

16 crucial grants | \$295,000 to support diverse theatrical stories in Quebec



Intercultural Conversations–Conversations Interculturelles

Encouraging theatrical dialogue between the various cultures in Montreal

MONTREAL, October 2026 – Continuing the promotion of diversity at the core of the Cole Foundation's **Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles** program, Foundation President **Nancy Wells** is proud to announce the latest round of grant winners. An ongoing success with ever-increasing applicants, [Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles](#) was created to motivate the production of professional theatre that features intercultural dialogue and introduces Montrealers to other cultural heritages. For this recent spring competition, sixteen companies were given invaluable grants to share diverse and inclusive theatrical stories in Greater Montreal for a total of **\$295,000** for the 2026-27 season, as well as added funding for post-show audience talkbacks to continue the conversation initiated in the play. **Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles** awards funding for commissioning, producing and translating eligible plays.

From Nancy Wells, Foundation President, "For 18 years, the **Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles** program has supported work that brings people together, challenges assumptions, and deepens mutual understanding. This spring we received a record 33 applications — a reflection of just how vital and needed this kind of storytelling has become. This grant cycle also reflects a deepening commitment to Indigenous voices, with five of the 16 funded projects centering Indigenous stories and perspectives. Together with productions rooted in Haitian, Algerian, Latino, Lebanese Canadian, Afro-Latino, Ukrainian, Colombian Canadian, Ivorian, Chilean, Black Canadian and Jewish-Arab narratives, the works reflect the breadth of lived experience across Montreal and beyond. These projects make a meaningful impact in our communities."

The Cole Foundation is proud to encourage theatre-makers to share cultures, histories and stories on stage and ignite dialogue between communities. The winning plays of this latest competition offer touring shows, solo shows, youth theatre, long-time established companies and independents, and encompass a wide array of heritages, languages and identities. They present a range of theatrical styles and themes, including an immersive sound experience, comedy, poetry, autobiography, intergenerational trauma, drama, puppetry, cultural celebrations, the refugee journey to integration, mythology, exile and intergeneration immigrant identity, and colonial history's complex legacies, among others.

Recipients of the latest competition

PRODUCTION grant awards go to: **Geordie Theatre-** *Nohkom's Knick-Knacks* by Barry Bilinsky; **Imago Theatre-** *Akuteu* by Soleil Launière (translation by Mishka Lavigne); **Orange Noyée-** *Neige sur Abidjan* by Iannicko N'Doua; **Les Productions Menuentakuan-** *Femmes de la traite des fourrures / Women of the Fur Trade* by Frances Koncan; **Teesri**

Duniya Theatre- *The Green Line* by Makram Ayache; **Collectif Théâtral Potomitan-** *MENAJ* by Maryline Chery; **Espace Libre-** *Le syndrome du gisant* by Pauline Ben Guigui; **La Veille-** *Rien n'est à Nous* by Maxime Mompérousse; **Le PàP-** *Paradis Ébène* by Phara Thibault; **Productions Ondinnok-** *Espotewset / La reine ourse* by Dave Jenniss; **Simon Riverin-** *Ka Uinaksheshet* - les enfants sales; **Théâtre de la Sentinelle-** *Chilling!?! by Lyndz Dantiste*; **Théâtre Denise-Pelletier-** *Là où je me terre* by Nathalie Doummar, adaptation d'après le roman de Caroline Dawson; and **Trois Tristes Tigres-** *Nous, dans les plaines immenses* by Olivier Kemeid

COMMISSIONING grant for: **Mariana Tayler Gomez-** *Quinceañera*.

There are two annual **Intercultural Conversations-Conversations Interculturelles** grants, in October and April. The deadline for the next competition for the award is **Friday, October 16, 2026 at 5:00pm**. Theatre companies interested in applying for a grant can download the necessary application forms and information from the Cole Foundation's web site at:

www.colefoundation.ca/en/programmes/intercultural-conversations/

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If you would like to interview Nancy Wells, Cole Foundation President, or any of the theatre companies-

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