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## **UNSUNG HEROINES OF COLOR**

A BMCC STUDENT-CURATED EXHIBITION CASE STUDY

TECHNOLOGY FOR STUDENT LEARNING, RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

**CUNY IT Conference - Fall 2020** 



### BACKGROUND

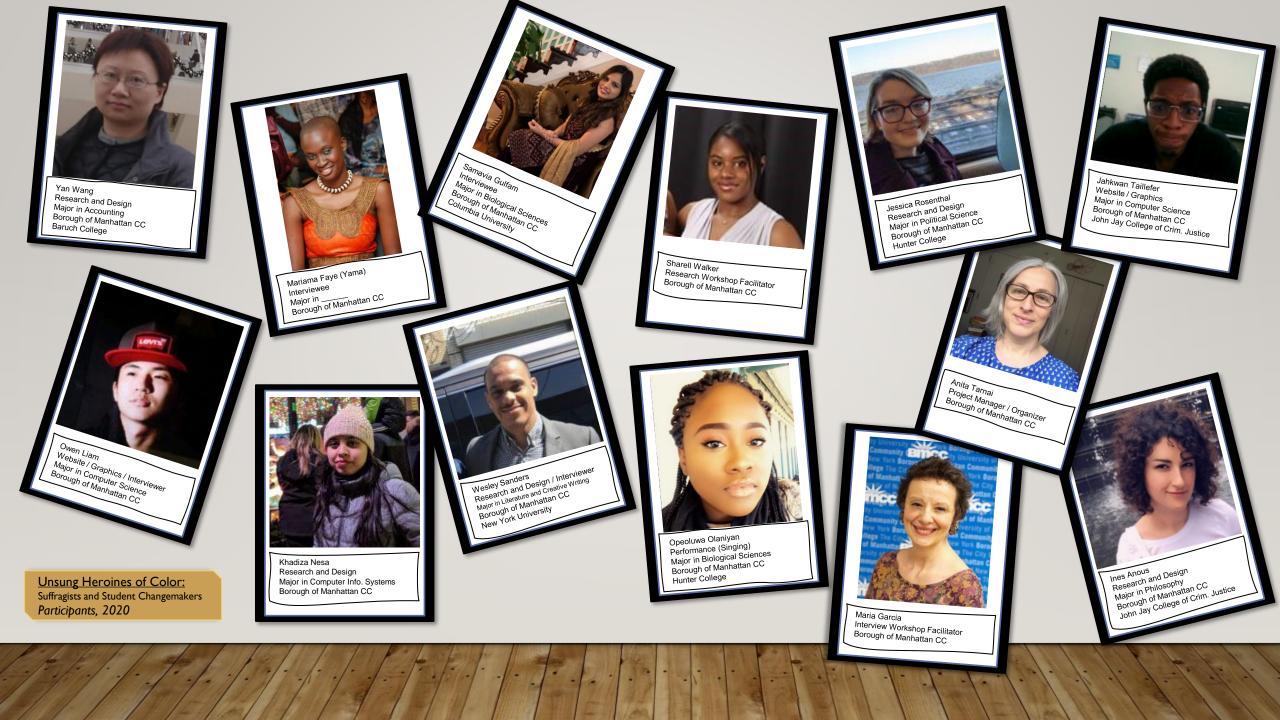
### **History**:

- Opportunity BMCC Women's Herstory Month, Spring 2020
- Intent student-led project showcasing student research, advocacy, and students' personal/cultural resources and talents in the arts
- Concept fosters ASAP Core Competencies and integrates HIPs and UDL

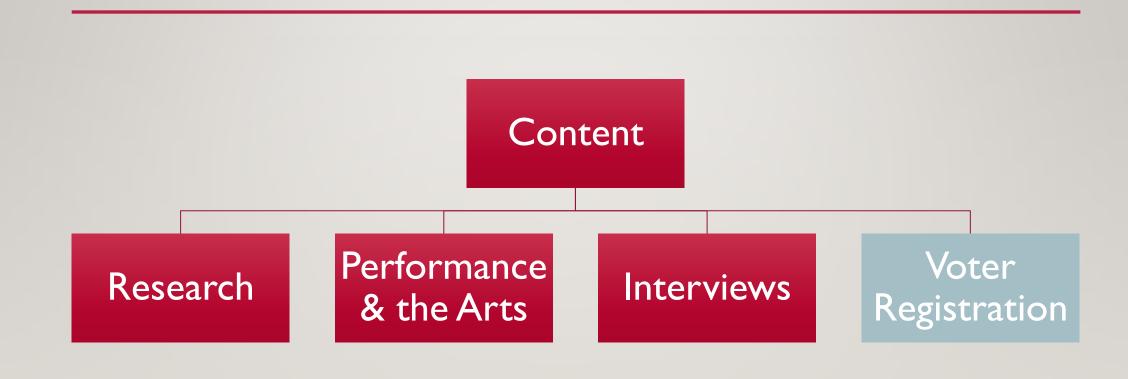
Participants – ASAP/BMCC students and peer learning assistants (students)

Time – 2-3 months, weekly planning meetings (2 hours/meeting + independent work)

Budget – \$0-200 (zero cost)



# UNSUNG HEROINES OF COLOR: SUFFRAGISTS AND STUDENT CHANGE MAKERS EXHIBITION



AT BMCC



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## About

#### Unsung Heroines of Color: Suffragists and Student Change Makers Exhibition

How can we create a positive change in our communities?

What are some of the causes BMCC students support and what can we learn from them?

Who are some of the women of the past whose lives and contributions we can draw strength and inspiration from?

Through a multimedia exhibition Unsung Heroines of Color: Suffragists and Student Change Makers, ASAP students and staff explore these questions while also celebrating the contribution of women of color to the suffrage movement in the United States and to causes that impact our contemporary society.

For suffragists, one of the ways to make a difference was by securing voting rights for women. Many fought hard for the right to vote, but only a select few are favored in the history books. In our exhibition, we have decided to highlight a selection of women of color who fought for the vote and are too often overlooked by historians. We also celebrate the work of these women through speeches and musical performances





#### MARY CHURCH TERRELL (1863 - 1954)

#### Terrell and Her Fight for the Education of Black People

### Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

#### In her own words

"We are all bound up in one great bundle of humanity, and society cannot trample on the weakest and feeblest of its members without receiving the curse in its own soul."



#### A new era for ALL wome:

#### "Today women hold in their hands influence and opportunity, and with these they have already opened doors which have been closed to others."

influence. How well she will use that ower I cannot foretell.... know tha no society can gain its full measure of enlightenment and happiness if one-half of it is free and the other half is fettered." "I do not believe that giving the

woman the ballot is immediately going to cure all the ills of life. I do ont believe that white women are dew-drops just exhaled from the skies. I think that like men they may be divided into three classes, the good, the bad, and the indifferent. The good would vote according to their convictions and principles; the bad, as dictated by prejudice or malice; and the indifferent will vote on the ongest side of the guestion, wit the winning party."

On women's suffrage

"The ballot in the hands of

woman means power added to

#### Lifting as we climb

#### into the hands of the women of any race or people. It is yours to create a healthy public sentiment; to demand justice, simple justice, as the right of every race; to brand with everlasting infamy the lawless and brutal cowardice that lynches,

You white women speak here of

rights. I speak of wrongs. I, as a

lored woman, have had in this country education which has made me feel a

I were in the situation of Ishmael, my

hand against every man, and

every man's hand against me."

"We are all bound up together in one

Woman's Rights Convention in women, and "Women's Political Future" from the World's Nomen in Chicago in 1893. By

great bundle of humanity, and society cannot trample on the weakest and receiving the curse in its own soul. ...today we stand on the threshold of ..Society cannot afford to neglect the man's era, and woman's work is grandly enlightenment of any class of its constructive. In her hand are possibilities whose members." use or abuse must tell upon the political life of the nation, and send their influence for good or evil across the track of unborn ages."

Created by Jessica Rosenthal



#### Who was she?

own bakery in Philadelphia after serving as a baker for the troops

African American woman who was excluded from the racist and class In 1883 Rustill married Nathan F. Mossell, the first African Ameri

graduate from the University of Pennsylvania's Medical School and a leading African-American physician in Philadelphia

Died in 1948 (age 92) in the hospital that she and her husban

### **Gertrude Bustill Mossell** (1855-1948)

#### What was her contribution?

#### Women's Suffrage:

erty and access to education. She dedicated her column to promoting "true womanhood, especially that of the

women in different professions, such as journalism, medicine, business, religions. In this book she celebrated black women writers, and exposed black male sexism, white female racism and the exclusion of black feminists from the movement of white female activists.

men, have different temperaments and should not suppress their different emotions to be as sweet as her Victorian society demands. Her work empt African American women that were suppressed by their African American husbands after the abolishment of slavery.

For several years, every paper or magazine that has fallen into our hands gave some such teaching as this: "The wife must always meet her husband with a smile" ... neither sugar nor pickles would be a good diet, but most of us could eat a greater quantity of pepper hash than of sugar after all. (Guy-Sheftall 56-59)

essay "A Room of One's Own" (1930). Because black women writers were isolated from white feminist movement. Mossell asks these women not to ston

Everyone engaged in literary work, even if but to a limited extent, feels greatly the need of a quite nook to write in ... I just sat down and wondered why I had never thought of this very room for a study. Almost every family has an unused attic, dark, sloping, given up to odds and ends ... If even this odd room cannot be utilized for your purposes, have at least your own corner in some cheerful room.
(Gay-Sheftall 60-61)



### **Sojourner Truth**

African American Women's Rights Advocate

1851 Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio

Quotes are

taken from the

speech Ain't I A

Woman

Delivered at the



## Ines - Research

### Why I joined

- Interested in learning a new subject
- Interested in doing research outside class

### What I did

- Research poster
- Participated also in design, website development and content management, audio and poster content editing, event moderation

### Cool things I learned / realized

- Audacity, Canva, Power Point, WordPress
- Presenting content visually

### Reflections

- The politics of research
- Researching a person vs. an idea
- Asking for and giving help

## Introduction

Reasons for joining the team

- Opportunity to learn more about African American and women's history.
- Chance to create something with amazing people
- Chance to try something new.

## **Exhibition Event**

My roles

- Researcher
- Interviewer



## Interview Process

Yama's Story

- Preparation for the interview
- Meeting with Yama
- Learning from Yama

## Challenges

Initial struggles

- Getting people to sign up for the interview
- Covid-19

## Experience

What I learned

- How to properly prepare and conduct an interview
- How to use tools such as Canva, Zoom, and Audacity
- Reflection

## JAHKWAN - TECHNOLOGY & PROGRAMMING

## INTRODUCTION

- Reasons for joining the team
  - Excited by challenging projects/tasks.
  - Interested in learning more about voting.

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### WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

- Platform used OpenLab / WordPress
- Experience
  - Learning and improving HTML and CSS.
  - Designing and developing web pages.



## **BENEFITS**

What did I gain from this experience?

2

## **AUDIO EDITING**

- Software used Audacity
- Experience
  - Learning to use podcasting booth / Audacity for interviewing.
  - Learning to edit audio recordings.

4

### **MODERATION**

- Platform used Zoom
- Experience
  - Facilitated transitions of speakers and their content. (slides, videos, audio, introduced and highlighted speakers)
  - Managed audience (Q&A, admittance, security, muted/unmuted. intro to zoom)

## STUDENT LEARNING (Participant & Audience)

ASAP Core Competencies (10:10)	
Written communication	<b>*</b>
Oral communication	<b>~</b>
Critical /creative thinking	<b>~</b>
Research and information literacy	<b>~</b>
Professionalism / attitude	<b>*</b>
Group learning / team work	<b>~</b>
Leadership / ethical reasoning and actions skill	<b>*</b>
Time management and goal setting	<b>~</b>
Civic literacy and engagement	<b>~</b>

High Impact Practices (HIPs – meets 7 of 11)	
Common Intellectual Experiences	<b>*</b>
*Learning Communities (co- curricular experience)	<b>~</b>
*Writing Intensive Courses (co-curricular experience)	<b>~</b>
Collaborative Assignments and Projects	<b>~</b>
Diversity / Global Learning	<b>~</b>
*ePortfolios (exhibition site)	<b>*</b>
*Service Learning, Community-Based learning (advocacy theme)	<b>~</b>

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)	
Multiple Means of Engagement	<b>~</b>
Multiple Means of Representation	<b>✓</b>
Multiple Means of Action and Expression	<b>*</b>

## PROGRAMMING CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Institutional Support  ☐ Printing research posters ☐ Budget (food/supplies/speaker: \$200)	Institutional Support  Printing: Private solution, unresolved (-) Budget: Online – zero cost (+)
<ul> <li>Transitioning Online / Covid</li> <li>□ Commitment / planning (personal toll of Covid)</li> <li>□ Cancellation of in-person event (loss of audience, space, momentum)</li> <li>□ Loss of access to recording booth</li> <li>□ Loss of direct access to / interaction with participants and their "content"</li> </ul>	Transitioning Online / Covid  ☐ Commitment, planning: secured other participants (+) ☐ Cancellation: offered event online (+/-) ☐ Loss of access to Recording Booth: Zoom (+) ☐ Loss of direct access (content and participants): content access and Q&A online (+/-)
Student Participant Retention  No credit	Student Participant Retention  No credit: recommended for class, honors, and other forms of credited work
Students' discomfort with:  public speaking, reading, research (academic skills) taking credit for accomplishments (mindset)	Students' discomfort with:  Academic skills/ mindset (+)  pairing students skill-building workshops (interview and research) rehearsals (technology, online exhibition talk) informational conversations, interviews

### FREE TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER RESOURCES

### Software:

- ✓ Canva (poster design, fliers)
- ✓ Powerpoint (poster design)
- ✓ Garage Band (sound recording and editing)
- ✓ Audacity (sound editing)
- ✓ Dropbox (file sharing)
- ✓ Zoom (conducting interview and exhibition)

### **Online platforms:**

- ✓ Open Lab / Wordpress
- ✓ YouTube account (storing videos)

### **OERs:**

### ✓ Images:

Flicks Advanced Search – Creative Commons Google Advanced Image Search

select "usage rights" to filter results

Pics4Learning
Public Domain Images
Wikimedia Commons

### ✓ Music:

Internet Archive –Audio
Free Music Archive (FMA)
ccMixter
Free Sound

### **BMCC/ASAP** Resources:

- ✓ Recording Booth (Library)
- Workshops (research and interviewing skills led by faculty and staff)

# Recommended for attendance tracking:

- ✓ **SignUp Genius** (registration and email reminders)
- ✓ Zoom Report (attendance)
- ✓ Google Form (attendance /participant feedback)
- ✓ Remind.com (reminders via text)

## THANK YOU!



ASAP Exhibition Website:

https://openlab.bmcc.cuny.edu/asap-exhibition/

## **CONTACT US**



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