Social Innovation Learning Program – June 14-17, 2015
Participant Biographies

Adrienne Weber
Operations Manager
Jack Project

Adrienne joins Jack.org from the private sector, where she has spent the past six years in operations management and fundraising consulting. As the Operations Manager of Jack.org, Adrienne contributes in depth knowledge of project development, management and coaching, and strategic planning to the team. Adrienne holds her Honours BA in History from Concordia University and her Masters in History from the University of Toronto, and has completed training in Fundraising, Project Management, and Teaching. The mother of two energetic young boys, Adrienne brings positivity, creativity and passion to Jack.org's vision of "No More Silence."

André-Yanne Parent
Directrice de la programmation éducative - Communautés Inuites et Premières Nations
Youth Fusion

D'origine Mi'gmaq et Acadienne, André-Yanne Parent est titulaire d'une maîtrise en anthropologie. Ses études l'ont menée à la Réunion, à Paris et à Montréal. André-Yanne a été boursière du Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines, du Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture et de la Fondation Jean-Charles Bonenfant de l'Assemblée nationale. Elle a contribué à plusieurs projets de recherches internationaux, notamment Fukuoka au Japon et à Sao Paulo au Brésil. Elle a occupé le poste de Chargée de projets au Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec (CPRQ) pendant deux ans avant de rejoindre l'équipe de Fusion Jeunesse comme Directrice de la programmation éducative - Communautés Inuites et Premières Nations. Elle est administratrice et membre fondatrice de DestiNATIONS: Carrefour international des arts et cultures des Peuples autochtones. Elle siège également comme représentante jeunesse sur le conseil d'administration du Centre de développement communautaire autochtone de Montréal et sur le conseil d'administration du Regroupement des centres d'amitié autochtones du Québec.

Nadia Duguay
Cofounder and co-director
Exeko

Entrepreneure sociale et Ashoka fellow, Nadia a cofondé en 2006 l'organisation Exeko qu'elle codirige aujourd'hui et dont la mission est « l'inclusion sociale par l'innovation en culture et en éducation». Elle y a créé plus de 110 projets et s'attèle à définir une approche basée sur l'hybridation des pratiques de la médiation culturelle et intellectuelle comme moteur de transformation social. Nadia crée ainsi une série de stratégies d'approche créatives et respectueuses du principe de la présomption de l'égalité des intelligences à l'intention des personnes les plus marginalisées ou à risque de l'être du Canada (milieu carcéral, itinérance, déficience intellectuelle et jeunes a risque autochtones). Elle est également membre du Groupe de recherche en médiation culturelle.
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Social entrepreneur and Ashoka Fellow, Nadia co-founded Exeko, an organization that she co-directs today and whose mission is "social inclusion through innovation in culture and education." She has created more than 110 projects and is striving to define an approach based on the hybridization of practices of cultural and intellectual mediation as a force for social transformation approach. Nadia created a series of creative and friendly approaches to the principle of the presumption of equality of intelligences for the most marginalized and at risk of being Canada (prisons, homelessness, mental retardation, risk youth and indigenous). She is also a member of the Research Group in cultural mediation (Groupe de recherche en médiation culturelle).

Isabelle Gaudette
Organisatrice communautaire
(chargée de projets et développement)
Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal

Isabelle Gaudette est organisatrice communautaire depuis 1996. Elle travaille au Centre d'écologie urbaine de Montréal depuis janvier 2010. Elle est diplômée de l'UQAM au baccalauréat en Travail social, spécialisée dans l'intervention auprès des communautés. Elle a été à l'emploi de la Maison d'Aurore de 2000 à 2009 où elle a mis sur pied et coordonné le Comité circulation du Plateau Mont-Royal qui a entre autres, mené les actions « MAXIMUM 30 : Notre rue, un milieu de vie» et le Plan de déplacement urbain citoyen. Plus récemment, elle a proposé, réalisé et animé le processus de budget participatif à Saint-Basile-le-Grand.

Michael Lenczner
CEO and founder of Ajah
Board Member, Apathy is Boring
Apathy Is Boring

Michael Lenczner is the CEO and founder of Ajah (www.ajah.ca), a Canadian-based company which offers an online funder research to the non-profit sector. Its service, Fundtracker, merges dozens of government and public data sets with its own proprietary research so that users can track grant-making by foundations, corporations and governments. Their award-winning non-profit initiative, PoweredByData (www.poweredbydata.org) leverages their expertise to develop a more effective social sector by working with governments and funders to publish open data.

Michael has been working in public interest technology since the late '90s. He founded the community wireless group Ile sans fil, and has been working in open data since 2004, co-founding municipal, provincial, and national lobbying groups for increased access to government data.

François-Xavier Michaux
Cofounder and co-director
Exeko

Entrepreneur social, François-Xavier Michaux a cofondé Exeko en 2006. Il codirige aujourd'hui cette organisation et plus d'une centaine de projets avec pour mission l'inclusion et la transformation sociale par l'innovation en culture et en éducation. Titulaire d'une double maitrise en gestion de projet et en ingénierie d'affaires et d'un baccalauréat en économie, l'entrepreneuriat social, l'innovation managériale, les modèles d'affaires innovants et le développement des capacités organisationnelles sont parmi ses champs de prédilection. Il est aussi l'instigateur du programme Trickster, qui par la créativité et la médiation culturelle, contribue au renforcement identitaire de centaines de jeunes autochtones à travers le Québec et le Canada.

François-Xavier Michaux s'est vu décerné la Médaille de la Paix en 2009 et le Prix Coup de Cœur de l'ESG UQAM en 2011. Exeko a reçu le Fellowship d'Ashoka en 2011. François-Xavier Michaux est aussi cofondateur de deux maisons de productions, Productions P2P à Montréal et New Democracy Productions à Los Angeles, ainsi que membre fondateur de la Cathédrale et le Bazar, projet d'espaces coopératifs de travail et d'habitation pour les créateurs à Montréal. Avant la création d'Exeko, il a complété des expériences comme chargé de projet au Cirque du Soleil et à Culture pour Tous.

Social entrepreneur, François-Xavier Michaux co-founded Exeko in 2006. Today, he co-directs this organization, and more than one hundred projects, with a mission statement of inclusion and social transformation through innovation in culture and education. Holding a double Master's degree in Project Management and Business Engineering and a BA in Economics, social entrepreneurship, innovative management, innovative business models and organizational capacity development are among his fields of choice. He is also the instigator of the Trickster program, which through creativity and cultural mediation, contributes to strengthening identity of hundreds of young Aboriginals across Quebec and Canada.

François-Xavier Michaux was awarded the Peace Medal in 2009 and the Coup de Cœur prize from ESG UQAM in 2011. Exeko received the Ashoka Fellowship in 2011. François- Xavier Michaux is also co-founder of two production companies: P2P productions in Montreal and New Democracy productions in Los Angeles and is a founding member of La Cathedrale et le Bazar, a cooperative project of workspaces and housing for artists in Montreal. Before creating Exeko, he worked at Cirque du Soleil and Culture Pour Tous as a project manager.

Carolyn Loutfi
Director of Operations
Apathy is Boring

Caro Loutfi is currently the Executive Director of Apathy is Boring, a national non-partisan organization working to engage Canadian youth in democracy. She worked her way up within Apathy is Boring, starting out as a Communications Intern, then working as the Youth-Friendly Coordinator and lastly as Director of Operations. She was previously a co-producer for Montreal's Art Matters Festival, in which she was responsible for event management and festival coordination, working to create meaningful space for community development through art. She
recently joined the Inspirit Foundation's board, working to inspire pluralism among young Canadians and has been involved in the volunteer sector for over 9 years. She graduated with distinction from Concordia University with a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Human Rights. While at Concordia she was awarded the Erin Walker Humanitarian Award for demonstration of humanitarian service while in pursuit of academic excellence.
Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, by a multicultural family mixed with Lebanese, Japanese and Canadian traditions, she is bilingual in English and French. She has an honest understanding of the values of youth engagement, is passionate about social change and motivated by art's ability to encourage accessibility

Geraldine Cahill
Manager, Programs & Partnerships for SIG
Jane's Walk

Geraldine Cahill works closely with Social Innovation Generation's 4 partners in the development of program objectives. These partners include the MaRS Discovery District, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, PLAN Institute, and the University of Waterloo's Institute for Social Innovation and Resilience.

Geraldine has specialized in communications development and management for the past decade. From online and offline content generation to design, media liaison and relationship management, Geraldine has supported SiG in a range of capacities since 2009. The convening and curation of events for strategic partnership development has become an area of particular strength. Geraldine joined SiG from www.therealnews.com where she was Communications Director. There she built a loyal support base and community around the daily delivery of independent news coverage.

Geraldine is a filmmaker by training and passion. Geraldine also produced and presented a national current affairs program and weekly drive time program at 3CR Community Radio in Melbourne for 7 years before moving to Canada in 2005.

Jeanette Stock
Program Lead
Jack Project

As a Program Lead for Jack.org, Jeanette works directly with student leaders across Canada who are passionate about transforming the way we think about mental health. She has created and implemented leadership programs for youth at home and abroad, and believes in the immense potential that Canadian youth have to create positive change in their lives and communities. Jeanette is a graduate of Queen's University, and has completed training in Youth Leadership, Facilitation, and Service Design.

Frances Waithe
Founder and Director
DESTA Black Youth Network

Frances Waithe has over twenty-five years of experience as a frontline community worker. She is a wife, mother of eight, and grandmother. In her twenty five years of service to the community, Frances has worked with children, young adults, families, seniors, and mentally or physically handicapped individuals from all parts of Montreal and all walks of life. Her efforts to serve her community have led her to work with and support the initiatives of various community organizations. Frances is the founder and Director of the DESTA Black Youth Network, a youth outreach organization serving Black young adults, aged 18 to 25, in Greater Montreal. In recognition of Frances's commitment and dedication, COCO, The Centre for Community Organization, honored her with the "Frances Ravensberg Walking the Talk Award". Frances Waithe was also one of the recipients of the 2010 A Taste of the Caribbean "Woman of Merit" award.

Chantal Marulaz
Counselor/ Youth Worker
DESTA Black Youth Network

Chantal Marulaz joined the DESTA team as a youth worker in 2010. A certified yoga instructor and licensed counselor with a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from McGill University, Chantal uses a multifaceted approach to supporting the emotional and professional growth of at-risk youth. She works one-on-one with young adults struggling with precarious housing, unemployment, re-integration post-incarceration, and mental health issues. She also provides weekly yoga classes as a means of helping youth cope with their stressors in a positive way.

Fernando Coelho
Chief Executive Officer
PosAbilities

Fernando Coelho is the Chief Executive Officer of posAbilities Association of British Columbia (posAbilities), a multi-regional social service provider in British Columbia. Prior to becoming the CEO in 2007, he was the Association's Chief Operating Officer. His greatest strengths are his creativity, drive, and leadership. Over the past eight years, Fernando has built up the administrative, financial and people development infrastructure needed to fulfill the aspirations of a growing organization that provides responsive supports to more than 1,200 individuals per year. The Association's service team includes 500 members and 100 shared living service providers.

Fernando thrives on challenges, particularly those that expand the organization's reach. He approaches each new challenge with a focus on innovation, creative problem solving, and measured risk taking. His achievements include service redesign under significant fiscal constraint, while concurrently developing service innovations to further improve residential and community integration. During this time, he also contributed to a 5-year negotiated labor contract. Combined, these achievements created a foundation for innovation, change and growth.

Fernando is a board member of the Community Social Services Employers' Association (CSSEA), and a Community Living bargaining panel member. He was formerly a member of the board for the BC-CEO Network and Burnaby Family Life and is an active member of the Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Inclusion BC, and the Canadian Society of Association Executives.

Fernando studied at McGill, Carleton and Royal Roads University where he received his Master's in Business Administration. Fernando is originally from Montreal and currently lives in Vancouver.

James McKinney
Executive Director
Open North

Prior to assuming leadership of Open North, he was an early contributor to Montréal Ouvert – a citizen initiative to promote open access to civic information. He is an active voice in the Canadian open government and open data communities. James uses technology to promote open government, online citizenship and participatory democracy. He is a frequent contributor to government and corporate transparency projects, like OpenCorporates, and to open-source projects, like Drupal. He has presented on open government and technical subjects at GO Open Data, Transparency Camp, Drupalcon and Hacks/Hackers.

Janis Timm-Bottos, PhD
Executive Director
La Ruche d'Art

Janis is the Director of the art therapy program in the Department of Creative Arts Therapies at Concordia University. Janis' research team has recently completed an inquiry into the qualities of third space and student learning and now is considering the healing function of third space. Her work has included launching the national art hive initiative, which promotes social innovation through small and sustainable art hubs for free art making in every community across Canada.

Jean-Noé Landry
Director of Strategic Initiatives and Outreach
Open North

He is a democracy development expert with 12 years of international and local experience with a passion for finding innovative ways to overcome barriers to citizen participation. Jean-Noé helped strengthen electoral processes, legislative and political institutions with the National Democratic Institute in Croatia, Serbia, Russia, the West Bank, Kenya, Algeria, and Tunisia. Over the past 5 years, as a co-founder of Montreal Ouvert and Québec Ouvert, he has focused on building and expanding the open data movement in Canada. He enjoys working and educating governments and legislators on open data and supporting civil society to become an active stakeholder. Jean-Noé is also a civil society representative on the City of Montreal's Task Force on Democracy, a unique working group that reflects on participatory democratic practices. http://www.arthives.org

Huguette Lépine
Directrice générale
Réseau Accorderie au Québec

Mme Lépine est reconnue pour son expertise en développement d'organisations acquises pendant une quinzaine d'années comme consultante et, depuis 2000, à la tête d'organismes de bienfaisance provinciaux et régionaux. Elle a travaillé, entre autres, avec et pour les personnes handicapées, immigrantes et atteintes d'Alzheimer. Elle s'est particulièrement démarquée en tant que directrice générale des Œuvres de la Maison Dauphine, dédiées aux jeunes de la rue. Appréciée pour sa passion et son enthousiasme communicatif, madame Lépine porte haut et fort les intérêts des êtres humains peu important leur statut, leurs conditions ou leur provenance. Pour ce faire, elle sait favoriser les collaborations et les partenariats et impliquer les personnes concernées au premier chef. Elle s'est donnée pour leitmotiv: *si c'est nécessaire, c'est possible!*

Richard Faucher
Co-Executive Director
Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (PosAbilities)

For over twenty-five years, Richard Faucher has distinguished himself as a leader and innovator at the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (BACI). As a passionate advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, and more broadly for all people, Richard demonstrates the ethics, insight and integrity necessary to lead an organization that supports individuals in a person-centered, community-driven and humanitarian way. His vision, values and strategic thinking abilities have benefited not only BACI, but the broader Community Living movement as well. Richard's commitment to finding new and creative ways to advance social & economic inclusion is demonstrated through the array of initiatives he has organized – and the cross-sectoral partnerships he has built – regarding person/family-centered approach to service delivery.

Sarah Houde
Directrice générale
Fusion Jeunesse

Gestionnaire passionnée d'affaires publiques et de communications, Sarah Houde a évolué tant dans des contextes nationaux qu'internationaux et a assumé diverses responsabilités en développement de partenariats stratégiques, marketing, commerce électronique, communications internes et externes et événements spéciaux. Elle est directrice générale de Fusion Jeunesse depuis février 2014, un organisme de bienfaisance créé au Québec en 2009, qui crée des partenariats innovateurs entre plus de 10 universités et 77 écoles partout au Québec afin de contrer le décrochage scolaire et ce, avec l'appui humain et financier de dizaines de partenaires corporatifs, publics et philanthropiques. Avec ses 18 employés au siège social et ses 160 coordonnateurs à l'œuvre dans les écoles, Fusion Jeunesse fait une réelle différence auprès des élèves du primaire et du secondaire en implantant des projets qui les motivent, les stimulent, les interpellent et les engagent.

Elle a auparavant assumé diverses fonctions dans le secteur philanthropique, notamment comme responsable des communications francophones à UNICEF Canada et directrice, valorisation et communications chez Avenir d'enfants, le Fonds de 400 millions de dollars créé par le gouvernement du Québec et la Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon dans le but de favoriser le développement global des enfants de moins de 5 ans. Elle a également œuvré dans le secteur privé (projet de parachèvement de l'autoroute 30, Groupe Archambault) et a effectué un passage en politique.

Elle est titulaire d'un DESS en Gestion de HEC Montréal, d'une maîtrise en Développement international de McGill, d'un baccalauréat en Science politique de l'Université de Montréal et d'un certificat en Communications de l'Université de Montréal.

Elle est l'heureuse maman de deux jeunes enfants et s'impliquent activement dans le CPE et l'école qui les accueillent.

Rachel Chainey
National Coordinator
La Ruche d'Art

Rachel Chainey is a social entrepreneur, daily life artisan, community organizer, cultural mediator and mother of two young children. This curious Jill-of-all-trades is interested in the intersections between art, social justice, feminism, ecology, and personal and collective resilience. More specifically, she is passionate about collaborative and inclusive spaces where these questions can be explored through action. She is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Coop Le Milieu, Atelier Collectif et Café de Quartier, and National Coordinator for the Art Hives Network.

Chi Nguyen
Advisory committee member
Jane's Walk

Ms. Chi Nguyen works with United Way Toronto as Manager, Neighbourhoods - as part of a place-based initiative to engage residents in community development in the city's 13 priority neighbourhoods. Her professional and personal interests focus on public engagement, women and politics, women's health, civic education and political literacy.

She has held positions with the CBC, MASS LBP and as a special assistant to the Minister of Public Health. Chi has been recognized for her contributions to improving the lives of women and girls throughout Canada by the Governor General (2004) and the YWCA (1999). These efforts included running a national Young Women Vote campaign, the creation of the McGill Women in House program and co-authoring the Little Black Book for Girls. In 2009, she was one of Toronto's inaugural DiverseCity Fellows.

She serves as the Chair of Story Planet, and advisory committee member of Jane's Walk. For a decade, Chi was an active board member and past chair of the Canadian Women's Health Network. In her free time, she likes to race streetcars on her bicycle, eat delicious food, run and quilt.

Catherine Bourgault
Conseillère en recherche et développement
Réseau Accorderie

Catherine Bourgault, d'abord technicienne en loisirs, a obtenu un Bac en psychosociologie en2008 à l'Université du Québec à Rimouski. Elle travaille depuis 2002 dans la coordination de projets culturels et sociaux. Elle se spécialise dans l'animation et la formation, invitant à utiliser
des techniques faisant appel à la créativité et l'être ensemble. En 2013, elle met sur pied l'Accorderie de Sherbrooke puis en septembre 2014 est engagé par le Réseau Accorderie à titre de conseillère en recherche et développement."

FACILITATOR

Darcy Riddell is a social innovation consultant with

almost 20 years of experience advancing sustainability and social change as a campaigner, strategist, facilitator and educator. She is completing a transdisciplinary PhD. in Social Innovation/Social and Ecological Sustainability (www.sig.uwaterloo.ca), researching institutional transformation and strategies for catalyzing and scaling innovation in complex systems. Darcy's work combines the potent mix of internal transformation, generative group process, and strategic social impact. Her recent consulting activities include co-design and teaching in a global fellowship in Social Innovation and Resilience for Rockefeller Foundation, research on scaling strategies for the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, and design and facilitation of a Leadership Institute for front-line women working in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. Darcy spent seven years with Hollyhock Leadership Institute directing programs, where she designed and hosted conferences, delivered training, and convened strategic collaborations between environmental and social sector leaders from across Canada and North America. She has consulted with non-profits, foundations, businesses, grassroots initiatives, social enterprises, universities and various levels of government, and specializes in convening across sectors. She led a multi-year initiative with VANOC to convene ENGOs to maximize sustainability outcomes of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games, and supported Mountain Equipment Co-op to develop their first national conservation advocacy collaboration, The Big Wild. Darcy was previously with Sierra Club and ForestEthics on the Great Bear Rainforest campaign, working with multiple stakeholders on policy change, and building international alliances to shift markets. She has a BSc. in Geography & Environmental Studies, and an M.A. in Philosophy, Cosmology & Consciousness. Darcy is the mother of two young children, and is a fourth generation Vancouverite.

FOUNDATION TEAM

Stephen Huddart
President and CEO
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

Stephen Huddart is President and CEO of The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation in Montreal, which has played a leading role in developing and supporting social innovation and impact investing in Canada as a founding partner and funder of Social Innovation Generation (SiG). Cities for People, an initiative focused on urban resilience and livability, is based on a similar partnership model.

Stephen's career spans several fields and includes leadership positions in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. He has led social enterprises, and been a documentary filmmaker, humane educator, geophysical observer, museum curator, and natural food store manager.

He serves on the advisory boards of Philanthropic Foundations Canada and Evergreen CityWorks. Stephen has a Masters of Management degree from McGill.

John Cawley
Vice President
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

John Cawley works at the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, where he is the Vice President. He has graduate degrees in a range of disciplines from history, to agricultural economics, and management but believes that most of the mysteries of the universe can be understood by the practice of curling. John has 25 years of work experience in the community sector in Canada and in developing countries as a front-line practitioner, program evaluator, senior leader and board member.

Chad Lubelsky
Associate Program Director
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

Prior to joining the Foundation in 2014, Chad worked with Santropol Roulant as its Executive Director; on global networking, policy, and advocacy for the Progressive Communications Association in South Africa; and as a Policy Officer for the Canadian Millenium Scholarship Foundation.

Chad serves as a Mentor for the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation and as a Board Member of the youth and democracy organization Apathy is Boring, and l'Abri en Ville, a Montreal-based Mental Health organization. He has Masters Degrees in Leadership and Electronic Communications.