2014 Rewind

2014 was a great year for the Digital Literacy Project. We made many new partners and expanded our programs in new and interesting ways.

Here are some of the highlights:

We worked with Gerald McShane Elementary School in Montreal North to help them explore four different learning styles (visual, auditory, tactile and kinesthetic) through digital media such as video, PowerPoint and animation.

In early January we conducted a workshop for the clients of the Tyndale St-Georges Little Burgundy Employment Centre about social media, internet privacy and how to build a positive online identity.

With funding from the federal government's New Horizons for Seniors program, we offered a series of workshops aimed at empowering musically-oriented seniors to use computers and later teach others to use computers to record and create music. The [workshops](#) were facilitated by Eric Craven and Peter Shaw, a student in theatre at Concordia University, with the collaboration of [Line Grenier](#), a professor in [Communication studies at Université de Montréal](#).

The participants impressed us with a wide range of musical expression that was inspiring and challenging. You can hear some of the work that was made their Soundcloud page [Alt-Together.](#) as well as video featuring one of the projects called ["Fried Brains"](#).

Through our connection with [ACT (Ageing + Communications + Technologies)](#) Eric Craven and [Dr. Line Grenier](#) had the opportunity to co-present a paper about the project at the [European Communication Research and Education Association Conference (ECREA)](#) in Lisbon in November 2014 as part of a panel called [?New Media and Older People ? Age, Narratives and Normativities.?](#)
Check out the [trailer](#) and another [video](#) we made for this presentation.

While in Portugal, Eric Craven also gave a talk entitled [?Digital Culture and Community?](#) at the [Madeira Interactive Technologies Institute (Madeira-ITI)](#).

For most of the year, we worked with youth from diverse backgrounds to make videos about pluralism. At certain points of the year, this was hot button issue due to the public debate about the proposed Charter of Values. For this project, we collaborated with Trisha Islam and Rana Salah to connect with youth in the community. We held talks, screenings, and workshops at the Library and around the city. In the end, we made over 30 videos. You can check them out on our [pluralism video site](#).

We worked with [Bienvenue à Notre-Dame-de-Grâce](#) to offer digital skills development related to community event planning. There were 2 sessions, one in English and one in French, participants came to the Library once a week for 10 weeks. We covered general computer skills, elements of graphic design and social media marketing.

We collaborated with visual artist Romeo Gongora's project Just Watch Me at **Concordia University's Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery**. Digital Literacy Project facilitators **Rana Salah** and **Nina Pariser** did three [poetry and digital media workshops](#) and also screened videos from our recent Youth Pluralism Video Project

On September 21, 2014, we set up at Empire Exchange in Montreal's Mile End neighbourhood and did a green video workshop as part of the **POP Montreal International Music Festival's Kids POP Crawl**. [Check out what the kids did](#).

We partnered **Concordia University's Theatre and Development program** for the third time in three years. Students in a course called ?The Neighbourhood Theatre? connected with two graduate studies seminars from different disciplines under the name [?The Right to the City: Cross-disciplinary pedagogy and the politics of Montreal's South-West.?](#) We supported this initiative by connecting the students to our partners and helping them create an online ?digital reflection? of the experience through social media,

video and photography. On November 29, 2014, the students showed their work to the public in Pointe Saint-Charles. See the student's work on The Right to the City website. Earlier in the year, Concordia University made a video our previous collaboration for their Spotlight on Community Engagement series.