



REPORT

From the office of the...
Maccess Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Alex Wilson
SUBJECT: Maccess Report 1 (2016/2017)
DATE: Tuesday October 3rd

UPDATE

Since the last time I reported, (way back in April) A LOT has happened with Maccess. A breakdown of Summer Hours was provided to EB so feel free to ask questions about any of that but the primary scope of the report will be Welcome Week onwards. A brief overview of the past five weeks is here:

Week One: Welcome Week (25)

- Preparation for the year
- Securing Swing Spaces
- Preparing for training
- Event planning with exec
- Promoting volunteer applications
- Support provision

Week Two: First Week of School (35)

- Lauren and I, my amazing training and volunteer exec, became one human as we navigated volunteer application review, interviews, hiring, and training all in seven days. She's Amazing!
- Support provision

Week Three: Week after Training (15)

- Shift scheduling
- More space securing
- Support provision
- Exec meetings
- Make up training
- Prep for Humans of Maccess and Launch

Week Four: HUMANS OF MACCESS (25)

- HoM
- Support Provision
- Cupcake social
- Exec meetings

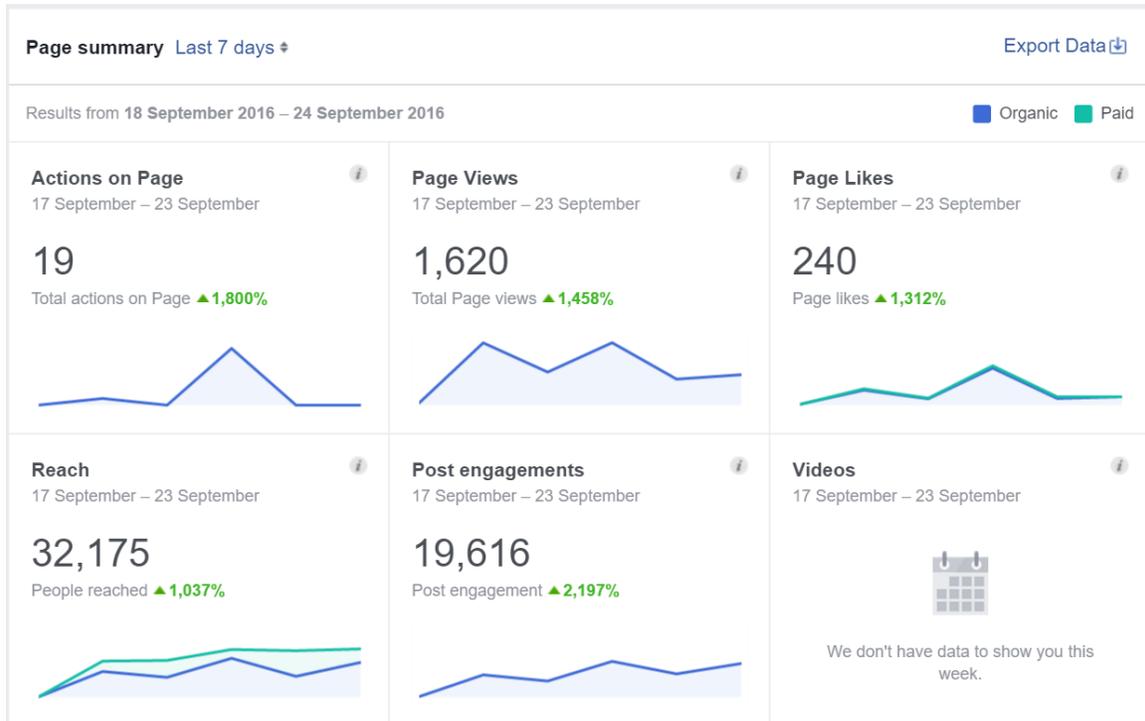
Week 5: Space Opened (25)

- Support provision
- LAUNCHING A SERVICE

SERVICE USAGE

Volunteer Applications: We received 40 volunteer applications, offered 25 interviews, and hired a team of 23 volunteers. Bringing the Maccess family to a total of 28 amazing folks and myself.

Humans of Maccess: Humans of Maccess was our photo campaign that ran from the 19th to the 23rd of September. The purpose of the campaign was to raise awareness of Maccess as a service as well as to demonstrate how to do a photo campaign without problematizing disability.



This screen shot was taken on the Friday of the week so the paid promotion of that day had not yet been exhausted. In addition, the recap album was released on Sunday. So all of the stats are slightly higher than this, for example the final increase in likes was 286 (four short of doubling our likes in 7 days)! And our post engagement ended just below 21 000.

Cupcake Social:

We gave out over 300 cupcakes, gained over 50 Facebook likes and at points in time had up to 30 people having cool and important conversations in our space. It was really meaningful to have so many people who experience disability gather in one place and this might have been the first time this many people came together around this issue (and cupcakes of course).

Space usage:

Tuesday, 8-10pm in the SWELL: 4 people not on shift (all volunteers)
 Wednesday, 1:00-4:00pm in MUSC 230: 16ppl not on shift (7 not volunteers)
 Thursday, 6:30-9:30 in WGEN: 8 people not on shift (3 not volunteers).
 Friday, 12:30-4:00pm in MAPS, 4 people not on shift, (2 not volunteers) (promoted least)

By appointment peer support: 0 (its very new and early)

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Humans of Maccess, Sept 19th-25th: Over the course of the 5 week days roughly 5 photos and descriptions were released a day with 6 on Thursday and 4 on Friday. Post engagement ranged from 600-6000 depending on paid promotion and time of day posted, as well as the photo itself. At 4:45pm every day we paid Facebook \$10 to promote that post. These posts ranged from 1700-6000 in post engagement.

The purpose of the campaign was to allow volunteers and community members to self-define why Maccess was important and to comment of disability and/or accessibility from their perspective. Additionally it marked a chance to explore our politic as a service, from this campaign we set out some guidelines about how we feel people who experience disability should be appropriately represented. Finally we wanted to use it as a chance to grow Maccess social media following and general awareness. While I think the first two goals were achieved through simply running the campaign the last goal has mixed impacts. While I believe we strongly increased awareness of Maccess as a service and debunked misconceptions about what

we do I think the impact was primarily to students in leadership positions. While this is great and will allow for a lot of referrals and students in those positions to come to Maccess. In the future more coordination with SAS would have broadened the impact of this campaign and helped us be more specific in messaging. Again Overall I feel as if the campaign was a huge Success.

Cupcake social, September 21st: As part of our launch we gave out cupcakes in club space and modelled what a Maccess community space would look like. Some topics discussed were classes, MSAFs, SAS, grad school, and relationships.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Events:

Accessibility Forum: We will be holding the annual Accessibility Forum the first full week of November. Bookings and planning of the event come out next week in addition to a survey that it would be great if all of you could share.

Disability Studies IA03: I'm so passionate about this event, and I love it so much already. The second week of November we will be hosting a 2ish hour lecture event introducing disability studies and some basics. Presenters will include the Maccess Social and Political Advocacy Exec, Myself, and a relevant professor. It promises to be a cool interactive learning experience as well as the first step towards a disability studies minor at McMaster. This event is being planned in consultation with EIO and PACBIC because of its advocacy role.

The two events exec, the promotions exec, and myself have and events and promo meeting weekly starting this Tuesday to better plan and organize upcoming event. The below are some events and potential timelines for first term that are being finalized and planned at these meetings.

Mental Illness Week: Next week the SWC and SWELL are running a mental illness awareness week, we may publish some articles or personal stories at the same time if we feel certain people are being left out of the discussion. This WILL NOT be done antagonistically. We will theme our content to reflect conversations ongoing on campus.

Accessibility Crawl: An online information sharing week where we showcase restaurants and cafes in Hamilton that are ACTUALLY accessible and then on the Friday go to a few of these places. Concerns include accessible transportation and if we wanted the event to end before an artcrawl, reading week is the last art crawl before bad weather. This may become a term 2 event.

Campus Barriers: looking at an event that can highlight barriers on campus both physical and otherwise. Potentially Looking at another photo campaign circa Jama 2016, but focusing more on diverse ranges of barriers and looking at barriers in the classroom (podcasting, seating, pedagogy, note takers, etc). Concerns: to some extent this is an event that teaches abled people about disability which while I know there are good ways of accomplishing makes me a little uncomfortable because Maccess isn't for them. Ways to improve would be looking how we could tie this to policy changes and advocacy.

Additionally we will have some sort of term of year social and run some programming during exam period.

Projects and Activities:

Chronic Illness Group: the goal is to start this group mid-October to early November. It will be a weekly group that will run somewhat autonomously and ideally meet weekly. Discussion with the existing Spoonies at Mac group is happening to decide how they would like to see from us in this programming.

Facebook group: As our community grows it is becoming clear that we would benefit from a secret Facebook group in addition to our page to improve community building online. Essentially taking on a QSCC model. Meeting with promotions exec on Tuesday to discuss implementation and a published set of community guidelines.

BUDGET

	Current	Prior Yr.	Current	Prior Yr.	Prior Yr.	Approved	% Budget
	Month	Month	YTD	YTD	YE	Budget	Used
	August	August	2016-17	2015-16	2015-16	2017	To Date
All:							
5003-0118 MACCESS - OFFICE SUPPLIES	75.87		75.87			\$120.00	63.23%
5101-0118 MACCESS - TELEPHONE						\$120.00	0.00%
6102-0118 MACCESS - ANNUAL CAMPAIGNS						\$1,500.00	0.00%
6402-0118 MACCESS - AWARDS & MEETINGS	(91.72)		(91.72)			\$500.00	(18.34%)
6501-0118 MACCESS - ADV. & PROMO	582.51		587.51			\$1,000.00	58.75%
6603-0118 MACCESS - SPECIAL PROJECTS			25.00			\$500.00	5.00%
7001-0118 MACCESS - WAGES			885.67			\$7,300.00	12.13%
7101-0118 MACCESS - BENEFITS			64.47			\$710.00	9.08%
Total All	566.66		1,546.80			\$11,750.00	13.16%

Additional expenses not included on this statement, Underground fees ~\$50, cupcake social supply fees ~\$130, ASIST Training ~\$300. While most expenses will be promotional for the rest of the term, we want to spend some amounts on volunteer appreciation, and getting a tablet for the space before December. While I believe we will stay largely in budget the line I'm most worried about for the year is promotions.

VOLUNTEERS

Exec introductions:



Lauren: Training and Volunteer



Ali: Resources



Areeba: Advocacy (Events)



Devin: Logistics (Events)



Mollie: Promotions (Events)

The volunteers: This term Maccess has 23 amazingly aware, engaged, compassionate, empathetic, and dedicated volunteers who literally bring so much light into my life. Talking to each one of these amazing humans allows me to grow and become better as a human. They are all so good! Overall, I think the biggest concerns are that volunteers to yet feel confident in the space and that there are more volunteers than shifts. As our hours continue to grow and as we take up more presence on campus I think these concerns will begin to ameliorate.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

SAS: Working with SAS is hard. As organizations we have fundamentally different priorities, goals, philosophies, and procedures. That being said relationships are developing and I have had success in the past with them emailing Maccess information out to all registered students.

Workload: In this role I think there are several challenges related to both emotional labour and actual tasks. In the updates section, I put the number of hours I worked each week in brackets beside the week title. Discussing next steps in regards to hours I'm working would be very beneficial as I know there are tangible ways such as better division of work with exec and on call exec systems that will reduce my need to be "on" but it also increases the number of hours they are working above their contracts.

Additionally to the tangible workload there is a great deal of emotional support required from the person within this position. I have been having 1-3 conversations about suicide a day with community members. I think this highlights a need for better training in my role around suicide, (I'm very thankful that I'm getting ASIST training this weekend), but also indicates a need for drastic effort on both the University and MSU in regards to suicide. I don't regret having these conversations but they are very draining to the point where they have begun to impact my ability to provide support. Some solutions talked about to allow for more debriefing is regular anonymous feedback to the BoD/EB, having scheduled debriefing sessions with the five peer support PTMS, potentially with professionals in similar roles present, and evaluating mental health within the MSU.

Differing Perspectives: Different identities coming together always allows for contrasting ideas and diverse perspectives. As there are multiple power dynamics within the disability community, focusing on maintaining a safe(r) space while allowing for expression of feelings is difficult. In addition, it is my strong opinion that Maccess needs to be there to raise the marginalized voices within the disability community. However, this often leads to other community members being faced with privileges they are not aware they might have. Having these discussions while ensuring everyone feels welcomed in the same space, without furthering existing inequity is a big challenge.

SUCSESSES

This report is already very long so here are some recaps of the good things:

- people see us as a place to debrief and decompress and feel safe with us so far
- HUMANS OF MACCESS
- CUPCAKE SOCIAL
- WEEK ONE OF SPACE
- The volunteers are so good and wonderful they are like golden retrievers except they are University students and to my knowledge not dogs