



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Director

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Anne Peiris
SUBJECT: WGEN Report 3
DATE: October 10, 2024

Yearplan Update

WGEN has been generally on track with our year plan so far. In August, we had our volunteer training for our first round of volunteers, which was successful and seemed more engaging than training in previous years. We have opened the space, and we are currently interviewing to hire our second round of volunteers, and we will hopefully be able to be open for longer hours once they are all hired. We've also started planning our first campaign week, (Trans)forming Mac, which will be happening in November.

Events, Projects, & Activities

General Service Usage

Our space has been well-used since we opened in September. We usually at least one person come into the space, but there have been several shifts where there have been about 10 people in the space during a shift. People have also been using some of our physical resources such as binders, menstrual products, and books from our library. Additionally, we've started one of our community care groups and are planning on starting another one after reading week.

Projects & Events: Round 1 Volunteer Training (Complete)

We had training for our first round of volunteers at the end of August. We updated our training this year with more relevant info in the context of WGEN and went through several peer support scenarios to ensure that our volunteers felt comfortable with situations they could potentially encounter in the space. Running the training in person allowed for more engagement and for a stronger sense of community among volunteers, execs, and PTMs.

Projects & Events: Restocking Inventory (Complete)

We counted our inventory for gender-affirming gear and restocked some of what was depleted after last year. Specifically, we bought several chest binders and more rolls of trans tape. We have created some relationships with companies that offer us discounts for our bulk purchases. Unfortunately, the products are

expensive even with discounts, so there are several other items that we cannot currently purchase.

Projects & Events: Opening the Space (Complete)

Our biggest goal for the beginning of the year was to open the space as soon as possible. We were able to open on the second week of school, and the space has been well-used since then. We have also started up one of our community care groups that centers disability and chronic illness. We made some changes to the space to make it more accessible to students who do not identify as women by decreasing the amount of feminine decor that we had up.

Projects & Events: Round 2 Hiring (Ongoing)

We promoted our volunteer hiring for most of August and are currently conducting interviews until mid-October. The second round of volunteer training will be held towards the end of the month, and we aim to have expanded service hours by the beginning of November. We are also planning a volunteer social to get all the volunteers, execs, and PTMs better acquainted and to build a stronger sense of community within WGEN.

Projects & Events: Collective Care (On-going)

We are collaborating with SHEC on the Collective Care project. Collective Care is an initiative funded by the McMaster Okanagan Office to provide financial support to students to purchase menstrual products, gender-affirming products, medication, and related items. Though posters for the program went up at the beginning of the year, there was a delay in having our half of the grant transferred to our account. However, we received the budget at the end of September and are fulfilling all the requests that were pending.

Projects & Events: Collaboration with the YWCA (Ongoing/Upcoming)

We are working with the YWCA to find participants to share their experiences of feelings for safety and unsafety for an audit by the City of Hamilton. The event will have a limited capacity, all participants will be compensated monetarily, and the project will be fully funded by the city. One of the PTMs will be present to facilitate the conversation to ensure that the WGEN space maintains its integrity as a safe(r) space.

Projects & Events: (Trans)forming Mac (Upcoming)

Our Community Events and Planning execs are busy planning the events for our first campaign week. We are also discussing collaborating on one or more events with Maccess to increase event size and attendance since we both have campaign weeks running at the same time.

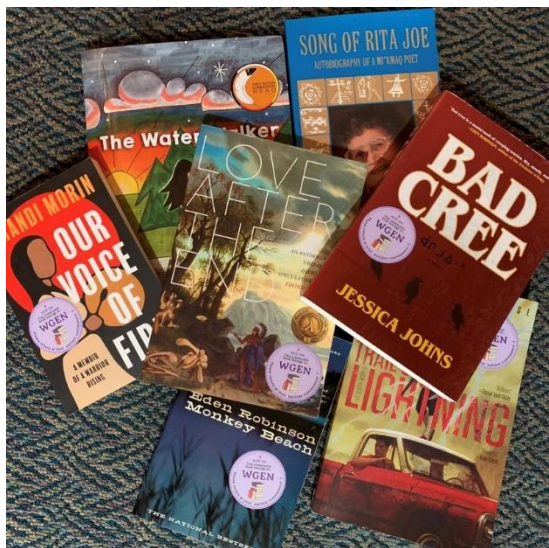
Outreach & Promotions

Summary

We have posted our meet the exes posts on our Instagram, along with updated space opening graphics, round 2 hiring graphics, and an updated graphic for one of our community care groups. We have also posted graphics for Collective Care in collaboration with SHEC.

Additionally, our execs had the idea to create reading lists for relevant commemorative days or weeks using books we have in our library. We shared some books for The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day with a brief caption about the significance of the day. We hope this increases user engagement for our library.

Promotional Materials



msu_wgen The WGEN Library is proud to present our first collection series highlighting Indigenous Stories and Authors!

September 30th is National Truth and Reconciliation Day, a day meant to commemorate the legacy of colonization in Canada and to reflect upon the actions that must be taken to meet the 94 Calls to Action of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Métis academic, David Gameau, questions this use of the word 'reconciliation,' as it implies the 'repair' of a previously existing amicable relationship, and "imposes the fiction that equanimity is the status quo between Aboriginal people and Canada." (Imaginary Spaces of Conciliation and Reconciliation: Art, Curation, and Healing by David Gameau).

The TRC calls upon post-secondary institutions to engage in the commission's calls to action and to take a leadership role in education regarding Indigenous histories, current events, and futures. Students can find our Indigenous Authors and Stories collection at the WGEN space, from which the following books can be borrowed.

- Love After the End e.d by Joshua Whitehead – Short Stories
- Trail of Lightning by Rebecca Roanhorse – Fiction
- Bad Cree by Jessica Johns – Fiction
- Monkey Beach by Eden Robinson – Fiction
- Song of Rita Joe by Rita Joe – Memoir/Biography
- Our Voice of Fire by Brandi Morin – Memoir/Biography
- The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson – Children's

Above is an example of the books lists that we will be posting throughout the year.

Social Media Engagement since the Previous Report

We've had some growth over the past month, especially after our open house and Clubsfest table.



Finances

Budget Summary

We have made a few purchases for promotions for prepare us for the year. Besides that, the largest cost that we had was for gender-affirming gear allotted to the special projects budget line. We have spent most of our budget in that line only on chest binders and trans tape, although we were able to get discounts and a few donations from the companies we ordered from.

The YWCA offered to purchase supplies for activities that can be done during their event, and we are allowed to keep whatever supplies are remaining. This will allow us to save a little bit on office supplies and space improvements.

ACCOUNT CODE	ITEM	BUDGET / COST
5003-0308	Name tags, carabiners	\$12.71
SUPPLIES	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$12.71
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$37.29
6103-0308	Trans Tape	\$420.36
	Binders	\$349.63
SPECIAL PROJECTS	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$769.99
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$2,730.01
	Open House Snacks	\$23.29
	Clubsfest	\$20.00
	Meet the execs	\$137.50
	Feedback Form Promo	\$100.00
6501-0308	Posters for the door	\$165.00
PROMO	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$445.79
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1554.21
6804-0308	Lava Pizza (Party Slabs, Gluten Free)	\$104.94
	Juice Boxes	\$13.16
TRAINING	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$118.10
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$381.90
TOTALS		
TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$9750.00
TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$1346.59
REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING		\$8403.41

***Note:** \$2500 from the special projects line is reserved for collective care. We only have \$1000 for our spending in that budget line.

Executives & Volunteers

Our execs and volunteers are doing great! I am very proud of all of them. They are all so involved, and it seems like they really care about WGEN and the people who use our space. There seems to be more community between execs and volunteers than I have seen in previous years, which is nice.

Successes

The (Trans)forming Mac events we are planning are very exciting and coming along well, and although planning the logistics for some of the events is tricky, we are still very excited about what we can do.

We are also looking forward to the YWCA event. It will not only allow the city of Hamilton to improve safety for women and gender minorities, but participants will

be monetarily compensated, and the city will be funding the entire event. I think it's great to create connections with external organizations.

Current Challenges

We've been trying to organize collective care in a way that is sustainable. It's been a bit tricky trying to balance our funding and fulfilling requests, especially since some items are incredibly expensive. We've been trying to cap requests to \$50 at a time and request additional information if a single item would cost somebody more than that. We will see how that works for a few weeks and go from there.

Additionally, there have been times that volunteers have not shown up to shifts without informing anybody in advance. As far as I'm aware, this hasn't been a huge issue so far, but I would rather limit this as much as possible.