

Open Kitchen

Cuisine Ouverte

How can we better inform the community about the possibilities in the **adaptive reuse of vacant buildings?**



Building Façade

Covered with tarp for projection



Advertising Projection

Rotating animation before event (15 sec. interval)



Open Data Projection

Typographic animation during event (15 sec. interval)



Open Kitchen

We are using this vacant building to serve food to the less fortunate during the month of May 2023.

23 day(s), 73 hour(s), 3 second(s) left

Open Kitchen

There are 43 vacant buildings in the Ville-Marie borough.

23 day(s), 73 hour(s), 4 minute(s), 53 second(s) left

Open Kitchen May 23rd 2023

436

Open Kitchen May 23rd 2023

This month, we received 436 returns and 53 newcomers. 843 plates were served.

Open Kitchen May 23rd 2023

43 buildings in the Ville-Marie borough are currently vacant, therefore can accommodate our ephemeral kitchen.

To date, we received 1093 people.



Focused Location

Ville-Marie borough



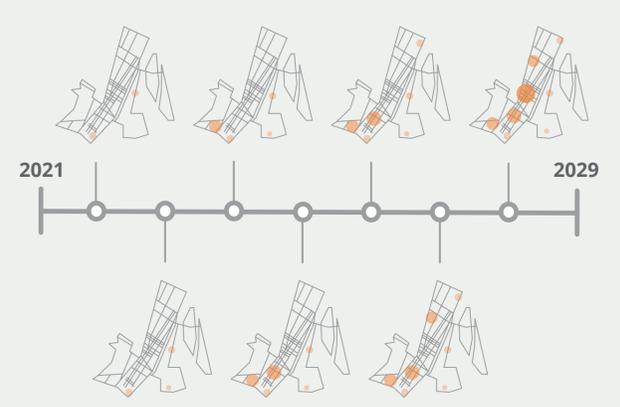
Numbered Cards

RFID Technology



Cumulative Data

Homeless population density



What is Open Kitchen?

Using the data on vacant buildings in the Ville-Marie borough, *Open Kitchen* will collect data to quantify homelessness in Montreal in a non-intrusive manner. Creating safe spaces using vacant buildings as designated venues will humanize the experience of a soup kitchen, while collecting quantitative data that will be open for the public and the government to use. Data collected will be live streamed as a projection onto the tarps to inform the passersby.

What are the project objectives?

The project seeks to help the homeless population, provide reliable data for the government and educate the general population about the disparity or injustice in the amount of vacant buildings there are in Montreal and how the spaces could be repurposed temporarily to benefit the homeless population. This data will offer a better understanding as to where community soup kitchens should be located to be most effective and accessible. Understanding where there is a more dense concentration of homeless individuals will inform the localization of new soup kitchens to be more efficient in their positioning in Ville-Marie; a borough with a relatively high population of homeless individuals.

Why is it needed?

The latest and most accurate data collected found there to be, as of April of 2018, 3149 homeless individuals living on the island of Montreal (Latimer).

The Homeless Hub, a research library and information center targeted specifically to the homeless, expressed their dissatisfaction regarding this ongoing epidemic stating that "there has never been a concerted, coordinated or consistent effort to enumerate homelessness in Canada" ("How Many"). As this population is nomadic by definition, it is naturally very difficult to understand the distribution of density in the city. Our project will therefore be able to, not only collect non-intrusive and accurate data, but also understand the density distribution of the homeless population in the city so as to, in the future, be able to service and cater to a greater number of individuals with strategic emplacement of locations.

How does it work?

Members of the homeless population will be given a card that will enable them to get free meals provided by our community soup kitchen. Partnerships with local food recovery programs will need to be fostered in order to feed the community members using our service. Each card will be attributed a unique reference number which will serve as the identification of a homeless individual. The card will need to be scanned before every meal using an RFID Technology service which will enable us to collect data on the card number and therefore provide information on which individual is using the service, and subsequently, their general location in the city. The location where the card gets scanned the most will be indicative of the area with the highest homeless density in the city. Furthermore, the very nature of the card will help retain anonymity

but also ensure more accurate data collection seeing as information from the same individual cannot be duplicated.

Difficulties

This project could only take place once partnerships are created. We foresee that building owners will be interested in potential partnerships with proper incentives in place (municipal tax incentives for the month). For the time being, we intend to rent the first location using donations from the public.

Seeing as our service is proposing to feed the less fortunate, naturally, food and the preparation thereof, becomes a key component. We believe food recovery programs, which act as liaisons between community kitchens and food donation centers, are an important aspects to consider in the realization of this project. Since they are innately non-profit, we do not foresee difficulties in developing a partnership with such organizations.

We encountered a difficulty when it came to notifying the homeless individuals. As to not influence the density to one current location, the advertisement will be posted directly onto the building where the event is taking place to inform its surrounding population.

As the data is quantitative, we understand that our collection will not be representative of the number of homeless individuals at a specific time, but instead will show the progression over the course of a couple years.

