

Trans Week of Visibility

A recap of GVSU's 1st annual Trans Week of Visibility March 25-April 1, 2023



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

- Grand Rapids Pride Center
- Grand Rapids Trans Foundation
- Gilead Sciences
- GVSU Center for Women and Gender Equity
- GVSU Recreation and Wellness
- GVSU Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- GVSU Dean of Students
- The GVSU LGBT Faculty Staff Association
- All our generous individual donors!



A message for trans visibility

Trans Day of Visibility celebrates the resilience and success of people who do not identify with the gender that is typically associated with their sex assigned at birth, including trans men, trans women, and non-binary people. The day also raises awareness of the pervasive discrimination still facing too many within the LGBTQIA+ community.

For example:

There have been more than 340 anti-LGBTQ+ legislative bills introduced this year across the country—including 90 bills that would restrict gender-affirming medical care for young trans people.

The GVSU LGBT Resource Center knew that one day could not encompass all of the great things trans and non-binary people are doing. This week has been a celebration of the skills, hobbies, crafts, hopes, and dreams of prolific trans and non-binary people in our Michigan community. For 8 days we made space for others to find peace and show what real representation of our identities are, which makes trans and non-binary folks more than a statistic.

It also provided an opportunity for trans and non-binary people to feel seen through positive and realistic representation, and for allies to learn more about how they can stand in solidarity. Visibility is crucial. Visibility allows community to grow, and for people with shared lived experiences to form bonds across the world.



A week in review

Film viewing and dialogue with Femme Queen Chronicles creator and artist Ahya Simone! Ahya not only gave us a glimpse of what it has been like being a groundbreaking film maker highlighting Black trans women but also her journey from her own lived experiences and how that is reflected in the film. Ahya also performed select music on her harp! Her singing and harp art was so beautiful!



As part of GV Men's Volleyball Club fundraiser, the LGBT Resource Center was able to partner and bring 5 wonderful QUEENS on the Allendale campus to dance, sing, and provide top notch comedy. The Volleyball Club was successful in fundraising \$1500! Thank you La Reine Divine for supporting our students!

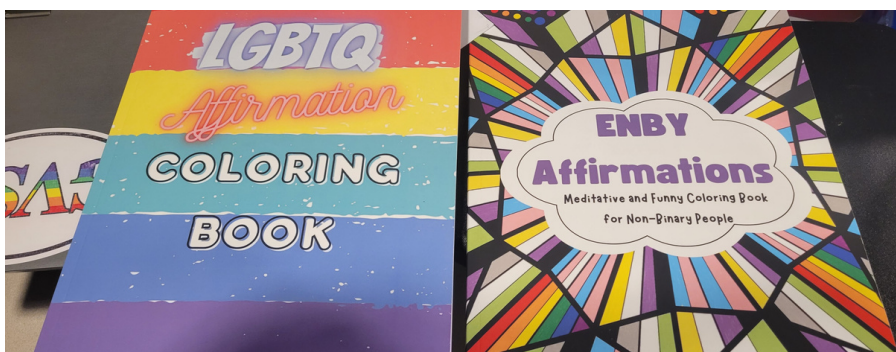
Keynote speaker for Trans Week of Visibility: Jey'nce Poindexter. Jey'nce who is a Michigan-based trans activist, House Icon, and community pioneer with the Ruth Ellis Center and Trans Sistās of Color Project. The complimentary dinner was delicious and the vibes were equally amazing. Thank you Eberhard Center for hosting us, thank you Recreation and Wellness for providing amazing tools to better ourselves and thank you EVERYONE for sharing stories!



Books and Mortar in GR hosted their annual Children's Reading Hour. The director's for the LGBT RC, GR Pride Center, and GR Trans Foundation read to over 20 young people about safety in being authentically you!

Annual PRIDE PROM! On Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st), a heteronormative tradition occurred with an LGBTQ. twist. Students and their friends came as they authentically are and partied to the best 2000's hits!

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