

Press release for immediate release
March 30, 2020

Québécois artists and makers mobilize in support of the health sector

The cultural sector has been strongly impacted by the public health measures put in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Artists, along with cultural workers and freelancers, found themselves without work overnight as concert halls closed and gatherings were banned.

Faced with the uncertainty of the upcoming months and the urgent needs of the health sector, a group of artists and makers have joined together to provide aid by making face shields available to the health sector at a low cost. Canada is currently facing a nation-wide shortage of these protective shields. The shields are 3D printed and assembled by hand, and they provide a temporary solution in response to the demand. The 3D model for the shields was designed by Czech company Prusa Research and is available online for free.



Behind the initiative are [Artéfact urbain](#), a Saint Casimir-based company specializing in the showcasing of local culture; [Deveau 3D](#) from Saint-Marc-des-Carrières; and a number of individual makers from Québec City and Montréal, who are combining their efforts to create a relaying production chain.

“We had been contacted by Canadian optometrist associations; although their clinics are closed, they still need to provide care in emergency situations. For public health reasons, optometrists are required to wear these shields, which are currently very hard to find,” explains Aaron Bass, technical director of Artéfact urbain and the initiative’s instigator. *“Two weeks ago, we were printing mock-ups for public art projects and today, our workshop has been transformed into a face shield production hub,”* says Bass.

The printers that are currently mobilized can produce over 700 face shields per week, a number that is likely to increase with the demand of the health sector. Artéfact urbain is calling on people who own 3D printers, or who wish to order face shields, to contact them via their website faceshield.ca. While the company’s artistic activities and cultural events have been put on hold for an undetermined period, Artéfact urbain sees the initiative as way of making a concrete contribution to the fight against the virus.

Link to order face shields: faceshield.ca
Facebook: [@Artefacturbain](https://www.facebook.com/Artefacturbain)



Photo 1: Courtesy of Prusa Research

Photos 2 and 3: Aaron Bass

Source: Jeanne Couture | Executive director, Artéfact urbain |

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