

Griffintown Horse Palace foundation





Griffintown Horse Palace's stables

As stone's throw from downtown Montreal, a pastoral scene awaits the curious wanderer; the Griffintown Horse Palace on Ottawa street is an important witness of the horse's role in Montreal's history. Dating back to 1862, it still houses horses that pull carriages in Old Montreal.

Behind the main house, a flower-bordered path leads to a large lot with hundred year old poplars and stables. This atypically deep lot with its many buildings, while common in the nineteenth century, is today unique. It is also a meeting place for the Irish community of Griffintown: every year on St Patrick's day, a festive carriage leaves the stable to join the parade.

Authentic and charming, the stables offer a rare opportunity to experience history without stepping into a museum. They also provide a pastoral break, a chance to interact with horses.

Restoring this group of buildings and opening it to the public will introduce Montrealers to a unique experience in a dense urban fabric.

Citizens and tourists alike will discover Griffintown's rich history, marked by the presence of the Irish. Visitors will experience a working-class nineteenth century dwelling, modelled on the Tenement Museum in New York.



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The Griffintown Horse Palace Foundation

The Griffintown Horse Palace is a charitable organization whose aim is to offer Montrealers a place to reconnect with the history of Griffintown and maintain the link that has existed between human beings and the horse for thousands of years.

The Foundation plans to acquire the property and renovate it to install a museum dedicated to the history of Griffintown. The stables will continue to house horses and be managed by the calèche owners, who have agreed to be our partners in the project and allow the public to witness their work.



They will also discover the personal histories of Griffintown residents, from 1800 to today.

Activities reaching out to the community will be organized on site. The public will witness the brushing and harnessing of the horses, the work of the blacksmith, and children will be able to ride miniature horses.

The horse palace museum will be part of a cultural corridor linking Montreal museums. Situated between the future Harbourfront project on the Lachine canal and the Multimedia



district, the Horse Palace is located at the heart of an evolving district, which includes the conversion of the New City Gas Works buildings. Refurbishing the Horse Palace and the New City Gas Works will spark a cultural and economic renaissance in Griffintown, and create a bridge between the Atwater market and the cultural institutions of Old Montreal.





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