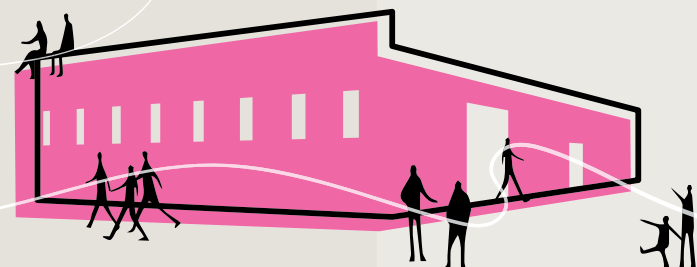


Realized through



Reuse Centre

www.valuecollective.org/reuse

4000 Rue Saint-Patrick
MONTREAL QC H4E 1A4

Telephone (450) 331 1501

CUSTOMER COPY

Transaction #8745

Cashier: Alice Gato

09/08/2022

14:38:23

ARTICLE	WEIGHT (kg)	EST. SAVINGS (\$)
WOOD: MIXED	11.72	50.00
FURNITURE: TABLE	31.17	75.00
PLASTIC: MIXED	0.41	5.00
PLASTIC: CONTAINERS	0.88	15.00
GLASS: CONTAINERS	1.32	10.00
FABRIC: MIXED	2.23	20.00
HARDWARE: MIXED	0.16	5.00
MISC. CRAFTS	0.27	5.00
BOOKS	1.11	10.00
TOTAL	49.27 kg	\$195.00

PAYMENT NONE! IT'S FREE!

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING REUSE!

Value Collective Reuse Centre

Generating collective value through rent-free residencies

What if instead of always needing more money, we experimented with needing less?

Value Collective poses an alternative model of work and life free from the constraints of financial obligations. As an institution, it aims to support people whose desired work is not profit-oriented but which nevertheless generates valuable outcomes for community, society, and the environment. Value Collective facilitates these efforts through a rent-free living and working arrangement, which also comes with access to tools and resources. The broader goal of the initiative is to act as a **living lab for alternative economic practices**.

On the right are five main objectives that lend structure to its mission. To accomplish these goals, Value Collective operates a physical space (the residence, its commons, a reuse centre open to the public and a coworking space) as well as support services like guidance, documentation, event programming, etc.

Other offerings include alter-economy pilot projects (ie. a time bank, a complementary currency, open-source circular economy (OSCE) infrastructure) and a second tier of residencies (free space to work but not live).

1. Giving the gift of autonomy through a low-budget rent-free living and working space.

2. Supporting the initiatives of a rotating cast of self-organized residents.

3. Strengthening and expanding networks around voluntary work.

4. Evolving the institution by positioning residents as co-designers.

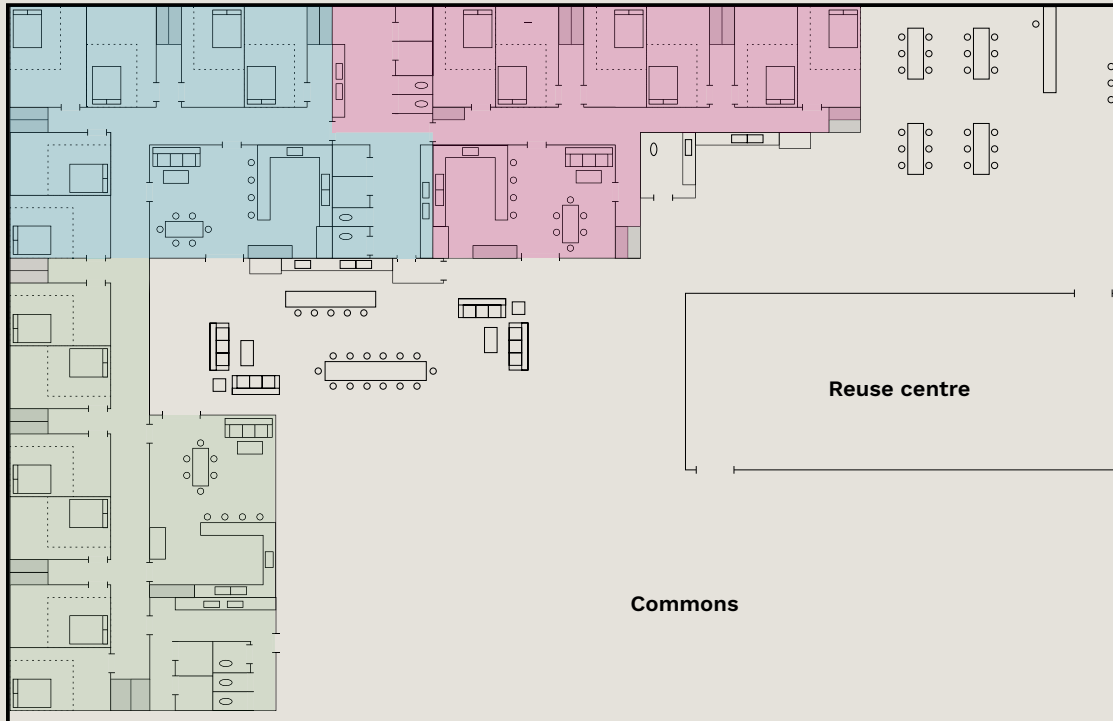
5. Decoupling economy from finance to make room for more diverse ways of living and working.

Realized through



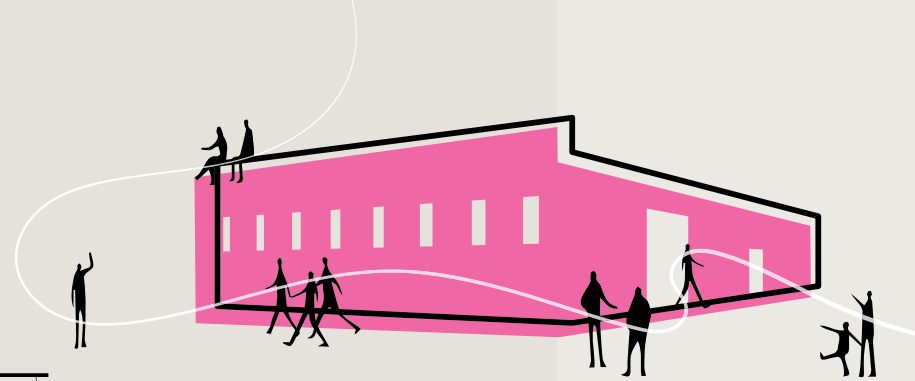
Residence

Co-working space



SPECULATIVE FLOOR PLAN

The above plan accommodates 18 residents loosely organized into 3 clusters, balancing community with privacy and intimacy. Each cluster has 6 bedrooms with space-saving lofts, a kitchen/living room, and a shared, gender-neutral washroom. At the nexus of the clusters is a communal kitchen, useful for overflow and also in the case of events. This area acts as the border between the residence and the **commons**, a non-prescriptive space which residents and their collaborators may partition and appropriate for whatever purposes they choose. Embedded in the commons is the **reuse centre**, a depot of free salvaged materials open to residents as well as the general public. In the top right corner, the **co-working space** provides workspace for staff and working residents while doubling as a reception area for newcomers.



HOW IT WORKS

/ Prospective residents apply with proposals of what they'd like to work on and who they'd like to work with.

/ Residencies are awarded for the values they promote and their unique feasibility within the Value Collective model.

/ Residencies take place over set time periods with option for renewal.

/ Value Collective offers support, documentation, and institutional legitimacy to residents and their projects.

/ Residents are strongly encouraged to apply with friends and organize collaborations with their own networks.

/ Co-design sessions invite ongoing creative engagement with the structure of the organization.

/ In advocating non-financial value exchange as a means of meeting people's needs, Value Collective initiates processes of economic diversification, thus building resilience.

1. Giving the gift of autonomy through a low-budget rent-free living and working space.

2. Supporting the initiatives of a rotating cast of self-organized residents.

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Realized through



Why offer rent-free residencies rather than simply paying people?

Low budget, low stakes... high reward!

- 1) **More bang for your buck.** Funding the shared space is less expensive than giving out individual grants, yet translates to hundreds of dollars in rent savings for each resident per month.
- 2) **It eases the pressure on individuals.** Funding the institution as a whole lowers the stakes for individual outcomes, affording greater leeway, experimentation and risk-taking.
- 3) **A different set of norms apply.** Research in behavioural economics shows that cash payments can displace intrinsic motivations and the values underpinning them, since they bring forth our market identities as consumers, customers, service providers or workers. In self-determination theory (SDT), this is the difference between autonomous motivation and controlled motivation. According to SDT, autonomous motivation fosters the most volitional and highest quality forms of motivation and engagement, giving rise to improved performance, persistence, and creativity – but feelings of pressure or obligation can trigger a switch to controlled motivation, affecting experience, performance and outcomes in turn.

In short, there is a form of work that is of incredibly high quality, in which the worker is at their most inspired, engaged, persistent and creative – but we can't hire them to do it. In fact, everything that lends quality to this work hinges on it being as unobligatory as possible.

The unique value of the rent-free residency is thus in creating the conditions for autonomous motivation to thrive. Low budget, low stakes... high reward!

Value Collective brought to life through fiction! Read it here:

[“Creating societal value through rent-free living arrangements”](#)

Realized through Value Collective is an initiative of The Office of Rules and Norms.

Headquartered at Concordia University's Faculty of Fine Arts, ORN is a transdisciplinary art studio that engages with rules, regulations market standards and cultural norms through art and design media and practice.

www.orn.studio

> [Shock Value Fellowship](#)

For more information, please contact:

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Quebec / News / Local News

Value Collective celebrates second year in operation

Curious about Montreal's infamous alternative living space? We peek inside to profile some of its varied residents.

May 04, 2024 • 1 hour ago • 4 minute read



Value Collective's converted warehouse is in the heart of the Cabot industrial

In a sprawling, former industrial complex situated on the Lachine canal, just a 15-minute bike ride from downtown, tenants of the experimental living arrangement Value Collective reside rent-free in exchange for their work on projects that do not generate much financial capital, but that create significant personal and social value instead.

“For me, it has opened up opportunities that were just not possible before,” says Margo, 34, who has been residing at Value Collective for five months.

“I'm an artist and an organizer, my interest is in staging interventions on the street. My troupe and I perform street theatre to educate passersby on local issues and stimulate civic engagement. Our group is a small community organization with next to no budget, so the only way we could dedicate to this project was significantly limited back then. We were working day jobs in the service sector to pay the bills. Now, we can do our full-time job, even if we still aren't technically getting paid for it.”

Another resident, Richard, is working on-site to restore the soil in the former industrial complex through bioremediation processes. Value Collective also intakes residents for a limited number of pre-occupancy projects, such as the two-year program to clean up the surrounding land and prepare it for urban farming.

“My degree is in chemistry,” says Richard, 27. “I became interested in