

Queer Inclusivity Mapped in Montréal

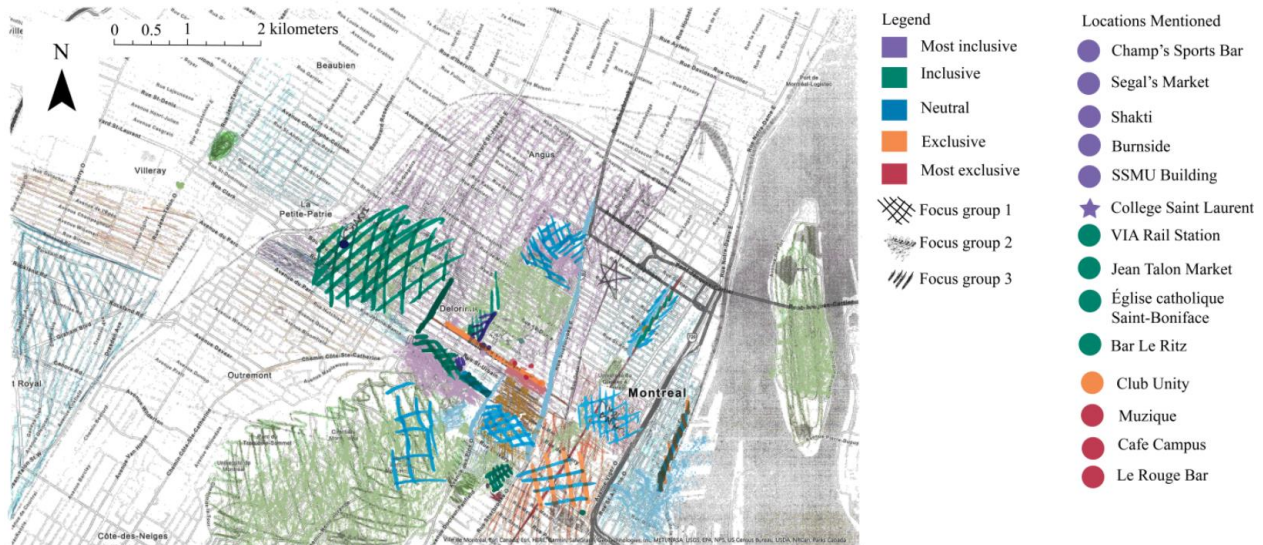
Julia Miracle

Department of Geography, McGill University, Montréal (Québec) Canada
2024

Supervisor: Professor Darius Scott

Gayborhoods have been a focus point for identifying queer communities and activities in a city. However, spaces beyond the boundaries of the gayborhood exist throughout many cities and serve a larger variety of LGBTQIA2S+ individuals. This research aims to understand perceptions of inclusivity in public space in Montréal, QC from the perspective of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. My study revealed that participants view queer inclusivity as visibly represented in a space. Through a combination of pedestrian-friendly street or park venues, and visibility of other queer individuals, the most inclusive spaces were found outside the boundaries of the typical gayborhood, known as The Village in Montréal. Instead, parks and streets in the Plateau and Mile End proved to be more inclusive spaces for participants. Numerous participants pointed to the subtle queer nature of Mile End and the Plateau. They valued the freedom to live openly without the pressure to declare their identity, but without the necessity to conceal it either. This thesis showed that inclusivity was not localized in one area of the city but rather found in pockets all throughout Montréal through hand mapping techniques and focus groups.

Inclusive Spaces in the Mile End, Le Plateau, and the Village in Montréal



(Source: Author's compilation of three focus group maps)