

Black Lives Matter Day of Action 2019

Workshop Descriptions

African American Ancestry (Conya Gilmore)

Description: We will use breath work, movement and journaling to re-connect with our voice of our Grandparents, extended families, and present/future communities. We will cast light on how our communities shape/mold our lives. Their energy and experiences are transferred to us through our bodies and spirit before we take our first steps. We will begin the steps necessary to reawaken deep within us what the human body innately knows: how to be a catalyst for its own healing.

Biography: Conya Gilmore is a VA/NYC based Herbalist, Kundalini Yoga and Meditation Instructor. Inspired by her Blue Ridge Mountain roots and strong community traditions in healing she founded Rising Rooted Yoga and Herbal Apothecary. She is passionate and committed to healing communities through plant medicine, yogic tools of the breath and movement. She encourages her clients to embrace their unique flow in life; mind, body, and soul nourishment – on and off the mat.

Afro-Latina Women in Journalism (Concepción de León)

Description: Concepción will share her career trajectory and talk about her experience as an Afro-Latina woman working in journalism. Topics will include diversity in newsrooms and how to write authentic stories *for* black people and not just about them. Plus, she'll tell you all the black journos you should follow on Twitter!

Biography: Concepción de León is the digital staff writer covering literary news and culture for the New York Times Books desk. Separately, she launched El Espace, a weekly column where she writes and suggests news and culture stories for a Latinx audience. In a past life, she edited the work and money pages at Glamour magazine.

Dismantling The Gun Violence Chain of Death: Protest and Strategy (John Grauwiler)

Description: This workshop will look at the activist work that Gays Against Guns (GAG) does to address the current public health issue of gun violence in America. The workshop will examine the structural system – the chain of death- of gun violence. Related, this workshop will examine the multi-tiered strategy -art and activism- GAG uses to bring awareness to gun violence and change policy.

Biography: John Grauwiler is a 9th and 10th grade Literature teacher at BHSECQ. John’s background in activism starts with his involvement with ACT UP in 1989, being the president of the LGBTQ union at Bard College where he initiated the first AID Awareness Day on campus, marching in protests in DC, and co-founding Gays Against Guns after the Pulse shooting in Orlando.

Techniques for Promoting Safe Environments (Vanne-Paige Padgett, Kayla Scott-McDowell)

Description: This 50 minute youth-led workshop teaches participants to identify warning signs of racism, sexism, and sexual violence, and explains effective techniques for safely stopping a hostile situation or supporting someone in need. As agents of change, participants will be able to develop culturally sensitive approaches to de-escalate conflict and serve as victim-advocates in everyday situations. This training is intergenerational and interactive as participants are challenged to increase social awareness in their communities, and explore options for allyship to confront social injustice. It will be a combination of instruction, participant interaction, and will introduce verbal skills to resist the normalization of discrimination and hate crimes.

Journaling for Emotional Resilience and Well-Being (Kesi Augustine)

Description: Kesi Augustine will be sharing liberating practices for processing the difficult emotions that we experience as we navigate society as Black people. This will essentially be a creative writing workshop that relates to the importance of perspective, especially for minority writers. Please note that this workshop is a safe space for students of color.

Biography: Kesi Augustine is a Queens girl and a visiting professor of English and Year 2 Seminar at her alma mater, BHSECM. She also teaches creative writing at the Gotham Writers Workshop. Kesi's own writing has appeared in many formats and locations: on the New York City subway, in USA TODAY, in a freshman teaching guide, in children's books, and among Spanish microcuentos. Her latest poem appears in the anthology *ancient futures* (2019).

Inequities in the Dewey Decimal System (Rachelle Monteau, Khadija Tandja)

Description: Our library, and many other high school libraries, use a classification called the Dewey Decimal System. In this classification, racism and prejudice is present. Library interns, Rachelle Monteau, Khadija Tandja and Layla Ralekhetho have spent the last two months analyzing the system and trying to figure out how to accurately classify books about all social groups and movements. Join us to hear our presentation!

What are the differences between nationality, ethnicity, and race? (Rachelle Monteau and Jazmine Smith)

Description: Have you ever wondered what the difference between ethnicity and race was? Would you like to explore the intersectionality of Black Americans. Join Rachelle Monteau and other members of the BSU as they share their nationalities, ethnicities and how they identify racially. During this talk we will debunk the

stereotypes around the black community and its social groups. We will analyze the differences between the terms/classifications African, African American, Afro-Latinx, Afro-Caribbean and Black American because yes there is a difference! Join us for a fun and intriguing conversation!!

Representation Matters! (Cheyenne Neely (Blu))

Description: Let's explore why representation in tv shows, movies and books matter to kids! There will be a fun activity at the end! This will be an interactive session where you will create art with Cheyenne Neely, one of the single most entertaining individuals on campus who is also a talented artist.

Depression in Teens: A Misconception (Joelle Faison, Brooke Anderson, and Triaje Eaddy)

Description: Mental Health for Black Teens with Joelle Faison, Brooke Anderson, and Triaje Eaddy bravely and openly share their personal mental health journeys as part of a broader presentation to understand mental health issues for Black teens. Their presentation addresses self-doubt, how to fight stigmas and misconceptions, how to talk to families and communities, and how to find motivation to speak out. Joelle and Brooke will screen their original documentary, *Void*, about living with depression as a teen, made with Wide Angle Youth Media, and Triaje will talk about mental health challenges and queer youth. Joelle Faison and Brooke Anderson are students at BHSEC Baltimore and Triaje Eaddy is a BHSEC Baltimore alumna (Class of 2018).

Biography: Triaje Eaddy graduated from BHSEC Baltimore in June 2018. Since graduating, she partnered with a Baltimore non-profit called Harp and Sword. Harp and Sword helps folks in the education system use restorative practices in the classroom to alleviate the effects of imposter syndrome. She gained experience in non-profit management and community organizing. She currently works with another educational non-profit in Baltimore called Thread. Thread supports the bottom 25% of youth in various Baltimore city schools. In the future, Triaje plans to advocate for

black queer youth in Baltimore city who are struggling with mental health issues, and create her own Baltimore based non-profit. She plans to study psychology with a minor in political science at Towson University.

Climbing the Corporate Mountain (Grace Vandecruze)

Description: Grace's presentations includes compelling stories including the death of a fellow climber and how the team learn to regroup and begin climbing again, her own story of resilience from living in a homeless shelter to her journey as a business leader on Wall Street, and practical life lessons which can inspire high school students to apply in their daily lives. You won't find a motivational speaker who has overcome more than her has and has a more inspiring way of relating it.

Biography: Grace Vandecruze is a mountaineer and a renowned corporate consultant in the insurance industry who knows how to persevere beyond all limits. She distills her mountain climbing stories to draw parallels between the high-intensity world of mountaineering and skills needed to overcome insurmountable challenges.

Your Future Has Begun (Neville DeAngelou-George)

Description: This high-energy participative workshop will explore four values, each of which promote as well progress black youths toward longterm health, wealth and well-being, inclusive of the essentials for cultivating habits and practices for creating successful life experiences on and off campus. The focus will be on the supreme significance of personal narratives as black people in a digital world.

Biography: Neville DeAngelou is an award-winning author. His latest book, SVEN: The High Achiever's Journey, delivers to youths the necessary tools for optimal performance and personal significance, regardless of obstacles. He is also the CEO of RyoGroup, Head Coach, Executive Producer of The Journey, and Ambassador of Empowered Lives – a social network dedicated to mentoring and coaching underserved communities.

Mindfulness and Self-Care: Liberation Through Self-Love (B. Anderson)

Description: During our time together we will explore the revolutionary beauty and liberating power of what it means to be in mindful relationship or loveship with ourselves and others. We will consider the necessity of both self care and community care and how these two are integral to our freedom. Shared discussion, gentle movement, writing and maybe some singing may be apart of the offerings during our time together. Note: This workshop is a safe-space for Black students.

Biography: B. Anderson, (they/them), is a sound healer, plant medicine steward, contemplative teacher, ritual leader and community organizer. B. calls up the traditions, legacies and medicine of their southern Black American, Jamaican Maroon, Niitsitapi/Blackfoot, and Choctaw ancestry as their healing arts praxis. As a core collective member of Harriet's Apothecary, Co- Founder and visionary of Love Circle Sangha, and facilitator with the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, B. combines their experience as a grassroots organizer and their life principles and practices to co-design community wellness strategies, transformative spaces, and generative healing modalities across the country. B. is called to the work of healing, of transformation and of reclamation through their commitment to healing themselves, their many generations of the past and future, and their deep devotion to support liberation of beings and planet earth.

Pleasure in the Black Body (Nana Chinara)

Description: Pleasure in the Black Body is a movement based workshop that centers on moving from a place of pleasure and joy, and releasing oppressive tension. Drawing on Audre Lorde's "The Uses of the Erotic," this space is the process of finding liberated movement and defying forces that oppress Black folks. Participants will be led in a movement and writing based practice, alongside self research practices as a basis for choreography. This space actively welcomes Queer, Trans, gender-defying, disabled, and migrant folks. Please note: This workshop is open only to students who identify as people of color.

Biography: Nana Chinara creates. She's Black, Queer, and a gleaming glitterbeam. She dreams up worlds in her body, and offers them to the stage. A healing artist, youth educator, and loquacious lover, her craft calls upon exploring sweet intimacy with the self through self-research and self-reflection. Her craft is the lens through which she conducts self and community research on violence against young black femmes, traumatic partnerships, and multidimensional love. Her first and foremost intention as an artist is to use her healing tools to exist inside of her body and at the realm of her ancestors, indulging in being witnessed.

How to Organize A Grassroots Movement (Mark Winston Griffith)

Description: Drawing on his decades-long experience as an organizer, Mark will discuss what it takes to build and nurture a locally-based, grassroots movement. Among the topics to be explored are police accountability, gentrification and displacement, street harassment, food sovereignty, and coalition-building.

Biography: Mark Winston Griffith is the executive director of the Brooklyn Movement Center. A Black-led organization of primarily low-to-moderate income residents, BMC helps to build power and pursue self-determination in Bedford-Stuyvesant & Crown Heights by nurturing local leadership, waging campaigns and winning concrete improvements in people's lives. Prior to joining BMC, Mark was on the Faculty of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and worked as a field organizer for the MOVE NY campaign.

Life after Incarceration: A Conversation With Wesley Caines (Wesley Caines)

Description: Wesley Caines will speak to us about his life experience and work with the Bard Prison Initiative, the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund, and the Bronx Defenders.

Biography: Wesley Caines works as a Reentry and Community Outreach Coordinator for the Bronx Defenders, with a special focus on helping former Rikers Island inmates transition back into mainstream life. A Bronx native and Bard College graduate, his

life goal is the empowerment of underserved communities as they become creative self-advocates who challenge policymakers' notion of the social contract.

Underrepresented Minorities in STEM (Odaely Walwyn-Pollard, Devon Collins, June Morrison Jones, and Dawn Roberts Semple)

Description: According to the Nelson Diversity Surveys (2007), African Americans, who make up 12% of the US population, comprised approximately 1% of the total number of tenured and tenure-track investigators at the top 50 academic institutions in the United States in 2002. Come hear our panel of Black scientists talk about their challenges, triumphs, and their keys to success. Featuring two scientists from the world-renowned Rockefeller University and one of our very own science faculty members. Q&A session to follow. Nathalie Vieux-Grishem will moderate the panel.

Biography: *Dr. Odaelys Walwyn* conducted her PhD research in Microbiology and Immunology at New York Medical College. As a graduate student, Odaelys became very involved in organizing science outreach programs for high school students in an effort to promote equitable access to science and research. She is also an experienced college educator, having held an adjunct faculty position at PACE University for several years and a Visiting Assistant Professor at Albany College of Pharmacy for one year. Odaelys is a self-proclaimed lover of all things science. She is particularly passionate about teaching and mentoring high school students of all backgrounds, especially those underrepresented in the STEM fields, in ways that foster their love for science and research. She is actively involved in the Outreach lab at Rockefeller University, which offers many programs for high school students, including RockEdu Presents (formerly Lab Out Loud), Lab Experiences, and various research opportunities, like the SSRP and Lab Jumpstart program.

Devon Collins is a neuroscientist, podcaster, and educator from the Midwest.

Currently a PhD candidate at the Rockefeller University, he studies how common genetic variation affects the brain's responses to drugs and stress. He is one-third of the team behind Science Soapbox, a podcast about how science interacts with our personal and political lives. Devon is committed to making the future of STEM more diverse and inclusive; he regularly works with Rockefeller University's Outreach lab, where he helps teach and mentor high school students, especially those from

underrepresented and low-resource backgrounds. When he's not doing science, talking science, or teaching science, you can find him baking, running, container gardening, or napping on his sofa with his cat and dog.

Dr. Dawn Roberts-Semple is an Assistant Professor at York College, City University of New York, whose teaching and research focuses on the human dimension of key environmental issues. She obtained her BA in geography at the University of Guyana, her Master's degree in Environment and Development from Cambridge University, U.K. and her Ph.D. in Environmental Science from Rutgers University.

Dr. June Morrison Jones worked as academic team leader and served on the curriculum and oral defense committee at Middle College High School at LaGuardia Community College. She has also served as department chair and lead teacher in Dallas Independent School and was a coach for students preparing for national and international science competitions. She presented papers at conferences on international AIDs (Bangkok, Thailand) and Infectious disease (Argentina). Publications include "The Role of Geographic Information System in Syphilis Prevention and Elimination," *Journal of Urban Health* and "Geographic Information System and Case Studies in Health," *Interactive Teaching and Learning across Disciplines and Cultures*. Research interests include health disparities, social determinants of health, and geographic information systems and disease.

Gender Performance and Queer Identity in the Black Community (Grayce Walker)

Description: In this symposium, we will analyze the ways in which we interact with our peers and make assumptions based on appearances. We will specifically analyze what it means to perform gender, the safeties and dangers of such an action, and how that affects the black community and, even deeper, the black queer community.

Biography: Grayce is a first year Posse Scholar at Lafayette College and an alum of BHSEC Queens. She is a prospective double major in Anthropology/Sociology and

Women and Gender Studies. While at BHSEC, she was involved in a number of student groups, sports teams, and she was a part of the first BLMDOA organizing team. Now at Lafayette, she is involved again in a number of student groups surrounding her various identities. In today's climate, Grayce firmly believes that art and education is imperative to learning about intersectionality.

Good Hair (Ymorah Blakeney, Kayla Scott McDowell)

Description: During this workshop, we will talk about the stereotypes about black hair. We will explore how black hair is different from other types of hair and how it's unique in each person of color. We will also how black hair is treated among the workforce.

Prayers of the People (A Participatory Performance – Kenyon Victor Adams (little ray))

Description: Prayers of the People is a secular liturgical performance of Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail. This participatory ritual/performance appropriates the structure of an Episcopal liturgy and brings to life the words of Dr. King wrote in 1963 while in captivity as a response to a joint letter from eight religious leaders urging him to stop disrupting the peace. The performance was conceived by Kenyon Victor Adams (little ray) and directed by Bill T. Jones. Audience participation (chanting of text and following directions to stand, sit, kneel to the best of your ability) is strongly encouraged. It is performed by Kenyon Victor Adams (little ray), Aaron Casey, Padraic Costello, Julia Easterlin, Rebecca Hargrove and Walker Jackson. This performance is co-presented by New York Live Arts.

Prayers for the People (NY Live Arts)

Description: Prayers of the People is a secular liturgical performance of Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail. This participatory ritual/performance appropriates the structure of an Episcopal liturgy and brings to life the words of Dr.

King wrote in 1963 while in captivity as a response to a joint letter from eight religious leaders urging him to stop disrupting the peace. The performance was conceived by Kenyon Victor Adams (Little Ray) and directed by Bill T. Jones. Audience participation (chanting of text and following directions to stand, sit, kneel to the best of your ability) is strongly encouraged. It is performed by Kenyon Victor Adams (Little Ray), Aaron Casey, Padraic Costello, Julia Easterlin, Rebecca Hargrove and Walker Jackson; it's co-presented by New York Live Arts.

Media Workshop with Democracy Now! (Simin Farkhondeh & Sally Zieper)

Description: In the face of racist, sexist and oppressive structuring embedded in corporate news and the dominant narrative that it presents where the voices of communities in struggle and on the margins are absent or distorted, workshop participants will collaboratively explore independent news as an alternative that presents the authentic voices of social justice movements, in order to examine their intersections and towards coalition and solidarity building, sharing of strategies, and resistance.

Biography: Engaged with independent media, activism, art, and media literacy, Simin Farkhondeh is education director at Democracy Now!, an independent news program. Sally Sieper is currently a student at The New School and an intern at the Democracy Now! Education department.

Tongues Untied: Film as Essay (Suzanne Schulz)

Description: Marlon Riggs' essay film TONGUES UNTIED broke new artistic ground by mixing poetry, music, performance and Riggs' autobiographical revelations. TONGUES UNTIED has been lauded by critics for its vision and its bold aesthetic advances and vilified by racist and anti-gay forces who used it to condemn government funding of the arts. There will be a screening of the film and an after-film discussion, led by our very own Suzanne Schultz. Please note: sensitive and potentially triggering language is used in the film.

Black at Bard (Zoe Donovan, Jazmine Smith)

Description: Black at Bard is an open discussion for Black students and alumni only at Bard Early College institutions to talk about our experiences within the Bard community and about how we can strengthen this community in the future. The goal is to create connections and community for us Black Bardians across campuses.

White Privilege (Christel Robinson, Ymorah Blakeney)

Description: This workshop is intended to raise awareness of the idea of “white privilege” and its interaction with the lives of people of color. Our goal is to offer an open-minded and collaborative environment to educate and broaden the perspective of participants.

Afro-Latinidad (Layla Ralekhetho, Oscar Nuñez)

Description: What does it mean to be black and Latino? How is this further complicated by the intersections of gendered, ethnic, and regional identities? Our special guest Oscar talks about the Afrolatinx identity today in the U.S., and the legacy of the African Diaspora in Latin America, as seen through food, music, and art.

The N-Word (Kayla Scott McDowell, Layla Ralekhetho)

Description: The N-Word is used by many individuals every day. It is used in music when speaking to each other, etc. But did you know this is a derogatory term? During this session, we will explain the history of the N-word and how it impacts people of color on a daily basis. This workshop is meant to educate others about the N-word and how the N-word is used in many different places: especially in songs. It is NOT TO OFFEND someone. This open conversation will be tense to talk about. Some will feel a certain way. Be advised!

What Does It Mean to Be Black? (Layla Ralekhetho, Abby Ervilus, Sydney Thomas)

Description: For this panel, we will go over what the African American, Caribbean American, and Black experience entails and listen to music, talk openly about our experiences, etc. to become better versed in the general experience.

Project 96: More Than Just a Brand (Peter Johnson)

Description: Peter Johnson will discuss his experiences in the fashion industry, about owning a business in general, about owning a black business and being a creator while black.

Biography: Peter Johnson is the founder of the brand Project 96. Born & raised in Lagos, Nigeria, he draws inspiration from his ethnic background. His awareness of culture and authenticity motivated him to create a brand that could provide a platform not only for his unique take on fashion, but for a community of creatives and innovators. Peter's desire to achieve an equilibrium between heritage and personal style resulted in the formation of Project 96.

Broadway Advocacy Coalition – BLM on Broadway (Zhailon Levingston & Ben Wexler)

Description: Zhailon Levingston and Ben Wexler of the Broadway Advocacy coalition will lead a workshop on identity and performance. Participants will explore how they can use arts based practices to empower themselves in situations of structural inequality and to foster dialogue across disparate lived experiences.

Biography: The Broadway Arts Coalition (BAC) is committed to building the capacity of advocates, students, artists, organizations and communities to use the arts as an integral part of their social change work. We believe that placing Artistry at the center of solving today's most pressing issues will create a new type of dialogue and impact. We have collaborated with artists from India Arie to Brian Stokes Mitchell,

collaborating with organizations from the Center for Popular Democracy to Columbia Law School.

The Power of Presence: The Importance of Building Relationships in the Age of BLM (Kenny Jean)

Biography: Kenny Jean grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn as the youngest of six, to two Haitian parents. Kenny graduated from Williams College in 2014 and NYU's School for Education in 2016 and currently works as the Writing Coordinator for a non-profit organization called Legal Outreach, aimed to prepare students to succeed in college and beyond. Kenny is passionate about helping students earn the same opportunities they were offered.

13th (*Note: all 9th graders are required to watch this.*)

Description: *13th* is a 2016 American documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the “intersection of race, justice and mass incarceration in the United States;” it is titled after the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which freed the slaves and prohibited slavery (unless as punishment for a crime). DuVernay contends that slavery has been perpetuated in practices since the end of the American Civil War through such actions as criminalizing behavior and enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; suppression of African Americans by disenfranchisement, lynchings and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weigh more heavily on minority communities and, by the late 20th century, mass incarceration of people of color in the United States. She examines the prison-industrial complex and the emerging detention-industrial complex, demonstrating how much money is being made by corporations from such incarcerations.

Time: a Kalief Browder Story

Film Description: The criminal justice system tragically failed 16-year-old Kalief Browder, who spent three years in Rikers Island jail awaiting trial — two of those years in solitary confinement — after being arrested for allegedly stealing a backpack. The case was never prosecuted, the charges were ultimately dropped, and Browder committed suicide after his release. His story and the challenges it poses to a basic understanding of American liberties are central to this six-part documentary. It's a comprehensive review of the case, using first-person accounts, archival footage, and cinematic re-creations of key scenes from Browder's life. Exclusive interviews with a wide range of people connected to the story, from politicians to close friends and family members to social reformers, are also featured.

Biography: Akeem Browder is a social justice advocate and agent of change. The Bronx native works to honor the legacy of his brother Kalief Browder, and mother Venida Browder by working with elected officials, lawyers, doctors, college students and community based organizations to change laws, policies and regulations that devastate poor communities and families that have been impacted by mass incarceration and solitary confinement in State prisons. He is the founder of Shut Down Rikers, and the Kalief Browder Foundation. A civil engineer by trade, he is currently traveling the country promoting the six-part Spike TV docu-series Time: The Kalief Browder Story.

The Performance of the One Act Plays “Night Vision” and “Colored”

Description: This workshop will feature the performance of two one act plays performed by fellow BHSEC students. There will be a talk back at the end to discuss the plays. Nathalie Vieux-Grishem is the director of these plays.

West African Dance Class (Andrea Markus)

Description: In this high-energy dance workshop, participants will learn a specific West African djembe dance, the traditional purpose of the dance, and the region and tribe from which the dance comes. Students will also learn about the djembe drum, the sounds it makes and where it comes from. Students will learn basic dance vocabulary

and about making connections to self and others through music and dance, and movement exploration/improvisation in the solo circle.

Biography: Andrea Markus (Kingston, Jamaica) received her MA in Dance Education from New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development. She also studied dance at Ballet School New York, Ithaca College, Dance New Amsterdam and The Limon Institute. Andrea has traveled to Guinea, West Africa to study dance and drumming with members of the national companies Les Ballets Africains de Guinea and Ballet Djoliba. She has performed with the Alpha Omega 1-7 Theatrical Dance Company, performing dance works by George Faison, Eleo Pomare, and more. Andrea has also danced and co-directed Magbana Drum & Dance NYC, a West African-based performance group of percussionists and dancers. She has taught dance to students in grades preK-12 as a teaching artist for ArtsConnection, Ballet Hispanico, Dancewave, and Alvin Ailey Arts In Education & Community Programs. She is currently a faculty member of Marymount Manhattan's Department of Dance, New York University's Department of Music and Performing Arts Professions, and the Ailey School.