



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Director

TO:	Members of the Executive Board
FROM:	Rijaa Khan
SUBJECT:	Year-in-Review EB Report
DATE:	March 22nd 2024

Year plan Update

Over the last year, there were two primary goals that my Assistant Director and I set out to achieve: 1) Strengthening WGEN's In-Person programming, especially increasing our number of community care groups for survivors, racialized students, and trans and non-binary students 2) collaborating with other identity-based services to create campaign events that reflect our diverse student body.

I'm happy to relay that our primary goals have been completed with great success. We increased our community care groups this year, with at least 4-5 rotating care groups happening every week. Care groups included *Survivors*, *Well-Being Circle*, *Trans + Non-binary Care Group*, *South Asian Diaspora*, and more! We also took on our very recent initiative, which is the cross-over community care group with MSU's Maccess and Diversity Equity Network called "Community Circles."

As such, our second initiative which was to collaborate with other identity-based services, has also been tremendously successful. Across our 3 campaigns, we were able to collaborate with MSU's Pride Community Centre, Maccess, DEN, and more. Through these collaborations, WGEN became more accessible and known to the rest of the student body, which allowed us to increase awareness on the plethora of services we offer for students across campus.

The desire to increase inter-service collaboration was a notable goal that the previous WGEN Director noted last year; I'm happy to say that we were able to achieve it this year. For our successors, I will be sure to express my hope in such initiatives continuing in WGEN.

Events, Projects, & Activities

General Service Usage

Safe(r) space and peer support service were accessed in WGEN's physical space throughout the year. On a daily basis, the service was accessed for community building, accessing resources, peer support, facilitating community care groups, and

running some closed events during campaign weeks. Building awareness through campaigns and collaborations with other services (i.e., Maccess, DEN, PCC, QTCC) were particularly helpful to grow WGEN's audience and bring in various communities to engage with our service.

Physical resources were accessed frequently by the McMaster community. Gender affirming gear was in high demand and demonstrated the importance of WGEN offering these items. We frequently ordered new sizes for items such as binders and bras. Safe(r) sex and menstrual products were accessed frequently by drop-in users as well; both tampons, pads, and diva cups with requested periodically throughout the year. Users were also able to simply take sanitary products that we put out in the main area according to their needs.

Our multi-event campaign weeks, *Transforming Mac*, *Bodies are Dope*, and *Making Waves* were our most accessed community-building efforts this year. With over 3 campaigns and 20+ events run throughout the year, our audience grew tremendously as demonstrated by our social media and increase in service users, both within the WGEN space (daily peer support, weekly community care groups, etc.) and during campaign events.

Community Care Groups: Survivors Programming (Ongoing)

The *Survivors* community care group has been running on Fridays all year; it offers peer-support for all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The group meets weekly for 1-1.5 hours, give or take the prompt/topic/discussion at hand. There has been strong engagement from participants; positive response and interest from the student body has indicated the incredible necessity for this group. *Survivors* will run until the last full week of classes. This care group has been the most consistent group all year; with a strong start in September, we have been running it till now, and hope to see this group grow strong and offer programming steadily next year as well.

Community Care Groups: Well-being Programming (Ongoing)

Amongst the many other community care groups we started this year, the *Well-being* community care group has been one of the steadiest ones. We started running it for the first time last semester towards the end of October; it ran on Wednesdays in Fall, and now runs on Mondays in the Winter Semester. It offers peer-support group for folks who experience disability, neurodiversity, and chronic illness, and gives them a safe(r) space to discuss their lived experiences. The group meets weekly for 1-1.5 hours, give or take the prompt/topic/discussion at hand. There has been strong engagement from participants; positive response and interest from the student body has indicated the incredible necessity for this group. *Well-being* community care group will run until the

last full week of classes. Though we started this care group later in the Fall semester, and were offering completely novel programming for the first time ever, the group has had incredible turn out. Weekly attendance and interest have been strong; we hope to see this group grow bigger and offer programming steadily next year as well, especially since the facilitators will have one year of service to reflect on.

Community Care Groups: South Asian Diaspora Art Group Programming (Ongoing)

The *South Asian Diaspora Art Group* started running for the first time last semester. It is also a new community care group we started just this year. It began running towards the end of October; in the Fall Semester, it ran on Fridays, and it runs on Mondays now in the Winter Semester. It serves as a closed peer-support group for South Asian women, trans folks, and non-binary folks. It has been a safe(r) space for folks to do art based on weekly prompts and discuss, validate, and share their lived experiences. The group meets weekly for 1-1.5 hours, give or take the scope of the art prompt. There has been strong engagement from participants; positive response and interest from the student body has indicated the strong necessity for this group. The *South Asian Diaspora Art Group* will run until the last full week of classes. This care group has been very consistent all year; with a strong start in October, we have been running it till now, and hope to see this group grow strong and offer programming steadily next year as well, when facilitators will have one year of service to reflect on.

Community Care Groups: Community Circles Programming (Ongoing)

Our newest initiative, the *Community Circles* care group, began its programming this past March. This is WGEN's first-ever collaborative community care group, where we are running facilitation alongside MSU's Maccess and Diversity Equity Network. The *Community Circles* care group runs on Wednesdays weekly; in March, we have been meeting in the WGEN and Maccess spaces. We started this care group to reflect the diverse needs of McMaster's student body; the group addresses the needs of many intersecting identities, such as racialized, disabled, and other marginalized identity-groups. The group meets weekly for 2-2.5 hours, give or take the prompt/topic/discussion at hand. There has been strong engagement from participants, even though we only started this collaborative care group very recently. Positive response and interest from the student body has indicated the incredible necessity for this group, especially next year, when the programming can run all year.

Projects & Events: Making Waves – (Ongoing)

Making Waves is our final campaign of the year, and it is running next week. We have targeted events to cover community building and collective advocacy. Since this is not an identity-based campaign, we have increased our incentives for community engagement, which is reflected in events such as the “Poster Making Workshop” and “Writer’s Coffee House”, both events we are running alongside MSU’s Maccess and DEN.

Projects & Events: Transforming Mac – (Complete)

Transforming Mac was well-attended and engaged with this year. We are very proud of the work we put into it as it was our first campaign week of the year and set a strong precedent and learning experience for the next two campaign weeks we ran. Highlights of the week were the “Caffeine and Cadence” Open Mic Night and the “He(art) to Heart” Art Gallery, which had incredible engagement and submissions sent in from the community.

Projects & Events: Bodies are Dope – (Complete)

Bodies are Dope was a joy to plan and facilitate. It was well-attended, especially given the challenges with *the* timing of the events right after reading week, so we are very proud of what we were able to accomplish. Highlights of the week were our Black History Month Giveaway and “Tarot and Taste” event.

Outreach & Promotions

Summary

Promotions have been focused on the upcoming programming, as discussed above. Graphics for Making Waves are attached below.

Over the past year, we have shared our posts with numerous McMaster organizations for reposts and to reach a larger target audience. Big campaign giveaways have also increased engagement tremendously.

Promotional Materials

Making Waves

March 25th - March 29th

Join us to create transformative & meaningful change.

Attend 3 or more events for a chance to win JBL Headphones!




March 25th - March 29th

Making Waves

wgen@msu.mcmaster.ca

Join us to create transformative & meaningful change.

Big giveaway!
Attend 3 or more events for a chance to win JBL Headphones!





https://linktr.ee/MSU_WGEN




Making Waves

March 25th - March 29th

<p>MONDAY Feminism 1A03 UH 101 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm</p>	<p>THURSDAY Deconstructing White Feminism: Trivia Night WGEN Space, MUSC 204 5:30 pm – 7:30pm</p>
<p>TUESDAY "Honeyland" Documentary + Discussion BSB B103 5:30 pm – 10:00 pm</p>	<p>FRIDAY Writer's Coffee House: Poetic Activism Open-Mic Night BRIDGES 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY Crafting Change: Poster Making Workshop UH 112 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Join us to create transformative & meaningful change.</p>

WGEN'S Making Waves presents...

CALL FOR PERFORMANCE SIGN-UP

sign-up for a chance to win our "writer's kit" stationary giveaway! valued at \$50.00!



Writer's Coffee House

Welcome to WGEN's first-ever **Writer's Coffee House** in collaboration with MSU's Maccess and DEN! This open-mic night serves as a platform for **activist poetry and writing** with some coffee + tea! Performance sign-ups are now open (link in our bio). Every sign-up is an entry in our giveaway raffle!

Sign-up Deadline:
Wednesday, March 27th






Social Media Engagement since the Previous Report

Finances

Budget Summary

Final expenses will be spent on the Making Waves campaign, and our Volunteer Appreciation event. For execs, we plan to make “care kits” as a token of our gratitude. We are also working on finalizing the “WGEN Library Project”, which will be our last big initiative of the year; we plan to purchase books requested by community members.

Overall, budgeting has been a relatively smooth process over the past year.

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 Making Waves - Giveaway Items, Supplies, etc 	
	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$959.98
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1,840.02
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 Volunteer Appreciation Night - 3 Large Pizzas and Gift Cards 	\$56.84

	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$398.77
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1.23
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		\$3,428.30
REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$3,321.70

Executives & Volunteers

I'm very proud of the work that my executives and volunteers have put into WGEN this year. Many of them have made great strides in the service, whether it be in their designated roles, taking initiatives to start bigger projects, or facilitating community care groups. My Assistant Director and I are currently in the process of deciding on the items to include in our "care kits" to show our gratitude for their ongoing dedication to WGENN this past year.