

# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Eleven cultural organizations in Montreal affirm or reaffirm their endorsement of PACBI and restate their commitment to the liberation of Palestine.**

Montreal, February 18, 2025 – In a strong statement of solidarity, eleven cultural organizations in Montreal have officially endorsed the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), highlighting their commitment to the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. This collective action underscores the essential role of culture in resisting colonial oppression and supporting the liberation of Palestine. While a ceasefire agreement has been partially reached, this support affirms that the struggle for justice, resistance, and liberation is more important than ever.

The BDS movement, launched in 2004 by Palestinian civil society, calls for sustained and nonviolent pressure to end the Israeli colonial project and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian lands. The demands of the movement are as follows:

- End the occupation and colonization of all Palestinian lands and dismantle the apartheid wall
- Recognize the full rights of Palestinians to equality, both within the 1948 borders and in the occupied territories
- Uphold the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes, as enshrined in international law and United Nations Resolution 194.

By supporting PACBI, these organizations reject complicity in the normalization of the Israeli colonial regime. On the contrary, they commit to supporting Palestinian self-determination by promoting artistic practices and cultural collaborations that resist colonial oppression and amplify the voices of liberation.

In October 2023, over 4,000 Canadian artists and cultural workers signed a solidarity letter stating:

"As artists, cultural workers, and academics, we firmly support the Palestinian struggle for freedom and against all forms of racism and colonial violence."

This collective statement underscores the belief that art is inherently political and that artists have a responsibility to stand in solidarity with oppressed communities, including Palestinians.

(Hernandez, Cassie. "4,000 Canadian Artists and Cultural Workers Sign Palestine Solidarity Letter." Hyperallergic, 20 Oct. 2023, <https://hyperallergic.com/852779/4000-canadian-artists-and-cultural-workers-sign-palestine-solidarity-letter/>.)

Montreal, known for its vibrant cultural landscape, has a long history of engagement in global struggles for justice. This collective decision reflects a growing awareness among cultural workers of the importance of international solidarity in the fight against colonialism and apartheid.

This support comes at a critical time, as Palestinians face escalating land theft, systemic violence, and forced displacement under the ongoing Israeli occupation. The decision of these organizations to join PACBI is a long-awaited declaration that culture must align with the values of justice and liberation.

The organizations supporting this initiative are joining a growing global movement of artists, academics, and cultural workers committed to supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle for liberation and self-determination. These organizations hope that more groups will adopt PACBI across Quebec and Canada.

To date, the following organizations have united their efforts to support or reaffirm their commitments to PACBI: Ada X, article, Atelier La Coulée, Céline Bureau, Centre Clark, Centre des arts actuels SKOL, Dazibao, Metonymy Press, Oboro, PME-ART, and Vidéographe.

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#### About PACBI

The Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) was launched in 2004 as part of the BDS movement. It calls on cultural institutions and individuals to refuse complicity in violations of international law and human rights committed by the colonial regime, emphasizing the transformative power of global solidarity. PACBI is committed to freedom of expression as outlined in the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and, in principle, rejects boycotts of individuals based on their opinions or identity (such as citizenship, race, gender, or religion).