

Get Green Fall 2011

The Digital Literacy Project supported the environmentally-minded "Get Green" at the Carrefour Jeunesse-emploi Notre-Dame de Grâce to help them learn how to record a song and make a video as part of their jobs skills program.

Facilitator [Nina](#) had originally planned to help the group learn how to make a video for a song Get Green Participants were going to record. However, in the end we helped them with both the song and the video and Digital Literacy Project Coordinator Eric helped out as a audio recording facilitator.

Kayla (a participant from Get Green) explains the relationship between the workshop and their program:

"Get Green is a program provided by Service Canada to teach youth ages 16 to 20 transferable skills through a series of workshops to be used to benefit their futures. One of these workshops being a song that the participants were going to write and record together at a studio to build teamwork and show them a possible career option for those interested in music. A few weeks after the group had started writing their song they found out that their music producer could no longer work with them..."

There were challenges to making the video and the song at the same time. During the video editing process, we had to find places in the library where we could record a verse or two -- transforming offices or storage rooms into make shift recording studios. There was a constant dialogue about whether we were making a song for a video or a video for a song.

Nina explains:

"It was really interesting trying to make the video at the same time as the song was being written/produced. I think the biggest challenge was making sure we stayed focused on what we wanted to say, and staying true to the authentic thoughts and ideas of participants. It was great to see them working to make the song and the video from scratch, and I learnt a lot through out that process."

In the end, the participants were happy with what they created and the experience supported the over all program of Get Green. Making the song from scratch was rewarding but took some time to get off the ground and required patience from everyone. We used Creative Commons beats and documentary clips and experimented with various audio processing. As for the words, the participants wrote about their experiences, their neighborhood and what success means to them. Working with music is great because everyone has personal way of relating to it.

Cecile (a participant from Get Green) elaborates:

"I'm happy that we had a section in our program that we had to make a music video and a song it has helped me to be more out there with my talent and open up more as a way of expressing myself..."

Katrina (coordinator of the Get Green project) notes:

"The partnership with Atwater Library was a really exciting one for us at Get Green. The creation of a video - from getting the shots, to choosing which to final editing - was a valuable learning process for the youth (and me)! Many of them had never worked with video before, and the editing equipment provided by Atwater was previously inaccessible to them. It was exciting to watch them use their creative outlets in an entirely new way. Also, the fact that Atwater was able to take over the song production at the last minute added a new element to the process. How would the video look in the end? We were lucky to have such dedicated facilitators who brought out the best in the youth. Thanks Nina and Eric! The youth were ultimately pleased with the video and proud of what they'd done. The Digital Literacy project is successful in that it makes digital knowledge and skills accessible to participants."

Get Green screened their work at the graduation ceremony for their program at the CJE-NDG on December 15 2011.

For more information about Get Green:

Get Green is a pre-employability project for Anglophone youth (16-20) who have left the school system. This 17 week program aims to provide young people with social and professional skills through a variety of workshop: budgeting, employability, cooking and other lifeskills. We also plan business and school visits so that youth have an idea of the options that are before. We strive to support young people on their path to success. The next Get Green project will begin in March 2011. For further information please contact Despina Sourias at the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi. [514 482 6665 ext 212](tel:5144826665) or despina@cje-ndg.com