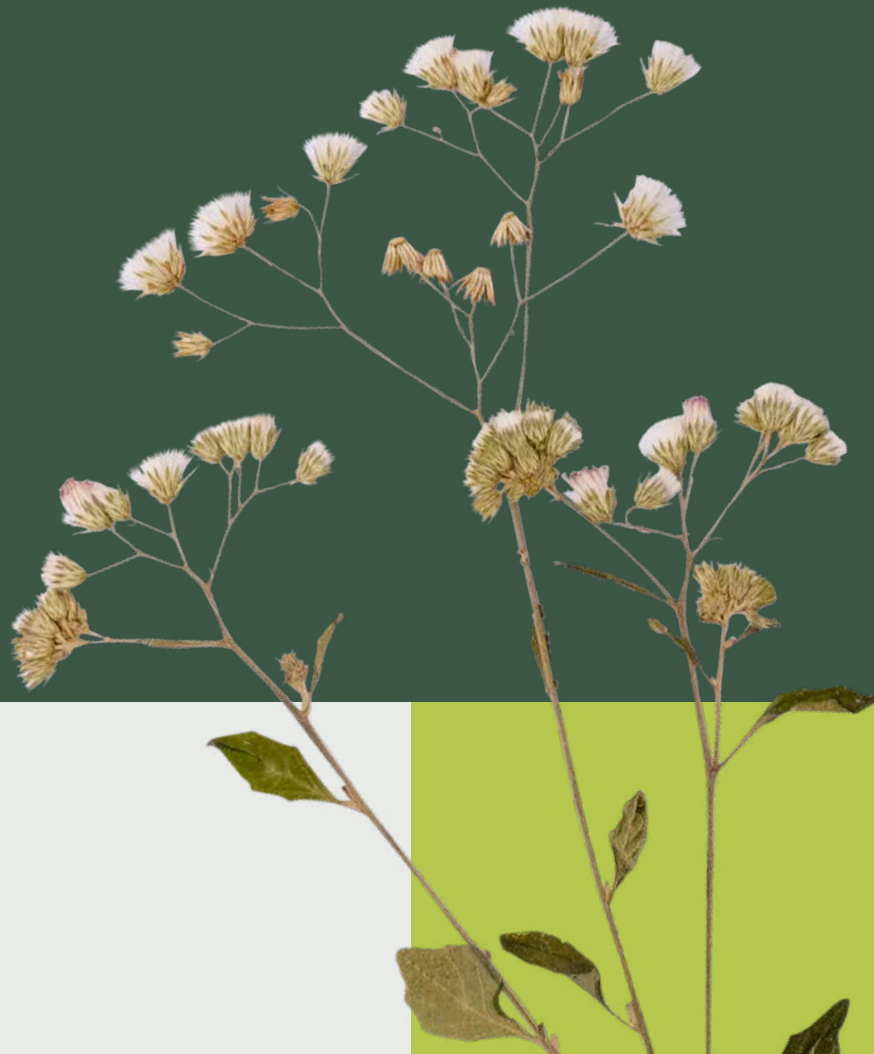


2026-2036 CULTURAL POLICY
OF THE CITY OF DORVAL

A rooted culture that inspires, unites, and transforms



DORVAL

A Word from the Mayor

It is with immense pride that we present Dorval's very first Cultural Policy. This project was born from a shared vision between our City Council and our community: to restore culture and heritage to the place they deserve in our collective life.

The time has come to revitalize culture in Dorval. Our community stands out for its dynamism and creativity, and this policy aims to give it the space it needs to grow and shine even brighter. Rooted in Dorval's reality while looking toward the future, it positions culture as a true driver of transformation and pride.

This policy is built on the engagement of our teams, our cultural sector, and the entire community. Together, we are taking concrete steps to develop infrastructure, strengthen expertise, and secure the recognition and funding Dorval deserves. More than a document, this is a vision—a vision of a city where culture inspires, unites, and transforms.

I would like to warmly thank all the individuals and organizations who contributed to the development of this policy. Thanks to your commitment, we are taking an important step toward making culture a central pillar of our City's growth.

Marc Doret
Mayor of Dorval

A Word from Our Team

Dear residents of Dorval,

We are pleased to present the first Cultural Policy of Dorval for 2026–2036. This document is the result of rigorous work, enriched by an extensive citizen consultation process that engaged several hundred residents, as well as the sustained commitment of a diverse and dedicated steering committee.

This policy reflects a shared vision: that of a dynamic, inclusive culture deeply rooted in its territory. In Dorval, culture is far more than a means of expression—it is a driver of development, a tool for social cohesion, and a source of collective pride.

In a context where future challenges may seem complex, culture proves to be a powerful engine of resilience. It brings people together, inspires, and creates connections. It enables us to build a strong, harmonious community oriented toward the future.

The outcome of this tremendous collective effort is a tool that will allow the City of Dorval to give real momentum to cultural development within its territory. We invite you to view this policy as a strategic asset for Dorval, one that carries meaning and possibilities. Together, let us make culture a shared reflex, a pillar of our development, and a living legacy for future generations.

Julie Mahoney

Director – Leisure and Culture

Mélina Morin

Division Chief – Library and Culture

Context

The City of Dorval is taking a major step forward by adopting its very first Cultural Policy. This initiative reflects the recognition of culture as a pillar of community vitality, local identity, and sustainable development.

Born of a collaborative and inclusive approach, the policy was shaped through broad participation from the community and the commitment of an engaged steering committee. Residents, artists, cultural organizations, institutions, and economic and social partners were invited to share their vision and contribute to the discussion. This collective effort helped identify Dorval's cultural needs, strengths, and ambitions, while laying the foundation for a shared commitment in the years ahead.

At the heart of this policy lies the desire to strengthen the sense of belonging by highlighting the history, stories, landscapes, and heritage that shape Dorval's identity. It positions culture as a strategic lever for social and economic development—promoting inclusion, supporting creative initiatives, and contributing to the well-being of residents. Whether through improved infrastructure, showcasing local artists, or hosting unifying events, Dorval affirms its commitment to investing in culture as a driver of collective development.

By its very nature, this policy is transversal, integrated into all municipal actions, and invites every service and stakeholder to consider culture as an essential component of the territory's development. Far more than a simple planning tool, Dorval's Cultural Policy is a statement of intent, a framework for action, and a call for collaboration. It embodies a shared vision of a cultural environment that is vibrant, accessible, bold, and deeply rooted in its territory—serving the entire community.

This Cultural Policy also aligns with and complements Dorval's Strategic Planning – 2033 Vision, adopted in June 2024. It is further connected to the Parks and Recreational Buildings Master Plan, as well as the City of Dorval's Action Plan for Universal Inclusion.



→ Artwork from the exhibition by students of école Dorval-Jean-XXIII
© City of Dorval



→ Dancing at sunset © City of Dorval

A Brief History

Located on the shores of Lake Saint-Louis, the territory of Dorval was long a place of passage and exchange for Indigenous peoples. In the 17th century, the Sulpicians established a missionary post on this land, marking the beginning of structured colonial development. The mission of La Présentation-de-la-Sainte-Vierge, founded in 1667, was part of a dynamic of settlement and landscape transformation. From its earliest days, this meeting point played a strategic role in the region's development.

→ Grand Trunk Railway Station in 1901



→ CP station around 1948

Over the centuries, Dorval evolved slowly, maintaining a rural character until the early 20th century. Its land, well-suited for agriculture and located along the expanding railway network, attracted Montrealers seeking a summer retreat. The arrival of the railway in the second half of the 19th century encouraged the construction of secondary residences and stimulated residential development.

It was in the 1940s, however, that Dorval underwent a major transformation with the creation of the airport. This vast complex spurred urban, economic, and demographic growth, as the city rapidly urbanized to meet increasing needs for housing, services, and infrastructure.

Proud of its past, Dorval today combines heritage and innovation, giving it a unique identity. The city has preserved green spaces, human-scale residential neighbourhoods, and a rich community life. Over time, it has become a bilingual, inclusive, and welcoming city.

Dorval at a Glance

Dorval is a bilingual and increasingly diverse community, experiencing moderate growth with an age structure slightly higher than the provincial average. It has a population with advantageous income levels and a low poverty rate. Its growing diversity (28% are visible minorities) and bilingual status are integral parts of its socio-economic profile. (All statistics are drawn from the 2021 Census by Statistics Canada.)

Population:

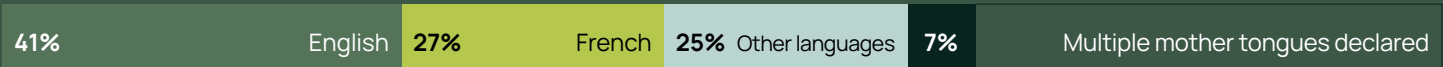
19,302 residents, across a territory of 20.91 km²

Age group	Population	Percentage
0-14 years	2,655	13.8%
15-64 years	12,595	65.3%
65 and over	4,050	21.0%

Visible Minorities:
28% of the population

Montréal Agglomeration:
38.8%

Mother Tongue:



Average Income:

Average household
income before taxes:
\$110,700

Montréal Agglomeration:
\$98,400

Average income
per person before taxes:
\$52,550

Montréal Agglomeration:
\$44,280

10.1%
of the population lives below
the low-income threshold

Montréal Agglomeration:
11%

Education:

- No diploma: **6.6%**
- High school diploma or equivalent: **20.0%**
- Postsecondary certificate or diploma (non-university): **27.3%**
- University certificate below bachelor's level: **4.5%**
- University degree (bachelor's or higher): **41.6%**

The Path Toward a First Cultural Policy

Dorval's Cultural Policy is the result of a collaborative and inclusive process, supported by:

- A representative steering committee composed of elected officials, community organization representatives, artists, and municipal employees;
- An internal and external diagnostic developed with stakeholders;
- An online consultation with 375 respondents;
- Public consultations and focus groups that gathered input from nearly 100 individuals: artists and artisans, entrepreneurs, seniors, teenagers, associations, and community organizations;
- A reflection workshop with municipal employees.



→ Library on the Go at Ballantyne Park
© City of Dorval



→ Storytime at the Holiday Craft Corner © City of Dorval

The City of Dorval sincerely thanks all those who contributed to the development of this first Cultural Policy. Your generous participation, ideas, expertise, and commitment enriched every step of the process.

Special thanks go to the members of the steering committee, artists, residents, cultural organizations, institutions, as well as economic and social partners who took part in consultations, shared their vision, and contributed to the collective reflection.

This policy reflects your voices, your aspirations, and your attachment to culture. Thanks to you, Dorval is embarking on a promising, open, and inclusive path.



→ Learning pottery © City of Dorval

Steering Committee Members:

- **Marc Doret**, Mayor
- **Paul Trudeau**, District 1 municipal councillor
- **Robert (Bob) Le Sage**, District 3 municipal councillor from 2017 to 2025
- **Christopher von Roretz**, District 5 municipal councillor
- **Jean-François Leroux**, District 6 municipal councillor from 2021 to 2025
- **Sylvain Caron**, Music Department, école secondaire Dorval-Jean-XXIII
- **Louise Claude**, Surrey Knitters
- **Bruno Cognyl-Fournier**, Lakeshore Light Opera
- **Michel Hébert**, Dorval Historical Society
- **Margo Heron**, The Friends of the Library
- **Alexa Keleutak**, Saturviit Inuit Women's Association of Nunavik
- **Laurence Laplante**, Art Hive
- **Gaétane Lemieux**, Dorval Artists Association
- **Samuel Létourneau and Marianne Trenka**, circus and street performance artists, at M. Trenka Productions and Chez Fun Fou
- **Vanessa Michaud**, Dorval Museum of History and Local Heritage
- **Julie Mahoney**, Leisure and Culture Department, City of Dorval
- **Méina Morin, Karine Lacoursière, and Gail Warren**, Library and Culture Division, City of Dorval
- **Annie Bélanger**, Sports and Facilities Division, City of Dorval
- **Pamela Bautista and Annick Charest**, Communications and Citizen Relations Department, City of Dorval
- **Valérie Vivier, Vincianne Falkner and Lydia Pache-Hébert**, Zeste Conseils

Our Challenges for the Future

As Dorval's first Cultural Policy, this document outlines the broad strokes of a long-term vision, recognizing that it is impossible to act on all fronts at once. To address the main challenges, strategic choices have been made—choices that can endure over time by fostering collaboration with the community's key stakeholders.

Making Culture a Driver of Transversality

Culture is not limited to a single sector or artistic events. It permeates all areas of municipal action: land-use planning, economic development, education, social inclusion, and the environment. By integrating culture into decisions and projects, we aim to promote approaches that are meaningful and deeply rooted.



→ Mural artist Boris Biberdzic at the Dorval Library © City of Dorval

Improving Our Infrastructure

Accessible, well-maintained, and adapted cultural infrastructure is essential to support citizen participation, host events, and enable cultural actors to thrive. Whether it is the library, performance halls, public spaces, or cultural venues, improving these facilities helps democratize access to culture, strengthen social cohesion, and enliven community life.



→ Cabaret Night with Connie Kaldor © City of Dorval

Continuing to Protect and Pass On Our Heritage to Future Generations

Heritage—both tangible and intangible—represents our living memory. By protecting and showcasing our historic buildings, stories, traditions, and landscapes, we seek to reinforce the sense of belonging and identity, so that future generations can draw inspiration, find reference points, and recognize their history.

Recognizing and Attracting Artists and Cultural Organizations

Encouraging the presence and integration of artists within the territory stimulates local creation, enriches cultural life, and nurtures collective imagination. This involves providing suitable creative spaces, multiplying opportunities for dissemination, offering artist residencies, and supporting experimentation. Welcoming artists also means acknowledging their driving role in the vitality and innovation of the community.

Promoting Local Culture

The work of artists, cultural organizations, and artisans deserves greater recognition and visibility. It is important to multiply opportunities for exposure, communication, and connection between the public and creators. Better recognition also requires effective communication and close collaboration with numerous community partners.

Vision

Driven by
the entire community,

culture in Dorval is a source of pride
and lies at the heart of its development.

Dynamic, accessible,
and inclusive,

it fosters personal growth,
strengthens the sense of belonging,
and encourages participation from
the whole community.

Bold, visible,
and forward-looking,

it is built by celebrating its
achievements in close collaboration
with local stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

1. A Culture with Deep Roots

Dorval's Cultural Policy is rooted in its history, landscapes, and community. It celebrates a strong local identity and builds bridges between communities through its openness to the world.

2. An Inclusive and Accessible Culture

Dorval makes inclusion and diversity a priority. Cultural participation is encouraged for the entire community by creating conditions that foster access, engagement for all, and the plurality of voices and expressions.

3. A Culture Based on Collaboration

Dorval relies on the active participation of key community stakeholders to enrich cultural projects and strengthen their local roots. Actors from various sectors contribute to shaping a rich, shared, and mobilizing cultural life.

4. A Bold and Creative Culture

By embracing creativity, risk-taking, and openness to new approaches, Dorval promotes initiatives that encourage discovery, dialogue, spark collective imagination, and help make culture a shared reflex.

5. A Culture Rooted in Its Territory

Dorval recognizes culture as an essential lever for sustainable development. It adopts a responsible, local, and intergenerational approach to embed cultural initiatives in environmental preservation, the promotion of knowledge and know-how, and collective well-being.

Three Main Strategic Directions



DIRECTION 1:

A Strong and Integrated Cultural Commitment

DIRECTION 2:

An Engaging, Vibrant, and Accessible Culture

DIRECTION 3:

A Dynamic Cultural Ecosystem

Direction 1:

A Strong and Integrated Cultural Commitment

In Dorval, we consider culture to be a vital driver of municipal development—a transversal lever valued across all areas of intervention to strengthen local identity, inspire innovation, and enrich the community's quality of life.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Integrate a cultural and heritage perspective into all decisions, projects, and public policies.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Develop and improve cultural infrastructure to support the creation and dissemination of arts, culture, heritage, and cultural leisure activities.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Promote access to culture and heritage in public spaces throughout the territory and fully integrate them into residents' daily lives.



→ Creation of the mural "Souvenirs" by artist Aless MC at the Edgar Rouleau Arena © MU

OBJECTIVE 4:

Protect, preserve, and showcase heritage to strengthen pride, collective identity, and transmit local history.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Reinforce the role of the City of Dorval as a driver of cultural development by catalyzing collaboration among partners and fostering citizen participation and ownership.



→ Dorval Museum of Local History and Heritage
© Montréal Museums – Patrice Lamoureux

Direction 2:

An Engaging, Vibrant, and Accessible Culture

This strategic direction places the cultural experience at the heart of life in Dorval. It aims to make cultural venues open, vibrant, and welcoming spaces that foster encounters, learning, creation, and citizen participation. Dorval seeks to diversify its cultural offerings, multiply formats and opportunities, and improve accessibility for all audiences.

OBJECTIVE 6:

Position cultural venues and spaces as living environments for learning, creation, and social interaction.

OBJECTIVE 7:

Diversify and enrich the cultural offering to promote access, discovery, and citizen participation by encouraging exchanges, transmission, and intergenerational sharing.

OBJECTIVE 8:

Promote the democratization of culture and the development of inclusive, community-based events.



→ Nathan and Émilie, Reading Buddies at the Dorval Library © City of Dorval

OBJECTIVE 9:

Recognize, support, and highlight volunteer engagement as an essential driver of local cultural vitality.

OBJECTIVE 10:

Make heritage a living lever for transmission, belonging, and dialogue between generations, cultures, and eras by showcasing the diversity of stories and know-how.

OBJECTIVE 11:

Increase the visibility and accessibility of cultural venues, offerings, and activities, and energize programming by multiplying hybrid events to enrich the public experience.



→ Rhythms of the World at Dorval Celebrates © City of Dorval

Direction 3:

A Dynamic Cultural Ecosystem

OBJECTIVE 12:

Support and recognize local cultural actors through enhanced collaboration, updated recognition mechanisms, and adapted funding models.

OBJECTIVE 13:

Encourage the evolution of cultural practices, collaboration between sectors, openness to new audiences, and a diversity of cultural expressions.

A strong cultural environment relies on solid relationships, structured support, and clear recognition of those who bring it to life. Dorval seeks to strengthen its cultural ecosystem by valuing artists, organizations, and cultural workers, fostering collaboration across sectors, and supporting the emergence of new practices.



→ Artist at work © City of Dorval

OBJECTIVE 14:

Create opportunities to promote the participation of local artists in the cultural offering.



→ Circus, street arts, and music in the park © City of Dorval

Looking Toward the Future

This policy marks a starting point: a strong commitment to artists, citizens, and partners, grounded in action, dialogue, and continuous evolution. It outlines the broad strokes of an ambitious cultural vision while remaining open to new ideas, emerging initiatives, and the changing realities of the community.

By drawing on the strengths of the territory and fostering collaboration, Dorval affirms its intention to make culture a shared asset—a driver of social cohesion and a lever for sustainable development. This policy invites everyone to take part in this collective dynamic: artists, organizations, institutions, citizens, visitors, elected officials, and municipal employees.

Building a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable culture means choosing to place imagination, creativity, and heritage at the heart of everyday life. It also means recognizing the richness of voices, the diversity of paths, and the strength of shared memory. By harnessing this momentum, Dorval aspires to a culture rooted in its territory, open to the world, and capable of shining far beyond its borders.

To bring this vision to life, the Cultural Policy will be accompanied by an action plan that translates its strategic directions into tangible measures, driven by collaboration, the mobilization of local stakeholders, and a constant focus on adaptability.

This policy is therefore a tool, a reference point, and a call to act together so that culture continues to evolve, unite, and inspire.