



FINAL REPORT 2023
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
LGBTQIA2-S USCC SUBCOMMITTEE









Project Griot: LA **Table of Contents**

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Opening Letter From Adam Isaac Ebert

For those of us who live at the shoreline standing upon the constant edges of decision crucial and alone

 Audre Lorde (excerpt from A Litany For Survival)



t's with great excitement that we submit to the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee our final report for Project Griot: LA. My heart is filled with gratitude that Blu Fable and our partners were entrusted with this exceptional opportunity to serve Los Angeles' Black queer community. I hope that the following pages convey not only the dedication and professionalism we brought to bear on this project, but also the sense of duty to and love for the community it served.

I especially want to thank and acknowledge Dr. Gregory Canillas (Ph.D.) of Soul 2 Soul Global, our partner in this endeavor. His expertise, wisdom, reputation, and credibility was the foundation upon which this project was built, and without him none of this would have been possible.

If one idea, one recurring theme, can be pulled from the cohort, the videos, and the community forum, it's this: "We need more of this." More attention, more spaces, more visibility, more representation, and more opportunities to shine. I sincerely hope that Project Griot: LA is just the beginning of new and wonderful things to come in Los Angeles' Black queer community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Isaac Ebert Owner/Principal Creative **Blu Fable** Creative Content Agency

USAGE OF COMMUNITY DESCRIPTOR

Throughout this report and associated collateral for Project Griot, we've used the descriptor phrase "Black queer" interchangeably with the phrase "African-American / Black LGBTQIA2-S." Names and words can hold power, and we recognize that in a community as vibrant and diverse as the African-American / Black LGBTQIA2-S family, no single descriptor is universally embraced. If this descriptor does not resonate with you, or holds negative / pejorative / demeaning / painful connotations, we ask for your gracious understanding that no ill was intended.

Methodology Summary

rom the beginning, our approach to Project Griot was centered on providing an elevated experience for any person with whom we engaged. The scope of the contract presented us with a broad spectrum of stakeholder groups, for each of whom we had different experience objectives.

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	EXPERIENCE OBJECTIVE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH	Easy management experience; good communication; an unsurpassed quality and design to reports and documents received; overall sense of confidence that the contract was being executed professionally, that their input was valued and welcomed, but constant oversight was not required to keep the project momentum moving forward.
LGBTQIA2-S USCC SUBCOMMITTEE	Unsurpassed quality and design to reports and documents received; confidence that the project team was furthering the mission and objectives of the subcommittee, especially in regards to the targeted Black queer community; provided a model for future projects.
COHORT APPLICANTS	Positive exposure to and awareness of DMH and its community outreach programs; easy application experience; that their personal information was being held in confidence.
COHORT MEMBERS	That they were individually respected; their time was valued; their stories were cherished; their commitment was appreciated, and our gratitude was genuine; overall, that they mattered; and that their generosity of time and trust was reciprocated with an equitable magnitude of professionalism, empathy, support, and skill from the project team.
PROJECT TEAM	Respected and valued; part of something special.
COMMUNITY FORUM Respected and honored for their expertise and contrib PARTICIPANTS community; appreciated for their willingness to participate	
COMMUNITY FORUM ATTENDEES	Engaged, presented with a thoughtful and purposeful experience; valued as a member of the Black queer community.
GENERAL PUBLIC / MARKETING SPHERE	Positive exposure to and awareness of DMH and its community outreach programs.

Recruitment

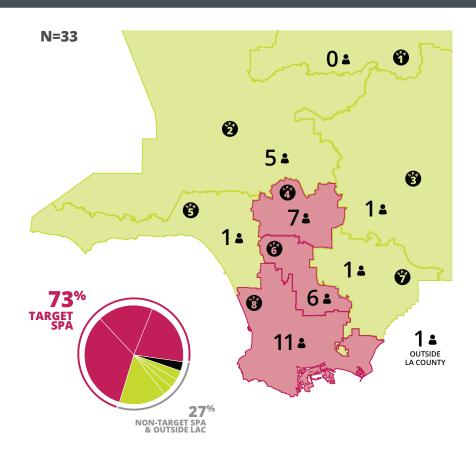
otential cohort members were reached through several outreach methods, including word of mouth, social media engagement (Appendix B1), social media advertising, direct outreach, and in collaboration with several community and civic organizations. In the last few weeks of the outreach, we also enlisted the services of Keen Social, a digital marketing company with deep roots in the Long Beach and south Los Angeles County area.

Individuals were directed to an online survey (Appendix B2) through **www.projectgriot.la**, which collected their demographic information, along with their previous experience with receiving mental health services.

In all, we recruited a total of 33 individuals - not all of whom ended up participating in Project Griot.

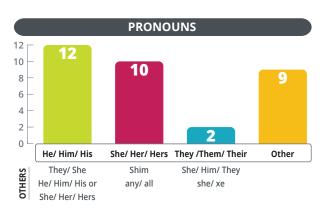
LOCATION OF COHORT APPLICANTS

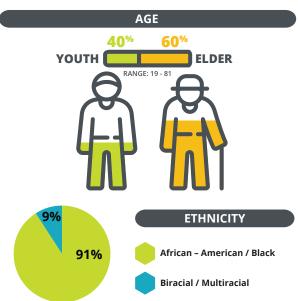
NOTE: Numbers are approximate, as data is based on self-reported Zip Codes, and some Zip Codes cross Service Area Boundaries

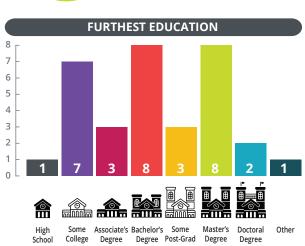


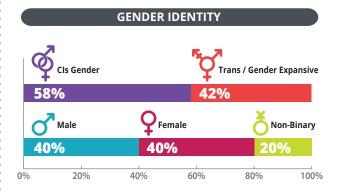


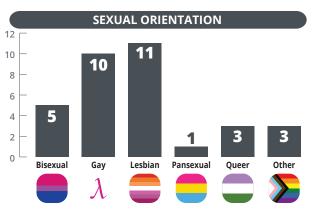
Recruitment N=33











MENTAL HEALTH EXPERIENCE	
Had personal lived experience with a mental health condition.	64%
Had personal experience utilizing public mental health services.	45%
Had lived experience as a family member/caregiver for someone with a mental health condition.	73%
Had experience as a family member/ caregiver utilizing public mental health services.	52%

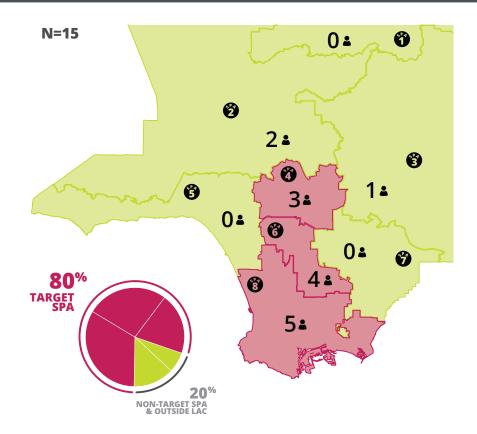
Cohort

he Project Griot: LA cohort gathered for eight sessions between September and November of 2022. Each gathering was planned as a two-hour session, with the first hour dedicated to a group discussion facilitated by Dr. Gregory Canillas, and the second hour a shared family-style meal, catered by The Chef Experience (Skilor Featherstone). In reality, many of the sessions extended well past the two-hour planned timetable (see Cohort Management in the Lessons Learned section).

While 33 individuals applied and were invited to join the Project Griot: LA cohort, only 17 members attended a session and 15 stayed actively involved through the 8-week cohort.

LOCATION BY L.A. COUNTY SPAS

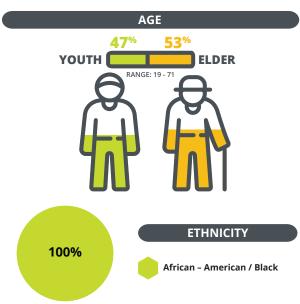
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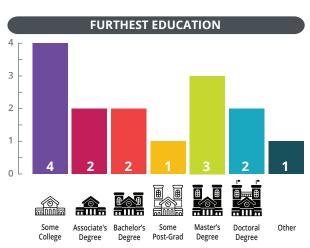


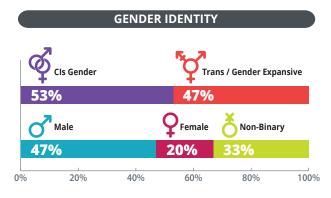


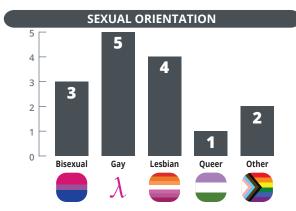
Cohort N=15











MENTAL HEALTH EXPERIENCE	
Had personal lived experience with a mental health condition.	67%
Had personal experience utilizing public mental health services.	53%
Had lived experience as a family member/caregiver for someone with a mental health condition.	73%
Had experience as a family member/caregiver utilizing public mental health services.	60%

An 8-week discussion journey was planned, with a different topic introduced by Dr. Gregory each week.

WEEK 1 9/7/2022

"The Circle of Life"
The Sacred Circle

WEEK 5 10/12/2022

Sex, Love & Relationships

WEEK 2 9/14/2022

"I'm Coming Out"
The Coming Out Process

WEEK 6 10/19/2022

C.R.E.A.M.
(Cash Rules Everything Around Me)
The Importance of
Financial Literacy

WEEK 3 9/21/2022

"It's A Family Affair"
Family of Origin
& Family of Choice

WEEK 7 10/26/2022

"I Dream A World"
What is Your Vision
for Your Life

WEEK 4 9/28/2022

"I Go to the Rock" Religion & Spirituality

WEEK 8 11/2/2022

"We Speak Your Name"

At the start of the first session (or the first session a cohort member attended), participants were administered a pre-survey (Appendix B5), signed waiver and authorization forms (Appendix B5), and received a welcome gift comprised of a Project Griot: LA-branded shoulder bag, reusable water bottle, and cloth-bound notebook (Appendix B3).

At the end of each weekly session, participants were given a sealed and labeled envelope containing that week's stipend, and transportation assistance for cohort members who arranged their own transportation. Two participants were provided transportation to and from the cohort session locations via ride-share, arranged and funded, and thus did not receive the additional weekly monetary transportation assistance.

During the final week, participants received a personalized thank you gift (Appendix B3), handcrafted by the project team to convey our personal gratitude. They were also administered the post-survey (Appendix B5).



Video

ver the course of the 8-week cohort, a video team was filming both the group sessions as well as one-on-one interviews. The cameras used to film the group sessions were monitored and controlled remotely, to preserve a sense of privacy and intimacy between participants (NOTE: all participants were aware of and consented to the group sessions being recorded). This footage however was considered secondary to the one-on-one interviews, and in fact, was not substantially used in the videos.

The one-on-one interviews were conducted during and after the family-style meal, with one to four participants interviewed each week. In total, 19 interviews were conducted with the cohort members and facilitator.

The footage was reviewed and edited during November, eventually being crafted into five videos, which were also merged into a 25-minute documentary short that was presented at the community forum in February of 2023.

Each of the five videos (or segments) were structured around a common challenge faced by cohort members, and a related idea / theme / wisdom that could give perspective and hope to a viewer who might resonate with those challenging experiences. They were also designed to provide richer context and insight to caretakers / allies / mental health professionals who do not have first-hand knowledge of the lived experiences of the Black queer community.

TOPICS	
Video 1	Coming Out & Family Dynamics
Video 2	Faith & Religion
Video 3	Trans-Specific Challenges
Video 4	Being Black & Queer
Video 5	Identity & Mental Well-Being

Community Forum

hough the primary function of the community forum was to present the documentary short and expand the conversation around intergenerational dialogue in the Black queer community as a mode of improving mental health outcomes, it was important to the project team that it also served as a celebration of and gathering place for the Black queer community in the greater Los Angeles region.

The evening's event was themed as Lift Each Voice: A One Night Event Celebrating Los Angeles' Queer Black Community. The event's run-of-show was developed on three main pillars: the premier of the Project Griot: LA documentary short; panel discussion(s) with community influencers; and entertainment.

The marketing strategy relied on the recruitment and cooperation of panelists and entertainers to leverage their community connections and social media followings to help draw the audience. While the contract required 50 registrants, our internal goal was 200.

The event location - The Miracle Theater - was carefully selected. Its location in downtown Inglewood, along with its capabilities of having a stage and digital cinema projectors, were key factors in its selection.

Once the featured panelists and entertainers were confirmed, a second round of marketing collateral was designed. The updated assets were individualized for each participant, allowing them to share marketing content that featured their participation in the event (Appendix B6).

The projectgriot.la website was updated with the first round of event marketing, and Eventbrite was used for ticketing. For the two weeks that ticketing was live, there was a steady increase of reservations of between 15 - 30 a day. The final reservation count on Eventbrite was around 195 ticket reservations.

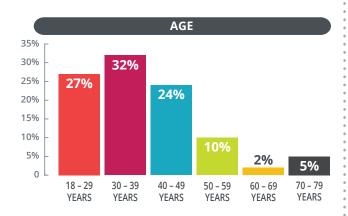
Actual attendance of the community forum was around 100 attendees, of which 41 completed the event's survey. The survey was available in both a digital format (accessible via a QR code displayed on screen) and a paper format, which was made available in the lobby after the event.

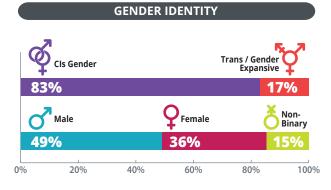


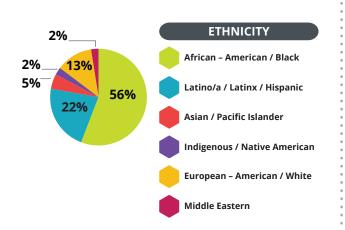


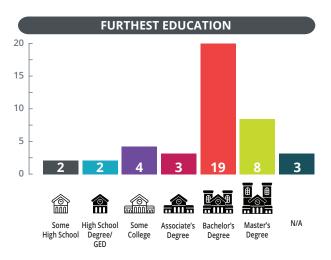


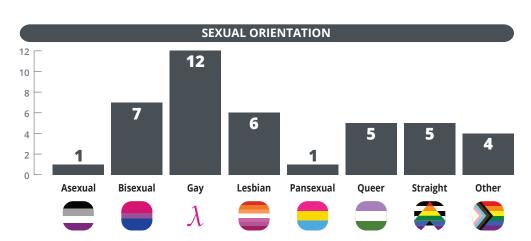












Results & Outcomes

A significant body of psychological literature exists that supports the Black community's distrust of the mental health system (e.g., Alang, 2019; Boyd-Franklin, 2003; Kennedy, Mathis & Woods, 2007). While there may be evidence of that changing within the past decade, as graduate programs seek to train more culturally sensitive clinicians, there are also increased efforts to "think outside the box" and to develop new ways to engage potential consumers of mental health services (e.g., Curry, Lipscomb, Ashley & McCarty-Caplan, 2022). It is believed that these efforts may assist in reducing racial disparities in accessing mental health care services. Project Griot: LA was conceived as a means to address these disparities through outreach to an often overlooked and marginalized community.

Cohort

roject Griot: LA centered conversations as a way of strengthening bonds and building community between Black queer youth and elders. Participants were recruited through various methods: advertisements on social media, word of mouth and targeted marketing.

We were intentional about inclusion and wanted as many voices and experiences within the Black queer community to be represented. As such, the participants defined themselves across the spectrum: gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-binary.

The cohort members participated in eight group sessions facilitated by Dr. Gregory. The one-hour group sessions were followed by a communal dinner and extended conversation and fellowship. The dinners were prepared by a Black chef, which generally featured foods traditionally associated with African American culture. For example, following the first group meeting, the chef served "Soul Food" (e.g., fried chicken, macaroni & cheese).





Pre-test / Post-test Results

he pre-test and post-test included eleven items that focused on the respondent's knowledge about availability of mental health services within their community, the use of cultural practices in service of their mental well-being, as well as inquiries regarding support received from their family of origin, the Black community, and their religious community. Respondents were also asked about whether they had created a family of choice as a means of support.

The results showed little variability between pre/post test measures. This may be explained in part by the brief nature of the project (e.g., the group lasted only eight sessions) and that many of the questions asked spoke to issues that have more to do with external factors for which the participants have little control (e.g., "I feel supported in my sexual orientation within my family of origin" and "I feel supported by my religious community"). Although a questionnaire with a Likert scale may be the standard format for measuring outcomes in mental health, it may not have been the best way to measure the experiences of this population.

The post-test included four qualitative questions that proved to be much richer in data about the positive impact that cohort members received from participating in the project. In this section we present some of the responses to each of the four questions as well as a table that highlights the three most common "themes" for each of the prompts. The complete table with all responses can be found in the appendix section of the report (Appendix C1).

QUESTION 12: What did you like most about participating in Project Griot?

- WOW! It was amazing. I felt the love of a new family and now I have a tribe.
- Diversity, equity and inclusion.
- I enjoyed the open and authentic space to share. I felt embraced, seen and heard. I appreciated the staff for the excellent work into the program.
- I think that Project Griot was a safe space for everyone in my community to share our experiences. I felt like the group was facilitated very well.

- I had the chance to meet some really awesome people. I had a chance to share my heart and meet people like me.
- The diversity of the group.
- The diversity. There were so many different kinds of Black "LGBTQ" people. It was overwhelming at first.
- Making connections

QUESTION 12 THEMES

Diversity & Inclusion

Embraced, Seen, & Heard

Authentic & Safe Space

QUESTION 13: What did you like least about participating in Project Griot?

- Everything was great to me.
- Not enough time, would have liked to see more people.
- · Nothing.
- Not having enough time to speak!
- I liked it! We need more of it. More spaces and places like this!

- Sometimes the overtalking.
- Too short, needed to be more weeks.
- It was a great experience.
- The old location.
- Waiting until the end to eat. Long sit times.

QUESTION 13 THEMES

Not Enough Time

It Was A Great Experience

Overtalking, Not Enough Time To Speak

QUESTION 14: Would you recommend friends / family participate in a discussion group like Project Griot? If so, why?

- Yes, I believe more people need to experience this type of safe space.
- Yes! I would recommend Project Griot for the community because at the moment there isn't a safe space for us to be open and share new ideas.
- I would recommend friends and family to participate in a discussion group like this. It was a healing experience that I think would benefit those close to me, no matter where they are in their journeys.
- Yes, I think more people in our communities need to feel more supported.
- · Yes, it is very eye opening.
- Absolutely. It was a great learning experience. It was also interesting to see the diversity.
- Yes, this forum provided an opportunity to be heard, seen and celebrated.

QUESTION 14 THEMES

Safe Space There Are People Like Me Healing Experience

QUESTION 15. What was the biggest takeaway from participating in Project Griot?

- We deserve more of this.
- I have a new family and tribe called home.
- · Open mind and open heart.
- The conversation! Knowing that I am not alone in my experience.
- Sense of community and safe space for Black people.
- The biggest takeaway was that there are people out there who look like me, talk like me, and have stories similar to mine who equally appreciate my queerness...Project Griot was something I didn't know I needed.

- That we need more spaces like this on a regular basis — that the city should pay for it!
- I learned to simply love myself and my uniqueness.
- The unconditional openness of everyone.
- It's okay to be me. Acceptance of each person's uniqueness is pivotal to life.
- There is a community for me. I have friends, a new tribe (to) grow and flourish with.
- Multigenerational work is the only way.

QUESTION 15 THEMES

We Deserve More Of This : Sense Of Community : Acceptance

In summary, the qualitative responses spoke to the sense of community or "tribe" that participants felt at the conclusion of the project. Many participants also noted feeling "embraced, seen, heard." The responses also indicated an overwhelming need to continue to offer services that are culturally relevant and that speak to the diversity of the experiences of the Black queer community.

Videos

Two versions of the edited footage were created: a 25-min documentary short with 5 distinct segments; and a series of five videos, with each segment broken out on its own.

Individual Videos



Family Is Love

05:24

05:19

"Coming out" is perhaps the most common shared experience in the queer community, yet everyone's story is unique and intensely personal. This episode of Project Griot: LA explores the highs and lows of some of those stories, along with the strength that can be found from our families - both blood and choice.



On Faith

Questions of faith often weigh heavily on LGBTQ+ people who grew up in religious families and communities. This episode of Project Griot: LA looks at the impact of struggles with faith. Some let it go, some find it again, some find it for the first time... but regardless, it's a journey almost all are on.



On Being Human: Black Trans Resilience 04:52

The intersection of gender, sexuality, and race can be a complex matrix to navigate, let alone communicate to others. This episode of Project Griot: LA shares the stories, challenges, and victories some have experienced in their own journeys of resilience and becoming.



On Being Black & Queer

05:33

For many in the LGBTQ+ community, their queerness is the cornerstone of their self-identity. But it's not that simple for most Black queer individuals. This episode of Project Griot: LA explores the challenges many face in living the dual-realities of being Black and queer.



On Well-Being

04:26

Black Americans continue to face challenges that many in our society don't understand, don't see, or flat-out choose to ignore. And being queer can add a whole other level of marginalization and isolation to the mix. This episode of Project Griot: LA explores the strength that can be found in elders, mentors, and community.

Documentary Short



Project Griot: LA

24:35

The Project Griot: LA documentary short includes all five episodes of Project Griot: LA: Family Is Love; On Faith; On Being Human: Black Trans Resilience; On Being Black & Queer; and, On Well-Being.

Community Forum

ift Each Voice, the community forum event for Project Griot: LA took place on the evening of February 1, 2023. It was held at the historic Miracle Theater in downtown Inglewood.

The event featured: two panels of community influencers; the premier of the Project Griot: LA documentary short; performances by a singer, DJ, and spoken word poet; and a segment introducing the attendees to the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee. The evening was MC'd by Ruven King II (PGLA Community Outreach Coordinator) and Dr. Gregory Canillas (PGLA Facilitator).

The panelists were grouped into two panels, one composed of elders and one composed of youth. The panel of elders included: Jeannette Bronson, Co-Founder, Black Lesbians United; Paul Scott, Community Activist and Founder of LA Black Pride (who also appeared in the documentary); Shonté Thomas, Associate Dean of Students, UC Riverside; and Greg Wilson, community advocate and author.

The elders were asked to respond to a number of prompts including:

 Speaking as elders, what are your thoughts/ observations about where we are as a Black queer community in Los Angeles?

- What role do you think community organizations should play in facilitating dialogue between Black queer elders and youth?
- What support systems do you think need to be put in place for elders? For youth?
- What advice would you give to your younger self?

The panel of youth included: Jayce Baron, Author and Filmmaker of the award-winning documentary "Beyond Ed Buck"; Keith Brandon, Actor (who also appeared in the documentary); Dr. Eko Natividad Canillas, Senior Director of Impact, Peer Health Exchange; and Shar Jossell, Journalist and Media Personality.

Similar to the panel of elders, the youth panel was asked to respond to a number of questions, including:

- What is your initial reaction to the documentary? Do the stories resonate with you?
- What systems do you think need to be put in place for elders? For youth?
- What suggestions do you have for continuing the conversation beyond today?

50

Contract Requirement For Recruitment 196

Pre-Registrations

100

Approximate Attendance 41

Completed Surveys

Community Forum Exit Survey

ollowing the community event, participants were asked to complete an exit survey that utilized a five-point Likert scale, using ratings from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). The participants favorably endorsed items with an overall average survey rating of 9.15/10. The question receiving the highest rating (4.73) was the first question "I enjoyed watching the short documentary". All of the questions received positive endorsements, with attendees strongly supporting the screening of the documentary / community forum.

While all of the questions received ratings of 4+ on a 5 point Likert scale, the question receiving the lowest rating (4.13) was the last question: "I have a better understanding of how to access mental health resources for myself and family." In addition to using tech-based method (e.g., QR codes) to access information about LACDMH, future community events may also include sharing traditional methods of communication favored by some populations, especially elders, such as pamphlets and brochures as a means to educate attendees about the services offered by the department.









COMMUNITY FORUM SURVEY RESULTS / N = 41

To what extent do you agree with the following:

Strongly Disagree

3 Neutral

4 Agree

Strongly Agree

I enjoyed watching the film / documentary.

I would recommend this film / documentary to others.

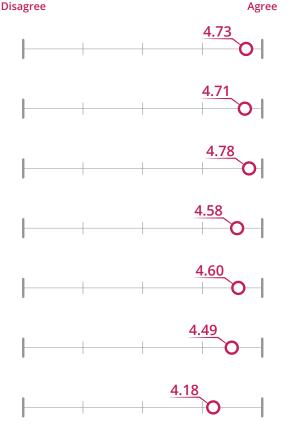
I would be interested in watching similar projects.

I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ youth.

I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders.

I have a better appreciation for topics that center around mental wellness.

I have a better understanding about how to access mental health resources for myself and family.



Additional Comments from Survey Forms

"Shout out to Dr. Gregory Canillas and Dr. Eko Canillas. You both are amazing."

"Tonight was great."

"Fantastic."

"Wonderful space, wonderful exchange of knowledge."

"Wow! Really an eye opening event."

"Open panel questions to the audience."

"Great program. Please continue to showcase these important topics."

"This was a wonderful and uplifting gathering. Thank you."

"I am so proud to have witnessed this event. I would love to be at the next one!"

"We need more events and research like this please. Thank you."

"I enjoyed this presentation, both panels, the documentary, spoken word etc. the venue was nice and felt safe! I think it was a good turnout."

Lessons Learned

Process

hrough the course of Project Griot: LA, we learned several important lessons - some from unexpected challenges and one from a mistake. We've included four lessons learned that we think may be beneficial to future consultants working on similar projects for DMH.

RECRUITMENT

Due to the targeted nature of the Project Griot: LA cohort (being focused on recruiting Black queer cohort members in specific age brackets), our attempts to advertise on social media platforms and boost social media posts were largely rejected due to violating certain policies (e.g. recruitment was not open to everyone). We did not face these same challenges for the Community Forum, since that event was open to anyone, regardless of race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or age. We do not foresee a change to social media advertising guidelines, and thus recommend that future project teams not rely on social media marketing for targeted recruitment campaigns.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

We made the mistake of not engaging with on-the-ground community organizations sooner in the project process. We assumed that we would garner widespread support for Project Griot: LA from the outset, but should have recognized that it takes time, effort, and purpose to develop relationships and demonstrate the willingness and ability to contribute to a reciprocal and mutually beneficial arrangement. We recommend that future project teams prioritize building relationships with on-the-ground community organizations from the outset.

COHORT MANAGEMENT

For the first session of the Project Griot: LA cohort, we had an almost 80% no-show rate. We had initially been communicating and confirming the intent to attend via email, but after the initial low turnout, we added personalized phone calls to every cohort member every week. Adding the personalized phone calls to our cohort management plan brought the no-show rate down to 10%-15% on a weekly basis.

The group discussions often extended beyond the one-hour time frame for several reasons, including late arrivals / late start time and extended participant stories. The group discussions were scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM, but often did not start until 6:45 PM. Several participants disclosed that they would be late to the group, due to work obligations and distance traveled. Their arrival was generally not disruptive to the group process. In the future, sessions might be scheduled at or after 7 PM to allow for traffic, distance, and work obligations. Additionally, the group discussion also extended beyond the hour. The group facilitator has considerable experience with classroom and group management, but often made the decision in the moment to allow participants to finish stories because participants' vulnerability in sharing life stories that may have been traumatic or

deemed as an important milestones in their life journeys. Future group time frames might be extended to ninety minutes, which would be sufficient in allowing everyone to disclose without interruption.

VIDEO DEVELOPMENT

The exact scope of the video deliverables was not clearly defined in the RFP or SOW. While we were comfortable with the ambiguity and confident in our ability to navigate through it, not all consultants in the future will have the same level of experience that we possess. We would recommend that future projects have a clearer vision of the video deliverable scope, such as style, quantity, and duration.

Subject Matter

e were intentional about including topics that provided a holistic perspective into the lives of Black queer individuals. Both the group discussions and individual interviews were rich in content. As noted in a previous section, the group discussion focused on eight key areas. The finished documentary highlighted five areas (see Results & Outcomes section). Two significant areas that were not included in the final cut of the documentary were romantic relationships and finances.

Many of the elders who participated in the documentary were in long-term relationships. The group discussion about romantic relationships was one of the most lively discussions of the recorded sessions. There is a body of literature that suggests that romantic relationships are a protective factor, providing much needed social support and often mitigating the stressors related to aging. For many LGBTQ+ individuals, there were few, if any, models of healthy queer relationships. For those who do not cultivate romantic relationships, they may be at greater risk for a myriad of challenges that may affect mental health, physical health, and financial outcomes (APA, 2021). A much greater emphasis should be placed on conversations and support for those relationships.

Additionally, a significant challenge for queer individuals is finances and career related issues. Queer individuals are more likely to experience sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace and be paid less for the same work as their heterosexual peers. In the documentary, "On Being Human: Black Trans Resilience," Sydney discloses discrimination that she faced in the drag community when she came out as transgender, which had a negative financial outcome. In future projects, it is suggested that this topic be explored more fully.

Conclusions & Recommendations Conclusion

he current guidelines for professional practice with sexual minorities is conceptually rooted in a framework that acknowledges the minority stress model, the impact of intersectionality and affirmative treatment practices (APA, 2021). Black queer individuals may experience general stressors and unique stressors resulting from societal, community, and familial stigma and prejudice as a result of their marginalized sexual orientation status (Meyer, 2003), as well as stressors related to diversity issues such as race and gender (Crenshaw, 1989). These risk factors may be contributors to higher rates of substance abuse, suicidality, depression, and anxiety disorders in this population, as compared to their heterosexual counterparts (APA, 2021).

Numerous studies validate social support as a protective factor in preventing or mitigating the effects of mental health symptoms and/or disorders (e.g., Brinker & Cheruvu, 2016). In recent years, there has been a significant movement within the mental health community to address the dearth of services provided to an aging population. Even fewer services exist that specifically address the needs of elders of color. Many older adults may be at risk for isolation and discrimination and may lack the social support needed as they age (APA, 2021). The development of services and increased outreach to this population is critical in addressing these needs.

Bird, Kuhns & Garofalo (2012) highlight the potential impact of role models on the positive outcomes for queer youth. Black queer youth often navigate the complexities of the coming out process, as well as familial, community, and societal discrimination against sexual minorities (Rosenwald, 2009). As many Project Griot: LA cohort members shared in the documentary, coming out to family was a difficult process, often met with resistance and nonacceptance. For many Black queer folks, they may need to create families of choice as adjunctive relationships with biological familial relationships, as well as in some cases to replace those relationships. During and following filming the documentary, several group members disclosed to the facilitator that they had developed supportive relationships outside of the group. One participant who identifies as a lesbian elder disclosed that she and a trans female youth participant attended a play together and shared a postplay meal. She remarked that she learned so much about the trans experience that she had not known prior to establishing this friendship. The uniqueness of this project is strong evidence for connecting these two populations (youth and elders), as well as fostering connections across the queer experience, which may result in greater social support for each group as they move through their various life stages.

As noted previously, Black queer individuals do not always use traditional methods of psychological treatment. Thus, mental health agencies and clinical practitioners should strive to continue to engage this population in creative and innovative ways.

As evidenced by both the feedback received from the Project Griot: LA cohort and comments from the community forum attendees, continued efforts to support marginalized populations, such as Black queer elders and youth, is both needed and welcomed. Based on our experience in creating this project, as well as the lessons learned, we present the following recommendations:

Recommendations

"I am part of a tribe now." - Koko
- Koko, Project Griot: LA cohort member

- ased on the feedback from the surveys (pre / post / community forum) and anecdotal comments from documentary and community forum participants, we would like to recommend the following:
 - 1. Share the documentary on the LACDMH website and YouTube page.
 - 2. Make the documentary available for public use as a training tool for agencies that service queer clients (e.g., AMAAD, In the Meantime Men's Group, LA Gay & Lesbian Center, The Center-Long Beach), as well as educational institutions with Queer Resource Centers and/or Queer mental health training programs (e.g., UCLA, UCR, Antioch University)
 - **3.** Create in-service trainings for the LACDMH Training Bureau that focus on the unique treatment issues of Black elders and youth.
 - **4.** Compile a resource guide that can be distributed to clinical and case management staff within LACDMH directly operated clinics and contracted agencies that focus on services for Black queer youth and elders.
 - 5. Create a second video that highlights the conversations that occurred in the eight group meetings that preceded the individual interview sessions.
 - **6.** Develop innovative programs that provide clinical and adjunctive services for Black queer youth and elders, including an ongoing group that facilitates conversations between the two entities.
 - 7. Screen the documentary at Queer film festivals (e.g., OutFest) and mental health focused film festivals (e.g., the American Psychological Association's annual convention) in an effort to increase awareness of the unique issues faced by Black queer elders and youth.
 - 8. Institutionalize ongoing community events and forums that celebrate the stories of Black queer youth and elders.

About the Project Team



Blu Fable is a creative content agency that helps brands give voice to their values. By living out loud, our partner clients move themselves and our world towards a better future, whilst building enduring relationships with like-minded customers. Having the storytelling depth of an agency along with the in-house generative capability of a production company makes us a unique creative studio. We're obsessed with advancing our craft and driven by a curiosity that leads us deep into the cultural and technological nuances of our partner clients. It's that attention to detail that lets us translate complex messages into accessible, memorable, and effective creative content. Our praxis includes producing video, motion graphics animation, executive presentation, and graphic design content, along with providing brand and creative messaging services.



Soul 2 Soul Global is a mission-driven company led by psychologist and professor Dr. Gregory Canillas, Ph.D. Known to friends and colleagues as "Doc", he takes a "keep it real" approach to his work both with clients and in training the next generation of therapists. His easy-going attitude, coupled with a sharp insight that misses nothing, has made him popular with students and clients alike. Soul 2 Soul Global presents LGBTQ+ Couples Retreats and workshops that help couples and families to create healthier and happier relationships.

In addition to having worked as a Clinical Psychologist on two mental health programs operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Dr. Gregory currently serves on the American Psychological Association's Joint Task Force for Revising the Guidelines for Professional Practice with Sexual Minority Clients. One of the eight co-authors of the American Psychological Association's Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Sexual Minority Persons, he wrote Guidelines 9 (Diverse Relationships) and Guidelines 11 (Families of Origin & Choice).

His clinical work, research, and teaching have focused on the entire range of relationship issues from trauma, abuse, and infidelity to conflict resolution, spirituality, and self esteem. He has worked with children, adolescents, adults, couples, students, foster parents, and anyone who needed help to better understand themselves, their relationships, and their place in the world. Dr. Gregory's goal is to use his considerable education and experience to help people to live their best lives.

Acknowledgments



roject Griot: LA was an incredible success due in large part to the dedication and support of a large group of people. We are so grateful to each one of them. We wish to acknowledge the following:

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Kelly Wilkerson LCSW, Health Programs Analyst Members of the LGBTQIA2-S UsCC Subcommittee

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Jayce Baron Shar Jossell Keith Brandon Mikey Fields
Neverending Nina Dr. Eko Natividad Reverend SheAh Canillas Prince Eternal

Locations

Staff of the Staff of Staff of Hungarian Cultural Alliance MakerCity LA Miracle Theater

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Appendices

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A Digital Content

Individual Episodes



Family Is Love

05:24

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/802570682/33ff8f2873

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/802570682/316235a339



On Faith

05:19

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/802573912/707ce8d2b1

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/802573912/7338e8b061



On Being Human: Black Trans Resilience 04:

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/802577462/c2a751a5e4

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/802577462/eae5767774



On Being Black & Queer

05:33

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/802567584/b8f4c80357

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/802567584/e250b6d63f



On Well-Being

04:36

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/802580533/7d1fcb7378

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/802580533/a9d18879fd

Documentary Short



Project Griot: LA

24:35

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/796433183/4a05d6dbb9

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/796433183/3ae708e052

A Digital Content

Community Forum Event



Lift Each Voice Community Forum

1:50:34

PREVIEW LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/review/796478793/889cbd39bd

DOWNLOAD LINK: https://vimeo.com/blufable/download/796478793/b56d8ce594

Photo Libraries



PGLA Cohort Group

8 Photos

ALBUM LINK: https://photos.app.goo.gl/Em3Y8bEvSXK7gHps6



Lift Each Voice Community Forum 349 Photos

ALBUM LINK: https://photos.app.goo.gl/EJR4RgsJjuYH9Lwh8

B1 Recruitment Assets

Flyer



Project Griot: LA is an initiative to share, hear, and record the oral histories of African-American & Black LGBTQIA2-S elders in LA by creating a space for queer elders and youth to talk, with a special focus on mental well-being.

- ② 2 Month / 8 Session Commitment
- **Q** Ages 50+ (elders) and 18-36 (youth)
- (\$) Meals, transit & cash compensation

TO LEARN MORE & APPLY, VISIT PROJECTGRIOT.LA







B1 Recruitment Assets

Instagram Story & Posts



- ② Ages 50+ (elders) and 18-36 (youth)
- § Meals, transit & cash compensation

PROJECTGRIOT.LA









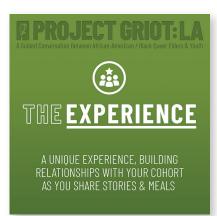


DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH







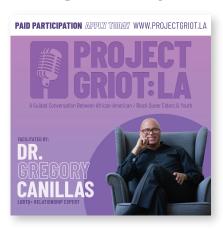






B1 Recruitment Assets

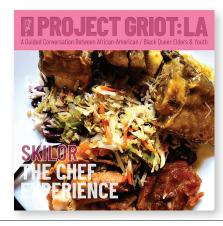
Instagram Story & Posts



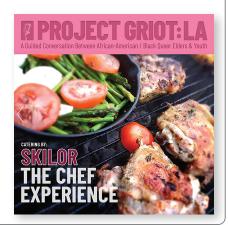






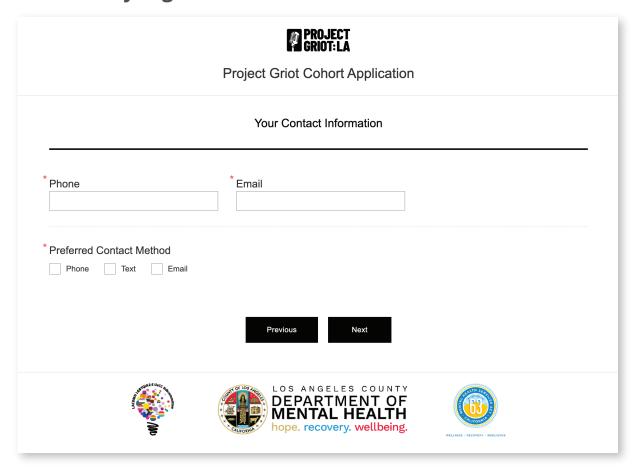






B2 Recruitment Survey

Web Survey - Pg 1 of 5



B2 Recruitment Survey

Web Survey - Pg 2 of 5

	PROJECT GRIOT: LA Project Griot Cohort Application	
Your Name / Pronouns		
First Name	*Last Name	
Preferred Name		
Preferred Pronouns She/Her/Hers He/Him/His They/Them/Their Other (Please specify)		
	Next	
	DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH hope, recovery, wellbeing.	

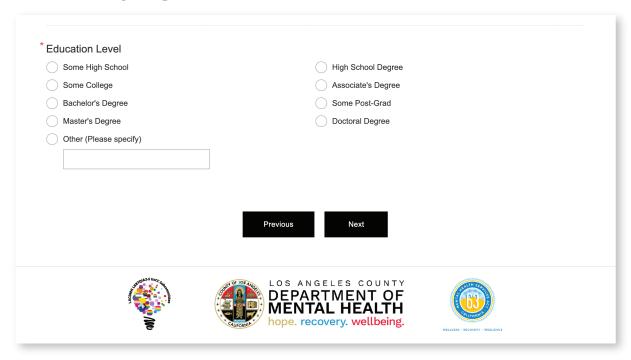
B2 Recruitment Survey

Web Survey - Pg 3 of 5

PROJECT GRIOT: LA				
Project Griot Cohort Application Your Demographic Information				
Age				
Zip Code				
Race / Ethnicity (Please check all that apply)				
African-American / Black	Biracial / Multiracial			
Latino/a Latinx / Hispanic	Asian / Pacific Islander			
Indigenous / Native American	European-American / White			
Other (Please specify)				
Gender / Gender Identity (Please check all that apply) Female	Male			
Transgender	Cisgender			
Non-Binary	Intersex			
Other (Please specify)				
Sexual Orientation (Please check all that apply)				
Lesbian	Gay			
Bisexual	Queer			
Pansexual	Asexual			
Other (Please specify)				

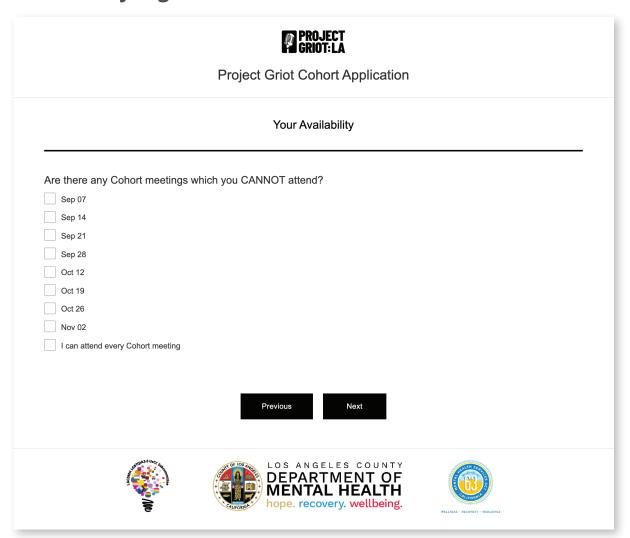
B2 Recruitment Survey

Web Survey - Pg 3 of 5 (cont.)



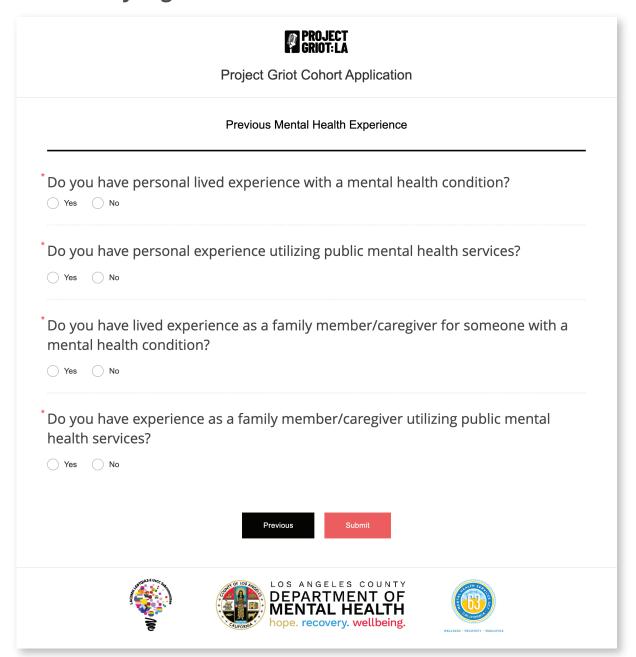
B2 Recruitment Survey

Web Survey - Pg 4 of 5



B2 Recruitment Survey

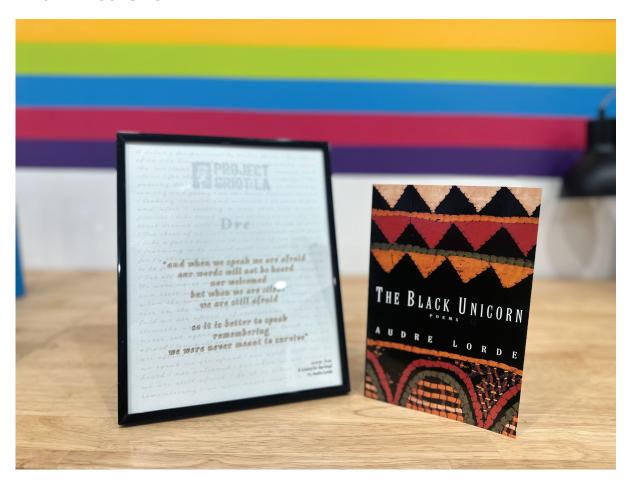
Web Survey - Pg 5 of 5



B3 Cohort Welcome Bag & Thank You Gift Welcome Bag



B3 Cohort Welcome Bag & Thank You Gift Thank You Gift



B4 Info Sheets

Ex. Week 3







B4 Info Sheets

Ex. Week 6







Cohort - Photo Release Form



PROJECT CONSENT TO PHOTOGRAPH /

The undersigned Participant consents to Project Griot: LA County Department of Mental Health) to:	(produced by Blu Fable, on behalf of	Los Angeles
 Photograph (which, as used in this Consent, means or any other mechanical means of recording and replaced and processes) Audio Record 		y form, videotapes,
The undersigned: 1. Agrees that photographs/audio recordings made as Learning and training purposes Client Identification Research (Approval of Department Human S Publication, public relations, webpages and/ Sharing Recovery Stories (MH 677 Authorization the specific purpose and modality in which the stories of the stories of the specific purpose and modality in which the speci	Subjects Committee required) or fund-raising (MH 602 Authorization required required which must be obtained from the Clinic will be shared)	d) al Records Director for
participation in the Project Griot: LA cohort sessions 3. Holds the Department harmless from and against are activities authorized by this Consent.		0
3. Holds the Department harmless from and against a		0
Holds the Department harmless from and against an activities authorized by this Consent.	ny claim of injury or compensation resu	Ilting from the
Holds the Department harmless from and against an activities authorized by this Consent. NAME OF PARTICIPANT	signature if there is no signature by Participant.	DATE
Holds the Department harmless from and against an activities authorized by this Consent. NAME OF PARTICIPANT This section must be completed by Staff	signature if there is no signature by Participant.	DATE

bf Blu Fable Creative Content Agency

MH528 (adapted for Project Griot: LA) | Revised 20220903

Cohort - PHI Authorization Form, Pg 1



AUTHORIZATION FOR USE / DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION (PHI)

I authorize the use and disclosure of my protected health information (PHI) as described below:

PROJECT GRIOT: LA COHORT PARTICIPANT IDENTIFICATION									
NAME OF PARTICIPANT	PHONE NUMBER								
ADDRESS	DATE OF BIRTH								

DISCLOSING PARTY - RECIPIENT OF PHI

THIS AUTHORIZATION ALLOWS: Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to use and/or to disclose my PHI, as described below, to legislators, MHSA community stakeholders, the media, and the general public, including posting on DMH's internet website and social channels.

REDISCLOSURE NOTICE: I understand that my PHI which is used or disclosed pursuant to this Authorization may no longer be protected by Federal Law and could be further used or disclosed by the recipient without my authorization. I also understand that once my information is disclosed, it may not be possible to retrieve.

DESCRIPTION OF PHI & PURPOSE

DESCRIPTION OF PHI TO BE DISCLOSED: My personal stories shared at the Project Griot: LA cohort sessions and interviews, related artworks, recordings of me and/or video recordings of me.

PURPOSE OF DISCLOSURE: My PHI may be used in various forms for the following purposes: advocacy, literary publications, electronic publications, internet publications, public relations materials, educational materials, and/or training materials.

Neither LACDMH nor any person signing this Authorization will receive any direct or indirect remuneration.

NOTICE

COPY OF THIS AUTHORIZATION: I understand that if I agree to sign this Authorization, which I am not required to do, I must be provided with a signed copy of the form.

CONDITIONS: I understand that I may refuse to sign this Authorization without affecting my ability to obtain treatment.

SPECIAL NOTICE to paid or non-paid staff including volunteers, interns, contractors, locum tenens, peer advocates, and mental health consumers who act as volunteers to LACDMH and consumers and their families: LACDMH will not



Blu Fable Creative Content Agency

MH677 (adapted for Project Griot: LA) | Revised 20220903

Cohort - PHI Authorization Form, Pg 2

NOTICE take any intimidating or retaliatory acts against anyone who does not wish to disclose their PHI or sign this Authorization. **EXPIRATION DATE** EXPIRATION DATE: Date may not exceed five (5) years from the date signed. If no expiration date is indicated, expiration date will expire five (5) years from the date signed. This Authorization is valid until: I have had an opportunity to review and understand the content of this Authorization form. By signing this Authorization, I am confirming that it accurately reflects my wishes. SIGNATURE DATE This section must be completed by Staff if there is no signature by Participant. Participant is willing to consent to Authorization For Use / Disclosure Of Protected Health Information (PHI), but unwilling to sign this Authorization. NAME OF STAFF SIGNATURE DATE REVOCATION OF AUTHORIZATION: I understand that I have the right to revoke this Authorization at any time in writing. I may use the Revocation of Authorization Section of this form, mail or deliver the revocation to LACDMH Public Information Officer, 550 S. Vermont Ave., 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90020. I also understand that a revocation will be effective upon receipt, but will not be effective as to uses and/or disclosures of my protected health information already made in reliance on this Authorization. **REVOCATION OF AUTHORIZATION** ☐ I revoke my Authorization For Use / Disclosure Of Protected Health Information (PHI). NAME OF PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE DATE Blu Fable Creative Content Agency MH677 (adapted for Project Griot: LA) | Revised 20220903

Cohort - Pre / Post Survey, Pg 1



A Guided Conversation Between African-American / Black Queer Elders and Youth

Participant ID #

Project Griot celebrates centering conversation as a way of strengthening bonds and building community between African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders and youth. We invite you to take part in this brief, voluntary, and confidential survey conducted by the Department of Mental Health. Your participation will help to shape future outreach and services available to members of the African-American / Black LGBTQ+ community.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I am confident that I know where to seek information about mental health services.	0	0	0	0	0
I am confident in using the internet to seek information about mental health services.	0	0	0	0	0
I am comfortable accessing mental health services.	0	0	0	0	0
I engage in cultural practices that support my mental health (e.g., conversations at my barbershop, prayer, sister circles).	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported in my sexual orientation within my family of origin.	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported in my gender identity within my family of origin.	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported in my sexual orientation within the African-American / Black community.	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported in my gender identity within the African-American / Black community.	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported by my religious community.	0	0	0	0	0
I feel supported by the LGBTQ+ community.	0	0	0	0	0
I have created a "family of choice" as a means of feeling more supported in my mental wellness.	0	0	0	0	0







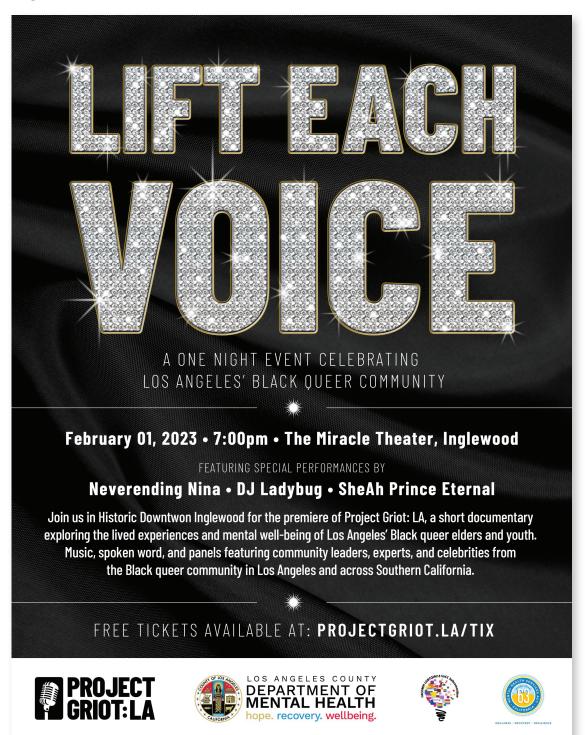
Cohort - Post Survey Only, Pg 2



Community Forum Survey

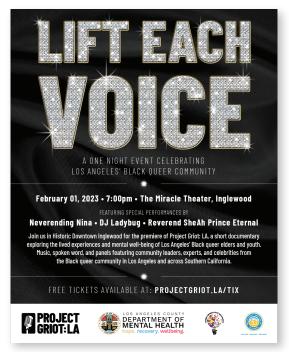
PROJ GRIO	ECT [:LA	Betw	een Afr	nversati ican-Am Elders a	nericar		
Participant ID #	Project Griot celebi building communit invite you to take p Department of Mer services available	y between A part in this bo ntal Health. Y	frican-America rief, voluntary, our participatio	an / Black LGBT and conṁdent on will help to s	O+ elders a ial survey co hape future	nd youth. We onducted by the outreach and	
Race / Ethnicity* ☐ African-American / Black ☐ Latino/a / Latinx / Hispanic	□ Asian / Pacific □ Indigenous / Na	181m1031m1		European-Amer Biracial / Multira		□ Other	
Gender / Gender Identity* □ Male □ Cisgender □ Female □ Transgender	□Non-binary □ □Intersex	Other	Sexual Oriel □ Lesbian □ Gay	ntation* □ Bisexual □ Queer	□ Pansex □ Asexua		
	0 - 59		on Level** high school school	□ Some colleg □ Bachelor's d		Master's degree Doctoral degree	
To what extent do you agree wi	th the following: SI	trongly Disagn	ee Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	
I enjoyed watching the film / docu	ımentary.	0	0	0	0	0	
I would recommend this film / do	cumentary to others.	0	0	0	0	0	
I would be interested in watching	similar projects.	0	0	0	0	0	
I have a better appreciation for th African-American / Black LGBTQ+		0	0	0	0	0	
I have a better appreciation for th African-American / Black LGBTQ+		0	0	0	0	0	
I have a better appreciation for to center around mental wellness.	pics that	0	0	0	0	0	
I have a better understanding abomental health resources for myse		0	0	0	0	0	
	DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEAL	OF	B		*Please che	eck all that apply neck one only	

B6 Community Forum Assets Flyer

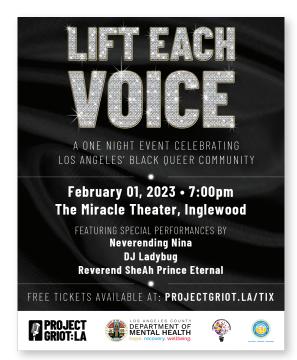


B6 Community Forum Assets

Social Media Collateral



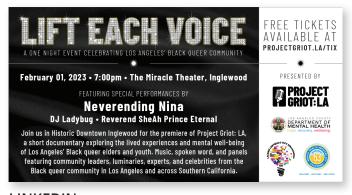
EMAIL



INSTAGRAM



FACEBOOK



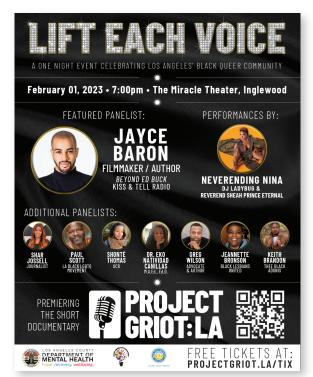
LINKEDIN



TWITTER

B6 Community Forum Assets

Instagram, Personalized



























PROJECT DATA PRE-SURVEY

To what extent do you agree with the following statements: Strongly Disagree (1)	Disagree (2)		Neutral (3) Agree (4)		S	Strongly Agree (5)											
PARTICIPANT ID:	PG0712	PG1097	PG1161	PG1229	PG2497	PG4476	PG4745	PG4830	PG4896	PG7034	PG7664	PG7786	PG8167	PG8399	PG9184	PG9527	PG9865
01 I am confident that I know where to seek information about mental health services.	3	5	5	3	5	5	4	1	3	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	3
02 I am confident in using the internet to seek information about mental health services.	3	5	4	5	5	5	5	1	4	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	1
03 I am comfortable accessing mental health services.	3	5	3	4	5	5	3	1	1	4	5	5	4	4	5	5	1
04 lengage in cultural practices that support my mental health (e.g., conversations at my barbershop, prayer, sister circles).	4	5	2	2	5	4	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	2	5
05 I feel supported in my sexual orientation within myfamily of origin.	3	5	3	1	5	5	2	3	5	1	5	1	5	3	3	5	4
06 I feel supported in my gender identity within my family of origin.	3	5	3	1	5	4	3	2	5	1	5	1	5	3	4	5	3
07 I feel supported in my sexual orientation within the African-American / Black community.	4	5	3	3	4	4	2	4	1	1	5	1	5	3	3	4	1
08 I feel supported in my gender identity within the African-American / Black community.	4	5	n/a	3	4	5	3	1	1	1	5	1	5	3	4	4	1
09 I feel supported by my religious community.	3	5	n/a	1	1	3	3	3	3	5	5	1	n/a	2	4	5	1
10 I feel supported by the LGBTQ+ community.	5	5	2	2	5	3	5	1	5	3	5	3	n/a	3	3	5	1
11 I have created a "family of choice" as a means of feeling more supported in my mental wellness.	5	5	n/a	2	5	5	4	2	5	5	5	4	n/a	4	4	5	5



PROJECT DATA POST-SURVEY

To what extent do you agree with the following statements: Strongly Disagree (1)		Disagree (2) Neutral (3)				Agree (4)		9	Strongly Agree (5)		_							
	PARTICIPANT ID:	PG0712	PG1097	PG1161	PG1229	PG2497	PG4476	PG4745	PG4830	PG4896	PG7034	PG7664	PG7786	PG8167	PG8399	PG9184	PG9527	PG9865
01	I am confident that I know where to seek information about mental health services.	3	5	5	5	5	5	4	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	5	4	n/a	4	5	3
02	I am confident in using the internet to seek information about mental health services.	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	n/a	n/a	3	n/a	5	5	n/a	4	5	3
03	I am comfortable accessing mental health services.	2	5	5	1	5	5	3	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	5	4	n/a	4	5	2
04	I engage in cultural practices that support my mental health (e.g., conversations at my barbershop, prayer, sister circles).	4	5	3	1	5	4	4	n/a	n/a	3	n/a	4	4	n/a	5	3	5
05	I feel supported in my sexual orientation within myfamily of origin.	2	5	2	1	4	4	2	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	3	5	n/a	3	5	4
06	I feel supported in my gender identity within my family of origin.	2	5	2	1	4	5	2	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	5	5	n/a	3	5	3
07	I feel supported in my sexual orientation within the African-American / Black community.	4	5	3	1	4	3	3	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	2	4	n/a	3	4	2
08	I feel supported in my gender identity within the African-American / Black community.	4	5	2	1	4	4	4	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	3	4	2
09	I feel supported by my religious community.	3	5	3	1	3	3	3	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	2	n/a	n/a	3	3	3
10	I feel supported by the LGBTQ+ community.	4	5	1	4	5	5	5	n/a	n/a	4	n/a	5	n/a	n/a	2	5	3
11	I have created a "family of choice" as a means of feeling more supported in my mental wellness.	5	5	2	3	5	5	5	n/a	n/a	5	n/a	5	5	n/a	4	5	5



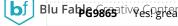
12	What d	id you like most about participating in Project Griot?
	PG0712	n/a
	PG1097	WOW! It was amazing, I felt the love of a new family and now i have a tribe.
	PG1161	n/a
	PG1229	Diversity, equity and inclusion.
	PG2497	I enjoy the open and authentic space to share. i felt embraced, seen, and heard. I appreciated the staff for the excellent work into the program
	PG4476	I think that project griot was a safe space for everyone in my community to share our experiences.
	PG4745	I liked most the opportunity to speak and be heard in a place where there was mutual respect. It's incredibly important for spaces like these to exist, and i felt like the group was facilitated very well.
	PG7034	I got an email from someone and answered
	PG7786	I had the chance to meet some really awesome people. I had a chance to share my heart and meet people like me.
	PG8167	The diversity of the group.
	PG9184	The diversity. These were so many different kinds of Black "LGBTQ" people. It was overwhelming at first.
	PG9527	Making connections.



13	What d	id you like least about participating in Project Griot?
	PG0712	n/a
	PG1097	Everything was great to me!
	PG1161	n/a
	PG1229	n/a
	PG2497	Not enough time, would have liked to see more people.
	PG4476	Nothing.
	PG4745	Not having enough time to speak!
	PG7034	I liked it! we need more of it. More spaces & places like this!
	PG7786	Sometimes the overtalking.
	PG8167	Too short, needed to be more weeks.
	PG9184	It was a great experience.
	PG9527	The old location. PGLA COHORT PRE / POST SURVEY DATA



4 Would	you recommend friends/family participate in a discussion group like Project Griot? If so, why?							
PG0712	Yes.							
PG1097	Yes,yes, yes!							
PG1161	N/A							
PG1229	Yes.							
PG2497	Yes, I believe more people need to experience this type of safe space.							
PG4476	Yes! I would recommend project griot for the community cause at the moment there isn't a safe place for us to be open and share new ideas.							
PG4745	I would recommend friends and family to participate in a discussion group like this. It was a healing experience that i think would benefit those close to me, no matter where they are in their journeys.							
PG7034	I would! I think some (?) could benefit from this!							
PG7786	Yes, I think more people in our community need to feel more supported.							
PG8167	Yes, it is very eye opening.							
PG9184	Absolutely, It was a great learning experience. It was also interesting to see the diversity.							
PG9527	Yes, this forum provided an opportunity to be heard, seen and celebrated.							



15	5 What was the biggest takeaway from participating in Project Griot?								
	PG0712	We deserve more of this.							
	PG1097	I have a new family and a tribe called love.							
	PG1161	N/A							
	PG1229	Open mind & Open heart.							
	PG2497	The conversation! knowing that I am not alone in my experience.							
	PG4476	Sense of community and safe space for Black people.							
	PG4745	The biggest takeaway was that there are people out there who look like me, talk like me, and have stories similar to mine who equally appreciate my queerness. It is one thing to see these spaces online or to read about them, but attending project griot in person was something I didn't know i needed.							
	PG7034	That we need more spaces like this on a regular basis - that the city should pay for it!							
	PG7786	I learned to simply love myself to my uniqueness.							
	PG8167	The unconditional openes of everyone.							
	PG9184	It's okay to be me. Acceptance of each person's uniqueness is pivotal to life.							
	PG9527	There is a community for me. I have friends, a new tribe grow and flourish with. PGLA COHORT PRE / POST SURVEY DATA							



	DEMOG	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	3	3		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Gay	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	3	2	N/A	
AGE	59	ZIP CODE	90062	03	3	2	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Bachelor's Degree			04	4	4	NI/A	
	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE					2	N/A	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL	No	06	3	2	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	No	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC		07	4	4	NI/A	
CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		08	4	4	N/A	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A	No	09	3	3	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		10	5	4	\\\- do-	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?				11	5	5	vve des	eserve more of this.



	DEMOG	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?		
GENDER IDENTITY	Non-Binary	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	She/Him/They	01	5	5	WOW! It was amazing, I felt the love of a new family		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Lesbian, Bisexual	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	5	and now i have a tribe.		
AGE	61	ZIP CODE	90802	03	5	5	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?		
EDUCATION LEVEL	Bachelor's Degree			04	5	5	- Even thing was great to mel		
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	5	5	Everything was great to me!		
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC		06	5	5	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?		
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	No			07	5	5	Vocage vocage		
CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		08	5	5	Yes,yes,yes, yes!		
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A	No	09	5	5	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?		
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	No	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		10	5	5	Lhave a new family and a triba called lave		
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?				11	5	5	I have a new family and a tribe called love.		



	DEMOGR	APHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Almost Transgender, No Operation	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His or She/Her/Hers	01	5	5		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	I am love	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	4	5	N/A	
AGE	50+	ZIP CODE	90802	03	3	5	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Metaphysical degrees in progress, Minister certification			04	2	3	N/A	
	PREVIOUS EX	XPERIENCE		05	3	2		
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	3	2	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH		EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	No	07	3	3	N/A	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	0	2	: 11//	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	0	3	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	No	10	2	1	. NI/A	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	0	2	N/A	



	DEMOG	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Transgender, Non-Binary	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	Shim	01	3	5	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Bisexual	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American/ Black	02	5	5	Diversity, equity and inclusion.
AGE	30	ZIP CODE	90007	03	4	1	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Associate's Degree			04	2	1	N/A
	PREVIOUS I	XPERIENCE		05	1	1	IVA
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	1	1	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH		EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	3	1	Yes.
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	3	1	res.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	1	1	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	10	2	4	Once mind & appropriate
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	2	3	Open mind & open heart.



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Female	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	She/Her/Hers	01	5	5	I enjoy the open and authentic space to share. i felt
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Lesbian	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American/ Black	02	5	5	embraced, seen, and heard. I appreciated the staff for the excellent work into the program
AGE	49	ZIP CODE	90249	03	5	5	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Master's Degree			04	5	5	Not enough time, would have liked to see more
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	5	4	people.
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	5	4	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	4	4	Yes, I believe more people need to experience this
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	4	4	type of safe space.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	1	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	Yes	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	10	5	5	The conversation! knowing that I am not alone in my
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	5	experience.



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	5	5	I think that project griot was a safe space for
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Gay	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	5	everyone in my community to share our experiences.
AGE	34	ZIP CODE	90015	03	5	5	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Some College			04	4	4	Nederina
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	5	4	Nothing
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	4	5	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	4	3	Yes! I would recommend project griot for the
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	5	4	community cause at the moment there isn't a safe place for us to be open and share new ideas.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	3	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	No	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	10	3	5	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	5	Sense of community and safe space for Black people.



	DEMOGI	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male, Transgender	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	4	4	I liked most the opportunity to speak and be heard in a place where there was mutual respect. It's
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Bisexual, Queer	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	5	incredibly important for spaces like these to exist, and i felt like the group was facilitated very well.
AGE	19	ZIP CODE	90007	03	3	3	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Some College			04	4	4	Net having an ough time to speak
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	2	2	Not having enough time to speak!
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE		06	3	2	14 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	PERSONAL EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	07	2	3	I would recommend friends and family to participate in a discussion group like this. It was a healing
CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		08	3	4	experience that i think would benefit those close to me, no matter where they are in their journeys.
DO VOLLIAVE LIVED		DO VOLLIAVE		09	3	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A FAMILY MEMBER /	V	DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A FAMILY MEMBER /		10	5	5	The biggest takeaway was that there are people out there who look like me, talk like me, and have stories
CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?	res	CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	4	5	similar to mine who equally appreciate my queerness. It is one thing to see these spaces online or to read about them, but attending project griot in person was something I didn't know i needed.



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	1	0	N1/A	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Queer	RACE/ETHNICITY	Biracial/Multiracial	02	1	0	N/A	
AGE	25-	ZIP CODE	90014	03	1	0	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Bachelor's Degree			04	3	0	N/A	
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE	PERIENCE		3	0	IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	2	0	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	No	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	No	07	4	0	N/A	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	1	0	· IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	3	0	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC		10	1	0	N/A	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	2	0	. IN/ A	



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Trangender	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	She/Her/Hers	01	3	0		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Heterosexual	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	4	0	N/A	
AGE	50	ZIP CODE	90034	03	1	0	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Master's Degree			04	4	0	N/A	
	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE		05		5	0	: IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	5	0	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	1	0	N/A	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	1	0	IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	3	0	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	No	10	5	0		
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	0	N/A	



	DEMO	GRAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Transgender, Non-Binary	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	They/She	01	4	4	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Queer	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	4	3	I got an email from someone and answered
AGE	50	ZIP CODE	90057	03	4	2	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Some Post-Grad			04	4	3	I liked it! we need more of it. More spaces & places
	PREVIOUS	EXPERIENCE	PERIENCE		1	1	like this!
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	1	1	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	. EVDEDIENICE	Yes	07	1	1	Lucy Id I think some (2) sould be petit from this
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	1	2	I would! I think some (?) could benefit from this!
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	5	4	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	Yes	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	R : Yes	10	3	4	That we need more spaces like this on a regular
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH : SERVICES?	11	5	5	basis - that the city should pay for it!	



	DEMOG	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	5	0		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Gay	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	0	: N/A	
AGE	49	ZIP CODE	90810	03	5	0	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Doctoral Degree			04	5	0	N/A	
	PREVIOUS E		ERIENCE		5	0	. IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	5	0	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	5	0	N/A	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	5	0	: IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	5	0	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	10	5	0		
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	0	N/A	



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	5	5	I had the chance to meet some really awesome
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Bisexual	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	5	people. I had a chance to share my heart and meet people like me.
AGE	23	ZIP CODE	91343	03	5	5	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Some College			04	3	4	Sample image the quartelling
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	1	3	Sometimes the overtalking.
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	1	5	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	1	2	Yes, I think more people in our community need to
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	1	0	feel more supported.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	1	2	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	Yes	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	10	3	5	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	4	5	I learned to simply love myself to my uniqueness.



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Female	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	She/Her/Hers	01	4	4	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Lesbian	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	4	5	The diversity of the group.
AGE	71	ZIP CODE	90007	03	4	4	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Associate's Degree			04	4	4	Too short, needed to be more weeks.
	PREVIOUS E	KPERIENCE		05	5	5	100 Short, needed to be more weeks.
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	5	5	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	No	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC	Yes	07	5	4	
CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		08	5	4	Yes, it is very eye opening.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	0	0	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	AREGIVER FOR : No	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER : UTILIZING PUBLIC	No	10	0	0	The unconditional energies of everyone
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?	MENTAL HEALTH			11	0	5	The unconditional openness of everyone.



	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12	WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Non-Binary	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	They/Them/Their	01	4	0		
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Lesbian, Queer	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	4	0	N/A	
AGE	27	ZIP CODE	91106	03	4	0	13	WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Some College			04	4	0	N/A	
	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE		05		3	0	IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	3	0	14	WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	No	07	3	0	N/A	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	3	0	: IN/A	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	2	0	15	WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A		FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER UTILIZING PUBLIC	No	10	3	0		
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	4	0	N/A	



PROJECT DATA | PARTICIPANT PG9184

	DEMOGR	RAPHICS			PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male, Cisgender	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	4	4	The diversity. These were so many different kinds of
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Gay	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	4	Black "LGBTQ" people. It was overwhelming at first.
AGE	40	ZIP CODE	90806	03	5	4	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Doctoral Degree			04	5	5	It was a great experience
	PREVIOUS E	XPERIENCE		05	3	3	It was a great experience.
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	4	3	14 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	No	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	No	07	3	3	Absolutely, It was a great learning experience. It was
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	4	3	also interesting to see the diversity.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	4	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	CAREGIVER FOR : Yes	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER Yes UTILIZING PUBLIC	10	3	2	It's okay to be me. Acceptance of each person's	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	4	4	uniqueness is pivotal to life.



PROJECT DATA | PARTICIPANT PG9527

DEMOGRAPHICS					PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
GENDER IDENTITY	Male, Cisgender	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	He/Him/His	01	5	5	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Gay	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American /Black	02	5	5	Making connections.
AGE	61	ZIP CODE	91607	03	5	5	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
EDUCATION LEVEL	Master's Degree			04	2	3	The old location.
	PREVIOUS E	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE		05	5	5	THE Old location.
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	5	5	14 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	4	4	Yes, this forum provided an opportunity to be heard,
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	4	4	seen and celebrated.
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	5	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?
FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE WITH A	No	IO FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER : UTILIZING PUBLIC :	R: No	10	5	5	There is a community for me. I have friends, a new
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	5	tribe grow and flourish with.



PROJECT DATA PARTICIPANT PG9865

	DEMOGRAPHICS				PRE-SURVEY	POST-SURVEY	12 WHAT DID YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?	
GENDER IDENTITY	Trans-pangender	PREFERRED PRONOUNS	Any/All	01	3	3	The people.	
SEXUAL ORIENTATION	Omisexual	RACE/ETHNICITY	African-American/Bla ck, Indigenous/Native American	02	1	3		
AGE	33	ZIP CODE	90041	03	1	2	13 WHAT DID YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?	
EDUCATION LEVEL	Master's Degree, 2nd Year Doctoral			04	5	5	Waiting until the end to eat. Long sit times.	
	PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE			05	4	4	J	
DO YOU HAVE		DO YOU HAVE PERSONAL		06	3	3	14 WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FRIENDS/FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN A DISCUSSION GROUP LIKE PROJECT GRIOT? IF SO, WHY?	
PERSONAL LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	EXPERIENCE UTILIZING PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH	Yes	07	1	2	Voci Croat community lavely	
CONDITION?		SERVICES?		08	1	2	Yes! Great community, lovely.	
DO YOU HAVE LIVED EXPERIENCE AS A		DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A		09	1	3	15 WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM PARTICIPATING IN PROJECT GRIOT?	
	FAMILY MEMBER / : CAREGIVER FOR: Yes SOMEONE WITH A :	FAMILY MEMBER / CAREGIVER : Yes UTILIZING PUBLIC :	Yes	10	1	3	Malleinanational could in the amb	
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION?		MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES?		11	5	5	Multigenerational work is the only way.	





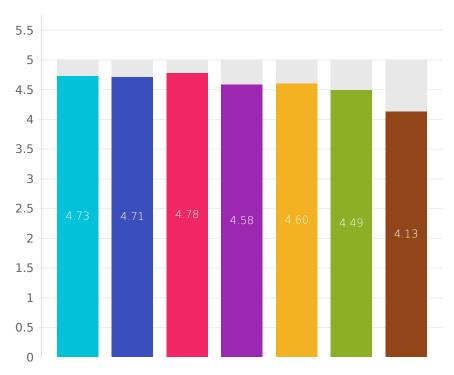
PGLA LEV COMMUNITY FORUM SURVEY DATA



41 Completed Responses

1 Partial Response





- I enjoyed watching the short documentary.
- I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ youth.
- I have a better understanding about how to access mental health resources for myself and family.
- I would recommend this film to others.
- I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders.
- I would be interested in watching similar projects.
- I have a better appreciation for topics that center around mental wellness.

Questions	Average Ratings	Out of
I enjoyed watching the short documentary.	4.73	5
I would recommend this film to others.	4.71	5
I would be interested in watching similar projects.	4.78	5
I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ youth.	4.58	5
I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders.	4.60	5
I have a better appreciation for topics that center around mental wellness.	4.49	5
I have a better understanding about how to access mental health resources for myself and family.	4.13	5

Overall average survey rating: 9.15/10

Project Griot: LA Community Survey

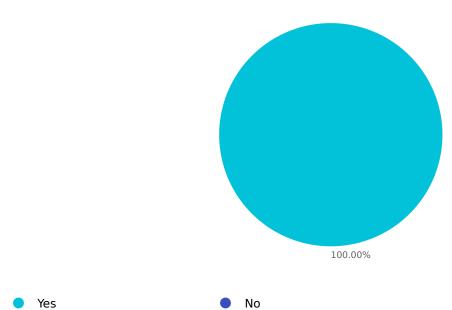
Project Griot: LA celebrates centering conversations as a way of strengthening bonds and building community between African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders and youth. We invite you to take part in this brief, voluntary, and confidential survey conducted for the Department of Mental Health. Your participation will help to shape future outreach and services available to members of the African-American / Black LGBTQ+ community.

No Responses

Q1

I consent to participating in this survey. I understand that my information will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Answered: 42 Skipped: 0

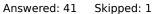


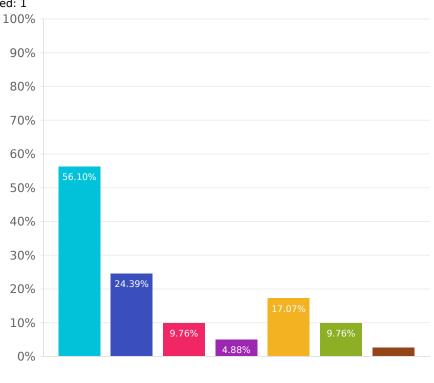
Choices	Response percent	Response count
Yes	100.00%	42
No	0.00%	0

Race / Ethnicity

Q2

Please check all that apply.





- African-American / Black
- Latino/a / Latinx / Hispanic
- Asian / Pacific Islander

- Indigenous / Native American
- European-American / White
- Biracial / Multiracial

Other (Please specify)

Choices	Response percent	Response count
African-American / Black	56.10%	23
Latino/a / Latinx / Hispanic	24.39%	10
Asian / Pacific Islander	9.76%	4
Indigenous / Native American	4.88%	2
European-American / White	17.07%	7
Biracial / Multiracial	9.76%	4
Other (Please specify)	2.44%	1

Other (Please specify)

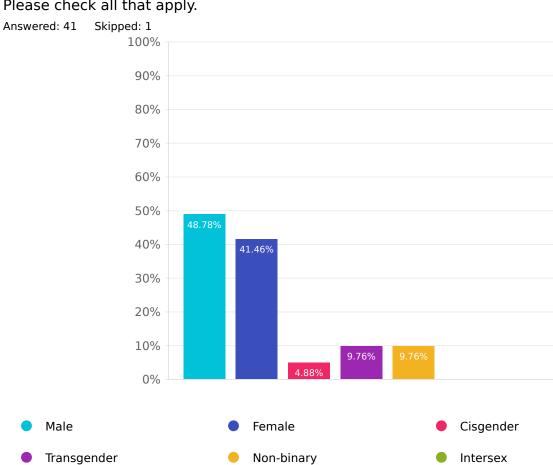
1. Middle Eastern

Gender / Gender Identity

Q3

Please check all that apply.

Other (Please specify)

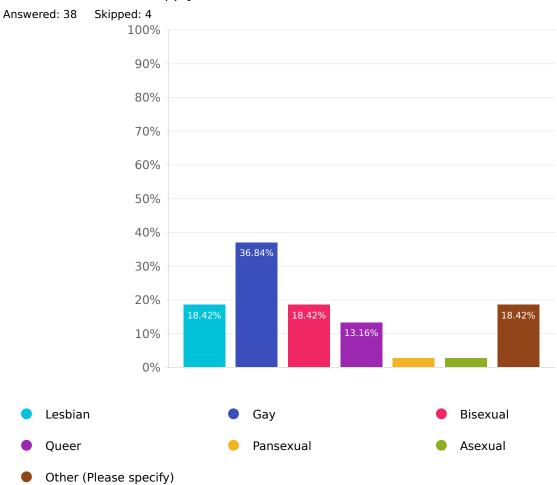


Choices	Response percent	Response count
Male	48.78%	20
Female	41.46%	17
Cisgender	4.88%	2
Transgender	9.76%	4
Non-binary	9.76%	4
Intersex	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify) No Responses	0.00%	0

Sexual Orientation

Q4

Please check all that apply.



Choices	Response percent	Response count
Lesbian	18.42%	7
Gay	36.84%	14
Bisexual	18.42%	7
Queer	13.16%	5
Pansexual	2.63%	1
Asexual	2.63%	1
Other (Please specify)	18.42%	7

Other (Please specify)

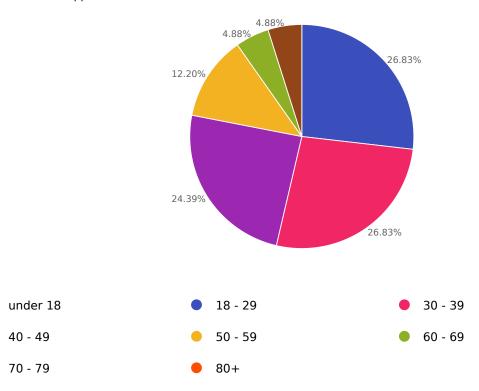
- 1. Heterosexual
- 2. Cis-Het
- 3. Straight
- 4. Heterosexual
- 5.
- 6. Straight
- 7.

Age

Q5

Please check one only.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



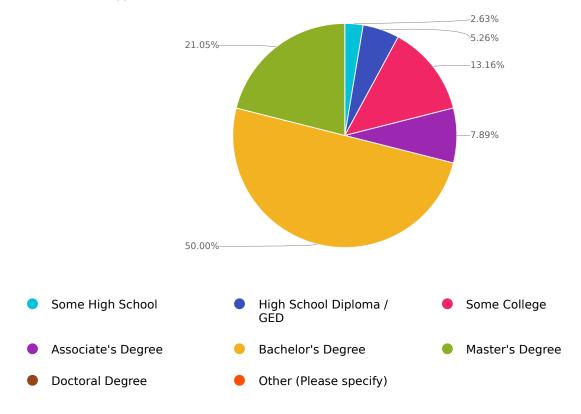
Choices	Response percent	Response count
under 18	0.00%	0
18 - 29	26.83%	11
30 - 39	26.83%	11
40 - 49	24.39%	10
50 - 59	12.20%	5
60 - 69	4.88%	2
70 - 79	4.88%	2
80+	0.00%	0

Education Level

Q6

Please check one only.

Answered: 38 Skipped: 4



Choices	Response percent	Response count
Some High School	2.63%	1
High School Diploma / GED	5.26%	2
Some College	13.16%	5
Associate's Degree	7.89%	3
Bachelor's Degree	50.00%	19
Master's Degree	21.05%	8
Doctoral Degree	0.00%	0
Other (Please specify) No Responses	0.00%	0

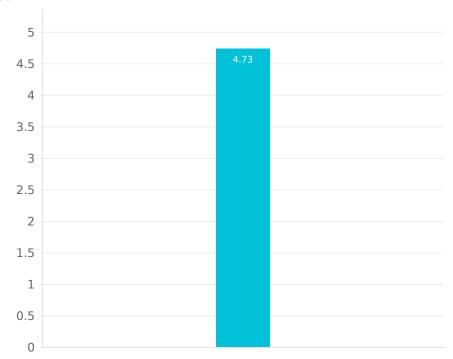
Community Survey

To what extent do you agree with the following:

Q7

I enjoyed watching the short documentary.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1

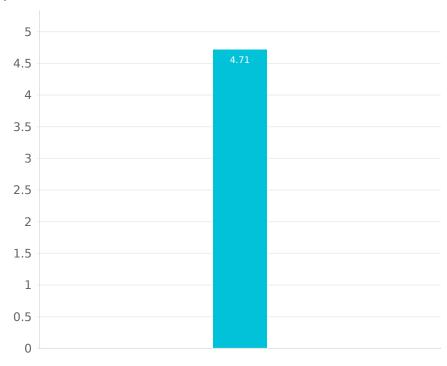


Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	2.44%	1
2	0.00%	0
3	0.00%	0
4	17.07%	7
5 (Strongly Agree)	80.49%	33
N/A	0.00%	0

Average rating: 4.73

I would recommend this film to others.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1

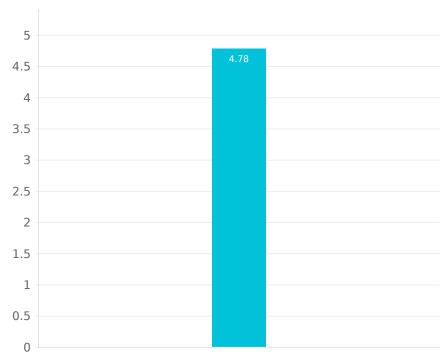


Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	2.44%	1
2	0.00%	0
3	0.00%	0
4	19.51%	8
5 (Strongly Agree)	78.05%	32
N/A	0.00%	0

Average rating: 4.71

I would be interested in watching similar projects.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



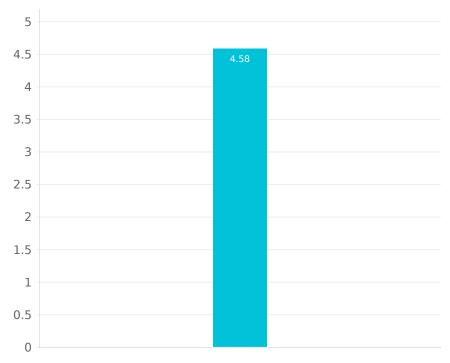
Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	2.44%	1
2	0.00%	0
3	2.44%	1
4	7.32%	3
5 (Strongly Agree)	87.80%	36
N/A	0.00%	0

Average rating: 4.78

Q10

I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ youth.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



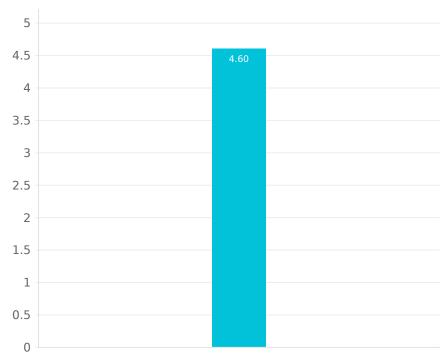
Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	0.00%	0
2	2.44%	1
3	9.76%	4
4	14.63%	6
5 (Strongly Agree)	70.73%	29
N/A	2.44%	1

Average rating: 4.58

Q11

I have a better appreciation for the issues faced by African-American / Black LGBTQ+ elders.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



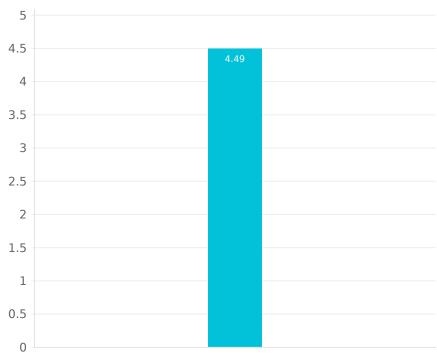
Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	2.44%	1
2	0.00%	0
3	2.44%	1
4	24.39%	10
5 (Strongly Agree)	68.29%	28
N/A	2.44%	1

Average rating: 4.60

Q12

I have a better appreciation for topics that center around mental wellness.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1

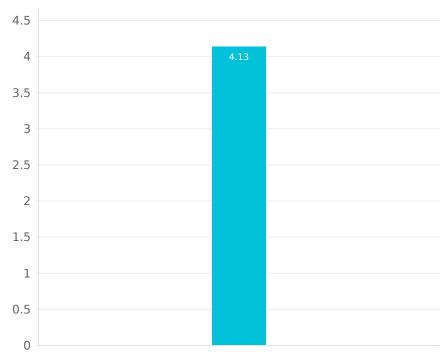


Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	0.00%	0
2	2.44%	1
3	12.20%	5
4	19.51%	8
5 (Strongly Agree)	65.85%	27
N/A	0.00%	0

Average rating: 4.49

I have a better understanding about how to access mental health resources for myself and family.

Answered: 41 Skipped: 1



Average Rating

Rating	Response percent	Response count
1 (Strongly Disagree)	0.00%	0
2	4.88%	2
3	26.83%	11
4	17.07%	7
5 (Strongly Agree)	48.78%	20
N/A	2.44%	1

Average rating: 4.13

Optional Feedback

Q14

(Optional) Do you have any other feedback about tonight's event that you would like to share?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 30

- 1. I am so proud to have witnessed this event. I would love to be at the next one!
- 2. N/A
- 3. Fantastic!
- 4. Great program. Please continue to showcase these important topics.
- 5. Open panel questions to audience :)
- 6. We need more events and research like this please. Thank you
- 7. This was a wonderful and uplifting gathering. Thank you.
- 8. Wow! Really an eye opening event!
- 9. Tonight was great.
- 10. Shout out to Dr. Gregory Canillas and Dr. Eko Canillas. You both are amazing.
- 11. Wonderful space, wonderful exchange of knowledge
- 12. I enjoyed this presentation, both panels, the documentary, spoken word etc. the venue was nice and felt safe! I think it was a good turnout.

D LGBTQIA2-S Subcommittee Logo Update



