

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

This year, our board was comprised of all new members, and there was a steep learning curve to get everyone up-to-speed with the history and mandate of the organization. While a few board members resigned throughout the year due to personal reasons or lack of capacity, we did manage to recruit an additional member mid-term. We are lucky to have several board members re-running for the 2024 term, which will help us to continue the important work we started this year.

This year, the board of CUTV focused on staff and internal system development. We implemented a standardized staff review system to improve the working relationship between staff, the board, and management. This involved launching an internal and colleague survey so staff could review their own role, their colleagues, and management. The results of these surveys were brought into a staff review with a board member and supervisor to discuss the results, areas of success, and areas of improvement.

We also launched a membership survey to help better understand how we can better serve and support local independent journalists, alternative media producers, and the Concordia community. This is an evergreen survey that can be used annually to gather insight from our members on CUTV services and programming.

CUTV staff were very successful in fundraising this year. Through a successful application with CACTUS, we were able to hire two new staff members to work on our news show, Local 514. This funding also allowed CUTV to launch a new in-house news talk show, Metropolis.

Through other grants and wage subsidies, CUTV was able to hire two more staff members to help with equipment, in-house production, and live streaming. These fundraising initiatives have significantly contributed to CUTV's capacity and the organization's overall ability to achieve its mission and meet its mandate.

The blocking of news links by social media companies following Bill C-18 has not yet come for CUTV. This may be a situation in which our modest size and reach have worked in our favor. CUTV has become a centerpiece in local social movement coverage, from protests around Bill 61 to the genocide in Palestine. CUTV's on-the-ground reporting and ability for quick turnaround is serving local movements and building a reputation of providing relevant, critical coverage when it matters most.

I have appreciated the opportunity to bring my experience as a former staff member to the board, and have endeavored to take a strong, staff-first approach to my role. I want to thank the current staff, old and new, for their tenacity, creativity, organization, and commitment to realizing CUTV's vision for an independent and alternative local news ecosystem in Montreal. It has been exciting to watch CUTV grow into a hub for visionary journalism and media production, and I look forward to what the future will bring.



**Emma Austin**

President Community-U niversity  
Television, November 16, 2023

# EDUCATION AND EVENTS AT CUTV

Technical training,  
networking, and  
community building

**150**  
Estimated  
Participants

**9**  
Total  
Events

Since our last AGM, CUTV has hosted 9 events:

- ✓ Say no to Aramark screening at Reggies (November. 23rd 2022) – 50+attendees
- ✓ Video editing Workshop with Aude Simon (November. 30th, 2022) – 7 participants
- ✓ Lighting 101(February. 7th) – 10 participants
- ✓ Video editing part two (February. 13th) – 7 participants
- ✓ Audio recording 101(Thursday, March. 9th) – 10 participants
- ✓ From the Gulf War to Palestine: Recognizing Misinformation in the Media with Savanna Craig from Local 514in collaboration with QPIRG McGill (March. 15th) – 8 participants
- ✓ Grassroots Video Journalism training day (September. 23rd) – 15 participants
- ✓ Demystifying TV Production with Katie Leggitt (Friday, October. 6th, 2023) – 10 participants
- ✓ Second Media Mixer (Wednesday, October. 18th, 2023) – 30+attendees





**GRASSROOTS VIDEO JOURNALISM 101**

SATURDAY 11:00AM-1:00PM

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT SAY NO TO ARAMARK**

SAY YES TO SUSTAINABLY SOURCED FOOD

JOIN US FOR A SCREENING OF CUTV'S NO MORE ARAMARK EXPLAINER VIDEO

November 22nd 4-6pm Room 100

**CUTV**

**CUTV**

WITH JONATHAN DELA VEGA

**LIGHTING 101**

Struggling with your shoots not being properly lit? Join us at CUTV's Downtown Studio for a beginner-friendly workshop on all things lighting.

Thursday, Feb. 7th 4-5pm | 4th Floor Marquee

SPOTS ARE LIMITED! GET YOUR SEAT HERE FIRST IN EARLY FEB. AT [WWW.CUTV.ORG](http://WWW.CUTV.ORG)

Spots available at CUTV as many as we can! We understand! Reserve your seat now!

**CUTV WINTER WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

with Jonathan Della Vega

2/7 LIGHTING WORKSHOP

with Audio Simon

2/13 VIDEO EDITING 2.0

with Pascal Huynh

3/9 AUDIO WORKSHOP

**How to edit**

with Audio Simon

If you're interested in post-production, join us for the basics of video editing software at this beginner-friendly tutorial.

3rd Floor Marquee, 4th Floor Westwing, Thursday 4-5pm

Register via email: [info@cutvnews.org](mailto:info@cutvnews.org)

**CUTV**

**AUDIO 101 TUTORIAL**

WITH PASCAL HUYNH

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH SOUND IN YOUR VIDEOS?

Join us for an informative yet engaging & friendly workshop that will help you achieve the perfect sound!

Presented by Pascal Huynh

Thursday, March 6th 4-5pm

**CUTV**

Join us for our next event!

**MEDIA MIXER**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18 6PM - 11:30 PM

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

Booked and Book 2:00pm-2:30pm

**CUTV**

**CUTV**

**DEMYSIFYING TV PRODUCTION**

With Katie Leggett

WEDNESDAY 11:00AM-1:00PM

11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

**CUTV**

**How to edit (part two)**

Join us at CUTV's Downtown Studio for a beginner-friendly and all-in-one workshop on all things video editing. We'll be using DaVinci Resolve.

Monday, April 1st 4-5pm | 4th Floor Marquee, with Pascal

Spots are limited! Get your seat here first! Reserve your seat now!

**CUTV**

**FROM THE GULF WAR TO PALESTINE**

RECOGNIZING MISINFORMATION AND MISREPRESENTATION IN MEDIA

Join our next Screening. Craig will cover how to spot misinformation and misrepresentation in media.



# CUTV EQUIPMENT & MEDIA SERVICES

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## Providing free and heavily subsidized equipment to the Concordia and Montreal Media Community

This year, our equipment rental has continued in much the same vein that it did last year. Since our last AGM, we have completed 1297 equipment transactions.

Equipment loans remain free for Concordia students, and heavily subsidized for community members who pay a \$20 annual fee in addition to \$5 a day for cameras.

Many of our grassroots coverage fund submissions—along with many other independent video projects and documentaries created by CUTV members—would not have been possible or feasible without our equipment rental services.

Our equipment rental service has also benefited greatly from the work of our equipment coordinator, Fraser Place, who we hired in May 2023. Thanks to his continuous efforts we have been better able to meet the needs of members, and are in the process of finalizing an equipment guidebook which we are hoping will further assist our members in getting the most out of our equipment.

### THE TOP 5 MOST POPULAR ITEMS IN THE LAST YEAR WERE:

1. Sony AS72 Camera
2. Sennheiser EW 100 G4 Lavalier Mic
3. Sony NX80 Camera
4. Tamron 28–75mm Mount lens
5. Zoom H6 Handy Recorder

We have also been working to replace and repair any damaged equipment and have a spreadsheet for logging equipment complaints and repairs reported by members. In addition to equipment loans, facilities at the station available to members include:

- A filming studio equipped with professional lighting, black and white backdrops, a green screen, a teleprompter, and studio cameras
- A fully sound-proofed audio booth for audio recording, equipped with a blue Yeti microphone and an iMac computer
- An editing lab with seven iMacs and Da Vinci Resolve



# 1297

**SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED  
LOANS THIS YEAR**

# 139

**New customers with a  
MyTurn rental account**

# 200

**Items in our inventory,  
including:**

# 177

**Active accounts as of  
November 2023**

# 43

**Different  
microphones**

# 21

**Lenses**

# 10

**Cameras**

# 30

**Lights/lighting  
accessories**

# 31

**Renewed accounts**



# BROADCASTING & PROGRAMMING

A year of new highs for Local 514, L'Organe, the Breach, and CUTV Live

The CUTV studio has offered a space for members to film various video projects over the past year, including Concordia undergraduate students, grassroots coverage fund recipients, and affiliated productions such as the Breach, Local 514, and L'Organe. While we did experience a new challenge this year and had to relocate to Grey Nuns over the summer, we still managed to continue our broadcasting in the new location and are happy to be back in our old office at the time of this report.

In addition to pre-recorded content, we have also been doing more livestreams this past year. Some notable examples include:

- **La discussion de l'Organe: Quel syndicat pour assistants d'enseignement et de recherche à Concordia?**
- **Student Journalism and Work Conditions at Concordia featuring the Link and the Concordian**



- **Tenants rights in Montreal regarding Bill C-31**
- **Community Media Livestream featuring Harbinger**

Examples of Video Productions this past year:

- **How to strike 101 video in collaboration with ASFA**
- **Local 514 episodes, including "Montreal Police, more powerful than ever"**
- **Several Breach and L'Organe video explainers**



**VIEWS ON YOUTUBE  
SINCE LAST AGM**



**184,680**



**43,150**



Over the past year, CUTV has expanded its live streaming repertoire, covering more community events, panel discussions, and protests than last year.

Thanks to the expansion of our news show Local 514 and with the support of CACTUS, we have been able to do more live coverage on newsworthy events in Montreal.

We have collaborated with several organizations in our livestreams, including the CSU (Concordia Student Union), where we have livestreamed several events including election campaigns and student teach-ins. Other organizations include:

- Brique Par Brique
- Climate Justice Action Concordia
- Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM)
- Defund la Police Coalition
- Independent Jewish Voices

**29,245 VIEWS**

CUTV live  
content on  
YouTube

**1,254,418  
PLAYS**

Instagram  
Reels

**40,000 VIEWS**

Local 514  
Livestream of  
March for  
Palestine





# LOCAL 514 SERVES THOSE LEFT OUT BY THE CORPORATE MEDIA

Underreported stories covering municipal politics, diaspora, colonialism, healthcare, and more in Montreal

Local 514 serves and reports on underrepresented communities. The production mainly focuses on social and environmental issues, including but not limited to colonialism, imperialism, feminism, and racism. The show is critical, but also highlights what is working and provides community input on how these issues can be addressed.





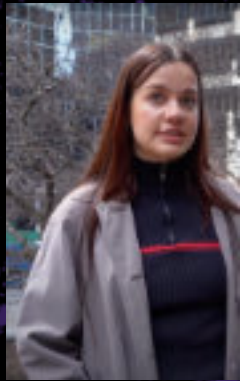
Local 514 began in January of 2021, and will soon be celebrating three years of coverage.

Local 514 went from a web series, to live streams twice a week back to a web series. Our audience and coverage continue to grow. Last AGM, we announced that one of our videos went viral internationally, with 12 thousand views at the time. Recently, a lot of our coverage has gained thousands to millions of views specifically on the Palestine protests in Montreal and the genocide in Gaza.

Many corporate media outlets continue to fail the pro-Palestine movements by mislabeling them as pro-Hamas while glossing over an occupation that goes back decades. We cover protests, accurately showcasing what protesters are calling for, critique government response, report accurate numbers, and continue to follow the movement as it develops.

This past year, we have also launched a new web series called Metropolis, covering Montreal-based politics. The show interviews local activists and people involved in politics, as well as provides media critique and media literacy. The show is still in its early stages and continuing to develop with the help of multiple staff members. Metropolis serves to connect Montrealers to municipal issues here in Montreal and connect the community to activists.

The goal we work towards is encouraging Concordia and the Montreal community to contribute to our coverage through a variety of roles, including reporting, researching, filming, and editing.





# SPOTLIGHT ON CONCORDIA'S FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY

French-speakers share their perspectives

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L'Organe is a bi-monthly francophone show tailored to French-speaking students and community members from Concordia University. It is produced with the intention of featuring topics of interest for francophones or covering news topics using their expertise. Both pre-recorded videos and livestream discussions are featured on L'Organe.

Since July 2022, CUTV has been reviving L'Organe, which used to be a print, and then digital magazine managed by French-speaking Concordia students. The show is produced by a Concordia Journalism student and published on CUTV Montreal's YouTube channel.



The reborn L'Organe's AGM was held on December 15, 2022. After a first period of activity, from July 2022 to December 2022, L'Organe paused its publications until September 2023. For its second season, L'Organe has hosted two livestream discussions so far. Several other episodes, including both livestreams and pre-recorded videos, are on their way.





# FUNDING COMMUNITY MEDIA

Focusing on underreported issues, social movements, and topics important to communities underserved by the corporate media

The Grassroots Coverage Fund has now been active for approximately three years. Since its inception, it has slowly grown and assisted more and more video makers and activists across Montreal.

Over the past year, we have seen almost double the amount of projects from the past year, with 42 compared to 22 approved applications from last year, and an increase of \$5730 in allocated funding.

The grassroots coverage fund is still divided into two different categories- rapid responses funding and project funding.

We have seen a diverse array of applications this year, including a documentary exploring gender identity and colonialism in the Philippines, a series of recorded town halls put out by Brique par Brique, a TV Magazine about fingerboarding, a queer hot dog eating contest, and much more!

We are proud to fund projects that explore alternative perspectives which other grants may turn a blind eye towards.

**\$17,710**  
Allocated

**42**  
Projects



# JOURNALISM FOR TRANSFORMATION

Year three of CUTV's media incubator

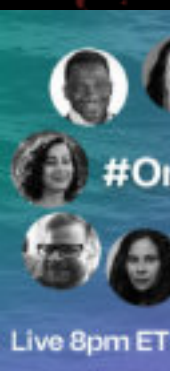
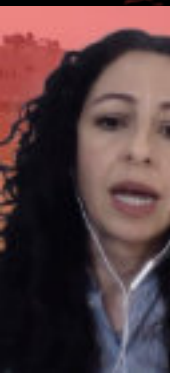
## THE Breach

The Breach's groundbreaking coverage of social movements and other moments of transformative potential aims to break into the mainstream and reach a mass audience.

The Breach has broken several major stories in the last year, in a few cases driving national headlines.

One highlight from this year was an investigation into Pharmaceutical prices that was featured in the Globe and Mail, National Post, Toronto Star, and several broadcasts. The revelations resulted in a Parliamentary probe into the influence of drug companies on policy.

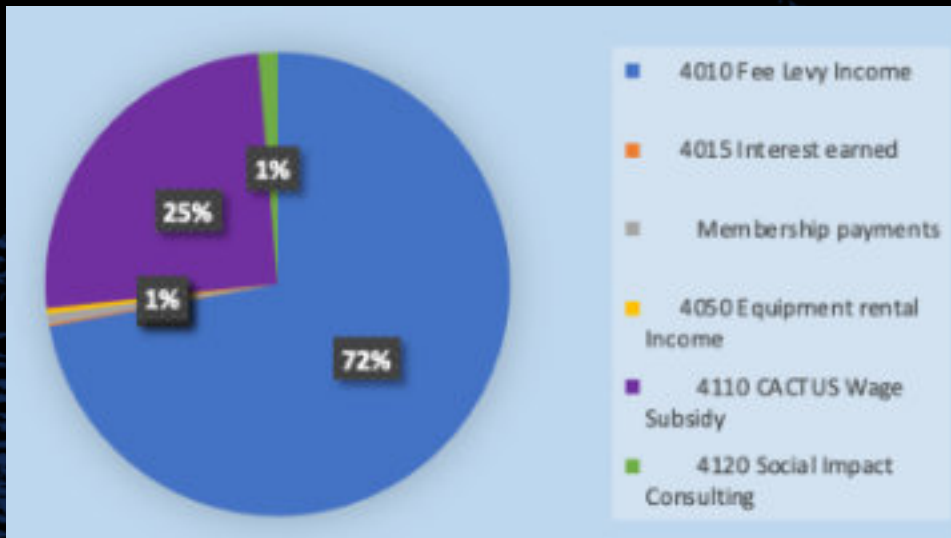
The Breach launched in May 2021, with crucial support from CUTV. The online news outlet ([www.breachmedia.ca](http://www.breachmedia.ca)) features investigative journalism, video reporting, and perspectives not usually found in Canada's establishment media.



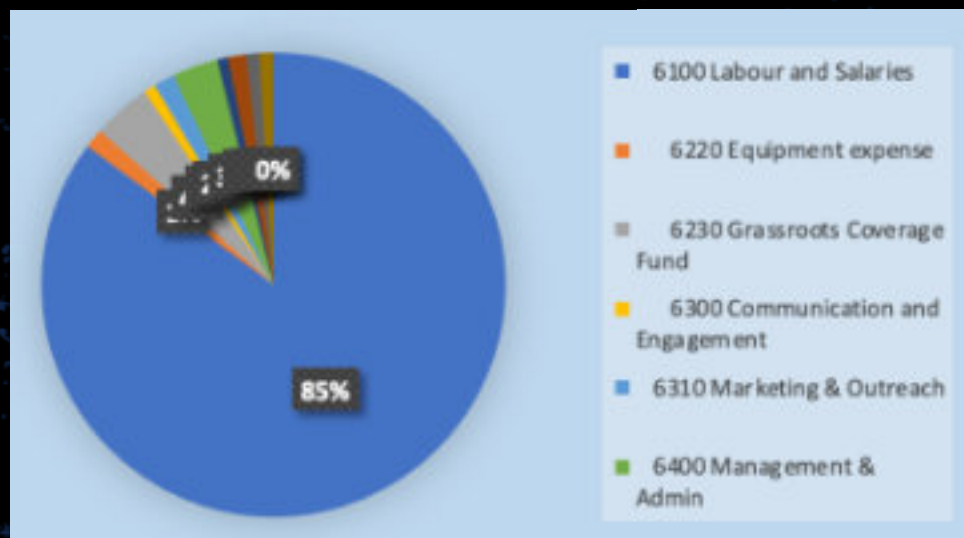


# FINANCIAL REPORT

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



# REBUILDING COMMUNITY MEDIA, ONE AMENDMENT AT A TIME

With support from Innoweave

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How many community organizations of our size can say they successfully won progressive changes to legislation that governs Canada's core democratic institutions? We are, in any case, happy to be in their number.

CACTUS, which convenes the remaining community TV stations in Canada, has been fighting for more than a decade to get cable and telecommunications companies to fulfill the public interest programming obligations that they have wriggled out of.

CUTV saw an opportunity to help at an important moment and launched RebuildCommunityMedia.ca, an online campaign to complement the existing lobbying efforts. We also helped secure expert help from a Parliament Hill insider (thanks to a grant from the McConnell Foundation and help from our Innoweave coach Marlo Turner Ritchie).

**REBUILD  
COMMUNITY  
MEDIA**

The vote came down to the wire, but at 8:30 pm, with mere minutes left to pass amendments, Members of Parliament passed several amendments put forward by our coalition. The Bill passed and is expected to pass in the Senate in the coming weeks. That's when we'll take the fight to the next battleground: the lobbyist-encircled CRTC.

CUTV has played a smaller, supportive role in similar efforts to amend Bill C-18 to channel a fair amount of funding to small media outlets.



# COLLABORATION WITH BEAT THE ODDS

Helping Concordia students achieve success

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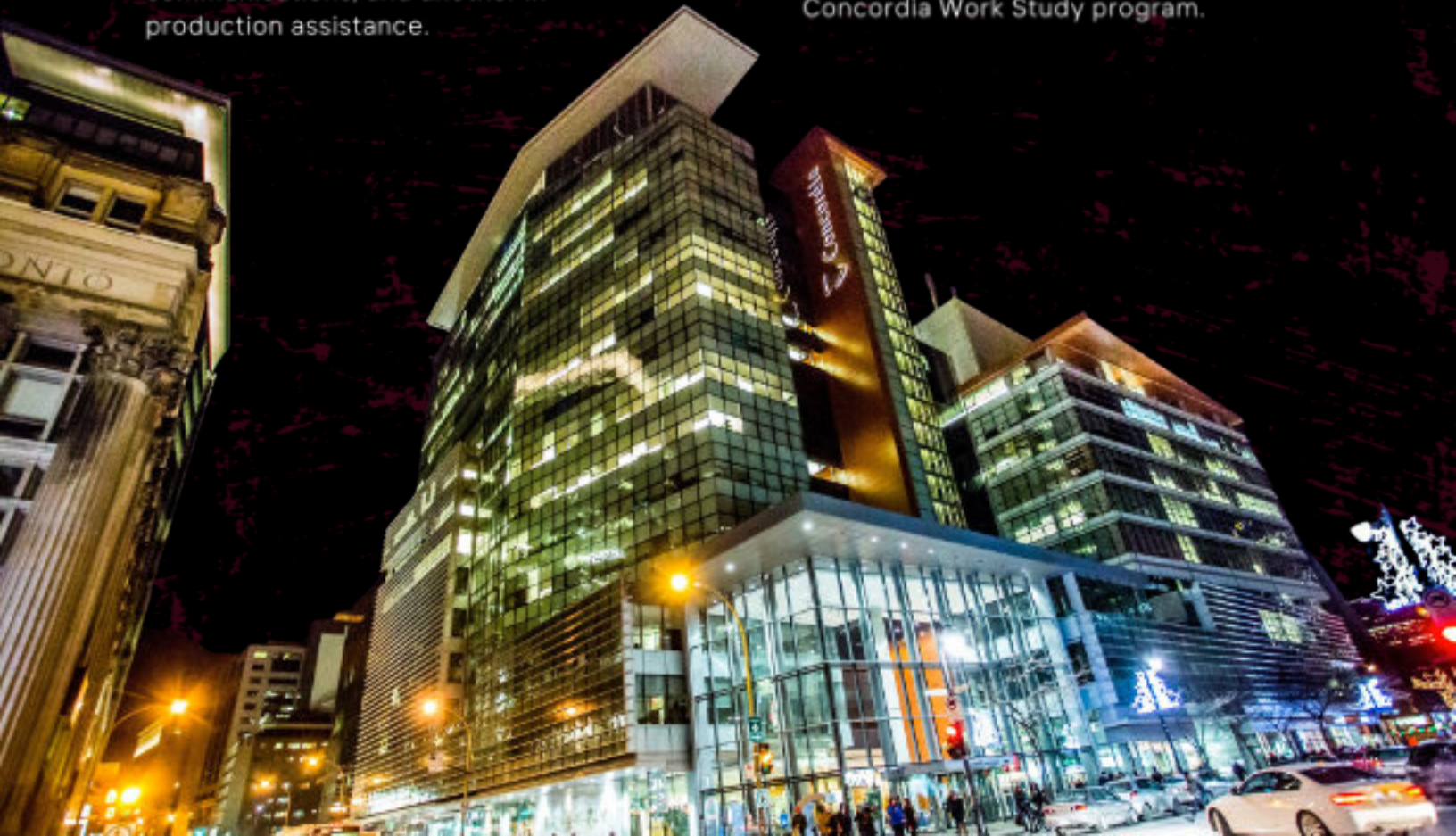
This past year, CUTV began a new collaboration with an organization at Concordia called Beat the Odds.

Beat the Odds helps pair disadvantaged students with internship opportunities to help them develop skills in their area of interest, leading to enhanced professional success post degree.

In the summer of 2023 we hosted two interns, specializing in production assistance and video editing. We are also currently wrapping up three internships, one in volunteer and outreach coordination, one in communications, and another in production assistance.

Thanks to Beat The Odds, we have been able to expand our team while enhancing our capacity as a training ground for future video makers, creators, and young professionals.

In addition to Beat the Odds, we have been able to take on three additional interns this past year; Marie Fleur Kim, who is our broadcasting coordinator, Fraser Place, our equipment coordinator, and Bianca Smith, our communications coordinator. These internships were made possible through the student work program offered by the Canadian Government and the Concordia Work Study program.



# PUTTING THE TV IN CUTV

Expanding our broadcasting potential



HIVE CAFÉ CO-OP

On top of everything else, we have decided to put the “TV” in CUTV and were able to successfully install two physical TVs at the Hive downtown and Loyola locations.

This is a project that has been underway for several years and was recently approved by the CSU, who we will be collaborating with us on this project.

The CSU has purchased two additional TVs, which will be installed in the Hall building on the 7th floor.

We are hoping to install the TVs over the next year and will be able to broadcast more directly to students.

While we are excited about this project, it has also posed many challenges which we are still in the process of resolving. Over the next year, we are hoping to implement a more streamlined technical setup, along with installing the next set of TVs for the Hall building.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Continuing to build media that can fuel deep change

If 2021 was about roots, and 2022 was about branches, 2023 has seen the first leaves and flowers.

The Local 514 team has doubled in size, and we added a brand-new show in Metropolis. In the wake of mass layoffs of Montreal journalists from other outlets, their coverage is becoming more important in addressing vast gaps in English-language coverage in the city.

Our Francophone production, L'Organe, has started a second season and is poised to expand as the organization regains access to its fee levy.

CUTV's live broadcasts have created collaborations with a variety of groups on and off campus.

The Breach still benefits from CUTV's support but is now an independent organization with its own bank account and payroll. It continues to impact national politics way out of proportion to its size.

CUTV played a key role in making vital changes to Canada's Broadcasting Act, and we are continuing to support advocacy that could have profound impacts on the Community TV sector in the coming years. (Visit [rebuildcommunitymedia.ca](https://rebuildcommunitymedia.ca) to find out more.)

The Grassroots Coverage Fund is reaching more people than ever, our volunteer trainings and internships are bringing in dozens of new participants, a diverse slate of workshops have shared skills with and the equipment library continues to empower a diverse community of creators.



**Dru Oja Jay**  
Executive Director

# 2023 BOARD & STAFF



**President**



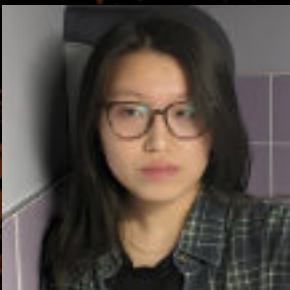
**Board Member**



**Board Member**



**A/V Coordinator**



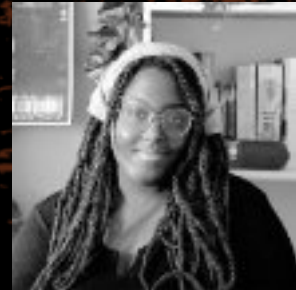
**Broadcast Coordinator**



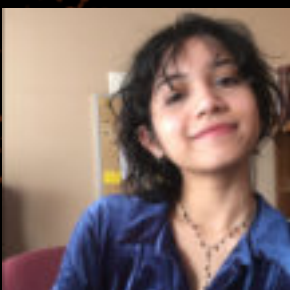
**Video Journalist**



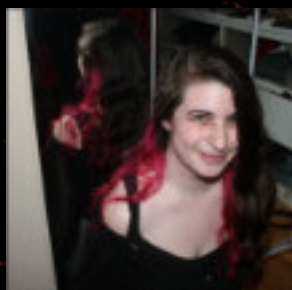
**Video Journalist**



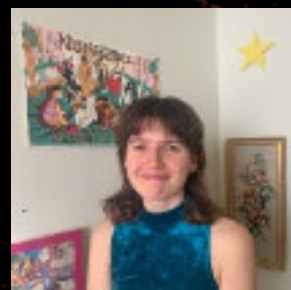
**Video Journalist**



**Writer & Journalist**



**Board Member**



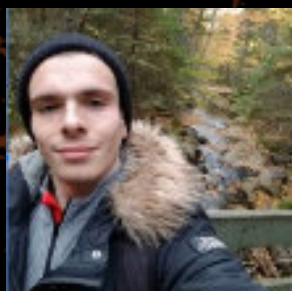
**Station Manager**



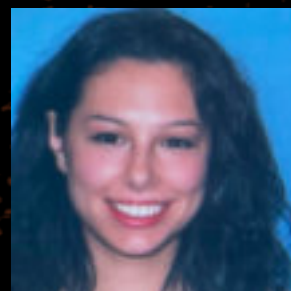
**Executive Director**



**Finance Coordinator**



**L'Organe Coordinator**



**Board Member**



**Board Member**

**LEFT TO RIGHT,  
STARTING TOP LEFT:**

Emma Austin, Allison O'Reilly, Nicolas Chevallier, Fraser Place, Marie Fleur Kim, Kalden Dhatsenpa, Savanna Craig, Aude Simon, Neha Chollangi, Mackenzie Smedmor, Sophia Hirst Barsoski, Dru Oja Jay, Monique Willis, Clément Lechat, Kayla Driscoll, Sara-Claudia Ligonde



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