



Year in Review

Diversity Services
Director
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2021–2022



Year in Review

This year was a difficult one. With unpredictable changes to the Service, lack of training, and inconsistent and absent communication from supervisors, it was incredibly difficult to run a student-facing Service to fully meet the expectations of the MSU and the needs of the students. Nevertheless, we managed to execute campaigns and events that we are proud of; I trained and led a team that are equipped to serve the racialized students at McMaster University. I focused a lot of my work on tending to the anxieties of my volunteers and the leaders of the student interfaith council, as MSU volunteers and as students in a university undergoing constant and unforeseeable changes. Moreover, I also focused on creating long-lasting changes in the Services. This includes revamping the Service's branding and trying with little to no support in acquiring a physical space for Service operations. The latter was not successful, and I am disappointed that my successor will not have a suitable physical space to host and run Service operations out of.

Below, I've outlined the events and campaigns run throughout the school year.

September

Welcome Week event (with WGEN, PCC, SHEC, Maccess)

- The event was hosted and planned with the directors and assistant directors of the five peer support services
- Hosted over zoom
- Attendance of 2 participants in the first 15 minutes that dropped to 0 by 30 minutes

Every Child Matters virtual campaign

- The promotions executives researched prominent Instagram accounts that are managed by Indigenous individuals to share in the campaign posted on September 30th
- Facebook and Instagram engagement were average

October

Reassembly of Student Interfaith Council

- Over the month of September, I worked to make connections with the leaders of religious and spiritual clubs and organizations on campus
- Engagement was low with limited participation from Hillel, McMaster Spiritual club, McMaster Campus Association of Baha'i Students, McMaster Hindu Students Association, and Cornerstone.

- Monthly meetings were poorly attended and leaders expressed concern for unpredictable university guidelines which hindered collaboration

Halloween Annual Campaign

- The Social and Political Advocacy planned a series of posts on Facebook and Instagram that explored themes of cultural appropriation and cultural appreciation
- Engagement was above average on both platforms

November

Community Circle (Hump Day Dump Day)

- We had challenges around the community events and planning committee's training and level of comfort around peer support leading up to this; much of this was due to the expectation that the MSU would be providing these trainings which either did not happen or were inaccessible due to poor communication from the student union
- Nevertheless, the assistant director and I compiled a series of trainings for the executives and volunteers and allowed them to plan the structure, style, and focus of the community circle
- The community circle was well attended considering the circumstances with a group of 5 attendees
- It was hosted virtually (zoom)

December

Holiday Shopping Spotlight

- An initiative led by the promotions team carried out over Instagram stories
- Local BIPOC-owned businesses were highlighted over the course of a week
- These were later shared as a Facebook post

Happy Holidays Campaign

- An Instagram and Facebook post put together by the research and resources executive
- Put together coping and language resources for racialized students attempting to educate their family members

January

Thrive Week – Tea Time (Podcast Recording)

- A live podcast recording on the subject of mental health and racialization

- Hosted by SPA coordinator Angela Huang with guests R&R executive Arash Aria and CEP volunteer Rebeena Subadar
- There was no attendance but the episode is published on our podcast channel

Thrive Week – Spilling the Tea (Community Circle)

- Our community circle with highest attendance with 10 new attendees
- The theme was mental health and self-care practices (in line with thrive week theme)

February

Bodies are Dope (with WGEN)

- A community circle closed to Black individuals was hosted in collaboration with WGEN execs
- Attendance details are closed to the hosts

Black History Month Resources campaign

- Put together by the R&R executive
- Included books, videos, and accounts that discuss Black experiences
- Engagement was average

March

Indigenous Org Fundraising Campaign (with MSU Spark)

- *Not yet released*