



Maison de la littérature

The **Maison de la littérature** is a gathering space for readers, writers, artists, audiences, and cultural organizations—an accessible, inspiring oasis in the heart of Old Québec City for discovering, creating, and sharing literature in every shape and form.




North America's unique "house of literature"


A public library dedicated to Québec literature, **the Maison de la littérature's curated collection focuses on fiction by authors who are from Québec or have lived and worked there.** With 25,000 works, the collection holds classics alongside recent publications and award-winning works with a consistent focus on Québec, as well as special collections like the fantasy, speculative, and science fiction collection.

As part of the Bibliothèque de Québec municipal library system, the Maison de la littérature offers richly varied year-round programming of exhibitions, workshops, encounters, readings, and performances. Every fall the Maison fills with life as host of the Québec en toutes lettres festival. Nearly 100,000 people visit the Maison de la littérature each year.

Virtual tour: <https://bit.ly/MaisonLitt>



With a public library card, residents can use and borrow anything from the entire public library system, delivered free of charge to the Maison de la littérature (accessible onsite or via the online reservation service).



On the premises, users find writing rooms, meeting rooms, a quiet zone, and reading areas for every taste. And as part of its artistic creation and dissemination mandate, the Maison has a performance stage, an exhibition space, a café, a writer's residency apartment, creation and recording studios, and La shop à bulles, a studio for comics artists.



Programming for every taste

The Maison de la littérature's 200+ activities tell the story of **the diversity of Québec's literature and the people who create it**. A launching ground for the next generation of writers and a catalyst for literary community, the Maison de la littérature hosts nearly 500 creators every year and contributes to the development of authors in Québec City, the province, and beyond. **More than 80% of its programming is free of charge.**

Much more than a library

In addition to the Bibliothèque de Québec's slate of services (loans, rentals, research assistance, reading suggestions, computer workstations and printing, etc.), the Maison de la littérature provides community consulting, manages two creative laboratories, and hosts around fifteen writing, translation, and other creative residencies each year.

The team also administers Québec City's Première Ovation literary arts grant program. Emerging writers and artists can submit writing projects, with or without a mentoring component, as well as projects for the creation or dissemination of original literary works beyond the traditional book.

La Maison online

Le Salon is an online platform for enjoying a wealth of literary arts content from Maison de la littérature programs and events. From interviews and readings to audiovisual creations, this online "salon" gives cultural organizations another place to bring their work to the Maison's audience.

www.maisondelalitterature.qc.ca/le-salon



Bookish? *Poetic?* *Sensational?*

As multifaceted as our diverse literary community, the Maison de la littérature is a place to share energy and excitement and connect creators with audiences, a forum where artists can make their voices heard and the public can find inspiration and quiet reflection. What's *your* Maison de la Littérature?

Illustrations: Anthony Charbonneau Grenier



Steeped in history

The Maison de la littérature is housed in the former Wesley Methodist Church, which when it was completed in 1848 was the city's first in the neo-Gothic style. Abandoned in 1931, it was purchased ten years later by Senator Lorne Webster and donated to the Ville de Québec. The city then entrusted it to the Institut canadien de Québec (ICQ), which set up its offices and a public library on the first floor, along with an auditorium in the nave, La Salle de L'Institut, which became a renowned cultural venue. Wesley Church was the first religious building in Québec City to be converted with a program that respected its architectural qualities.

In 2015, after a four-year renovation, the transformed building reopened to the public as the Maison de la littérature. The architectural concept by Chevalier Morales included a boldly re-envisioned interior augmented with the addition of a bright, modern building. From its inception, the Maison de la littérature has been a partnership between the Ville de Québec and the Institut canadien de Québec, which administers its services.

“This outstanding project affirms through its architecture that religious heritage can not only be repurposed and made accessible to all, but most importantly, updated while staying true to its origins.”

Jury statement, Award of Excellence, Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ), awarded to the Maison de la littérature in 2017

Québec en toutes lettres

With three main event types—public space, performances, and encounters—the festival lifts literature off the page and brings festival-goers into close contact with artists in a wide range of disciplines.

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VILLE DE
QUÉBEC

Sustainability: A core value

The Maison de la littérature is proud to be certified as a responsible event space [Scène écoresponsable] in recognition of the sustainable practices put in place to reduce its environmental footprint.

In 2024, the Québec en toutes lettres festival earned Level 4 certification under the BNQ Responsible Event Management standard, a testament to the progress being made each year on its journey to sustainability.



où peut-on poster une lettre
quand toutes les forêts sonnent occu

Anthony Lacroix

Ceci n'est pas une pub. © David Carmon



ICQ: Sharing knowledge and culture

The Institut canadien de Québec (ICQ) has been at the heart of Québec City's cultural life for over 175 years. The oldest active French-language cultural organization in North America operates 26 libraries, and provides community outreach to **help make knowledge accessible to all, strengthen participation, keep culture vibrant, and build a more educated, informed, and creative society.**

ICQ programming includes early reading programs for pre-schoolers, literacy and French language-learning programs, and technological assistance. It organizes the Québec en toutes lettres literary festival and develops initiatives related to Québec City's UNESCO City of Literature designation.

The organization also awards the annual Prix de L'ICQ, which spotlights local literary talent, and hosts Les grandes rencontres de L'ICQ, a reading and public events series with cultural luminaries from Québec and around the world including Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir, Clémence Desrochers, Dany Laferrière, Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt, Fred Pellerin, and Janette Bertrand, to name but a few.