

Project Title: The Plate Club
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Role: Undergraduate

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Project Theme: Inventory, Materials, and Stipends

Project Group:

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Project Overview

The Plate Club was started as a McGill Club but has since become a SSMU service. The club has been in existence since 2007 and it continues to attract new members each year. Our mandate is to reduce waste in the SSMU cafeteria and at events held by groups at McGill with

towards a new position we are creating. VP Tech and Data will be in charge of creating a program that would keep track of our existing inventory at any given moment such that we can accurately assess the in and out flow of inventory. This position will also digitize our rental forms which is currently on paper and unorganized. The Plate Club has been operating for 6 years and has established itself within SSMU. By the end of this year, we hope to be institutionalized in SSMU such that our presence is felt at SSMU events consistently (such as 4Floors) and Plate Club would be reminded as an option when clubs book a room for an event.

Our idea of sustainability is catching on, noticeably in the Law faculty where they recently established their own Plate Club in order to service their weekly events. It is understandable that they would not want to carry inventory up the hill every week. In another case, a friend who visited Montreal but goes to school in University of Calgary is now trying to start a Plate Club there. The Plate Club is a sustainable initiative that is realistic and clear in its goals and our friend really liked the idea of it. This just goes to show that even something small like reusable plates is making a difference.

Stakeholders

Since we are a SSMU service, the main stakeholder in the Plate Club is SSMU. In the past, inventory expansion and stipends were funded by SSMU. That funding effectively allowed Plate Club to provide our service to the McGill community at large. However, funding for all the SSMU services were cut when the current SSMU VP Finance discovered the funding for the services came from the surplus of the Campus Life Fund. They determined the funding of SSMU services with this fund was an inappropriate usage of the Campus Life Fund. Services were told in September that we would not be receiving any set funding we expected from SSMU this year. Those services that do not have a fee levy, including Plate Club, were left with zero funding.

In Spring 2014, the Plate Club will apply for a referendum for a fee levy. We have also applied for other sources of funding, such as the funding options available from SSMU: The Green Fund and the Space Fund. We are also currently attempting to establish a connection with SSMU concerning the funding for Plate Club in the future. The Plate Club will not rely on the SPF for its existence; rather, it is a supplement in order for us to continue to exist and improve. This year in particular however, we are reliant on external funding due to SSMU cutting our funding without notice. The Plate Club is also looking into other ways to make money, like Samosa Sales, to offset some of our operating costs (ex. dishwashing detergent).

Our goal is not profit. Rather, the Plate Club is here to provide an alternative to wastefulness and promote an environmentally friendly campus. Money from the Sustainability Projects Fund will allow us to provide the best service possible. Additionally, as a SSMU Service, we represent the organization. This fund will enable us to be excellent ambassadors of the organization that helps us exist year after year. Those who will otherwise be affected by the project is the McGill community. The only complaints from those who use our inventory is that there is not enough of it and that we are unable to service many rentals at a time. We would like to eventually operate to the extent that we do not have to turn down any rental request. There is

no doubt that by increasing our inventory and claiming responsibility for a neglected common area, present and future Plate Club users will be satisfied.

Tasks

Type of Tasks	Member In Charge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” Cleaning the dishwashing area ” Restocking the area with cleaning supplies ” Posting signs for users and volunteers ” Making posters to increase exposure 	VP Sanitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ” Organize volunteers for lunch and office hours ” Teaching volunteers the tasks required for lunch and office hours ” Volunteer Recruitment 	VP Lunch (x2)

- Float money stays in the float to give change for event rentals

References:

[http](#)

Expense Description

Cost

