

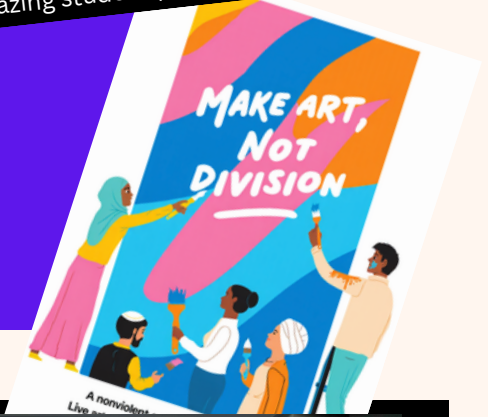
CREATIVE COLLECTIVE FOR CHANGE

NEWSLETTER 2026

Updates
&
News

Oct 2025 - Aug 2026

Amazing student projects to discover!



2025 Gala



With a great turn out, Jade Whitebean, Shuhita Ray, and Isabelle Villalba were honored and awarded for their incredible works. Special thanks to the Humanities and Public Life Conference for hosting us! .



STAY TUNED for the unveiling of our 2026 finalists and honourable mentions, along with the details for our fall gala and exhibit

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**Creative
Change
Maker
Awards**

This spring we received a record number of 18 submissions to the 4th edition of the Creative Change Maker Award. External artist Melanie Garcia, CC4C alum Philippe Beauchemin, Dawson student and 2025 winner Jade Whitebean joined with Kim and Pat in an August meeting to select our 3 finalists. The challenge ahead of us was large - the works were extremely diverse in focus and form, including poetry, short stories, paintings, films and a mixed media robotic installation! All reminded us of the extraordinary power of creativity to provoke our empathy and inspire change.

Workshops
and film
screenings

CREATIVE COLLECTIVE FOR CHANGE

Building Critical Hope

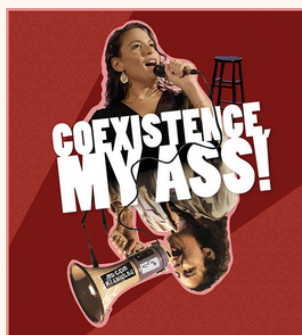
CC4C's workshops are part of our *Not in Our Name* project. The project began in the early months of the war on Gaza. With militarists on both sides digging in, we sought to spotlight the ordinary and extraordinary people who resist the brutal logic of vengeance and punishment and refuse to partake in the dehumanization of the other - those who, in the words of the hundreds who on Oct 27, 2023 shut down the main terminal of NYC's Grand Central Station, saying: "Not in our name." The project started with online posts that drew attention to courageous but little known peacemakers, and evolved to include in-person workshops that engage our creativity, knowledge and passion in the work of peacebuilding.

Our biggest event of the year was held in October as part of Dawson's Humanities and Public Life Conference. With the help of five student members of the CC4C, we created a workshop that explored how we could develop an effective anti-war movement. We began by discussing the events of February 15, 2003, a day which witnessed the largest global rejection of war ever seen before and since and stands out as the first mass protest to denounce a war before it had begun. It succeeded beyond the hopes of its organizers, but wasn't enough to stop the US war on Iraq. This, as we discussed, would take a multi-faceted approach to resist a system supported by political, economic, and cultural foundations. That led us into a creative activity, where some 60 students broke into groups to design brilliant campaigns that would put the defenders of militarism into no-win situations.

In April, we held a different workshop for graduating students of Dawson's Peace Studies Certificate that moved the focus from anti-war activism to peace-building in societies that had been torn apart by armed conflict.

An unexpected collaboration at November's Ped Day

In early fall, we had a chance to meet two inspiring individuals, UQAM psychology professor and founding director of CPN-PREV, Ghayda Hassan, and McGill anthropologist Grégoire Hervouet-Zeiber. Both are deeply involved in the work of violence prevention and community depolarization. Our conversation took us into many directions and ultimately to the decision to design and co-lead a workshop for Dawson faculty that we called *Creative Interactions*.



Our goal is always to promote a sense of critical hope, an orientation that binds agency and reality. Reach out to us if you're interested in having faculty and student members of our collective lead an activity for your class

In March, the CC4C joined with the Dawson's Cin-Com Department and the W/GS Certificate to host a screening of *Coexistence, My Ass!* The film takes a creative look at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the eyes of former diplomat, and now stand-up comedian, Noam Shuster Eliassi. Its Canadian director Amber Fares was on hand, which led to a spirited discussion with Dawson's budding student filmmakers.

Designed a new
workshop in
April

With peace seeming to become ever more fragile, and the concept more and more diluted of meaning, we decided to design a new workshop. Inspired by the reality of so many ordinary people working for peace in their war-torn communities, we put the focus on a key question: how do wars end? We began by exploring how both war and peace start long before they become visible, and ended with a screening of the beautiful, must-watch documentary, *Fambul Tok: Forgiving Savage*, that reveals the power of forgiveness even in the most impossible situations.



Bringing CC4C into the Classroom

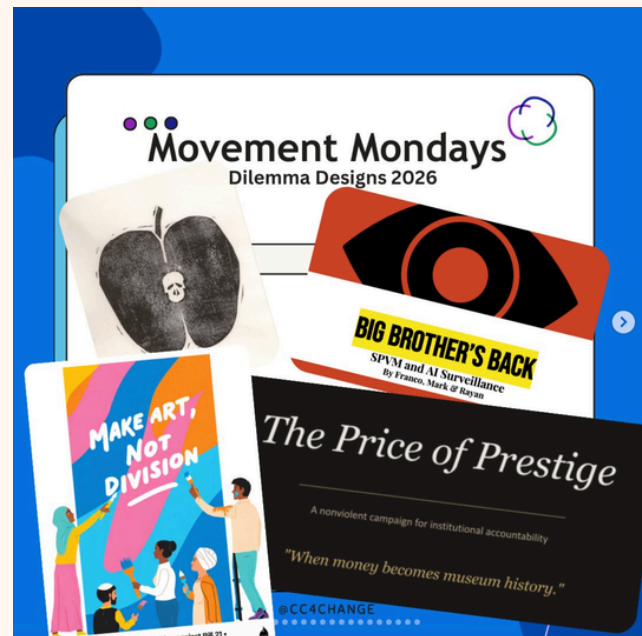
Kim and Pat, the faculty founders of CC4C, have been co-teaching a Learning Communities course for many semesters. In fact our collective emerged out of this wonderful collaboration!

Due to multiple factors outside our control, we have had to engage in much problem-solving to keep this pedagogical collaboration alive. This year, we did so by having Kim volunteer her creative flair and expertise in a winter semester Humanities World Views course.

Our Learning Communities experience ended with students participating in CC4C's 2nd Design Dilemma Challenge. The winning teams designed nonviolent campaigns that would put their target into a no-win situation in which either ignoring the demands of the protest, or seeking to suppress it, would likely end up increasing its impact.

Their targets: Apple's reliance on exploited Chinese workers, Quebec's Bill 21, the SPVM's growing use of surveillance AI, and New York's Museum of Modern Art's connections to art world figures with deep connections to Jeffrey Epstein.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE WINNING NONVIOLENT CAMPAIGNS



*Dawson and the CC4C continue their commitment to remember the life and legacy of Dawson graduate, activist and **ETCETERA** founder Joe Rose.*

This year's focus was on a screening of historical video works during the rise of AIDS activism in the 1980s and a pertinent contemporary glance at the situation today with the Portail VIH du Quebec's new initiative to educate through media.

Nancy Pettinicchio's award winning film "Ça Va Finir Par Finir" is a much needed take on HIV activism in Quebec today.

Those in attendance were able to talk with the director, members of Etcetera and Media Queer. Messages of love were shared for Joe Rose during the event.

Dawson Alum Nancy Pettinicchio, Media Queer and CC4C collaborated with Etcetera to host an important screening about the state of AIDS activism today.



CREATIVE COLLECTIVE FOR CHANGE

Social Media Action

@cc4change - Connecting pedagogy and social media



cc4change

Creative Collective For Change

189 posts 253 followers 70 following

We seek to bring students, teachers, activists & artists together to address complex social issues in creative,...

linktr.ee/cc4change and 1 more



Awards



Theory Bites



Exposures



Movement ...



Not in Our N...



Quizzes

A big thank you to our student members

Our activities would not be possible without the enthusiastic help provided by our students and alums.

Their help was invaluable to our October workshop. Thank you to Maya Sarr, Philippe Beauchemin, Anna Gueye and Lucille Sullivan for their thoughtful contributions in our workshop design process, and to Maya, Anna and Eva Thomas-Paskal for leading small groups of students in creative brainstorming during the workshop.

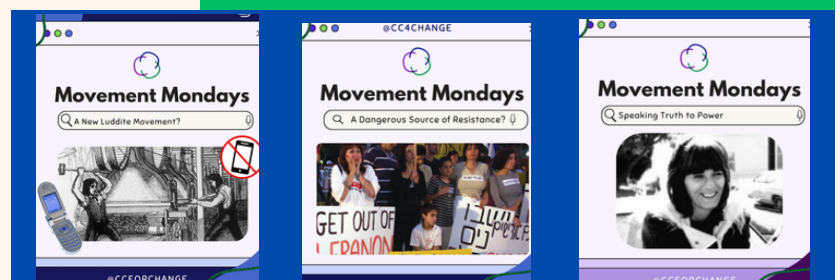
Maya's involvement in our collective deepened in January as she joined our social media team. She brought her unique personal touch to Movement Mondays and we are thrilled that she will be staying on as an alum for the upcoming year.

Thanks to Jade Whitebean for helping with our exhibit set-ups and take downs and becoming involved as a jury member for this year's Creative Collective awards!

Our biggest thank you, though, must go to alum Mariana Cueto-Mendoza. Mari was part of a small group of students who inspired the creation of the Creative Collective for Change and has remained a dedicated member even after graduating in 2023 from the Law, Society and Justice Profile and completing her law degree at U of M this spring. Her contributions have been immeasurable, particularly in shaping our social media presence.

Our Favourite Movement Mondays

We have new and exciting plans for our Instagram account in 2026-27, but also want to highlight our favourite Movement Mondays from last semester. These put the spotlight on the growing global movement against Big Tech, an incredibly successful 1990s anti-war mother's movement in Russia, and two remarkable truth-tellers, union activist Karen Silkwood and Canadian scientist Dr. Shiv Chopra.



CREATIVE COLLECTIVE FOR CHANGE

Campaigns

@cc4change - Connecting pedagogy and social media

Highlighting Theory Bites

A divisive question

In the early 19th century, textile workers in England broke automated machines that they feared would destroy their way of life. A century later, British suffragettes of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) sought to use calculated property destruction, including smashing windows and setting fire to mailboxes, to escalate their pressure on the government. In 1980, eight peace activists broke into a General Electric plant in Pennsylvania, where they damaged two nuclear missile warhead cones and poured blood on classified documents.



Assessing the value of the dilemma action

This week's #MovementMonday highlighted some brilliant activists who engaged in political protests against authoritarian regimes, where any dissent puts one at risk of arrest and imprisonment. Their actions served to embolden further societal resistance, while putting state authorities into difficult lose-lose situations. These types of protests are called dilemma actions. They are intended to force the opponent into an impossible choice: do nothing and support for the opposition grows; crackdown and your legitimacy falls further, intensifying the people's desire for change.



With our social media posts, we aim to engage the creativity, reason and emotions essential for individual agency, empathy and hope. **Movement Mondays** offer inspiring and thought-provoking stories of nonviolent movements from around the world. **Theory Bites** are different and aim to connect social media and pedagogy more directly. Drawing from the work of nonviolent theorists, social science researchers and experienced activists, we explore the “how” and “why” questions and find some fascinating results:

- Nonviolent revolutions are nearly twice as likely to succeed as violent ones.
- A study on whistleblowers found that, despite experiencing severe consequences for their actions, 84% would have done it again.
- Nonviolent movements that use creative dilemma actions can increase their success by 11-14%.

Seeking to provoke an interesting classroom discussion?

Discover these concise explorations of the key questions in resistance studies

- Increasing your likelihood of success: Balancing disruption and sacrifice
- Freedom of speech: Where should we draw the line?
- How do nonviolent movements succeed?
- Thinking strategy: A tale of two cities
- How Important are creative actions to a movement's success?
- Why do we resist?
- How do you know you are having an impact?
- Making the case for nonviolence in a time of revolution
- Balancing disruption and sacrifice: The Global Sumud Flotilla
- The need for allies
- Can violent groups help a nonviolent movement succeed?
- The irrefutable argument: “Nonviolence would never have worked against the Nazis”?
- The destruction of property debate
- Non-violence or nonviolence: Does it matter?

COMING IN THE FALL: A short exposé on power

Interested in more CC4C resources: check out our website: cc4change.com

Latest News

Upcoming Events

Resources

Inspiring Projects

We would also like to thank the Dawson Foundation for their continuing support of this project.