



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Director

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Neha Shah
SUBJECT: WGEN Report
DATE: March 2022

Yearplan Update

There are no updates to the year plan since my previous report. All service components have been running as per our year plan. We will soon be releasing a campaign called "What is WGEN?" to increase inclusivity and ease of access, while Survivors has been running regularly in line with our second strategic goal.

Events, Projects, & Activities

General Service Usage

Our major service components currently include: Collective Care, the Safe(r) Space, Survivors, and Transforming Mac. All of these have been used to varying degrees. The space has been accessed a bit over the semester, which is expected given the challenges in creating community online. We have completed Bodies are Dope and will be running Making Waves from March 21st to 25th.

Projects & Events: Bodies are Dope (Complete)

Bodies are Dope went very well. We had strong attendance at most of the events. In addition, the online components of Bodies are Dope received good engagement, including the giveaway and the interactive stories. We are now looking forward to Making Waves!

Projects & Events: Collective Care (Ongoing)

Collective Care has been going well. We have received a lot of requests over the past few weeks. One difficulty has been finances – we had to press pause on number of high priority orders due to the way external sponsorships are deposited into our budgets. If possible in the future, I would encourage the use of e-transfer or electronic deposits instead of mailing cheques, as for mailed cheques from external sponsors is unnecessarily lengthy.

Projects & Events: Survivors (Ongoing)

Survivors has been running during the majority of the semester. We have approximately 5 regular attendees and will be running one Survivors group in person as part of Making Waves.

Projects & Events: Making Waves (Upcoming)

Our third annual campaign week will be taking place from March 21st to 25th. Promotions have already begun and we have had great registration so far.

Projects & Events: The Womanists Rebranding & Restructuring (Upcoming)

The Womanists are a working group under WGEN that have not been active since the 2019-2020 school year. Their goal is to create programming for Black women and non-binary folks. Two of our execs are now involved with the Womanists and are hoping to put together either an exec team or a board (comprised of folks from other peer support services and Black student groups) to rename and restructure the Womanists to ensure they continue to operate over the coming years and are more inclusive to non-binary folks.

Projects & Events: Operating Policy and Job Description Updates

Next year, I hope to have two Training & Development Coordinators and two Volunteer Coordinators. I think this will make the hiring and training period a lot easier for the incoming Director and Assistant Director, and will allow volunteers to have more hands-on support and opportunities for continued training during the year.

Outreach & Promotions

Summary

We have been sharing our Making Waves promotions, which is going well. We have found that giveaways really boost our engagement and will be doing one during Making Waves as well.

Finances

Budget Summary

No updates since the last report.

Executives & Volunteers

Execs and volunteers are doing well in their roles. We are specifically excited by the campaign our Social and Political Advocacy Coordinator created, called "What is WGEN?".

Successes

Bodies are Dope went really well. There was quite a bit of engagement with our events, promotions, and giveaway, and we received good feedback on the events! We are really looking forward to Making Waves.

Current Challenges

I had a personally challenging few weeks which meant I fell behind on some WGEN-related (and other) responsibilities. I'm working on catching up now but it has been very busy.