

POWER TO THE PLANTS – Interactive Podcast

What is it?

We've create an interactive experience around a specific zones of Montreal that teaches its users the history, use, benefits as well as care for plants that are native to North America, and more specifically Canada. Planters are located throughout the city with QR codes that can be scanned. The code will take you to the podcast episode that corresponds to the planter in front of you. All you need to do is hit 'play' and listen to all the information we have to offer!

What is new and distinctive about your project?

- This is an interactive podcast that allows you to experience all the five senses.
- Focuses on sustainable practices by utilizing recycled materials, composting, and practicing carbon sequestration.
- Introduces benefits such as food security and plant literacy.
- Highlights the significance of using indigenous plants and their histories.
- Discusses the plants' medicinal and therapeutic uses.



Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that our planters would be located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of Tiohtià:ke, the lands and waters.

How does this tackle the issue of decolonization?

We tackle the issue of decolonization by acknowledging the native custodians of the land we inhabit. We also educate our listeners on the colonial histories of the plants and current inequalities faced by migrant workers who produce our food. The use of indigenous plants can help address many of these issues.



How it works?

The Power to the Plants podcast will be made available by the scanning of a QR code, found across the Hochelaga area on the planter boxes. The first episode is not linked to a specific planter, but will serve as an introduction. The planters found across Hochelaga will be created from 100% recycled and repurposed materials, and will be created to a size that suits the natural root growth of the specific plants. The planters will appear as raised garden bed structures. The planters in addition will be insulated with fibrous organic material, for the winter months. The planters will use only organic additives to the soil, such as compost. Next to each planter will be a display case that details the instructions for finding the Power to the Plants Podcast, as well as some information and fun facts regarding the plants. Eating of the edible fruits when in season is encouraged!

Materials Used

We would love to team up with an initiative similar to Architecture Sans Frontières that offers recycled materials that can be transformed and upcycled into the planters that we use. Additionally, we would use sustainably sourced landscape fabrics as the lining in the bottom of the planter beds.

There is also the possibility that the planters offer storage within them for any of the tools needed for upkeep of the plants and soil.

Compost

Our planters are fertilized with compost. By composting food waste, there is an opportunity for the reduction of methane gas in the atmosphere, which is one of the main contributors to climate change. Composting not only allows for maximizing plant growth (which can increase food yields), but it nourishes the organisms in the soil as well. This is significant because soil has four times the carbon catching power as plants do. So by nourishing the soil and the plant we can maximize plant growth and the capacity for carbon sequestration.

Adapting to the hearing impaired

Each episode will offer transcripts along with the podcast for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Adapting to the visually impaired

Episodes will offer physical descriptions (such as height, texture, color and more) of the plants and their planters for anyone who is visually impaired.

Outcomes

- Awareness and significance of indigenous plants
- Promote food security
- Reduce the heat island effect of Montreal
- Create interactive experience with nature for all ages to foster a better relationship to the natural environment.