

ARTIST AND CONTENT GUIDELINES

Artist Identity

The Black Trans Joy Zine is open to Black trans/GNC youth under the age of 25 in the United States.

Potential assets/projects:

- Visual art pieces – though these will need to be converted to a digital format, we can be creative using photography or other digitization methods in order to include a variety of mediums such as sketches, illustrations, paintings, murals, sculptures, tattoos, threadwork, etc.
- Written and spoken word poetry/slam poetry in either audio or video format
- Guided meditation in either audio or video format
- Journal prompts with the intention of grounding, healing, or promoting Black trans joy
- Self-care and coping skill suggestions, particularly those not rooted in Western or colonial therapeutic modalities
- Community care or coping skill suggestions, with an emphasis on liberation through mutual aid
- Short music pieces, preferably with a visual component
- Creating/re-sharing Love Letters to Trans People

Content requirements:

- Required static image aspect ratio: 1:1(square), 4:5 (vertical), or 1.91:1 (horizontal)
 - At least 1, but up to 10 slides/images per submission
 - Can be creative with carousel graphics – photos outside these dimensions can be added into multiple frames to create a cool visual effect when swiped
- Required video aspect ratio: between 1.91:1 and 9:16
 - Video/audio assets must have a cover image that fits within the above requirements
 - Videos/audio clips length should total (or be easily croppable) to be shared as 15, 30, 60, or 90 second reels
- We celebrate the diverse expressions of joy within our community, recognizing that each story is unique. In curating the Trans Joy Zine for the GSA Network, we aim to foster an inclusive space that respects the comfort levels of all our readers, particularly the youth in our audience. To ensure a safe and welcoming environment, we kindly request that submitted work refrains from including nudity. Your creativity and experiences are invaluable, and we appreciate your

understanding as we work together to share the beauty of trans joy with sensitivity and respect for all.

Content creation tips:

The most important tip is to have fun and be joyful! Zine content doesn't have to be crisp, perfectly edited, or even in its final form in order to be excellent.

A. For photo/video:

1. Natural lighting is always best. If you're indoors, try to avoid being back-lit. Aim to be lit from the front and sides no matter what kind of lighting you use.
2. If you need to use artificial lighting, softer lighting is best.
 - a. Ring lights are great! If you have access to a ring light, place it in front of your recording device (meaning closer to the subject of the video than the recording device) and record through the hole in the center.
3. Use a clean background with few distractions.
4. Try to avoid shaky video footage. Set your phone or recording device on a level surface, or use a tripod to stabilize it.
5. Speak organically and naturally as though you're chatting with a friend on FaceTime.

B. For audio:

1. **Locate your body.** Ideally, find a comfortable place to record.
2. **Minimize distraction & optimize for sound.** If possible, please pick a place that's as quiet as possible (away from loud windows, fans/heaters/fridges, or anything humming/buzzing), and generally try to minimize distractions. Remember to put your devices on Silent or "Do Not Disturb" mode.
 3. **Be able to record audio directly.** The recording quality of Zoom stinks, so there are two options for recording locally.
 - o **On Phone (preferred):** Open up the voice memos app, and place the phone screen facing up on a surface directly in front of you. You want the phone about 1-3 feet from your face, and try to speak directly toward it as you answer.
 - o **On Mac Computer:** Open up Quicktime >> File >> New Audio Recording. This records via your laptop's microphone.

o **Note!** *If you use headphones, please just make sure the mic isn't hanging down and rubbing against your clothes. :)*

4. **Optional:** Pour something that makes you feel happy. It could be a warm cup of comfort, or an icy glass of ease, it's up to you. But something to sip as you record can be helpful.