

## STATEMENT

Avenir des secteurs Marconi-Alexandra, Atlantic,  
Beaumont, De Castelnau (PDUES)

- \* You can submit an audio or video statement (CD or DVD) by mail
- \* You can also submit your statement (pdf/audio/video) at the following website:  
<http://ocpm.qc.ca/inscriptions>

Who are you? *Please write legibly.*

Eastern Bloc is an exhibition and arts production centre dedicated to New Media and interdisciplinary art. The vision at Eastern Bloc is to explore and push the creative boundaries in digital and electronic arts, audio/video installation, multimedia performance and other emerging practices. The organization's mandate is to support the work of emerging artists by providing them with an exchange platform with more established artists, allowing them to gain access to a larger body of spectators and to a network of established art organizations and professionals in the milieu. Founded in 2007 by Eliane Ellbogen and Sandor Poloskei, the organization's Artistic Director and past Technical Director, Eastern Bloc fills a void in the professional art milieu in Montreal, as there are currently no other artist-run centres or art spaces that cater specifically to young artists or post-graduates in the first five years of their professional career working in New Media and related disciplines. Eastern Bloc is a member of : the Regroupement des centres d'artistes autogéré du Québec, the Conseil québécois des arts médiatiques and Culture Montréal. We would like to thank CDEC-Centre Nord, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the City of Montreal, Emploi-Québec and the Foundation of Greater Montreal for their support of various projects over the years.

What are your opinions and concerns about the plan for the future of the Marconi-Beaumont district (PDUES)? *Please write legibly.*

Eastern Bloc is concerned about the ways in which the new residential projects will affect the neighbourhood. We would like to continue providing quality artistic programming, but find that our building is being asked to re-zone as commercial and residential – not simply commercial – which is how the building has been used for five years. We have asked repeatedly to rezone as commercial and the landlord has stated that they do not want to change the building to partially residential. We want to know where the people in our building will go if we are rezoned as mixed use. And with thousands of new residents in the neighbourhood, what are they going to do – we are one of the few, and oldest art spaces in the neighbourhood, and we have a history of working with the residential community. We are concerned about pressure to move to make way for residential developments.

Name: Eastern Bloc

Eastern Bloc is equally concerned about the lack of green space in our neighbourhood. We would like to see our alley opened into a park and to decrease speed and traffic on our street. There is no bike parking near us, nor bike paths, yet much of our neighbourhood relies on bikes to do their day-to-day commuting. We are concerned about the quality and quantity of bike paths being proposed.

**What are your suggestions and comments to improve the project?**

*Please write legibly.*

Eastern Bloc is committed to working with the city to develop our neighbourhood in a sustainable and community-friendly way. We understand this to mean working with CURRENT tenants to author new spaces that respond to current needs before catering to the desires of FUTURE tenants. As such we would like to see:

1. Better road traffic – through rezoning roads.
2. More mixed use buildings – so the places like Eastern Bloc can continue to create and promote programming
3. Bike parking
4. Bike lanes that reflect current bike traffic patterns.