Heritage Montreal issues a second advance notice of principles and states its priorities


Montreal, November 5, 2019 - In this notice, following a first notice published in January 2018 regarding Windmill Point, Heritage Montreal sets out five main guidelines that express the values, issues and opportunities it has identified for the NFB site, in keeping with its concerns about heritage, planning and urban development:

1. Preserve the spirit and ingenuity of this site that was home to a great creative exploit, through a genuinely relevant program in terms of programming, partnerships, products and processes.

2. Prioritize the conservation of the site’s relatively homogenous exterior composed of its founding elements, that is, the 1950s pavilions, representative of post-war modern government architecture.

3. Preserve and transmit the site’s other heritage dimensions, in particular, by reusing its vaults and large film set, projection rooms and recording studio, but also through new uses and commemorative gestures.

4. While assessing interventions on the basis of their impact on heritage, promote greening of the site and opening it up to the surrounding area, contribute to enhancing the neighbourhood’s diversity, particularly in terms of services, community facilities and local businesses. Guarantee public access.

5. Promote a strategy to safeguard the site by making use of the premises after the NFB’s departure.

Heritage Montreal took an interest in this file from the moment discussions began on relocating the NFB to the Quartier des Spectacles. Regular contact and discussions with the institution and the Canadian Lands Company (CLC) have been underway since then. Heritage Montreal also helped to organize a visit of the site during the 2018 Journées de la culture in order to discuss the possibility of repurposing the site after the NFB’s move in fall 2019.

Mr. Bumburu, Policy Director at Heritage Montreal, explains: “A veritable hive of cinema, the NFB site is more than just a large lot for development. We must demand that all future projects live up to the heritage value and memory of this site, and that they contribute as much to commemorating the intense cinematographic activity that took place there, as to responding to the needs of the neighbourhood and building the cultural metropolis that is Montreal. Assets like future accessibility via the Réseau express métropolitain (REM) will only help to attain these objectives.”

This advance notice reflects Heritage Montreal’s mission to play an increasingly proactive role leading up to and during the development of large-scale reclassification projects so as to encourage the protection of heritage dimensions and enhance the sites. An advance notice for the redevelopment of the Molson site will be released soon.

Since 1975, Heritage Montreal has been working to promote and to protect the architectural, historic, natural and cultural heritage of Greater Montreal. Heritage Montreal is a private non-profit organization at the heart of an extensive network of partners, working through education and representation to celebrate, develop and preserve Montreal’s identity and uniqueness.

SOURCE
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