

Shanice Jackman

Final Report

5/28/21

Dream Big Waltham

We have decided to focus on a creative, community-based, project geared towards racial justice. Our idea is to build a dream video for marginalized students to re-imagine how they want to see themselves in society through a creative expression (ie. painting, stickers, pictures, writing, etc.). BIPOC students are often fed a very specific and limiting narrative of success and due to the social, economic, and political barriers that they often face, they are not allowed enough time to dream. Schools enforce the rhetoric of going to college and then getting a 9-5 job to make a stable income. While there is nothing wrong with a traditional path, students should have the autonomy to create goals and aspirations for their future that reflect their own personal values, rather than feeling as though their life is already planned out for them. The lack of support and emphasis on allowing students to choose their own path to success is discouraging to students because they may not see their passions being validated. We need more spaces that increase students' confidence and agency over their own choices.

For our project, we had conversations about race followed by goal setting workshops and panels. At the end of the program students submitted video submissions discussing their dreams and hopes. We partnered up with the Waltham Black future fund. We used email and zoom meetings to connect back and forth with our community partner.

One challenge that we had was the time that we started planning the project. We should've started planning what we wanted to do early on, so we could spend the semester implementing the plan. This led us to our next challenge. We had a difficult time sticking to our timeline because we kept changing what we wanted to do with the students. An unexpected success we had was how engaged the students were with the conversations we had. For the future, we want to have more conversations with Waltham students. We are going to keep in contact with our community partner for future projects.

I learned that I enjoy hearing from Black youth about their experiences. After college, I want to spend time doing different projects like these with different communities. This experience taught how much work goes into teaching and speaking to young students.

Final Budget : Our original amount given was \$1232.92. Our project was supposed to be a dream wall, but time and covid restraints stopped us from doing this. We did not use the money in the same way we intended to use it before, so the budget is completely different.

Item	Amount
Gift card for compensating student's time on the weekend	\$100 (x4 students)
Video Editor	\$100
Total	\$500

