Resolution 2017 – 05 Regarding the role of heritage in renewed cultural policies and the future Heritage Action Plan of the City of Montreal

Considering that 2017 marks the 25th anniversary both of Quebec’s Cultural Policy and of the Montreal Master Plan, an instrument that was ahead of its time and a legacy of Montreal’s 350th-anniversary celebrations, which helped reconcile development with concern for heritage and the urban landscape;

Considering that Montreal became, in 2005, the first large city in Canada and indeed in North America to adopt a heritage policy following a broad-based process of public discussion and consultation, and that in 2006 the City of Montreal held workshops leading to the formulation of certain policy directions in the draft Heritage Action Plan 2017–2022;

Considering that the Minister of Culture and Communications has held consultations on the renewal of Quebec’s Cultural Policy and that the City of Montreal has held consultations on its proposed Heritage Action Plan and Cultural Development Policy, in which Heritage Montreal took part and to which it submitted substantial briefs putting forward proposals with regard to current and future heritage issues in Quebec and in Montreal;

The Annual General Meeting of the members of Heritage Montreal requests:

1. That coming cultural policies, spatial- and urban-planning instruments, as well as investment and infrastructure projects, acknowledge heritage, territory, architecture, landscape, and archeology as identity- and creativity-shaping elements and as drivers of cultural, economic and social development;

2. That mixed mechanisms—comprising government, municipalities, owners, heritage groups, academics and researchers—be created to accompany the implementation of these policies and their related action plans, and to foster emergence of made-in-Montreal solutions in the wake of experiences such as that of the Maison Alcan;

3. That working groups on funding and tax measures at the Quebec, Montreal and the metropolitan area levels be set up to define—as has been done in the arts & culture field and certain industry segments—a strategy as well as tax and financial incentives to support the protection, maintenance, repurposing, and enhancement of built and landscape heritage, and exploration of application of land-use strategy tools such as trusts and long-term (emphyteutic) leasing;

4. That heritage expertise, including that of heritage groups such as Heritage Montreal, be recognized among professionals and civil servants as well as members of comités consultatifs en urbanisme (CCUs, i.e., planning advisory committees);

5. That Montreal’s governance in heritage matters be modernized so as to guarantee the long-term viability of the Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal (the city’s heritage advisory board), establish a true Heritage division, and form a permanent body for consultation by the city and stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, and groups such as Heritage Montreal.