

SPECTRUM

D E M O N T R É A L

A Parc des Festivals for our 25th anniversary!

Montreal, February 22nd 2002 - Here's a view of what our future Parc des Festivals might well look like. Seen presenting the artist's conception of the planned site are Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay and Québec premier Bernard Landry at the Québec government's announcement of a major construction project involving an office building, the Art dramatique and Musique du Québec conservatories, and the future home of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.



The entire complex will be located on the Balmoral block (the quadrangle facing the Spectrum), the current concert grounds for the Tropiques Labatt Bleue Légère series. Creation of this Parc des Festivals, planned for the southwest corner of Sainte-Catherine and Jeanne-Mance Streets, will provide downtown Montreal with a superb public area in wonderful harmony with the Place des Arts plaza.

These new public spaces, which should be ready for the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal's 25th anniversary celebrations in the summer of 2004, will unquestionably improve Montrealers' quality of life and contribute to the enjoyment of their visitors during their stay in the city.

The building visible just beside the Parc des Festivals is a sketch of what will become the Complexe Spectrum (located at the current site of the Spectrum), an ambitious project already moving ahead thanks to the joint efforts of L'Équipe Spectra and the Caisse de dépôt.

The new building will include Ex-Centris and Alliance Atlantis cinemas, a book store-record store and a Club de Jazz, whose activities the festival will manage throughout the year. These three projects will completely revitalize the section of Ste-Catherine Street between Jeanne-Mance and Bleury by eliminating three ground-level parking lots and two vacant lots and forming a western link (finally!) with the Place des Arts/Complexe Desjardins sector. Other major initiatives are also being planned for the area by Guy Laliberté of the Cirque du Soleil and Daniel Langlois of Ex-Centris.

The heart of downtown thus promises to be significantly enhanced over the next few years, with the combined efforts forming part of the Quartier des Spectacles development project that will give us our own Montreal-style Broadway - an integral element in the personality of the metropolis.

It was in this spirit of international positioning that I proposed, at the recent Montreal Summit, the creation of a Cité de la Culture et des Communications that would serve as an economic- and social-development axis for the eastern part of downtown stretching from Bleury down to the Cité des Ondes (Radio-Canada/TVA/TQS) and integrate the various projects comprising the créapole: Faubourg Saint-Laurent and the Quartier des spectacles. By conducting such development of the Ville-Marie borough, Montreal would solidify its international reputation as a cultural metropolis and the "City of Festivals".

