

**Arts and Diversity in Montreal:
Preliminary Findings and Recommendations for Future Research**

La diversité artistique de Montréal : une richesse à partager-
journée de concertation
sur la diversité culturelle dans les arts
organisée par le Conseil des arts de Montréal

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par

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1. Introduction

The demographic composition of Montreal has undergone considerable transformation over the past few decades. These shifts have important economic, social and cultural ramifications for Quebec and notably for its largest metropolitan region where immigrants and minority ethnic communities are overwhelmingly concentrated. The multiple impact that growing diversification of the Montreal population and the city's arts and cultural expression has yet to be fully explored. Yet there is little doubt that it will have a profound bearing on cultural production and consumption. While arts and cultural are often vital to cultural retention and sustaining identity they also represent an important area of interaction between members of different communities and can therefore be an important instrument for social change. With its highly bilingual and multicultural population, Montreal is one of North America's richest cities for cultural expression in multiple language and forms. Montreal has the most trilingual population in North America as a majority of its allophones speak both French and English. Paradoxically it also has the highest level of retention and transmission of most languages other than English and French as the acquisition of the two dominant languages has not been as great an impediment to the preservation of the language origin than might be assumed.

2. Ethnolinguistic Shifts

One of the principal changes is the shift in demographic importance of the non-European and European origin group amongst immigrants settling in Montreal. Hence amongst those Montrealers that are neither Canadian, British, French or aboriginal origins there are more non-European than European in the group that is under 45 years of age while there are more European than non-European amongst those beyond the age or 45. As mentioned previously there is also a significant degree of cultural retention on the part of Montreal's ethnocultural minorities and notably as reflected in the rate of retention of heritage or non-official languages.

Often the degree of transmission of the non-official language will depend upon the recency of arrival of allophone couples. Another consideration is the concentration of language groups within the broader non-official language population. With its significant population of mother tongue Chinese for example Vancouver has a rate of non-official language transmission that is higher than the national average. As observed below allophone couples in most cities within Quebec have higher rates of transmission of non-official languages than in cities elsewhere in Canada.

Table 1

Endogamous Non-official language couple-Language Transmitted to Child by Percentage, 2001

Area	Non-Official Language Couples	Mother tongue Non-official language	Percentage Retention of Non-Official Language
Canada	1 008 330	684 535	68.4
Halifax	3 155	1 965	63.3
Fredericton	405	240	59.2
Moncton	230	65	28.2
Montreal	122 820	87 625	71.8
Quebec City	1 970	1 515	76.9
Sherbrooke	1 170	940	80.3
Hull	3 065	2 295	76.5
Canada without Quebec	867 495	581 310	67.0
Cornwall	520	415	79.8
Ottawa	30 825	21 665	72.0
Kingston	1 365	845	62.1
Toronto	388 515	260 260	67.0
Sudbury	845	370	43.7
Winnipeg	21 040	11 000	52.3
Saskatoon	3 355	1 740	51.9
Regina	1 860	1 010	54.3
Calgary	35 390	23 920	67.7
Edmonton	30 645	18 455	61.3
Vancouver	141 005	106 470	75.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Conditions contributing to language continuity described above tend to vary across the country's major cities where most of the non-British and non-French populations reside. Moreover such conditions may affect the groups differently. Studies of previous census data with respect to the non-official European languages tend to reveal that Montreal best meets these conditions and

hence the 'ethno-linguistic' groups in the province have the highest language continuity rates. Toronto is next in this regard and the rate of such continuity drops as one heads further to the Western part of the country. Unlike earlier studies the results below test the level of language continuity for a number of the more recently arrived non-European groups that were previously thought not to have been in Canada long enough to make relevant assessments. Whether it is European or non-European non-official languages much the same result is yielded as non-European language communities in Montreal tend to possess greater language continuity and as observed very often to significant degrees.

Montreal has the highest rate of continuity of non-official languages amongst the younger segment of the population for the transmission of Italian, Greek, Portuguese, Russian, Armenian, Yiddish, Arabic, Punjabi and Spanish. Toronto is highest when it comes to the transmission of Ukrainian and Vietnamese to the younger population. Both Vancouver and Toronto have a slight edge over Montreal in terms of the level of continuity of the Cantonese language amongst youth.

Table 2

Continuity Index as determined by mother tongue and language used regularly or most often at home age 0-24 in major cities, 2001

	Montreal	Toronto	Vancouver
Italian	32.3	30.6	13.5
Greek	60.7	46.2	28.8
Portuguese	60.5	58.8	26.3
Russian	90.0	81.5	70.6
Ukrainian	50.0	64.0	39.5
Armenian	83.4	69.0	-
Yiddish	95.4	48.3	-
Arabic	71.8	69.8	56.1
Cantonese	80.9	81.5	81.5
Punjabi	85.4	80.7	74.1
Vietnamese	81.3	83.7	80.5
Spanish	80.3	70.3	65.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of 2001

The higher rate of language retention amongst Montrealers from ethnocultural likely implies stronger degrees of identification with the cultures of origin as well as greater opportunity for consumption of arts and culture in languages other than English and French. It is an area that merits further inquiry as to its possible impact on the availability of arts production in Montreal in a multitude of cultures relative to other major cities.

3. Connecting with Diversity in the Arts

Montrealers are active volunteers in the arts according to an Environics survey conducted in the year 2001 some one out of six were either volunteers or members of an arts association as compared with approximately one out of eight in Vancouver and less than one out of ten in Toronto. More Montrealers also strongly agree that they participate in cultural activities to connect with their background than do Torontonians and Vancouverites. Yet like most other Canadians when surveyed over 80% express interest in cultural and arts production in cultures other than those with which they identify. And as noted below Montrealers strongly agree to a greater extent that the arts teach us about different cultures and ways of living. Finally more than three-quarters of Montrealers, Torontonians and Vancouverites agreed that it is important to assist Canada's ethnic groups to preserve their cultural heritage.

Table 3

Various dimensions of connecting to the arts and cultural activity in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, 2001

	Montreal	Toronto	Vancouver
Volunteering with or membership in an arts organization in the last 12 months.	16	9	12
Participate in artistic or cultural activities to connect with your cultural or ethnic background (Subsample: Respondents who participated in an artistic or cultural activity in the past 12 months) (1)	29	23	17

The arts teach us about different cultures and ways of living (1)	65	56	45
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Source: Environics Survey on Arts and Heritage Participation, 2001
(1) Percentage that Strongly Agree

4. Representation of Ethnic Groups in Arts Occupations in the Montreal Region

Though Montrealers possess generally favorable attitudes towards diversity in the arts there is a relatively significant gap in the extent to which ethnic communities than are not as rooted are represented in various arts occupations. As observed below there is near ten point gap in under-representation of the groups than are not of Canadian, French or British ethnic origin. The gaps are somewhat greater when it comes to the dancing and acting occupation than to musicians and painters. Such considerations as language background, cultural experience and arts education need further exploration to permit better understanding of the gaps seen below.

Table 4

Overall Percentage of Persons of Canadian, French and British Origins (CBF), Aboriginal and Ethnic Groups Other than CBF (by single declarations), and their Respective share in various arts occupations in the Montreal Region, 2001

Geography: Montréal Region-Single Declarations	Ethnic origin-Canadian, French and British	Aboriginal	Other Ethnic Origins
Total	69.2%	2.7%	28.1%
Occupations in art,culture, recreation and sport	77.4	2.7	18.9
Producers, directors choreographers and related occupations	79.5	0.8	19.7
Musicians and singers	74.6	-	25.4
Dancers	83.3	-	16.7
Actors and comedians	79.7	2.1	18.2
Painters, Sculptors and Visual Artists	72.8	1.2	26.0

In the Appendix a series of tables are provided that offer a more detailed presentation of those individuals that are in various arts occupations on the basis of ethnic identification. An analysis of the data suggests that the gap in arts occupational representation is frequently wider amongst the non-European groups (visible minorities) than it is the European origin population.

5. Education of Non-Europeans in Arts and Fine Arts

In that presented below it was deemed worthwhile to test the extent to which the non-European population is either studying or has earned a fine and applied arts degree when compared to the rest of the society. In pursuit of this objective the data from Statistics Canada on visible minorities and education was examined. It reveals that members of visible minorities are less likely to possess degrees in the arts and applied than are persons not identifying as visible minorities when looking at their respective populations in the Montreal region.

Table 5
Studying or Graduated in Fine and Applied Arts, Montreal, 2001-All

	Not Visible Minority	Visible Minority
Total-Overall	87.6	12.4
Total-FAA	91.4	8.6
Men	91.1	8.9
Women	91.6	8.4

The gap is even wider amongst younger members of visible minorities as seen below. Clearly these gaps may be a factor in the disparities described above though we would need to know the extent to which an arts education is a pre-requisite to a career in the field. Anecdotally for earlier generations it is less likely that artists widely possessed such educational background. Yet with the growing professionalization of many such domains it may be more of a condition of advancement in the field. Still it would be necessary to explore why members of various communities choose arts education and professions and what they feel the impediments are to doing so before making any definitive conclusions in this regard.

Table 6
Studying or Graduated in Fine and Applied Arts, Montreal, 2001-15-24

	Not Visible Minority	Visible Minority
Total-Overall	83.1	16.9
Total-FAA	-	-
Men	89.8	10.2
Women	90.7	9.3

Appendix

Appendix 1

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001
(nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal-Occupations in art culture recreation and sport	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	79135	55190	23945
British	10930	1875	9050
French	30195	15085	15110
Austrian	205	20	185
Belgian	725	235	495
Dutch	465	175	290
German	2180	365	1815
Swiss	485	95	385
Finnish	85	0	80
Scandinavian	500	90	410
Danish	130	20	110
Icelandic	15	10	10
Norwegian	135	20	115
Swedish	215	45	175
Baltic	245	50	195
Czech and Slovak	160	40	120
Czech	105	25	80
Slovak	20	0	20
Hungarian (Magyar)	485	185	295
Polish	1405	445	955
Romanian	535	260	275
Russian	760	210	550
Ukrainian	605	190	415
Balkan	300	135	165
Croatian	65	25	40
Serbian	45	25	15
Greek	855	555	300
Italian	3870	1950	1920
Portuguese	575	380	195
Spanish	1015	285	730
Jewish	2575	1375	1200
West Asian & Arab	2230	1405	825
Iranian	125	85	45
Arab	1620	1005	615
Lebanese	570	355	215
South Asian	560	395	165
Pakistani	90	70	15

Sri Lankan	45	0	35
East Asian	15	15	0
Chinese	815	665	150
Japanese	165	90	75
Korean	95	75	15
South East Asian	620	510	115
Filipino	190	145	45
Vietnamese	315	255	60
African (black)	695	430	265
Black	125	85	35
Caribbean and Bermuda	1355	835	520
Guyanese	15	0	15
Haitian	665	485	175
Jamaican	215	80	135
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	110	60	50
Latin American	1020	660	360
South American	695	450	245
Central American	335	215	120
American	630	100	530
Canadian	39100	25655	13445
Aboriginal	1790	215	1570
North American Indian	1465	150	1310
Métis	310	50	260
Inuit	50	15	40

Appendix 2

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001
(nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal- Producers, directors choreographers and related occupations	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	4255	2885	1370
British	530	95	435
French	1775	870	905
Austrian	15	10	10
Belgian	70	10	55
Dutch	35	20	15
German	135	35	105
Swiss	20	10	20
Finnish	15	0	15
Scandinavian	25	10	20
Danish	0	0	0
Icelandic	0	0	0
Norwegian	15	0	10
Swedish	10	0	0
Baltic	25	0	25
Czech and Slovak	10	0	10
Czech	0	0	0
Slovak	0	0	0

Hungarian (Magyar)	45	20	25
Polish	105	35	75
Romanian	10	0	10
Russian	25	10	20
Ukrainian	15	10	0
Balkan	0	0	0
Croatian	0	0	0
Serbian	0	0	0
Greek	30	0	25
Italian	160	55	105
Portuguese	20	20	0
Spanish	75	30	45
Jewish	155	75	80
West Asian & Arab	130	70	60
Iranian	0	0	0
Arab	125	70	50
Lebanese	55	35	25
South Asian	20	15	0
Pakistani	0	0	0
Sri Lankan	0	0	0
East Asian	0	0	0
Chinese	40	20	15
Japanese	15	10	10
Korean	0	0	0
South East Asian	50	35	10
Filipino	25	20	10
Vietnamese	15	15	0
African (black)	40	15	25
Black	10	0	10
Caribbean and Bermuda	90	45	45
Guyanese	0	0	0
Haitian	45	25	15
Jamaican	15	0	15
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	0	0	0
Latin American	20	15	10
South American	15	15	0
Central American	10	0	0
American	15	0	15
Canadian	2040	1325	720
Aboriginal	165	25	140
North American Indian	140	25	115
Métis	35	0	30
Inuit	0	0	0

Appendix 3

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001
 (nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montreal-Musicians and singers	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	3920	2635	1285
British	630	160	475
French	1455	680	775
Austrian	10	0	0
Belgian	10	0	0
Dutch	40	20	25
German	165	25	135
Swiss	25	0	15
Finnish	10	0	10
Scandinavian	30	0	30
Danish	15	0	15
Icelandic	0	0	0
Norwegian	10	0	0
Swedish	10	0	10
Baltic	20	10	15
Czech and Slovak	10	0	0
Czech	0	0	0
Slovak	0	0	0
Hungarian (Magyar)	40	20	15
Polish	30	10	20
Romanian	50	25	25
Russian	30	15	15
Ukrainian	35	15	15
Balkan	25	15	0
Croatian	0	0	0
Serbian	10	0	0
Greek	45	30	15
Italian	240	90	150
Portuguese	20	0	15
Spanish	70	25	45
Jewish	105	70	35
West Asian & Arab	120	85	35
Iranian	0	10	0
Arab	35	20	10
Lebanese	10	0	0
South Asian	20	0	20
Pakistani	0	0	0
Sri Lankan	10	0	10
East Asian	0	0	0
Chinese	30	25	0
Japanese	0	0	0
Korean	10	10	0

South East Asian	10	10	10
Filipino	0	0	0
Vietnamese	10	0	0
African (black)	55	25	30
Black	10	10	0
Caribbean and Bermuda	120	95	30
Guyanese	0	0	0
Haitian	40	35	0
Jamaican	15	10	10
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	20	10	10
Latin American	70	35	35
South American	50	25	25
Central American	20	10	10
American	40	15	20
Canadian	1805	1110	695
Aboriginal	85	0	80
North American Indian	75	0	75
Métis	10	0	10
Inuit	0	0	0

Appendix 4

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001 (nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal-Dancers	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	890	605	285
British	130	25	110
French	340	170	170
Austrian	0	0	10
Belgian	10	0	10
Dutch	0	0	0
German	40	0	35
Swiss	0	10	0
Finnish	0	0	0
Scandinavian	0	0	0
Danish	0	0	0
Icelandic	0	0	0
Norwegian	0	0	0
Swedish	0	0	10
Baltic	0	0	0
Czech and Slovak	0	0	0
Czech	0	0	0
Slovak	0	0	0
Hungarian (Magyar)	0	0	0

Polish	20	10	10
Romanian	0	0	0
Russian	0	0	0
Ukrainian	15	0	10
Balkan	0	10	0
Croatian	0	0	0
Serbian	0	0	0
Greek	10	0	0
Italian	30	15	10
Portuguese	10	10	0
Spanish	15	0	10
Jewish	35	10	30
West Asian & Arab	10	0	10
Iranian	0	0	0
Arab	10	0	0
Lebanese	0	0	0
South Asian	0	0	0
Pakistani	0	0	0
Sri Lankan	0	0	0
East Asian	0	0	0
Chinese	10	0	10
Japanese	15	0	15
Korean	0	0	0
South East Asian	15	0	10
Filipino	10	0	0
Vietnamese	0	0	0
African (black)	10	10	0
Black	0	0	0
Caribbean and Bermuda	30	20	10
Guyanese	0	0	0
Haitian	10	10	0
Jamaican	10	0	10
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	0	0	0
Latin American	20	15	10
South American	10	10	10
Central American	10	0	0
American	15	0	15
Canadian	440	305	135
Aboriginal	10	0	0
North American Indian	0	0	0
Métis	0	0	0
Inuit	0	0	0

Appendix 5

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001
(nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal-Actors and Comedians	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	2255	1435	820
British	395	90	310
French	855	395	465

Austrian	20	0	20
Belgian	25	0	15
Dutch	20	20	0
German	75	0	75
Swiss	0	0	0
Finnish	10	0	10
Scandinavian	15	0	20
Danish	0	0	0
Icelandic	0	0	0
Norwegian	10	0	10
Swedish	10	0	10
Baltic	0	10	0
Czech and Slovak	0	0	0
Czech	0	0	0
Slovak	0	0	0
Hungarian (Magyar)	0	0	0
Polish	90	25	65
Romanian	20	10	15
Russian	45	10	35
Ukrainian	25	0	25
Balkan	10	10	0
Croatian	10	0	0
Serbian	0	0	0
Greek	20	10	15
Italian	80	15	60
Portuguese	10	0	10
Spanish	15	0	20
Jewish	85	40	55
West Asian & Arab	40	15	25
Iranian	10	0	10
Arab	25	10	15
Lebanese	0	0	0
South Asian	0	0	0
Pakistani	0	0	0
Sri Lankan	0	0	0
East Asian	0	0	0
Chinese	35	20	15
Japanese	15	0	15
Korean	0	0	0
South East Asian	10	10	0
Filipino	10	0	0
Vietnamese	0	0	0
African (black)	35	20	20
Black	10	10	0
Caribbean and Bermuda	120	55	65
Guyanese	0	0	0
Haitian	80	40	40
Jamaican	30	10	20
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	0	0	0
Latin American	40	20	15
South American	35	20	15
Central American	0	0	0
American	20	10	15

Canadian	1080	660	420
Aboriginal	55	10	40
North American Indian	40	10	30
Métis	20	10	15
Inuit	0	0	0

Appendix 6

Ethnic Origins in Arts Occupations, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region, 2001
(nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal-Painters sculptors and other visual artists	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	2205	1455	755
British	355	60	300
French	835	440	390
Austrian	10	0	10
Belgian	35	10	25
Dutch	50	20	30
German	85	20	65
Swiss	30	10	15
Finnish	0	0	0
Scandinavian	35	0	35
Danish	10	0	0
Icelandic	0	0	0
Norwegian	0	0	0
Swedish	30	10	25
Baltic	10	10	0
Czech and Slovak	10	0	15
Czech	10	0	10
Slovak	0	0	0
Hungarian (Magyar)	15	10	10
Polish	40	10	25
Romanian	20	0	15
Russian	45	10	35
Ukrainian	15	0	10
Balkan	10	0	0
Croatian	0	0	0
Serbian	10	10	0
Greek	20	0	10
Italian	105	60	45
Portuguese	25	20	10
Spanish	50	10	35

Jewish	105	45	60
West Asian & Arab	50	15	40
Iranian	15	0	10
Arab	25	10	15
Lebanese	10	0	10
South Asian	20	10	10
Pakistani	0	0	0
Sri Lankan	0	0	0
East Asian	0	0	0
Chinese	25	25	10
Japanese	10	0	0
Korean	0	0	0
South East Asian	10	10	0
Filipino	10	10	0
Vietnamese	0	0	0
African (black)	10	10	0
Black	10	15	0
Caribbean and Bermuda	15	10	10
Guyanese	0	0	0
Haitian	10	10	0
Jamaican	0	0	0
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	10	0	10
Latin American	45	20	25
South American	30	10	20
Central American	20	10	15
American	25	0	20
Canadian	885	560	325
Aboriginal	60	10	50
North American Indian	45	0	40
Métis	10	0	0
Inuit	10	10	10

Appendix 7

Ethnic Origins, Single and Multiple Declarations for Montreal Region , 2001

(nb. Adding all multiple declarations will surpass the total as respondents were permitted to give up to four each and therefore total declarations of ethnic origin will also exceed the sum of its parts)

Montréal	Total - Type of EO response	Single response	Multiple response
Total - Ethnic origin	2761215	2214365	546845
British	254690	67330	187360
French	786360	454640	331720
Austrian	4770	1305	3465
Belgian	15040	5730	9315
Dutch	8705	2805	5905
German	43125	12540	30585
Swiss	6450	2110	4340
Finnish	1230	405	820
Scandinavian	7120	1515	5600
Danish	1760	410	1355
Icelandic	300	80	225

Norwegian	2225	400	1825
Swedish	2750	560	2190
Baltic	4525	2195	2335
Czech and Slovak	5915	2905	3015
Czech	2610	1210	1395
Slovak	2410	1330	1075
Hungarian (Magyar)	11515	5810	5705
Polish	31885	15520	16365
Romanian	14215	9550	4665
Russian	16495	5865	10635
Ukrainian	16255	7375	8880
Balkan	9215	6400	2815
Croatian	2695	1770	925
Serbian	1340	980	360
Greek	46605	40035	6570
Italian	180960	137300	43665
Portuguese	32940	27875	5065
Spanish	26585	12585	13995
Jewish	63695	41865	21830
West Asian & Arab	117880	93755	24125
Iranian	7110	6055	1060
Arab	89855	69710	20150
Lebanese	31965	24765	7205
South Asian	45480	38845	6635
Pakistani	5810	4520	1290
Sri Lankan	6005	5130	880
East Asian	180	105	80
Chinese	44750	38055	6690
Japanese	2050	1535	515
Korean	3160	2995	170
South East Asian	46130	39955	6175
Filipino	14680	12945	1735
Vietnamese	20370	17790	2580
African (black)	28970	21745	7220
Black	5675	4925	755
Caribbean and Bermuda	75590	62880	12715
Guyanese	1595	825	770
Haitian	51095	46560	4535
Jamaican	7665	5530	2135
Trinidadian/Tobagonian	3085	1795	1290
Latin American	40055	31645	8405
South American	27215	20640	6575
Central American	13260	11005	2250
American	12230	1950	10280
Canadian	1341435	1007075	334365
Aboriginal	38060	7270	30790
North American Indian	32920	6060	26860
Métis	5110	955	4160
Inuit	555	255	300