



Dear Lovely Reader, As you engage with this zine, we ask that you consider your own responses to the questions posed. If you feel so inclined, create something tangible - a poem, an art piece, or perhaps cultivate intergenerational spaces to exchange knowledge. Whatever your creative output may be, we ask that it is with the spirit of empathy that you create it. Empathy for yourself, all that you don't know, and all that you will learn. Empathy for those who share their histories with you. Empathy for those who cannot easily access their histories, be it lack of community or written texts. Empathy towards yourself and your educational needs that are not met in our current education system. Empathy for the feelings that may arise while engaging; joy, anger, hope, pleasure, As you explore this zine, keep in mind the 6th point of our 9-point platform: We Call for Comprehensive Education that Reflects our Histories and Needs. How can we continue to build opportunities for historically erased gender-diverse peoples through informed educational practices? What can free and non-compulsory education for all ages and access levels look like? What could it feel like? Who can support you in your search? What do you wish you or your peers knew about your history? act the

BANNED MEDIA

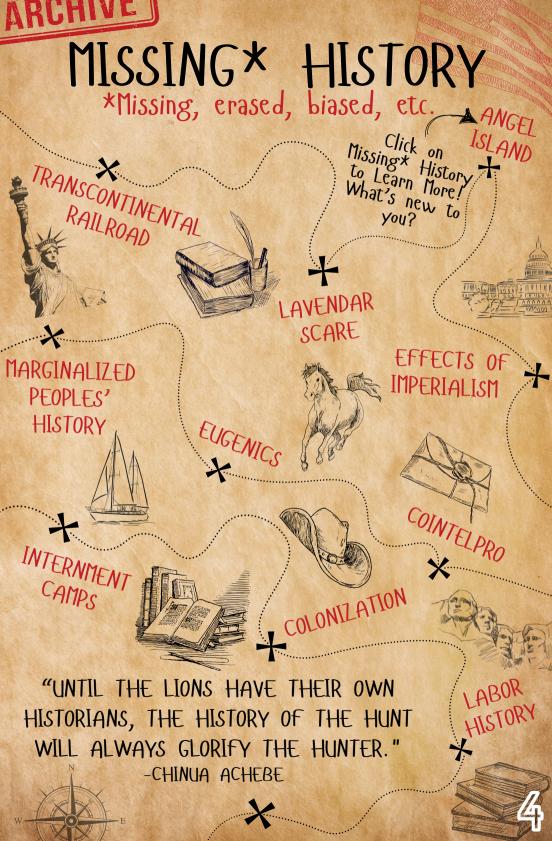
What's on your To-Be-Read list?







BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND AUG. 31, ALA'S OFFICE TRACKED 414 ATTEMPTS TO CENSOR LIBRARY MATERIALS AND SERVICES. IN THOSE CASES, 1,128 UNIQUE TITLES WERE CHALLENGED.





My name is Lucas R. Abernathy and I use he/they pronouns. I am 18 years old and have lived in Arkansas for most of my life, in a rule town near the city of Conway. I was born loving art, and dream of making it my life-long career. Art deeply connects with me and allows me to visualize my thoughts and interests. I hope that with my art I can make other people happy with my work and to inspire other artists.

I have depicted Frances Thompson (seated) with William Dorsey Swann (standing). Frances Thompson was the first known trans woman to testify before the US congress. She was one of the 5 black women to testify in front of the congressional committee that investigated the Memphis Riots of 1866, and she was a former enslaved woman in Alabama who became an antirapist activist. Willam Swann was a African-American born into slavery. He was the first known person in the United States to lead a gay resistance group and the first known person to self-identify as a "queen of drag". During the 1880s and 1890s, Swann organized a series of drag balls in Washington, D.C. where most of the attendees were men who were formerly enslaved and gathered to dance in their satin and silk dresses.] This group, consisting of "former slaves and rebel drag queens", was known as the "House of Swann".



"Know..."

By: Emani (She/They/Fae)

"Know your history"

But they aren't willing to teach us anything

Anything that resides outside of a carefully manipulated textbook

Anything that lies beneath the surface of our flesh and it's infamous tone

"Know your body"

But they can't tell us what's beyond

What's beyond the mandated primal function of our flesh and bone

What's beyond the societal value of the parts we hold

"Know who you are"

But they won't let us discover

Discover what's beyond the securely tied, silky smooth blindfolds in our assigned colors

Discover that the souls we exist as are greater than the physical forms we're meant to abide by

We're expected to know everything

But they won't teach us

Won't tell us

Won't let us

I can feel the baby pink silk over my eyes smoothing me over

Condensing me into an allotted box amongst the others

Forcing me into the crowd of unbeknownst, unfulfilled potential

Leaving me wondering what could have been if they would just

Let

IJs

See.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

WHERE/WHO CAN YOU TURN TO FOR, RELIABLE,
ACCURATE, AND AFFIRMING INFO?



"I do believe I have relatively easy access to information about both my own history and the histories of historically-erased peoples. My LGBTQ+center, Time Out Youth, goes out of its way to ensure we have educational materials by and about marginalized people. I'm also fortunate enough to have easy internet access, which makes accessing such information much easier."

-Casey (He/Him)





LEARNING ABOUT MY OWN HISTORY AS IT RELATES TO GENDER JUSTICE



@Kio (He/They)

My schools didn't teach me much about gender justice at all, especially how it relates to my history as a Black person; however, that didn't stop me from learning it on my own. I started looking more into it; gender justice as it relates to genderqueer people is a big part of both Black and queer culture as we know it today.

Everything I learned about gender justice is through educational creators

on social media. Since the lockdown in 2020, the internet has been an escape for most people like myself, and I'd say that is when I became the most educated. I learned about pronouns, gender identities, gender expression, and the importance of gender nonconformity within other cultures through these creators and the sources that they provided. When I started to enter physical activist spaces, I started learning the most. I had older queer and trans people to look up to that I learned a lot from. I eventually helped create an LGBTQ 101 workshop with the very people who inspired me to become educated. Helping gather resources during the research for this workshop expanded my knowledge beyond just the creators I followed. During this time when the trans community was under a lot of pressure from the government consistently passing bill after bill to take away our rights to healthcare, I believe it was important to be as educated as possible. That's why when I got the opportunity to become an educator and create my own LGBTQ 101 workshop, I did all the research I could do. That is when I specifically learned about gender within the Black and brown community and just how important trans women of color are to queer culture and Black/brown culture. The workshop went beautifully, and I'm so happy I was about to be a source of education for some people.

I've learned a plethora of things about gender justice over the past few years through my peers, coworkers, the internet, etc.; that's why it's so important to have accessible spaces where we can learn both online and in real life. I would have never learned any of this stuff without being able to have easy access to it. However, this does not stop our journey of liberation for trans and gender-nonconforming people. We need to bring this type of valuable information to the schools. That would be life-changing!







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ALA Banned Books List

Learning For Justice

EdTrust Missing History Toolkit Education Justice Resource List

Teaching For Change





WE CALL FOR:



TWO-SPIRIT/TRANS
HISTORIES TO BE
ACKNOWLEDGED AND TAUGHT



