



PRESS RELEASE

## **Saint Joseph's Oratory will launch an architectural competition to reconfigure the Basilica's dome – a one-of-a-kind space!**

**Montréal, December 14, 2017** – Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal wishes to bring the Basilica architects' vision to life. After nearly a century, the final phase of this major development project aims to provide access to the Basilica dome's interior and create an observatory at its summit. Early next year, the Oratory will launch an architectural competition to upgrade this one-of-a-kind area, reconfigure its interior design and renovate its museum spaces.

"The Basilica's dome is a space like no other," said the Rector, Father Claude Grou, CSC. "To showcase it to the public, Saint Joseph's Oratory wants to receive the most creative ideas, while making the best use of public funds invested in the future of this exceptional building, the jewel of our heritage."

### **The competition**

The competition's rules and detailed schedule will be available through the Québec government's official bid system, the *Système électronique d'appel d'offres* (SEAO), starting next January.

The jury will include renowned professionals, including Mr. John R. Porter (former director of the Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec), Mr. Jason Long (architect and partner from OMA New York), Mr. Richard Fortin (architect, Bisson Fortin architecture), Mr. Carlo Carbone (architect and professor at UQÀM), Ms. Marie-Josée Deschênes (architect) and Mr. Jean Bundock (mechanical engineer).

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The next phase of Shrine's major development project includes the construction of a new reception pavilion, integrated into Mount Royal's topography, as well as the reconfiguration of the site's landscaping and improved lighting, which will begin in 2018 and continue for two years. This architectural competition will be the final phase of this project and is slated to start in 2020.

"Creating an observatory at the top of the Saint Joseph's Oratory's Basilica that offers a panoramic view of the city and region from Montréal's highest vista will meet the expectations often expressed by the Shrine's visitors and create a major tourist attraction for the city," added the Rector.

The major development project will require estimated investments of nearly \$80 million. The government of Canada will contribute nearly \$22 million and the government of Québec will contribute nearly \$31 million. Government contributions stem from the Fonds Chantiers Canada-Québec, Grands Projets and the Programme d'infrastructures Québec-Municipalités. The City of Montréal also confirmed a \$10 million contribution. With the support of its Foundation, Saint Joseph's Oratory will assume the remaining costs, totalling over \$16 million.

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**Source:**

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