

TRANS-PRESENCE



Want to engage as a co-conspirator against transphobia through art?

Want to showcase your vision of transgender liberation?

Trans-Presence @ CUNY invites students from across all CUNY schools to create an artistic visual representation which speaks to the history of resistance, resilience and liberation of the transgender community in New York City. Art works can include paintings, drawings, photography, prints and visual digital works (a version of which can be printed), as well as combinations of these.

Artworks will be part of a permanent exhibit within the Graduate Center-CUNY (please note art pieces will not be returned to the artists.)

Call for Submissions:

- Participating artists who identify as members of the trans community will be provided with \$150-\$300 stipends for their submission (stipend amount based on number of participating artists.)
- Student artists identifying as cisgender co-conspirators against transphobia are asked to create works which highlight contributions, accomplishments/achievements or other otherwise invisibilized experiences of the trans community.
- **Final submissions of proposal due April 20, 2019 with submission of final product due by April 30, 2019. Interested artists please contact dmelendez@gradcenter.cuny.edu or [complete the submission proposal form.](#)**



Trans-Presence @ CUNY Project Background

History of Trans-Presence Project:

The funding for this project comes out of the CUNY Doctoral & Graduate Students' Council (DSC)'s annual Participatory Budget 2018-2019. The purpose of Participatory Budgeting (PB) is to invest in some long-term aspect of the infrastructure at the GC. Projects are expected to improve the quality of student life for members of underserved communities.

Call to Action

Although some advancements have been made over the past decades for gender equity, which is inclusive beyond a binary, trans folks continue to experience high rates of discrimination, structural barriers, and violence at multiple levels. One of the most recent egregious examples of the socio-political violence experienced by the trans community is the suggestion by our current administration that the gender identity of can be erased. This violence is parallel to the consistently high rates of trans women of color being murdered or assaulted across the nation. An intersectionality framework calls for us to understand that a commitment to liberation requires us to ensure that those whom are marginalized by systems of oppression are in leadership roles in our work towards equity and to deeply problematize spaces where this is not the case.

In the Fall of 2018, a group of doctorate students in the Social Welfare program decided to use this DSC call for proposals as an opportunity to use their access to resources in an accountable manner based on their ongoing dialogues around power, privilege and oppression during their Policy & Inequality class. The intention to elevate the voices of those who were not at that "diverse" table was channeled into a project which could spotlight trans folks of color in a way which simultaneously engage cisfolks in dialogue and action against transphobia and cis-heteronormativity.

Project Plan:

This project recognizes the powerful impact art can have on people and the effect art has on shifting our culture. It is the goal of this project to engage cisfolks in exploring and realizing their accountability in addressing issues faced by trans students at CUNY and their community.

Art works will be exhibited in a public space (possibly on the 1st floor or 8th floor Student Lounge areas at the GC) as a permanent exhibit and will also be displayed in digital form through the use of already existing monitors throughout the GC building. This will allow the imagery to be integrated into any other scheduled digital announcements or displays.

A small reception will be hosted at the Graduate Center on May 17th- International Day against Transphobia.* Artists will have the opportunity to speak about their work and network with each

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other. Students and members from CUNY organizations and departments will be invited with the goal of strengthening connections groups directly working to advocate or provide support services for the student trans community as well as the CUNY community at-large.

Project Goal

During the month of April 2019, students from across the CUNY community are invited to create an artistic visual representation which speaks to the history of resistance, resilience and liberation of the transgender community in New York City. By allocating the majority of the funds made available to trans identifying individuals, this project aims to engage in equitable distribution of resources which accounts for the economic impact of historical, intergenerational and structural violence.

Submissions:

- Participating artists who identify as members of the trans community will be provided with \$150-\$300 stipends as compensation for their submission (amount depending on number of submissions). Stipends will be disbursed upon completion of the submission.
- Student artists identifying as cisgender co-conspirators against transphobia are asked to create works which highlight contributions, accomplishments and/or achievements or other otherwise invisibilized experiences of the trans community. Student group submissions will be encouraged.

Interested artists please contact dmelendez@gradcenter.cuny.edu or complete this [submission proposal form](#). Final date for brief submission of proposal **April 20, 2019**.

Final submission of art piece is due by **May 1st, 2019**.

*Reception date subject to change based on space availability.