



Consultation: Bringing Artworks Into 2nd & 3rd Floor McIntyre

Submitted to the General Assembly, March 19th, 2019.

Summary

The MSS Humanities and Arts in Medicine (McHAM) student interest group would like to request the consultation and feedback of the MSS with respect to an initiative to furnish the 2nd and 3rd floor McIntyre spaces with artworks (created by students, patients & family caregivers, staff members, and/or professionals).

In November 2016 and once again in November 2018, the McGill Humanities and Arts in Medicine group was contacted by Diana Colby (Communications, Faculty of Medicine), on behalf of Dean Eidelman and the McIntyre Building Director, with a request for student consultation and leadership to help make available spaces in McIntyre “more inspiring”.

Within McHAM, members have experience with similar artistic initiatives, including curating the Journeys Through Health exhibition at the RVH (2016-2017) and MGH (2018-ongoing). Taking stock, we have access to/contact with:

- Art made by patients, family members, volunteers, health practitioners throughout Montreal (>100 artists represented) inspired by an experience with illness; accompanied by short, textual narratives
- McGill students in health programs who create / have created art

Considerations

We would like to please show a brief PowerPoint presentation of some examples of the artworks and narratives we already have on hand. Following this we would like to pose the following questions to the Assembly, and of course, welcome any other questions and comments.

- What do you think the goal(s) of this initiative should be? To Diana Colby and Dean Eidelman, it is to make the spaces that students spend time in “more inspiring”. From members of McHAM, we have seen how artworks, especially those created by the people a space is meant to serve, transforms and enlivens that space. We have furthermore seen how the personal expressions shared in an artwork can help to increase understanding of experiences of patients, family caregivers, practitioners, and students alike, which are often quite profound and inspiring.
- Do you think there should be a particular theme or subject matter or be more general?
- Do you think the artworks should be drawn from a particular group (e.g. students, patients), or be a mix?



- Within McHAM we are wondering to reach out to existing artists with whom we have been in contact as a starting point. Would you agree with this or may you believe there should be a new call for submissions?
- What are your suggestions for how we may have broader input into this initiative, as the spaces proposed are used by all students in the different health programs of the Faculty of Medicine?

Next Steps/Conclusion

We have been offered to meet with the Building Director to gain a sense of the physical logistics of the display spaces. We recognize the benefits of forming a committee (preferably with representation from other health programs as well). As with our previous exhibition experiences we are happy to start one step at a time and to continually seek feedback and adjust.

We really welcome any questions you might have and are very grateful for your comments.