



REPORT

From the office of the...

WGEN Coordinator

TO: Members of the Executive Board
FROM: Nealob Kakar
SUBJECT: WGEN Report 3
DATE: Wednesday October 9, 2019

YEARPLAN UPDATE

WGEN has officially been up and running for about three weeks now, and has so far achieved many of the goals, and met many of the set expectations of the year plan. Since the last EB report many public events have occurred, the space has gained a ton of usage and WGEN has launched in the direction that was planned.

Since the last report, we have finished hiring all our safe® space and events committee volunteers. We had undergone two rounds of hiring (one in July and one in the end of August-September) where the second round of hiring mainly focused on getting first year applicants. During the hiring process at the end of August, WGEN got to do a lot of promotional work during Welcome Week at different fairs, clubsfest, and collaborations with welcome week initiatives. In relation, WGEN also collaborated for many Welcome Week events such as the Farrah Khan Keynote for example, many welcome week scavenger hunts, and aided at the peer support tents for the concert and headphone disco where WGEN was highly needed for many instances of peer support during the night of the concert.

Once our volunteers were hired, our volunteer training took place in collaboration with other peer support services. During this training weekend (September 14-15) the volunteers got peer support training, accessibility training, supporting survivors training, pronoun/pride training, AOP and WGEN specific training over the span of two days. Further, we officially opened our space and it has been up and running 5 days a week from September 17 to date, which has met our relative opening goal as stated in the year plan. Since folks have been hired, the space has been functioning well, execs and I have been having weekly meetings, and the events committee has also been meeting weekly with the events and logistics executive members.

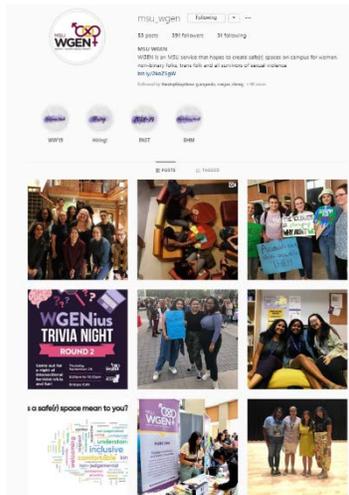
Lastly, we have completed our first official introductory event “WGENius” which was a night in Bridges café of intersectional feminist trivia. We had a pretty large good turnout, and a lot of further engagement with WGEN.

SERVICE USAGE

Since the last report, WGEN has first had many peer supports during welcome week. During the nights in which the service was in peer support

tents during certain events, many folks came to the tents to access support. On the night of the concert we had about 10 instances in which support was required either in the tent or out on the concert field. Additionally, during the consent “what were you wearing” welcome week event WGEN had to support about 4-5 folks, including 2 sessions in which took place in our space due to triggering content. Between the end of August to the opening of the space (September 17) we had about 15 support sessions, and gave out about 4 binders, and 3 bras.

Moving onto usership beginning when the space opened, we have had a lot of usership from new folks, and many first years. Following the duration of a shift, volunteers are asked to fill out an intake shift form in which documents



the number of new users and usership of the space whether that is someone coming in for a one on one, a bra or binder fitting, resources etc. The shift intakes have documented an increase in resource collection (menstrual products, binders, bras safer sex products etc.), and an increase in how many folks access the space (about 3-4 per hour). Additionally, there has been about 5 one on one peer support sessions that I have personally been emailed about from the 17th to date.

Another aspect of usership and engagement has been detrimentally seen in our socials. The promotions executives have been posting a lot more on our Instagram and Instagram stories that has created a further following basis, and engagement on specific posts. For our WGENius event one of my promotion executives Stephanie created a video recap that had a very popular outcome!

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

WGEN has carried out an immense number of events since the last report. To begin during welcome week WGEN partnered in the keynote: Farrah Khan event, as well as the many collaborations of WW events as mentioned above. Additionally, we have done an event with EIO and the gender and sexuality working group, which was the Welcome Back 2SLGBTQ+ event held in LR Wilson where 2SLGBTQ+ folks gathered together for informational resources, snacks and networking. Further, we collaborated over the summer with the Take Back the Night SACHA committee and EIO to create a pre event for TBTN. This event was held on September 19, and folks came out to do some poster making and have snacks before the TBTN rally where some WGEN folks bussed downtown to join people at the rally. At TBTN, WGEN additionally had a table and so we were able to give out some of our resource cards to folks in the Hamilton community.



In terms of WGEN specific events, during our space opening we had a little social with cupcakes outside of the space to gain further traction. Moreover, the most recent WGEN event was WGENius that took place on September 26. This event had a good turnout with about 15-20 attendees. Folks got to play our trivia game, win prizes,

socialize with other execs and volunteers as well as overall learn what WGEN is and come out to the physical space. It was a successful introductory event and went by smoothly with a few minor technical difficulties (logistics of the screening, projector etc.). This was executed very well due to the Logistics Coordinator, Yimengs hard work and immense efforts in collaborating and leading the events committee volunteers.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

WGEN is planning our annual Halloween event: Spooptacular which will likely take place on Tuesday October 29. During this event we will be screening a Halloween movie, as well as doing a fun activity such as pumpkin carving and our yearly tradition of a spooky element. In the past we have done “terf or treat”, “the white feminist wall of horrors”, “the meninist tunnel of horrors”, and are hoping to do something as similar this year. Our events and logistics execs as well as events committee is working super hard on creating and implementing all of this content.

Additionally, WGEN will be launching the bra drive posters again on all socials just because we have an excess of bras and want folks to know that they can access these resources. The research and Social Political Advocacy executives are working on a current language accessibility project in which will be launched early November. The infographic campaign will display inclusive language and accessible language in all its forms and will act as a sort of guidebook. Further, we have recently filmed a mini video on what WGEN is with the help of Connor and are hoping to launch that video when we come back from reading week and all the edits are made.



In terms of collaborative events, WGEN is doing an event with EIO for the 2SLGBTQ+ resource fair happening on October 10th where we will be tabling by the pride crosswalks.

WGEN has also been asked to be involved in a collaborative effort with the Women Studies Course, coordinated by Karen Balcolm. I have had meetings with professor Balcolm and have given a presentation at her class on what WGEN is. The collaboration will involve students from her course collaborating with WGEN in aiding on a certain event and getting further involved in the advocacy efforts that WGEN does for a certain aspect of course credit.

WGEN will also be officially launching both of our support groups following reading week. The first support group, Black and Gendered will officially start meeting on the Wednesday after reading week and will be facilitated by our working group “The Womanists”. Our second support group, “Survivors” will also be launched hopefully during that week.

BUDGET

ACCOUNT CODE	ITEM	BUDGET / COST
6103-0308	WGENius prizes and snacks	
SPECIAL PROJECTS	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$65.00
		\$70.00

	REMAINING IN LINE	\$865.00
6501-0308		
Promo (WGENius)	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$20.00 \$150.00 \$150.00 \$14.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$1,516.00
6804-0308 Training pizza and snacks		
WGEN Training Expenses	TOTAL SPENT IN LINE	\$80.00 \$191.00
	REMAINING IN LINE	\$229.00

<i>TOTALS</i>	
TOTAL BUDGETED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING	\$6,950.00
TOTAL ACTUAL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING	\$775.30
REMAINING DISCRETIONARY SPENDING	\$6,174.70

VOLUNTEERS

We have found that one of our challenges with our safer space and events volunteers was that they did not really get a chance to socialize prior to starting their positions, and additionally it has been hard to make connections due to the fact that they are assigned co's and if they do not visit the space after their shift hours they wont get the chance to meet other volunteers. To deal with this issue, the Volunteer Coordinator has created an upcoming volunteer social which will happen this week and will involve volunteers getting the chance to socialize with one another outside of hours in our space, and just get to be more comfortable with one another.

In terms of executives, I have finally found a date and time that works for all of us to meet for weekly exec meetings which was quite the struggle previously due to our various conflicting schedules. In relation to the idea of socializing in terms of the volunteers, I replicated this event for execs which will be happening this week where we would get the chance to also bond and show them my appreciation for their ongoing work!

CURRENT CHALLENGES

One of our current challenges has been dealing with accessibility within the physical space. For a few years now, we have had ongoing issues with lighting situation in the space as we have fluorescent bars built in that create super harsh lighting, and we have had many complaints in the past about how hard it has been to just be in the space. Folks have had to take breaks from being in the space due to migraines, and especially photosensitivity issues. Last year, we bought films to go over some of the lights in which reduced some of the harshness but did not fix the problem. As of recently we have been getting many comments about the inaccessibility of the lights. I have reached out in asking about the possibility of switching the lights out or if that

is not possible, finding better solutions and alternatives to the current light situation.

SUCSESSES

WGEN has been super successful in attaining new usership, event turnout and engagement online with our socials. One of the main successes that I have seen has been the collaborative efforts between the events committee and our Logistics executive, and the hard work that they have been putting into their roles.