REPORT

*From the office of the…*

**Maccess Coordinator**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| TO: | Members of the Executive Board |
| FROM: | Calvin Prowse |
| SUBJECT: | MSU Maccess Report #5 |
| DATE: | November 26, 2020 |

**MSU Maccess Report #5**

# Year Plan Update

It has been difficult to stick to our year plan due to delays in opening our service because of the shift to a remote context. However, now that our space is open, we hope to be able to fulfil some of the projects listed within over the second semester.

# Service Usage

### Events

Since our last EB report, we ran the following events:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Collab.** | **Participants** | **Facilitators** | **Total** |
| 11/12 | **Pet & Plant Appreciation Event** |  | 9 |  | **9** |
| 11/16 | **Disability DIScussion: Remote Access/ibility, Pt. 2** | EIO | 4 | 4 | **8** |
| 11/18 | **Disabled & Queer Community Art Circle** (2STLGBQIA+ History Week) | PCC | 9 | 2 | **11** |
| 11/19 | **Disability DIScussion: Remote Access/ibility, Pt. 2** | EIO | 4 | 5 | **9** |

### Community Groups

We have decided to postpone the launch of our peer support & community groups until second semester.

### Community Spaces

As of 11/23, we have the following number of community members in our digital community spaces:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **platform** | **11/23** | **10/26** | **change** | **% change** |
| **Facebook Group** | **84** | **83** | + 1 | + 1.2 % |
| **Discord Server** | **13** | **n/a** | n/a | n/a |

### Social Media

As of 11/23, we have the following number of followers on our Social Media platforms:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **platform** | **11/23** | **10/26** | **change** | **% change** |
| **Facebook** | **958** | **930** | + 28 | + 3.0 % |
| **Twitter** | **275** | **271** | + 4 | + 1.5 % |
| **Instagram** | **538** | **517** | + 21 | + 4.1 % |

# Past Events, Projects, & Activities

See above.

# Upcoming Events, Projects & Activities

Seeing as there are only two weeks left in the semester, we are currently winding down our programming. We are currently planning an Exam Destress giveaway in collaboration with SHEC and SWC. Our next event will take place over the winter break – it will be a peer support and community hangout for community members who are living in unsupportive environments, spending their winter break / holidays alone, or who are otherwise feeling isolated and in need of community connection during this time.

# Currently Working On

Next semester, we are hoping to launch a series of community skill sharing workshops. These workshops will allow for community members to organize and facilitate a workshop on a skill that they know how to do and be compensated for their work. Our goals for this workshops series are to promote capacity building and professional development, demonstrate the strengths and skills of disabled students, foster a culture of disability pride and appreciation, and address the financial insecurity faced by disabled students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Budget

We have used a total of $300 of our budget, entirely on Promotions. Since our last EB Report, we have used a total of $150 on promotions for our Pet & Plant Appreciation Event. Since our service has just opened, we are hoping to use more of our budget during the second semester.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ACCOUNT CODE | ITEM | BUDGET / COST | |
| 5003-0118 | **OFFICE SUPPLIES** |  | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$0** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$100** | |
| 6102-0118 | **ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS** |  | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$0** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$2,800** | |
| 6494-0118 | **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION** |  | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$0** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$750** | |
| 6804-0118 | **TRAINING EXPENSE** |  | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$0** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$500** | |
| 6501-0118 | **ADVERTISING & PROMO** |  | |
| June 10 | *Executive Team Hiring Promo* | *$75* | |
| Aug. 12 | *Peer Support Volunteer Hiring Promo* | *$75* | |
| Nov. 4 | *Pet & Plant Appreciation Event* | *$150* | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$300** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$1,400** | |
| 6603-0118 | **SPECIAL PROJECTS** |  | |
|  | **TOTAL SPENT IN LINE** | **$0** | |
|  | **REMAINING IN LINE** | **$750** | |
| **TOTALS** | | | |
| **TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING** | | | **$6,600** |
| **TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING** | | | **$150** |
| **REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING** | | | **$6,300** |

# Volunteers

We have had several volunteers who have either stepped down from their position or have postponed their volunteering until second semester. We currently have 41 active volunteers (including the Maccess executive team; excluding the Maccess Coordinator). We hope to re-open hiring for the Peer Support Volunteer positions at the beginning of second semester.

# Current Challenges

It has been challenging to engage students with our service this year. Our events thus far have had low attendance, and few community members have joined our Digital Drop-in Space. Additionally, usage of our drop-in space has remained low. Many of these challenges may be due to the time of year – our digital drop-in space launched on Nov. 5, and our first event did not take place until Nov. 12. As such, it is quite likely that students are feeling too overwhelmed and burnt out by the pressures and stresses of remote learning to engage with our programming at this time.

As previously mentioned, the demands of the Coordinator position have been quite overwhelming and have impacted my ability to complete tasks related to my school and personal life. Projects and tasks typically pop up shortly before they need to be completed, making prioritization and work/school/life balance difficult to maintain. Fortunately, I have been able to use some of my lieu hours to take some time off over the last few weeks of the semester.

At time of writing, I have accumulated approximately 195 hours of work over the 14 hours / week my position is rated for; whereas I have currently worked 590 hours for this position, I have received compensated for only 395. Although Peer Support PTMs received some compensation ($500) for the hours we worked to adjust our services to a digital context, this only accounts for a small portion of this lieu time.

I hope to be able to take some time off during second semester to account for these lieu hours, however in order to use up all of my lieu hours before the end of my contract I would need to take the entire second semester off – a decision that would negatively impact our service. It is also possible that even more lieu hours will be accumulated during second semester, as we will be running programming for more of the semester. Lieu hours have been especially challenging to navigate because of lack of clear communication from the MSU regarding backpay processes. Seeing as this process does not occur until the end of the year, I am feeling apprehensive about whether I will be appropriately compensated for these lieu hours. Better communication around the specifics of backpay processes would allow me to better make decisions (e.g. time off) which balance my own employment needs with the needs of the service.

# Successes

Our Disabled & Queer Community Art Circle, in collaboration with the PCC as a part of their 2STLGBQIA+ History Week, was well attended and well received by all. We hope to bring back the facilitators for an additional workshop during the second semester.