support available)
 - Mitch McLarnon: Faculty garden space
 - Jackie Martin: Staff liaison for EAR development and iNaturalis & Pollinator pond workshops
 - Rhonda Chung - project manager & administrator; workshop facilitator on the Landguaging template & EAR
 - Nico Schutte (Coop CultivAction): workshop facilitator on seed sovereignty
 - Masumi Rodriguez (Touch me, Don't forget me): workshop facilitator on making non-native plants into paper
 - Pamela Fillion: workshop facilitator on making medicines out of plant materials
 - Elena Kirby (Touch me, Don't forget me): workshop facilitator on making non-native plants into paper
- Budget: Total budget: \$5,000, Asking for: \$5,000. Facilitation fee for Rhonda and workshop hosts, materials
- SPC had questions about OOS Coordinator - Rhonda responds: for the inaturalist workshop, Jackie from OOS recommended people and will need to give them an honorarium. If the workshops will be hosted by OOS then they will not be paid the \$100 honorarium
- Annick and Paige: both interested in this project
- Somayeh: Sounds amazing!
- Snigdhodbeeb: also feels good funding it

Motion to approve full funding of [\$5,000] to the [Solidarity with the soil: Rooting for reconciliation through land-based learning] project.

- **Moved by: Annick**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: 4
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 1

- *Motion passed;*

Project 6: [Systemic Racism Documentary]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: June-Dec 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - A Feature-length documentary examining systemic racism in Canada and how it is embedded in institutions, policies, laws, and practices.
 - It is led by Indigenous elder, chef and activist [Marlene Hale](#), from the Likhsilyu Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation.
 - Explores the impacts of systemic racism on Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities, particularly in policing, healthcare, environmental governance, education, housing, and gender equity.
 - Uses diverse interviews, lived experiences, and case studies to illustrate how structural inequities continue to produce intergenerational harm and marginalization.
 - Interviews have already been conducted with Montreal Police Commissioner Fady Dagher, Bill Jones (Pacheedaht First Nation elder), Dr. Ingrid Waldron (sociology professor) and Patrick Martin-Ménard (legal representative for the family of Joyce Echaquan).
 - These interviews are paired with in-depth examination of the Fairy Creek blockades, the case of Joyce Echaquan, the mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows First Nation, and the systemic challenges facing Mi'gmaq and Black communities in Nova Scotia.
 - These stories reveal how institutional neglect and discriminatory systems continue to impact communities across generations.
 - Upcoming interviews include representatives from the Canadian Black Nurses Alliance, the spouse of Joyce Echaquan, and Wet'suwet'en Clan Wing Chief Dsta'hyl (first Amnesty International prisoner of conscience).
 - Their contributions will deepen the documentary's exploration of healthcare inequities, Indigenous sovereignty, and pathways toward reconciliation and systemic reform.
 - The project extends beyond the film itself as a long-term educational and community engagement initiative.
 - It will also produce short educational videos for use in schools, universities, workshops, and community organizations to foster discussion and critical reflection.
 - The project provides opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in: Videography and editing, Research and grant writing, Social media outreach and Community-based storytelling.
 - The intended outcomes of this project are: Greater public awareness of systemic racism and its historical roots, Stronger dialogue between communities and institutions, Increased community mobilization and advocacy, amplification of underrepresented voices, and support for reconciliation, social justice, environmental justice, and systemic reform.

- The film critiques conventional definitions of economic viability, arguing that economic development has often come at the expense of Indigenous lands, marginalized communities, and public health.
- It proposes an alternative understanding of prosperity based on community well-being, relationship-building, and collective care, rather than purely financial measures.
- It emphasizes the role of Indigenous teachings, oral histories, and land-based knowledge as important sources of learning and social transformation.
- It will have french & english subtitles
- Once ready, the film will be submitted to festivals and also screened with Concordia groups such as Cinema Politica, SHIFT, sustainable concordia and others.
- It aims to engage 1,000 to 2,000 students within the first year through film screenings, facilitated discussions, classroom presentations, and partnerships with universities, colleges, and educational institutions across Canada.
- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships: In-kind support from SHIFT Centre for social transformation
- Budget: Total budget: \$5,000, Asking for: \$5,000, Budget Breakdown: mostly towards travel + honoraria to interviewees, videographer payment, food and catering for interviews, camera rental
- Other resources:
 - [The Making of Systemic Racism Documentary](#)
 - [Systemic Racism in Canada: Understanding the Structures Behind Inequality \(by Marlene Hale\) | Belonging, Identity, Language, Diversity Research Group \(BILD\)](#)
- There are a few Concordia students involved in this project, Loyola Sustainability Minor will have a credited internship (Rebecca Tittler)
- Paige: loves this project as it discusses important aspects of medical sexism and racism and the unjust treatment of Indigenous peoples in Canada

Motion to approve full funding of [\$5,000] to the [[Systemic Racism Documentary](#)] project.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Rhonda**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 7: [Fertile Memory Screening (Regards Noirs & Regards Palestiniens)]

- Requesting [\$4,200]
- Timeline: August 14-16 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - This is the closing event of the Regards Noirs 2026 Festival, which will feature a screening of the film Fertile Memory by Michel Khleifi.

- The event is organized in collaboration with Mishmish, led by Michelle Nazzal, and the grassroots film collective Regards Palestiniens.
- Regards Noirs is a Black-led grassroots initiative that features Black and global south cinema. It is a working group of QPIRG Concordia.
- Regards Palestiniens is a grassroots film collective dedicated to Palestinian cinema. Since 2005, it has promoted Palestinian cinema and created spaces for cinematic discussion, community gathering, and political education. Both initiatives are based in Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal.
- [Mishmish](#) is an ongoing cultural and culinary project founded by Michelle Nazzal in 2019. The project preserves and shares Palestinian food traditions and cultural practices within the diaspora and explores themes of memory, displacement, ancestral connection, and belonging. Through collaborations with restaurants, farmers, artists, and cultural workers across North America and Europe, the project uses food as a means of cultural preservation and community-building.
- The screening will take place at La Cenne, followed by a vegan Palestinian dinner and community discussion.
- The event uses cinema, discussion, and a communal meal to create opportunities for students, activists, arts workers, and community members to engage with Palestinian agricultural traditions, oral histories, feminist movements, internationalist solidarities, environmental sustainability, and community-building.
- The film Fertile Memory explores the lives of two Palestinian women from different generations living in the West Bank.
- “Viewers are presented with the lives of two women as they navigate the effects of occupation within their surroundings. Whether they are faced with the disorientation of city life due to displacement or having to fight in order to sustain access to their rural land in the plight of rapid change to their environment, this film shows how the short- and long-term effects of settler colonialism and late-stage capitalism link to climate change, further disrupting the practice of land sovereignty. In this film, director Michel Khleifi links Palestinian women’s role to being knowledge keepers and practitioners of environmentally sustainable and traditional agricultural methods to their land, passed down historically from the women in their family.”
- Following the screening, Michelle Nazzal and Amanda Ghazale Aziz will lead a conversation and facilitated discussion with attendees.
- The event situates Palestinian liberation within broader conversations about settler colonialism, Indigenous sovereignty, and decolonization, and highlights connections between Palestinian struggles and Indigenous movements on Turtle Island.
- Expected attendance: 80–100 participants. 65% are Concordia students.
- Screening admission will be Pay What You Can (PWYC), with a suggested contribution of \$15. All proceeds will be donated to a mutual aid initiative, with transparent reporting of funds raised and donations made. The organizers aim to raise \$1,000 or more. One organization under consideration is Eгна Legna Besidet, which provides support to migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.
- Organizers are considering Risograph (RISO) printing, an environmentally friendly printing method that reduces the environmental impact of promotional materials.
- Concordia students are involved in both Regards Noirs and Regards Palestiniens and organizing the event, and they will promote through Concordia student spaces.

- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships: Regards Noirs, Mishmish, Regards Palestiniens, QPIRG Concordia, QPIRG McGill, La Cenne, Wry, providing kitchen space, Kino Lorber, film distribution company
- Budget: Total budget: \$5,387, Asking for: \$4,200. Budget Breakdown: risograph printing, cooking for event, screening rights, space rental, groceries for cooking community dinner, reusable cutlery for dinner. QPIRG is also partially funding the project
- Duha is very familiar with both collectives involved
 - Regards noires was started as an intervention into lack of access for marginalized Black film makers to create a non-corporatized space for Black films to be shown and discussed, very underground project

Motion to approve full funding of [\$4,200] to the [Fertile Memory Screening (Regards Noirs & Regards Palestiniens)] project.

- **Moved by: Somayeh**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 8: [Indigenous Garden at Loyola]

- Requesting [\$10,000]
- Timeline: Fall 2026 - Winter 2027
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes
 - Duha made a request to the board to consider this project for 10k instead of the 5k limit - an exception
 - This is the FIRST indigenous garden at concordia
 - The project is Part of Concordia's First Peoples Studies (FPST) program and initiated by Louellyn White (Kanienkehá:ka), as part of the FPST Pro-seminar series.
 - The project established the first Indigenous-led garden on campus, created by and for Indigenous students and communities.
 - It centres on Indigenous knowledge systems and serves as a decolonized educational and pedagogical resource.
 - It will provide FPST students with hands-on experience in planning, developing, and maintaining a community garden and also function as a living laboratory for long-term teaching and learning within FPST and across the broader university community.
 - It offers Indigenous students the opportunities to learn about land-based practices, indigenous gardening methods, sustainability, medicinal plants, relationality and stewardship, and seasonal and regional growing practices.
 - The project promotes greater understanding of Indigenous knowledge and food systems among students across campus while producing food that can help address food insecurity among Indigenous students at Concordia.

- The garden plan was developed over the Winter (2025-2026) in collaboration with FPST Pro-Seminar students, Brooke Rice of Tká:nios, and Jackie Martin from the Office of Sustainability.
- They have a plot at Loyola Campus and have already started preparing the soil and seedlings for the upcoming growing season. The official opening of the garden was May 22 2026.
- “Our garden project is rooted in a larger vision of land-based learning, community wellness, cultural continuity, and Indigenous resurgence. While the immediate work involves preparing soil, planting seeds, building garden beds, and gathering community members together, the deeper purpose is much broader: to create a living space where relationships among land, food, knowledge, culture, and community can be renewed and sustained. The garden is not only a site of food production. It is a place of teaching, remembering, healing, sharing, and imagining futures grounded in Indigenous knowledge systems and responsibilities to land.”
- “Over the next two to three years, we envision regular workshops, seasonal gatherings, classroom connections, student projects, volunteer days, and opportunities for Elders and Knowledge Keepers to share teachings. The garden can become a site for learning about food systems, seed sovereignty, Indigenous sustainability, climate resilience, pollinators, medicines, composting, and community care.”
- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships:
 - First Peoples Studies Department
 - Donna Goodleaf (Office of Decolonizing Pedagogy and Curriculum) - Dr. Goodleaf's office has helped support the garden project as an Indigenous land-based learning project, with financial support through the Chamandy Foundation.
 - Genevieve Sioui (Office of Community Engagement) - Genevieve has helped secure and support a position for an Indigenous student to intern with the garden project.
 - Concordia Food Coalition (CFC) funded them for \$2,000
 - Jackie Martin, Office of sustainability
- Budget: Total budget: \$48,499, Asking for: \$10,000 if possible
- Budget Breakdown:
 - The priority is to fund a coordinator position
 - Some of the tasks will include logistics, volunteer and intern coordination, garden planning and research, sourcing tools and materials, hands-on garden work, and very importantly, applying for grants and wage subsidies.
 - \$26/hr for 20 hours/week
 - \$5000 would give us ~ 9 weeks = January 2027 – March 2027
 - \$10,000 would give us ~ 19 weeks = January 2027 – May 2027
 - For context, SAF has funded all the other Concordia growing projects. Sankofa (\$5,000), Hamidou Horticulture (\$ 7,050), Co-op Cultivaction (\$24,035), mind.heart.mouth (\$26,303.75), Loyola Food Forest Restoration project (\$5,870), Greenhouse microgreens program (6,441).
- Other resources:
 - [Growing together at Concordia – The Eastern Door](#)
 - [Indigenous Garden Launch | Concordia Food Coalition](#)

- Duha: most other gardens are white led on Concordia's campus, it would be great to put money into a project like this as it is something much needed on campus. We have funded white led-groups for much more money
- Rhonda: It's unconscionable that there are no Indigenous gardens on campus. It's hard to describe being the only brown person in the gardens, having volunteered on Concordia gardens for years. I am fine with funding a higher amount if possible too
- Paige: would be in favor of raising funding to 15k
- Snigdhodeb: has volunteered in gardens as well and its a good idea, loves what they're doing at Loyola. Also agrees with 15k funding but maybe holding 5k until they need it? But he is also fine with funding the full amount right now.
- Paige: thinks giving the full 15k is the better option. We have to trust these people to know how to manage their money. I'm worried if its infantilizing to keep 5k in reserve, not sure if it makes a difference to divide the amount over time. Although i don't think you meant for your idea to be infantilizing Snigdhodeb
- Rhonda: starting a new project from scratch is difficult, and having 10k in reserve would be very reassuring for the project. It allows for a cushion in case new ideas or other things come up, I want to be a part of creating that cushion.
- Annick: also in favor of giving full 15k, and loves the idea of more gardens at Loyola, its a great statement SAF is making by funding this project more than they asked
- Somayeh: also into giving full 15k
- If there's any concerns brought up we can refer to the other garden orgs SAF has funded, and that its long overdue for Concordia to have an Indigenous Garden

Motion to approve full funding of [\$15,000] to the [Indigenous Garden at Loyola] project.

- **Moved by: Paige**
- **Seconded by: Rhonda**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Project 9: [Knowing the fish, knowing the land: : brook trout, climate change and two-eyed seeing]

- Requesting [\$5,000]
- Timeline: September 2026
- Presented by [Duha]
 - Notes

Singdhobeb was put into breakout room since he is involved in it

- This two-day workshop, organized by a Concordia biology research lab, brings together high school students, Concordia students, Indigenous Elders and knowledge keepers, and community watershed organizations to explore the impacts of climate change on brook trout and freshwater ecosystems in Quebec.
- It focuses on bridging Western science and Indigenous knowledge by creating a space for shared learning about environmental change, freshwater stewardship, and the cultural significance of brook trout to Indigenous communities.

- Day 1 emphasizes knowledge exchange through scientific presentations, Indigenous-led discussions, oral histories, and collaborative future-scenario mapping of brook trout habitats under different climate change projections.
 - Day 2 provides hands-on learning through laboratory activities, including water quality testing, climate data analysis, habitat mapping, and Indigenous approaches to understanding rivers and ecosystems.
- It aims to give approximately 30 high school students direct experience with scientific research, environmental monitoring, Indigenous knowledge systems, and public science communication.
- It will also produce lasting educational resources, including a student-created zine, workshop recordings, and future digital story maps that combine scientific data with Indigenous place-based knowledge.
- The project seeks to model a new approach to university-community engagement where knowledge is co-created among researchers, Indigenous communities, students, and grassroots environmental organizations rather than communicated in a one-way format.
- Short-term goals include delivering the workshop, broadcasting it through Concordia's 4th Space platform, producing educational materials, and ensuring Indigenous partners play a meaningful role in shaping the program.
- Medium-term goals include distributing workshop resources, creating a digital story map of Quebec waterways, tracking participant engagement, and sharing the model with the broader scientific community.
- Long-term goals include establishing the workshop as an annual event, developing curriculum resources on brook trout ecology and climate change for Quebec schools, creating sustained mentorship opportunities between Concordia students and high school students, and strengthening community-engaged environmental research.
- This project contributes to sustainability by promoting environmental literacy, science communication, intercultural collaboration, and the integration of Indigenous knowledge and Two-Eyed Seeing (Etuaptmumk) alongside Western scientific approaches to understanding climate change and ecosystem stewardship.
- Collaborations, Funding & Partnerships:
 - Indigenous Elder / Knowledge Keeper (partner community)
 - Grassroots watershed organization(s)
 - Faculty Supervisor / Lab PI
 - 4th space
 - 3-5 montreal high schools (Loyola confirmed)
 - QCBS / GRIL researchers
- Budget: Total budget: \$16,500, Asking for: \$5,000, budget towards Concordia student facilitators, catering, Indigenous knowledge keepers honoraria
- Duha and SPC asked organisers: Who is the Indigenous knowledge keeper involved? The lab has existing relationships with Cree nations and others. The list is not finalized since they are still contacting other groups.
- Duha: likes the collaborative aspects with high school students, there's not many projects that do this
- Rhonda: is curious about elders since knowing who is is specifically can more clearly frame the epistemology. Do we know the specific body of water?
 - Duha: there doesn't seem to be a specific response, we can ask Snighodeb

- Somayeh: it seems like a great project since it engages many concordia community members and people beyond
- Annick: seems to be bringing many people together, and it's interesting to have a focus on brook trout.
- Snigdhodeb is brought back in: Rhonda asks about names of elders, and he said the names will be finalized by the end of July. 2 elder representatives will be from the two nations they are collaborating with
- Paige: what happens if communities retract their participation?
 - Snigdhodeb: We have a long standing relationship with each group. And each group has confirmed their participation just not the specific representatives
- Rhonda: finds it unusual that they don't have names of elders
- Duha: but it is possible that Snigdhodeb just doesn't know the names since the professor leading the project is the one contacting the nations
- Somayeh: a great project relating to the SAF mandate: the human and non human relationships and different age groups involved is great.

Motion to approve full funding of [\$5,000] to the [Knowing the fish, knowing the land: : brook trout, climate change and two-eyed seeing] project.

- **Moved by: Somayeh**
- **Seconded by: Paige**
 - In favour: all
 - Against: 0
 - Abstain: 0
- *Motion passed unanimously;*

Sustainable Resilience Exhibition - tabled to next meeting since the project is happening in November 2026.

7. Community Announcements and Ancillary Items

8. Adjournment