



March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010

## **La Cave Collective Vision Statement and Mandate**

The Collective operates a community bike workshop in the basement of Solin Hall, one of McGill Residences located in the St. Henri community. The workshop is intended to teach locals and students at McGill residences about bike maintenance and repair, as the majority of the students in the area use bicycles as their only mode of transport, as do a significant portion of local residents. The workshop consists of public accessible tools, and is staffed and administered entirely by volunteers. The volunteer mechanics on duty assist any users of the workshop and provide practical guidance and advice for the repair and maintenance of bicycles.

The workshop is also intended to help offset environmental damage caused by urban transportation and automobile commuting. By making bicycling a more accessible, reliable and cost-effective method of transportation for residents of the St. Henri community, the Collective will help reduce cars on the road and strain on urban infrastructure. In addition, the Collective hopes to encourage fitness and health among St. Henri residents by enabling them to incorporate healthy and active living into their daily lifestyles. By encouraging bicycles as a functional method of daily transportation, the Collective can help increase the health and wellbeing of local residents.

While the Collective operates from McGill residences, the organization is not affiliated with the university or residence administration, and is an independent entity. Operating on a completely not-for-profit basis, the Collective relies on private funding sources and donations to purchase tools and replacement parts for the workshop. By creating the community infrastructure to support cycling and wellbeing, the Collective can increase the number of regular cyclists and help improve the city of Montreal for all its residents.

The Collective authorizes the undersigned directors to act on behalf of the organization in all matters.

### **Directors**

Matthew Park

Danji Buck-Moore

Connor Bays

Jesse Bourns

## **I. Project Overview**

### **Project summary:**

La Cave Bike Workshop is a project being undertaken by La Cave Collective to create a fully functional and publicly accessible bicycle workshop in the basement of the Solin Hall annex. The Collective was formed in February 2010 for the purpose of encouraging bicycle use among Solin Hall residents, to create facilities to support cycling and alternative methods of transportation, and to promote community integration among Solin Hall students..

The project is the first Phase of the Collective's future goals, which include expansion and diversification of the services it offers. The Workshop will consist of three repair stands and all of the tools necessary for complete bicycle repair and maintenance. The shop will be staffed completely by volunteers drawn from the McGill and the Solin Hall community. The current team includes Solin Hall Floor Fellows as well as student cycling enthusiasts.

The objective of the project is to have an accessible workshop that is used to capacity and that encourages cycling among students. By creating the infrastructure necessary for sustainable bike use in the St. Henri area, we can promote cycling and sustainable living

### **Project eligibility:**

The creation of bicycle support facilities creates an atmosphere that supports alternative transport and encourages a culture centered on sustainable solutions to practical needs. Any addition to the network of bicycle-oriented infrastructure helps make the city a friendlier place for cyclists, which in turn promotes the use of bicycles over cars and fossil fuel powered public transit.

Currently, Solin Hall residents are faced with a shortfall in terms of their access to bicycle facilities. There are very few bicycle shops in the area, and other community workshops are too far to be practical for repairs. Faced with a broken bicycle, residents would have to carry their bike through the Metro to campus, or even farther to pay for a repair. With a local bike workshop, more students would be encouraged to ride bicycles, and learn how to repair and maintain their own. There are roughly 280 students that come to Solin each year, and each one that becomes involved in cycling in their first year at McGill will continue to use their bicycles in their subsequent years in Montreal. The construction of a workshop would greatly increase the popularity of cycling and put more bicycles on the road.

### **Timeframe/Milestones:**

The Bike Workshop is expected to be complete by the middle of September at the latest, though it is more likely to be complete by the first week of September. The only tasks that remain are to secure funds and purchase the necessary tools. Construction of the shop will take roughly one or two days with a team of volunteers, and so the parts and tools are the only step remaining to be completed.

Our workshop will be able to record the number of students that use the facility by registering each person as they enter. We expect to operate at close full capacity by the end of 2010, which would mean all of our repair stands being used during the opening hours. We would be able to serve between 20-30 users per session, and we will be able to expand our number of opening hours if we reach that goal.

### **Stakeholders:**

Stakeholders in the project include Solin Hall Floor Fellows, the Solin Hall Porter and Residence Directors and the Rez Council. The Solin Hall Porter and Directors will have to accommodate the work shop in terms of storage space. The Floor Fellows who will be affected are already involved, though others may be affected in terms of ensuring the space is being used safely. The Rez Council will eventually have some responsibility for the workshop, as they will be a tool in ensuring that work shop continues to function in later years. In addition, the Flat is involved, as the two organizations will find a structure for sharing resources and technical expertise.

All stakeholders in the project have been consulted, and are eager for the project to continue. The Porter and Directors are anxious to ensure that the best storage solution is found, but are in the process of arranging the most suitable area for the work shop. The Rez Council members are also eager for the project to continue, and are considering donating a small amount of money for building materials. All of the Floor Fellows are eager for the project to take place. A presentation has been made to the Flat, who are glad to have more cycling infrastructure in place, and another potential resource for experienced volunteers and spare tools. They also contributed knowledge on the budget and initial tool orders.

## **II. Project Implementation**

### **Tasks and Responsibilities:**

| <b>Type of Activity – Task</b> | <b>Estimated Time Required</b>    | <b>Group Member in Charge</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Parts and Tools ordering       | 1-4 hrs once funding is available | Jesse Bourns                  |
| Space cleaning                 | 4-6 hrs                           | All                           |
| 1shop construction             | 10-12 hrs                         | All+volunteers                |

## **V. Financials**

We are requesting \$5000 total. Our planned budget is \$4377.94, and we are asking for the remaining ~\$600 to meet any missed supplies, materials or tools that we will encounter in setting up the space, as well as some kind of till system for consumable parts.

Please see attached budget for detailed breakdown.

**Detailed revenues:**

| <b>Revenue Source</b>        | <b>Amount Requested</b> | <b>Confirmed?</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Sustainability Projects Fund | 5000                    | No                |
| Green Fund                   | 5000                    | No                |
| Mary Brown Fund              | 1000                    | No                |

**VI. Additional information:**

Project leader has had experience as a bike mechanic, and is an avid cyclist. In addition, he has been working in an organizational role for the past year, as a Fundraising Administrator for a non-profit society. This experience has given him some background in operating a not-for-profit group, as well as organizing volunteers and workers. Other project members also have experience as bicycle mechanics, as well as a great deal of practical knowledge necessary for building and maintaining a work shop and space.

A similar McGill-based project that functions in a similar fashion is the Flat, which is a bike collective that serves the McGill campus. While the organizational structure of the two groups may differ, the basic principle of helping students to maintain their bikes and learn how to repair them is common for both of them.