

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



PRIX | Jovette - Marchessault

6th edition of the Jovette-Marchessault Award Launch of call for applications for women playwrights

Montreal, Thursday, November 21, 2024 — The Conseil des arts de Montréal (CAM) and Théâtre ESPACE GO, in collaboration with members of the Award Development Committee,* are pleased to announce the call for applications for the 6th Jovette-Marchessault Award, which recognizes and showcases the contribution of women artists from Montréal's theatre scene. The recipient of the award receives a \$20,000 grant from the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

The 2024-2025 call for applications is open to female playwrights, for original creations, rewrites or artistic adaptations only. It opens today and closes at midnight on Monday, January 22, 2025. The dates, details and rules of the award will be shared on Thursday on this website page: <https://espacego.com/prix-jovette-marchessault/>. Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and originality of the artistic approach. The impact of the artists' artistic works on the development of theatre practice will also be considered. The jury will consist of professional artists representing the diversity of theatre practices.

The three finalists will be announced on Monday **April 21, 2025**.

The winner will be announced on Monday, **May 5, 2025**.

Calls for applications for this annual award vary on a three-year rotation based on the candidates' artistic roles, alternating between directors, designers and playwrights. The latest 2023-2024 edition rewarded theatrical designers: Linda Brunelle - award winner -, Elen Ewing and Sonoyo Nishikawa. In previous editions, directors Catherine Vidal (2019) and Alexia Burger (2022), designer Nancy Tobin (2020) and author Marie Leofeli Romero (2021) each won the grand prize in their respective categories. Finalists Catherine Bourgeois, Pol Pelletier, Sophie El Assad, Claude Rodrigue, Fanny Britt, Rébecca Déraspe, Mélanie Demers and Marie-Eve Huot all received a plane ticket to Paris, courtesy of Air Transat.

Objectives of the award

- Showcase women artists' contribution to the development of theatre arts and the vitality of Montréal's theatre scene
- Recognize the excellence of their work
- Highlight an artistic approach that contributes to the development of theatre practice, whether as a director, designer or playwright

Eligibility

Any professional creator who identifies as a woman, works in the theatre and is recognized by her peers, regardless of her number of years of experience, and who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident on the date of submission is eligible. Applicants must also reside on the Island of Montréal or, for Indigenous creators only, within 50 km of the Island of Montréal (including the Kahnawake and Kanésatake communities) and work on the Island of Montréal.

Award background

In 2018, one of the priorities the Conseil des arts de Montréal included in its 2018–2020 Strategic Plan was *to achieve better balance between genders, notably for male-female parity within the artistic community.*

To this end, the Conseil helped fund ESPACE GO's Chantier féministe, a week-long event on the place of women in theatre, held in the spring of 2019. At this event, the theatre community agreed that an award should be created specifically *to recognize the outstanding work of women in theatre and to raise the profile of women theatre artists*. On the same occasion, the Conseil's Executive Director, Nathalie Maillé, expressed an interest in receiving proposals regarding the creation of the award.

Several partners (CAM, ESPACE GO, Imago Theatre, Théâtre de l'Affamée and artists associated with the F.E.T. movement) joined forces to make the new award a reality. All the stakeholders agreed that the award should be named for the inspiring woman artist Jovette Marchessault (1938–2012), a Montréal novelist, poet, playwright, painter and sculptor. Starting with the second edition, new members joined the original partners serving on the Award Development Committee. They were artists Nahka Bertrand, Margarita Herrera Dominguez and Lior Maharjan.

*Jovette-Marchessault Award Development Committee members: Nahka Bertrand, Micheline Chevrier, Margarita Herrera Dominguez, Lior Maharjan and Marie-Ève Milot



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SOURCE

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