



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Director

TO: Members of the Executive Board

FROM: Neha Shah

SUBJECT: WGEN Report #3

DATE: October 18th, 2021

Year Plan Update

We will be opening our Safe(r) Space and peer support groups for the year within the next week. We will likely be using Discord to run our space and, in line with our goal of inclusivity and ease of access, we will be launching guides and a what to expect post/website update. I will also be working with my SPA/Research execs to create a survey to identify how to improve our space and its comfortability, and we hope to consult Maccess to increase our space accessibility. We will then work with our T&D exec to implement any changes into the space. This project will likely take a full semester. These projects will be happening very soon, as volunteer training is coming to a close.

We will be launching promotions for our Survivors community group soon. This is in line with our other main goal of continuing and expanding programming for survivors.

Now that training has mostly been finished we will be able to focus our energy on running and creating new/existing programming over the rest of the year.

Events, Projects, & Activities

General Service Usage

No WGEN services are operational at the moment, but we have had a lot of inquiries into resource provision, which will hopefully be opening soon (physically and through Collective Care).

Projects & Events

Project 1: Collective Care

Project Status: On-Going

General Information:

Collective Care is our virtual resource program in collaboration with SHEC. We provide gift cards to students to purchase essential items, including menstrual, childcare, safe(r) sex, food, and other resources. We have secured \$500 in funding from PACBIC, \$500 from the MSU, and will be meeting with OPIRG to potentially work in partnership on this program. The program will be opening within the next week until our funding runs out.

Project 2: Physical Resources

Project Status: On-Going

We hope to also resume distribution of our physical resources. Given that campus is open, our space can accommodate approx. 10 people, and resource distribution is very private (i.e.: at most there would be three people in the space), we could distribute resources very safely. I have attached a proposal in this EB report to work towards offering physical resources through appointments.

Project 3: Training

Project Status: On-Going

WGEN has wrapped up our synchronous peer support and safe(r) space facilitation trainings. Volunteers are still waiting on Anti-Oppressive Training times from the MSU. MSU training has been extremely difficult to coordinate for my volunteers. Training times were communicated to PTMs quite late in the semester, AOP training has still not been completed, accessibility training has been very inaccessible (only 2 training times, and the second training time was very unclear; plus an assignment given late at night, just 12 hours before the first training), and no recorded sessions for volunteers who can't make it to any of the synchronous times (given that they are all during working hours). I outlined these difficulties in the "challenges" section and have also presented some solutions because this really impacts our ability to do our jobs.

Project 4: Fall Event

Project Status: Upcoming

Now that our Events & Advocacy Committee has been hired, we can get started on planning our events. Historically WGEN has done two events in the fall (WGENius, a trivia night, and Spooptacular, a Halloween event). We are considering doing a small event over Zoom or Discord as an introduction to WGEN for both our community and our volunteer team.

Project 5: Meet the Execs/Volunteers

Project Status: Upcoming

Our promo execs are currently working on a “meet the execs” series and a volunteer interests schedule so that space user can choose a time to enter the space based on the interests of the volunteer on shift at that time. This will hopefully help to put faces to WGEN and make it less intimidating to come to our space.

Outreach & Promotions

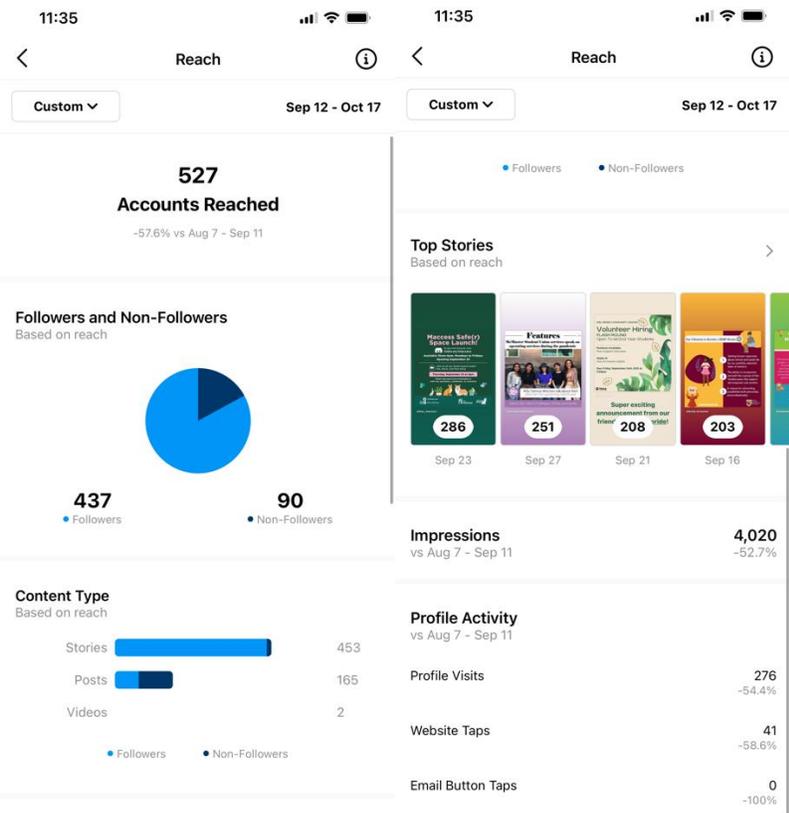
Summary

We have primarily been working on training, so we have not yet launched our promotional materials. We will be announcing our Survivors support group and space opening within the next week.

Promotional Materials

Social Media Engagement Instagram (Last 30 Days)

Table 1: Instagram Engagement Insights



Finances

WGEN will be purchasing more physical resources for our space soon and we have collected \$1000 in funding for Collective Care to date.

Budget Summary

Table 2: Budget Tracker

N/A: We have not yet spent any of our budget. (We will be purchasing physical resources soon and using the budget for our upcoming fall events, promotional materials, etc.)

Executives and Volunteers

Our volunteers have received all their WGEN training and will be stepping into their roles over the coming week. The SPA and Research executives are hard at work at some of their projects that will be coming out over the semester, the Training & Development Coordinator is working on getting our space running, our Promo execs are working on a “meet the execs” and volunteer interests information form, and our events execs will be planning our introductory fall event.

Successes

I will summarize successes we have had recently:

- WGEN training has been completed
- We secured \$1000 in funding for Collective Care
- The space will be opening soon
- Lots of interest in our resources

Challenges

Communication from the MSU, specifically around training, has been very challenging to work with and has negatively impacted how volunteers can engage with training. PTMs need to be kept in the loop so we can communicate with our volunteers in advance. A number of my executives and volunteers have had difficulties attending training because of the limited times they are offered (and the fact that they are only offered during working hours, which I understand – but then no recordings have been made available). We have not heard about Anti-Oppressive Training times either, yet. This has significantly pushed our timelines on training and opening our space. I would be happy to help come up with solutions to this issue – for example, if there's an easier platform to use to communicate updates than email (maybe we could use Teams), or we could receive updates on what is currently being organized (even if all the details haven't been ironed out) because this really impacts all PTMs' ability to do their jobs.