

VOL. 5 | SUMMER 2021

DAYS-MASSOLO CENTER



Summer Newsletter



Looking Forward

The Days-Massolo Center is a lot of things and holds a different meaning for every person who has walked through its doors over the years. With every year, it is always changing and evolving so as to better serve students, because students made and continue to make the Days-Massolo Center what it is today.

OVERVIEW:

- DMC Summer Team
- Pride Month Recap
- 10-Year Celebration Steering Committee
- Highlighting DMC History
- Spring Semester Recap

The DMC Newsletter serves as a medium to highlight student work and disperse important information for our community.

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MEET OUR SUMMER TEAM!

With the summer well underway and a new year quickly approaching, our team has been reflecting on the past year to continue growing the Days-Massolo Center and plan for the Fall semester. Our team this summer consists of our Director, two student ambassadors and our first graduate assistant! Here's some insight into our group:

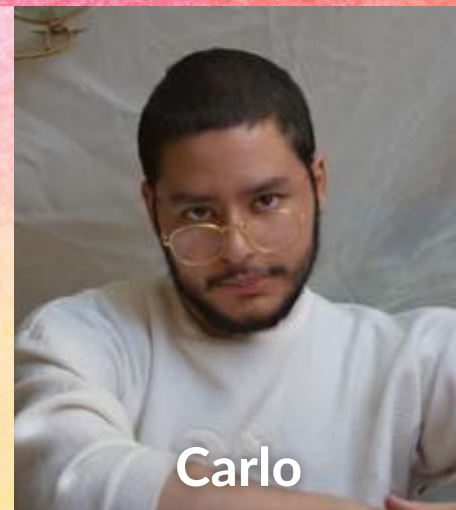
Throughout the academic year, we have a robust team of student ambassadors that work in teams based on their unique individual skills and respective paths through the Hamilton experience to support the mission, vision and values of the DMC. This summer, we have the wonderful opportunity of having two ambassadors, Carlo Benavides '23 and Alex Medina '22, working with us this summer as interns! Both originally joined the ambassador program in the spring of 2020 and serve on the Communications Team of the DMC throughout the year.

With roots in Phoenix, Arizona, Carlo joined the DMC to help build community amongst students with the intention of bringing systemic change to the Hill. Serving as the DMC's Web Developer, he is working to revitalize our online image to best reflect our journey on the Hill.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Alex joined the DMC after becoming involved with some of its cluster organizations in hopes to increase student engagement and activism. Now in his last year at Hamilton, he is working to help document the history and impact of cultural organizations at Hamilton.

Madison McQueeney is a graduate student at Binghamton University from Sayre, Pennsylvania pursuing a degree in Student Affairs Administration. Madison received her Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Oneonta in Fashion and Textiles with a minor in Africana and Latinx Studies. During the academic year, Madison works as a graduate assistant for Binghamton University's Late Nite Student Activities and is part of the University's Student Affairs Graduate Association Executive Board. She looks forward to working with the Days-Massolo Center this summer and furthering her knowledge of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work in higher education.

A native of San Juan, Puerto Rico, Paola Lopéz attended the University of Oklahoma and earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Human Relations with a focus on human resource diversity and development. She is actively engaged in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), has served in various roles on the planning committee for the National Conference for Race and Ethnicity (NCORE), and is the recipient of the Oklahoma Gazette's 2018 Forty under 40 for her philanthropic work in the community. Now into her second year serving as the Director of the DMC, she continues to dedicate her career in education to advocating and creating opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students.



Carlo



Alex



Madison



Paola

A RECAP OF PRIDE 2021 ON THE HILL

Intentional celebration, visibility and inclusivity.

The first modern Pride was officially celebrated in New York City on June 28, 1970, on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. A tipping point for the movement in the United States, the tradition is now an annual month-long celebration and recognition of the diverse experiences and identities of the LGBTQIA+ community. You can learn more about the meaning and history of Pride [here](#).

This year, the Days-Massolo Center brought together Hamilton's first official planning committee for Pride Month as part of its effort to build partnerships that truly recognize and celebrate cultural, heritage and identity months. With students, faculty and staff, the 2021 Pride Month Committee created intentional programming in celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community to cultivate visibility and inclusivity for all members of the Hamilton community. We thank Assistant Director of Community Standards Dayna Campbell, Residential Life Area Director Neil Butler, Raymond Ngai '24, Dylan Badillo '23 and our summer team for their work in planning LGBTQIA+ Trivia, Pride Bingo Night, Rainbow Brunch NYC Pride Watch Party, Pride Movie Night and four Pride in the Park celebrations.

BRIGHT SMILES THROUGHOUT JUNE

Images provided by Carlo Benavides '23.



The 2021 Pride Month Committee thanks all who have had the opportunity to join us this past month in one of our programs in celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community. You can provide feedback on the Pride programming using this [survey](#). To learn more about the committee's work and how to get involved in similar upcoming projects, please check out our [website](#) or feel free to reach out to the DMC via email at dmc@hamilton.edu. If you'd be interested in being a part of a committee for Latinx Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15), Disability Awareness Month (October) and/or Native American Heritage Month (November), you can share your interest [here](#)!

DMC 10 YEAR STEERING COMMITTEE

Celebrating a dynamic, vibrant home envisioned by students.

Originally constructed between 1917 and 1921 as a faculty residence, the building where the Days-Massolo Center currently resides has served various purposes over the years. In 1989, it was dedicated as the Ferry Administrative Building in honor of Hamilton's 10th President, Carlos Ferry. In 2002, the building became home to the Department of Computer Science before re-opening in its current form at the turn of the 2010s.

The Days-Massolo Center first opened its doors on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2011. Named in honor of trustees Drew S. Days III '63 and Arthur J. Massolo '64, this vibrant blue house on College Hill Road was born of the efforts of Hamilton students, faculty and staff. The Days-Massolo Center 10 Year Steering Committee is a working group formed to help plan and support the ten year anniversary of Hamilton College's cultural and equity center.

Created with deep intentionality and an effort to engage the Hamilton College community, the steering committee is comprised of four students, six alumni, three staff and one member of the faculty. Our goals are to institutionalize the history of the Social Justice Initiative group whose work contributed to the establishment of the Days-Massolo Center, to honor the impacts of our namesakes who have served as dynamic champions of cultural and equity issues and to highlight the Center's work. Here are our committee members!



From Top Left to Right: Josue Herrera Rivera '24, Taliyah James '24, Maddie Lazenby '23, Alex Medina '22, Geoffrey Hicks '09, Robyn Gibson '10. From Bottom Left to Right: Corinne Bancroft '10, Jazmin Gatto-Torres '02, Torrence Moore '92, Alma Bradley '21, Nhora Serrano, Maria Genao-Homs, Emily DiBari, Paola López

HIGHLIGHTING THE DMC'S HISTORY

The story of the Social Justice Initiative.

In 2007, a coalition of students came together to form the Social Justice Initiative, a group dedicated to creating positive change in the experiences of marginalized groups on the Hill and to promote interaction and awareness among all members of the Hamilton College community. Founded by Black, Latinx, Asian, and International students alongside members of the groups known then as the Rainbow Alliance and Womxn's Center, SJI was formed in response to various acts of racism on campus over the years.

As stated in their charter, the Social Justice Initiative was comprised of students from various historical multicultural groups on campus which were known by the following names at the time:

Black Student Union, La Vanguardia, Brothers, Rainbow Alliance, Womxn's Center, West Indian and African Association, Asian Cultural Society, Muslim Student Union, International Students Association.

From 2007-2011, the group spread awareness on how marginalized groups often felt isolated, ignored and alienated due to hidden implicit social and structural racism on college campuses. The Social Justice Initiative recognized that the intersectionality of a student's identity can affect their experience on the Hill. Its leaders worked to provide a regular venue open to the entire student body to develop strategic goals such as curricular reform, the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty & staff and the establishment of a Cultural Education Center.

SJI developed numerous proposals to the college for these changes that reflected the group's thorough research of the efforts of other colleges and consultation with students and faculty. One of these proposals was the establishment of a physical and intellectual space on campus that would amplify marginalized voices, facilitate student community organizing, push for inclusive educational initiatives and strive to make the Hamilton experience more equitable for students.

The Social Justice Initiative envisioned a dynamic, vibrant home that would host speakers, events, workshops and much more; a space where open and honest discussions around difficult issues and how to address them would be facilitated. Thanks to the dedicated work of these students, this dream would become a reality with the establishment of the Days-Massolo Center in 2011.



The history of student activism and change on the Hill is one which deserves to be recognized and honored. The Days-Massolo Center exists today because of student catalysts of social change who came together through shared experience to make a difference. This story of the Social Justice Initiative will be documented on a plaque in the DMC this coming Fall alongside our revised mission, vision and values.

DMC SPRING 2021 IN REVIEW

A Semester of Reflection, Healing and Celebration

Take a moment today, if you can, to rest and reflect on whatever you might need to. We honor and recognize all who have experienced unprecedented circumstances and injustices. You are beautiful. You are loved.

We hope you've had the opportunity to join us this year as we've reimagined how to cultivate and foster community in these circumstances. Our team and friends have had a fulfilling semester of programs, reflections, celebrations and more. We are grateful for your existence, whether you've had the opportunity to engage or have needed some time to step away for whatever reason.

Our work this past semester wouldn't have been possible without our team of cultural organizations, student ambassadors, campus partners and many more folks who have helped us reflect, heal and celebrate. The following is an overview of all that our community made possible:

Services offered in the 2020-2021 academic year

- LGBTQIA+ Identity Specialist
- Open Doors Group
- TNC (Trans, Enby, and Gender Creative) Group
- Orientation 2021 trainings
- Trainings with various student groups
- Monthly DMC newsletter
- Cultural, identity and heritage month committees
 - Black History Month
 - Women's History Month
 - Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Month
 - Social Justice Initiative Committee
- **February**
 - 3rd: Black Lives Matter Vigil with Luminarias
 - 10th: Sadove Programming and HEAR Film Discussion Group host Sylvie's Love
 - 11th: Grab and Go Art Kits
 - 13th: BLSU hosts Zumba Session with Sacharja Cunningham
 - 17th: Sadove Programming hosts Fast Color
 - 18th: Africana Studies hosts Fred Kuwornu film screening and talk
 - 19th: ALANA Caucus Mixer
 - 20th: Bear Belly Yoga with Neal McKinney & Black History Month Virtual Art Share
 - 22nd: Black History Month Art Walk
 - 23rd: Black History Month Keynote with Zalika Ibaorimi
 - 24th: Black History Month and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Dinner honoring Doc Woods and with guest speaker: Caroline Bennet
 - 25th: Black in Tech and STEM Panel
- **March**
 - 4th: SJI Month Alumni Panel
 - 8th: Women's History Month Suffrage Panel
 - 16th: Women's History Month Kirkland Panel
 - 17th: SJI Month Workshop with Meg Bolger
 - 24th: SJI Month Committee and Bias Incident Response Team (BIRT) Jodel Roundtable
 - 30th: SJI Month Restorative Justice 101 Workshop in Partnership with Community Standards
 - 31st: Women's History Month Climate Justice Panel
- **April**
 - 1st: SJI Month Student Activism Panel
 - 9th: SJI Month Restorative Justice Circle: on Accountability in Partnership with Community Standards
 - 22nd: VCLS hosts Xiuhtezcatl Martinez & The Beginning of Justice: Honoring George Floyd Virtual Gathering
 - 23rd: Cafecito Friday: APIDA Community Conversation with Steven Yao & Kyoko Omori
- **May**
 - 5th: ASU and DMC host Jerry Won
 - 13th: DMC hosts an Evening with Edvige Jean-Francois

**YOU
ARE
LOVED**