

Facilitators in Training 2021

After an intensive training period, teams were formed around topic areas of interest for practice delivering content. Groups met over the summer and delivered their YWCA SEW segments in August. Taped sessions gave people an opportunity to see themselves and their teammates in action. Some individuals will continue to hone their skills in delivery, while others are staying connected via a racial justice book club and other gatherings designed for team building.

Participant Reflections

Sharon Grinker shared “YWCA’s Racial Justice Train-the-trainer series was an incredible, community-building experience. Train the trainer was a chance to connect and learn with other people to discuss the crucial work of expanding racial justice in our city. It was a chance to build my personal capacity and understanding. My goal in participating was to help increase the reach of the excellent Unlearning Racism programming the YWCA has developed over the past 10 years.”



Carolyn Swabek, Trinity Fellows Program Director, highlighted “This experience meant a lot, especially during the pandemic – offering connection on a deeper level with folks who simultaneously encourage, uplift, and compassionately challenge each other. It’s an important reminder that the journey of antiracism and anti-sexism is ongoing and lifelong. For me, the opportunity to present and facilitate has been humbling and empowering, it strengthened and reinforced my own values and the importance of this work, while also reminding me that I have so much to learn and unlearn.”



Kathy Coffey-Guenther, Senior Mission & Ignatian Leadership Specialist in University Advancement, Marquette University, said “I have been part of many learning communities over the years, both inside and beyond traditional classrooms, and being a member of this learning community is one of the most rewarding experiences in robust education and transformational practices I can recall. The invitation and call to transformation was relentless in its urgency for the times, and yet filled with experiences and modeling of patience, kindness and gentle understanding and compassion for all. It is hard to understand how we all could hold the call to the difficult and soul-wrenching work of anti-racism with such continual care and inspiration. This experience has changed me as a person and has changed the trajectory of my professional work.”



YWCA SEW is very grateful for this learning community team. Deep appreciation to Teresa DuChateau and Rachel McGraw for assisting LG Shanklin-Flowers in facilitating Conversations on Race in Fall 2021.

Watch for more engagement with these facilitators in future YWCA SEW racial justice programs.