



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Director

TO:	Members of the Executive Board
FROM:	Rijaa Khan
SUBJECT:	WGEN Report #6
DATE:	March 15, 2024

Yearplan Update

There were a notable number of goals for WGEN in February/March. Namely, our second campaign of the year, *Bodies Are Dope*, took place alongside planning for our final and last campaign, *Making Waves*. Some smaller but just as significant projects/ideas commenced too: the planning for a Volunteer Appreciation event, and our newest initiative, the *WGEN Library Project*. Lastly, our daily safe(r) space hours and Community Care Groups continue to run smoothly.

Events, Projects, & Activities

General Service Usage

We've had consistent service usage this semester; based on intake forms from Safe(r) Space volunteers, we've had 150+ people stop by the physical space from the start of the semester. Amongst the 150+ people who have stopped by, more than 15 people have been consistently returning to seek peer support.

Community Care Groups, which are an extension of the peer support WGEN offers (but more identity-specific, e.g., closed peer support for Trans and Nonbinary Folks) started to run again in February. *Survivors, Trans and Non-Binary, South Asian Diaspora Art Group*, and *Well-being Community Care Groups* began to run again over the past month. On another great note, WGEN began another Community Care Group last month in collaboration with MSU's Maccess and MSU's Diversity Equity Network called "Community Circles." Our first two sessions have went wonderfully thus far.

Projects & Events: Community Care Groups (On-Going)

The following Community Care Groups are running in the WGEN space:

- Well-being Community Care Group – Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
 - A peer-support group for folks who experience disability, neurodiversity, and chronic illness. A safe(r) space to discuss, validate, and share your lived experiences.

- South Asian Diaspora Art Group – Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30 PM
 - An art-drive peer support group for South Asia women, trans folks, and non-binary folks. A safe(r) space to do art based on weekly prompts! Discuss, validate, and share your lived experiences.
- Trans + Nonbinary Community Care Group -- Wednesdays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
 - A closed peer-support group for transgender and non-binary folks to discuss, validate and share their lived experiences.
- Community Circles – Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
 - In collaboration with MSU's Maccess and MSU's DEN, we introduce our newest initiative: the "Community Circles" Care Group! This Care Group is a safe(r) space to share your lived experiences and obtain social support from peers.
 - This is WGEN's first ever collaboration with MSU Maccess and MSU DEN for Community Care Groups to accommodate the diverse needs of all the students that our individual services provide peer support for.
 - Note: this care group will run in WGEN for the first three meetings, then shift to Bridges.
- Survivors -- Fridays, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
 - Survivors is back! Survivors is a closed and confidential peer support group for survivors of sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence to discuss, validate, and share their experiences based on their comfort level.

Projects & Events: Bodies Are Dope (Complete)

Our second campaign this year, *Bodies Are Dope*, was very successful. We ran this campaign during February alongside Black History Month and our annual Black History Month Giveaway. This was the completed *Bodies Are Dope Itinerary*:

- Monday, February 26th
 - Creative Craft Workshop! (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM)
 - 🌸👩 Enjoy making crafts? Come to the WGEN space to make cute keepsake paper crafts and tissue paper flowers to make your own bouquet! Whether you'd like to destress or build upon a hobby, all are welcome!
- Tuesday, February 27th
 - Tune-ing in Music Exchange 4.0: BIPOC Musicians (5:30 pm – 7:30 pm)
 - Join WGEN to share your favourite BIPOC musicians and discuss the importance of representation in music. 🎧 Feel free to share or discover your new favourite musicians! You'll also get the chance to win a mini-Bluetooth speaker :) We'll be releasing a full playlist after the event too!
- Wednesday, February 28th
 - ZineFusion: Artistry in Collage (5:30 PM – 7:30 PM)

- 🧐✂️ Dive into relaxation with community by collectively making zines! ✨ Join us for a night of cutting, pasting, and community connection as we craft our way through a kaleidoscope of self-expression. Collage materials will be provided. ***closed to racialized folks and their friends*
- Thursdays, February 29th
 - Pajama Movie Night – Thirteen Going on Thirty (6:30 pm – 8:30 pm)
 - Come watch and discuss the iconic body-focused movie “Thirteen Going on Thirty” with us and your friends! Get cozy and show up in your pajamas to indulge in some pizza. We will also end the night with a discussion of the movie and themes!
- Fridays, March 1st
 - Tarot & Taste: A Mystic Soiree (5:30 – 8:00 pm)
 - 🧐🌟 Join us for a night of enchantment as we delve into the mystical world of Tarot readings while celebrating food positivity. Tarot cards will be available, but feel free to bring your own! Nut free appetizers, dishes, and desserts welcome!

Projects & Events: Making Waves (Up-coming)

Our very last campaign of the year, *Making Waves*, is coming up at the end of March. We're very excited! Here is our complete itinerary:

- Monday March 25th
 - Feminism 1A03: Coffee House (6:30 – 8:30pm)
 - Come join us for a session to learn the foundational ins and outs of intersectional feminism. A “required” silly syllabus of reading will be provided for you, where we'll be reading small passages and quotes from authors such as Kimberlé Crenshaw, Audre Lorde, Sara Ahmed, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, and more. Coffee and tea will be provided. \$50.00 Bookstore Gift-card will be drawn for all attendees.
- Tuesday, March 26th
 - “Honeyland” Documentary + Discussion (6:00 – 9:30 pm)
 - Experience the gripping tale of the last Macedonian beekeeper, preserving ancient traditions in North Macedonia. Witness tension rise as a neighboring family challenges her wisdom, endangering landscapes and beekeeping ecosystems. Join us for a thrilling documentary screening and discussion, accompanied by delicious pizza!
- Wednesday, March 27th
 - Crafting Change: Poster Making Workshop (5:30 – 7:30 pm)
 - Join us for a creative poster making workshop where we explore the power in creating impactful protest posters for social change.

Learn effective art techniques that empower you to craft visually compelling messages. No prior experience is necessary - just bring your passion and commitment to making a difference. Art supplies and poster paper will be provided. Best poster wins a \$50.00 gift card of winner's choice.

- Thursday, March 28th
 - Deconstructing White Feminism: Trivia Night (5:30 – 7:30 pm)
 - Join us for an eye-opening evening of critical discourse, delving into pervasive and harmful myths perpetuated by white feminism. Through trivia, we'll challenge assumptions and emphasize a move towards intersectionality in feminist organizations. Let's come together to deconstruct, learn, and reimagine feminist activism.
- Friday, March 29th
 - Writer's Coffee House: Poetic Activism Open-Mic Night (5:30 – 8:30 pm)
 - Join us for a captivating open-mic night for poets and storytellers alike! Celebrate the power of words by sharing stories/poems/narratives that uplift marginalized voices. We welcome all to experience the power of communal storytelling. Sign-up for a chance to win a Writer's Kit valued at \$50.00 (includes journal, pens, stationary, etc). Coffee + Tea will be provided.

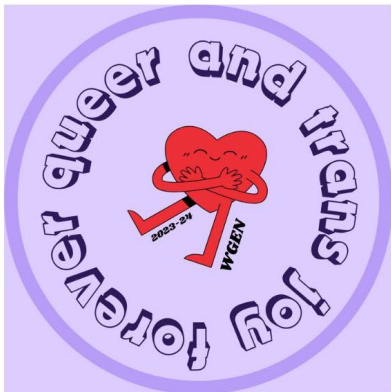
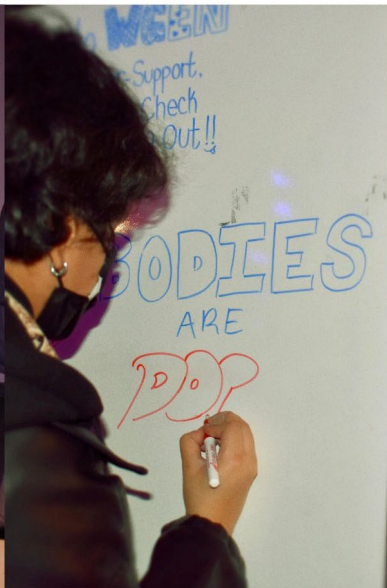
Outreach & Promotions

Summary

There was a week-long promotional campaign created by The Underground for *Bodies Are Dope*. We also took several photographs throughout our week's campaign events, which were featured on our social media.


Apart from *Bodies Are Dope*, I designed new rave cards for WGEN to be used in the next academic year (and a couple of promotional booths in April), alongside new stickers for our space users! Take a look below.

Promotional Materials



BODIES ARE DOPE 2024

Join WGEN to celebrate the existence, beauty and excellence of racialized folks! : February 26 - March 1

<p>Monday, February 26th</p> <p>BLACK HISTORY MONTH GIVEAWAY OPENS Giveaway open to Black folks!</p> <p>CREATIVE CRAFT WORKSHOP! Location: WGEN Space, MUSC 204 Time: 5:30PM - 7:30PM</p>	<p>Tuesday, February 27th</p> <p>SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE RACIALIZED MUSICIANS! All-Day Instagram</p> <p>TUNE-ING IN MUSIC EXCHANGE 4.0: BIPOC MUSICIANS Location: WGEN Space, MUSC 204 Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 28th</p> <p>ZINEFUSION: ARTISTRY IN COLLAGE Location: WGEN Space, MUSC 204 Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm</p>	<p>Thursday, February 29th</p> <p>PAJAMA MOVIE NIGHT THIRTEEN GOING ON THIRTY Location: BSB 120 Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm</p>
<p>Friday, March 1st</p> <p>TAROT & TASTE: A MYSTIC SOIREE Location: BSB B142 Time: 5:30pm - 8:00pm</p> <p>BLACK HISTORY MONTH GIVEAWAY CLOSES Make sure you get your entries in! We will be announcing the winner on our stories.</p> <p>If you have any questions or need any accommodations, please contact: wgen@msu.mcmaster.ca</p> 	

BIPOC MUSICIANS TO CHECK OUT!



FROM OUR "BODIES ARE DOPE" ALL-DAY INSTAGRAM AND MORE



Are you curious about MSU's Women & Gender Equity Network (WGEN)?

WGEN is a peer-support driven service that caters to **women, trans folk, non-binary folk, gender non-conforming folk, and all survivors** of sexual and gender-based violence from all gender identities

WGEN offers different types of support, such as **Walk-in Support** (available during office hours facilitated by our safe(r) space volunteers), **Community Care Groups**, & more.



WHERE YOU CAN FIND US + LEARN MORE

-  wgen@msu.mcmaster.ca
-  [@msu_wgen](https://www.instagram.com/msu_wgen)
-  msumcmaster.ca/wgen

Interested in joining WGEN?

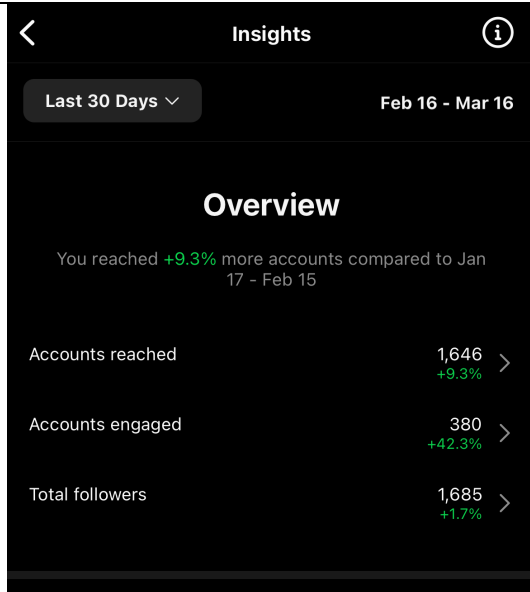
Look out for applications near the end of the school year and again in September. Announcements will be posted on our social media; open positions will be posted under the **employment section** of the website.



Social Media Engagement since the Previous Report

Insights: Overall Accounts and Content Reach

In the last 30 days, WGEN has reached 1,646 accounts. We had an increase of **+9.3%** in terms of accounts reached, and from this, there was an increase of **+42.3%** in engagement overall compared to the last month. Our total follower count also went up **+1.7%**.



Finances

Budget Summary

ACCOUNT CODE	ITEM	BUDGET / COST
5003-0308-0300	OFFICE SUPPLIES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pride Flag, Trans Flag, Wall Decor 	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$51.39
	REMAINING IN LINE	-\$1.39
6102-0308-0300	ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large Pizzas - (Trans)forming Mac Event Supplies (electric candles, postcards, JBL headphone prize) - (Trans)forming Mac Coffee + Tea from Catering Services - (Trans)forming Mac Large Pizzas and Food Basics Gift Card - Bodies Are Dope 	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$503.98
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$2,296.02
6103-0308-0300	SPECIAL PROJECTS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King W. Books Gift Card - (Trans)forming Mac Draw Prize x 2 Mikel Coffee Gift Card - (Trans)forming Mac Draw Prize 	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$150.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$850.00
6494-0308-0300	VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WGEN Bonfire Social - Snacks (Smores, Chips, Snacks) • Booking Altitude Bonfire Pit • Refresher Training Gift Cards 	\$56.84
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$231.84
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$168.16
6501-0308-0300	ADVERTISING & PROMOTION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs Fest Table • Year-round diverse promotional materials (stickers, etc.) • (Trans)forming Mac - Multi-Event Digital Campaign Promo • Wellbeing Week Promo • Bodies Are Dope - Multi-Event Digital Campaign Promo • Queer Prom - PCC Promotional Assistance • Community Circles - WGEN x DEN x MACCESS • Making Waves - Multi-Event Digital Campaign • WGEN Stickers + Rave Cards 	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$1,868.16
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$131.84
6804-0308-0300	TRAINING EXPENSES	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$0.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$500.00
TOTALS		
TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$6,750.00
TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$2,805.37
REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$3,944.63

Executives & Volunteers

For WGEN executives, morale has been relatively good. As we reach final exams, there has been a bit of decrease in motivation, which was entirely expected given the time we are in during the semester. Many executives are excited to participate in the final campaign, and some are in the process of completing mini end-of-the-year projects. Weekly meeting attendance has decreased, with ~60% attendance from the executive team. However, communication in specific executive group chats (e.g., volunteer coordinators group chat) has been great. Similarly, with exams upcoming, morale decreased slightly for volunteers. To combat this, we are throwing a Volunteer Appreciation Event next week with pizza, prizes, and games for everyone.

Successes

With the WGEN space open every day, Community Care Groups running full-force, and the final *Making Waves* campaign on the horizon, many folks in the WGEN community are excited for the end of the year. Also, considering WGEN only had 2 weeks to plan *Making Waves*, our coordinators did a wonderfully efficient job in creating an effective and creative itinerary which everyone is proud of.

Current Challenges

A few WGEN volunteers have been missing their shifts, and reporting absence the day of, which makes it difficult to get shift coverage. WGEN's Volunteer Coordinators also reported that most Peer Support Volunteers were still not available for any morning shifts before 11 a.m. Some volunteers are making up for missed shifts by covering other people's shifts, or helping out with our weekly Community Care Groups instead.