Catalyst Reading Week 2022

The Art of Drag & Social Change: Reading Week is FUNdamental

Through the art of drag, students will have a Reading Week experience like no other!

Drag has proven to be a powerful and enduring art form championing social change. This program will explore drag’s radical and progressive past, present and future through drag-themed challenges, workshops, stories, and scholarship. As a team (aka ‘drag family’), you will develop your drag persona through tutorials, storytelling, and teamwork. With support from with local artists & community organizations, students will have the opportunity to cap the week off reading at a local children’s storytelling event…in drag! Extroverts and introverts are welcome - there are lots of ways to participate!

Activities include interactive workshops, tutorials, and performances exploring the art of drag, empowerment, and social change; exploration and participation in community-based programs supporting inclusivity; rehearsal time and further development of your drag persona

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA: Able to commit to full length of program. Open to students of all academic backgrounds.

KEY DATES:

- Catalyst Kick-Off: Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9:30-4:30, on-campus
- Reading Week: Tuesday, February, Feb 22, 2022 – Saturday, Feb 26, 2022 (5Days)
- Catalyst Reflection Event: Thursday, March 10, 5-7pm

PROGRAM TEAM: 10-15 Student Participants, 2-3 Team Leaders

LOCATION: Guelph

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will...

- Learn & engage with the art of drag and its role in progressive social change; past, present and future
- Learn to develop drag performance skills, particularly for local children and family-orientated settings
• Explore allyship & actionable ways to address equity issues related to queer and trans liberation

COMMITMENT:

Pre-Reading Week:
• Collect materials for your drag persona leading up to program
• With support of your Team Leaders, identify the children’s book(s) & materials needed for you to present
• Catalyst Kick-Off Day: Saturday, January 22, 2022, 9:30-4:30pm, in-person, on-campus, day-long orientation to Catalyst program, team-building & exploration of program topics/themes
• Team Meetings: your team will meet in-person or virtually twice to build connection and prepare for the program
• Engagement on MS Teams channel until program start to keep up with program updates, encourage teamwork, and support group and individual learning

During Reading Week:
• 5 full days of immersive community-based experiential learning in Guelph learning and working with local drag artists, activists, and scholars.
• Activities include interactive workshops, tutorials, and performances exploring the art of drag, empowerment, and social change, exploration and participation in various affirming diverse community-based programs supporting inclusivity, rehearsal time and further development of your drag persona

Post-Reading Week:
• Catalyst Reflection Event: Thursday, March 10, 5-7pm
• Explore and engage in ongoing learning and allyship addressing inclusive art practices promoting social change

TIMELINE:

Tuesday, December 7, 2021: Applications close
December 8-10, 2021: Online group interviews
Week of Dec 13, 2021: Selected applicants notified
Saturday, January 22, 2022: Catalyst Reading Week Orientation
Introduction to Student Participants & Team Leaders, review of program, team-building and preparation for program activities

January 31 – February 18: Team meets virtually or in-person, twice for 1-2 hours to prepare. Time/dates decided on as a team.

February 22, 2022 (Tuesday): Catalyst: The Art of Drag & Social Change Reading Week Program begins

February 26, 2022 (Saturday): Reading Week Program Ends

March 10, 5-7pm (Thursday): Catalyst Post-Reading Week Reflection Event


Included in cost: Fee contributes towards costs of planning and running program, including renting accessible space, financially acknowledging the expertise of community organizations and facilitators, lunches and snacks every day during Reading Week, team resources and supplies, food at Catalyst training and reflection, and special transportation needs.

Not included in cost: Students must take care of their own accommodation and transportation to and from program location (accessible by city bus route). While the Experiential Learning Hub will supply a tickle trunk of useful items to use, student will be responsible for their overall costume, makeup and props.

ACCESSIBILITY:

This program will take place mainly in downtown Guelph. There will be accessible entrances and elevators at our meeting site. Please contact us if you have any accessibility considerations we can address (including financial barriers) that would support your learning.