

VOL. 3 | SPRING 2021

DAYS-MASSOLO CENTER



February Newsletter



Looking Forward

The DMC is a lot of things and holds a different meaning for every person who has walked through it's doors over the course of a decade. We're always changing and evolving as every year goes by, but our priorities have always been guided by you, because you made and continue to make the DMC what it is today.

OVERVIEW:

- Black History Month
- Upcoming Events
- Get to know the DMC
- Social Justice Initiative Preview + Contest
- DMC Resources

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

FOLLOW US ON:



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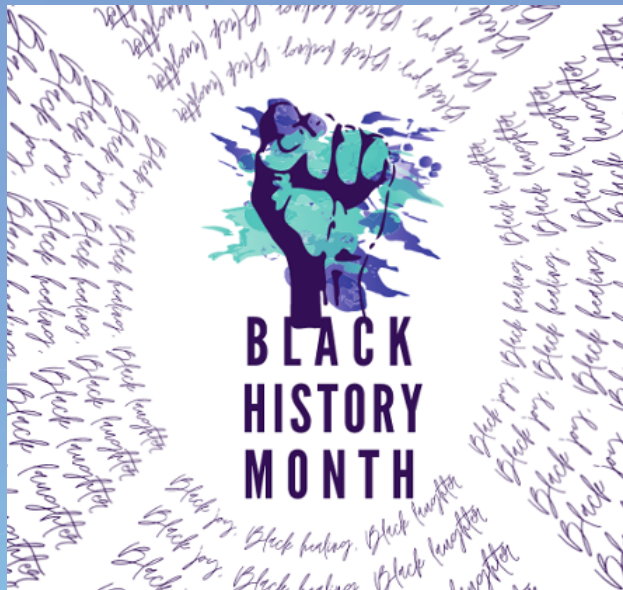


[Days-Massolo Center](https://www.facebook.com/Days-Massolo-Center)

WHAT IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

Black joy, laughter, healing and so much more.

With roots dating back to the summer of 1915, Black History Month is an annual month-long celebration of Black identity. Carter G. Woodson, considered by many to be the "Father of Black History," founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in hopes to raise awareness of the many contributions of African Americans in the world. The group created and announced Negro History Week in 1925 which would be first celebrated the following year. You can learn more about Woodson's work and legacy [here](#). After decades of the celebration receiving more widespread recognition and becoming a part of life for many African Americans, the tradition was expanded to a month in 1976. You can learn more about the origins and history of Black History month [here](#).



Committee Members: BLSU, Yanea Thomas, Malik Irish, Ebu Ojogwu, Dawun Smith, Alex Manning, Celeste Day Moore, Lauren Marsh, Najee Evans, Neil Butler, and Paola Lopez

BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMITTEE

A catalyst for social change and a resource for shared experience.

In an effort to build partnerships that truly recognize and celebrate cultural, heritage and identity months, the Days-Massolo Center has helped bring together planning committees to organize meaningful celebrations, lectures, workshops and various co-curricular programming for each historical month. With various students, faculty and staff, this year's Black History Month Committee has dedicated its time to creating intentional programming that hopes to bring healing to our community.

"When we talk about the Black identity, it shouldn't always have to be about the trauma, all of the hardships many of us face in this world," says Dawun Smith '22, a member of Hamilton's BHM committee. "This year we've chosen to focus on Black joy, laughter and happiness. We still want to acknowledge the history of our people and everything that happened this past year, but we really want this celebration to be a healing experience for our community."

To learn more about the committee's work and how to get involved in similar upcoming projects, you can click the following [link](#) or reach out to the DMC via email at dmc@hamilton.edu.

UPCOMING BHM PROGRAMMING

Week 2: February 8-14

Sadove Programming and HEAR Film Discussion Group host Sylvie's Love
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 5:30 PM (EST)
RSVP for Watch Party [here](#)

Grab and Go Art Kits
Thursday, Feb. 11, Supply Pick-Up available at DMC from 12-2 PM (EST)
Sign up to receive art kit [here](#)

DMC hosts Cafecito Friday
More Details to Come

BLSU hosts Zumba Session with Sacharja Cunningham
Saturday, February 13, 2-3 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [957 7065 6563](#)

Week 3: February 15-21

Africana Studies hosts Fred Kuwornu Film Screening and Talk
Thursday, Feb. 18, 4:15 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [939 8993 0701](#)

ALANA Caucus Mixer
Friday, Feb. 19, 12-1 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [999 5555 4374](#)

Beer Belly Yoga with Neal McKinney
Saturday, Feb. 20, 1-2 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [955 0612 3888](#)

Black History Month Art Share
Saturday, Feb. 20, 2-3 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [303 743 3009](#)



Week 4: February 22-28



Black History Month Art Walk
Monday, February 22, Time Slots Available from 12-4:35 PM (EST)
Registration Form available [here](#)

Black History Month Keynote Speaker: Zalika Ibaorimi
Tuesday, February 23, 6 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [929 8650 6252](#)

Black History Month & Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Dinner
Wednesday, February 24, 6 PM (EST)
Meeting ID: [930 3124 9081](#)

BLSU Talent Show
Friday, February 26, More details to come

BLSU Silkies & Scarves Day
Sunday, February 28, More details to come

WHAT IS THE DMC?

A Little Blue House on College Hill Rd.

With roots dating back just over a decade, the Days-Massolo Center is the result of student-led efforts in the fall of 2008 led by the Social Justice Initiative (SJI). The group pushed for Hamilton to create a cultural education center on campus, a dream that would become reality after the group organized, spread a petition across campus and amplified the request through a series of formal presentations.

Opened on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2011, the DMC is named after trustees Drew S. Days III '63 and Arthur J. Massolo '64. Our mission is to promote community inclusion, facilitate intercultural dialogue, build collaborations and establish partnerships on campus to create a Hamilton where every student feels welcome.



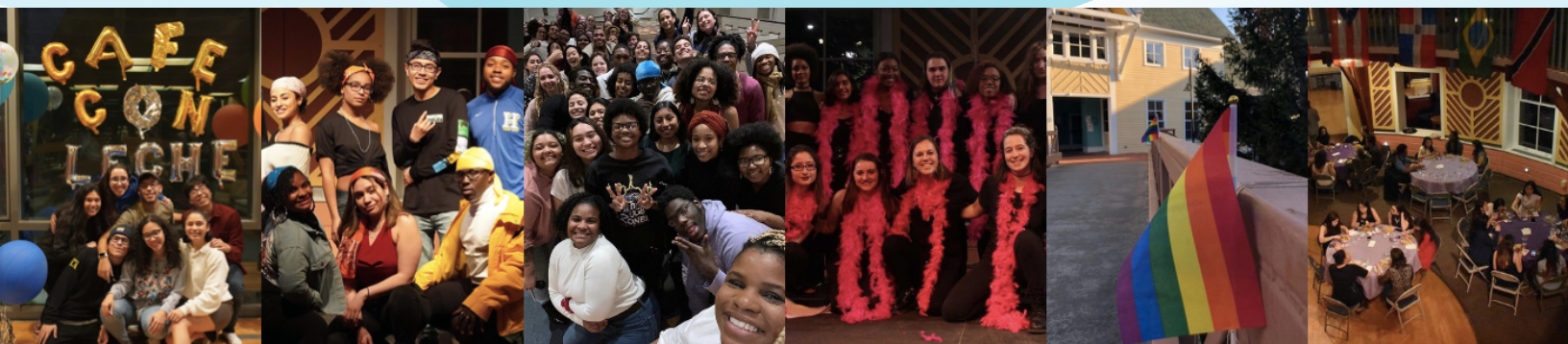
Hey, you. You look so beautiful just being you. You're why we do what we do.

A CLUSTER OF BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

Coming Together to Build Community.

The DMC is home to a cluster of several cultural organizations on campus that focus on a range of topics such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity and much more. These groups have all made and continue to make positive, long-lasting impacts for Hamilton's campus and community.

Our family consists of the [Black Latinx Student Union \(BLSU\)](#), the [Feminists of Color Collective \(FCC\)](#), [La Vanguardia \(LV\)](#), the [Gender & Sexuality Union \(GSU\)](#), the [Voices of Color Lecture Series \(VCLS\)](#) and the [Womxn's Center \(WC\)](#). Each group actively outreach to the campus community to push for change while also sparking thoughtful discourse through meetings, events and campus traditions.



MEET OUR UMBRELLA FAMILY!



Black Latinx Student Union

Description: BLSU is a cultural organization on campus that seeks to support and empower its members based on the pillars of advocacy, education, cultural appreciation and celebration, and community. The organization serves as a forum for the exchange of dialogue on the political, social, economic and cultural affairs of Black and Latinx people locally and worldwide.

Email: blsu@hamilton.edu

General Bi-Weekly Meetings: Fridays, 6 PM (EST)

Womxn's Center

Description: The Womxn's Center is an inclusive, student-run activist and educational organization dedicated to intersectional social justice and equity, with a particular focus on issues affecting the lives of womxn locally and globally. The organization is dedicated to exploring the intersection of gender, race, sexual orientation, class, ability and other characteristics incorporated into societal structures maintaining hierarchical injustices.

Email: womxn@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Tuesdays, 8 PM (EST)

Gender & Sexuality Union

Description: The GSU supports and validates all genders, sexual orientations, and other LGBTQ+ identities. We strive to challenge homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination while supporting those impacted by them, and we strive to foster a spirit of respect for all genders, sexual orientations, and other LGBTQ+ identities. We commit to inclusion and advocacy honoring all intersecting identities and experiences through active solidarity.

Email: gsu@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Thursdays, 8 PM (EST)

Feminists of Color Collective

Description: The Feminists of Color Collective aims to disrupt colonial, patriarchal, and capitalist spaces through dialogue and artistic outlets. Students explore the intersectionality of race, gender, class, and sexuality. The Collective is a space that caters specifically to the of- color experiences on campus and in the world writ large—aiming to foster an empowered community between individuals of such intersecting identities grounded in artistry, vulnerability, and companionship.

Email: fcc@hamilton.edu

General Bi-Weekly Meetings: Wednesdays, 6 PM (EST)

La Vanguardia

Description: The mission of La Vanguardia has and always will be to amplify the voices of Latinx students on campus while enriching campus diversity. We work to ensure that all Latinx individuals on campus feel supported and a part of the larger Hamilton community. We foster and embrace all Latinx cultures to lead discussions on Latinx identities, organize Latinx focused events and to create a welcoming experience for our diverse community.

Email: lv@hamilton.edu

General Meetings: Thursdays, 6 PM (EST)

Voices of Color Lecture Series

Description: The purpose of the Voices of Color Lecture Series (VCLS) is to honor C. Christine Johnson, a former HEOP director, through organizing a lecture (or series of lectures) that exposes the Hamilton community to the work of various people of color. The lectures serve to enhance Hamilton students' understanding and familiarity with the history and contributions of the oppressed and erased by providing support to existing programs, academic departments, and artistic pursuits.

Email: vcls@hamilton.edu

MEET OUR STUDENT AMBASSADORS!

JOEL



ANYI



NASHELEY



SALMA



PABLO



ROSA



CARLO



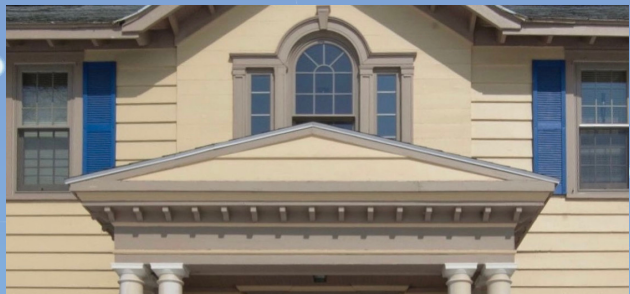
ALEX



THE SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

A coalition of dedicated students.

"We could say that our story started when some students got angry..." These are the opening words to a group's story, one reflected today through the mission of the Days-Massolo Center. The fifth page reads "Social Justice Initiative Charter. May 15, 2007... The Social Justice Initiative is a coalition of students dedicated to creating positive change in the experience, treatment, and interaction of marginalized groups and to promote interaction and awareness among all students at Hamilton College." Student-formed and student-led, this coalition was formed by various cultural organizations, including those now known as the Black Latinx Student Union, La Vanguardia, the Womxn's Center and the Gender & Sexuality Union. It's mission was to "unite the existing multicultural groups on campus, to advocate curricular change that better reflects the diversity of the world, to promote faculty administrative sensitivity toward diverse and marginalized students, to make the social scene at Hamilton more reflective of the diverse population by raising awareness and activism among students." One of the group's requests was the formation of a "Multicultural Center" on campus. It's time we share their story, our story.



Stephanie Tafur '10. Robyn Gibson '10. Amy Tannenbaum '10. Corinne Bancroft '10. Young Kwon '10. Alex Benkhart '10. Melissa Young '09. Sakhile Matlhare '10. Kate Hails '10. Kye Lippold '10.

SJI CELEBRATION LOGO CONTEST

Acknowledgement and recognition.

As the Days-Massolo Center reaches its 10-year anniversary this year, we feel that it is important to highlight and honor the work of the Social Justice Initiative. We are currently planning various programs, workshops and celebrations throughout the month of March that all follow SJI's original pursuit of social justice on campus. We have decided to open up a contest to anyone interested in creating a logo for SJI Month that embodies the group's mission and legacy. Submissions may be made as a circle, oval, square, rectangle or die-cut graphic. Entries should be sent in a .PNG or .JPG format via email to dmc@hamilton.edu. The subject of the email should include the phrase "Logo Contest Submission". Any member of the Hamilton community may submit up to five entries for consideration. Submissions must be made by 11:59 PM (EST) on February 22nd, 2020. The winner of the contest will receive \$150. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about the contest!

NEW SUPPORT RESOURCE AVAILABLE!



Looking to connect about LGBTQIA+ identity? Lexie Mucci (They/Them) is the DMC's new LGBTQIA+ Identity Support Specialist! They are a queer & trans professional staff member focusing on providing individual non-clinical support and group dialogue programs for trans, questioning and LGBTQIA+ students.

"Facing numerous circumstances compounding the psychological torsion experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals during their daily lives, GSU knew we needed to find a new way to support our community," says GSU Chair Dylan Badillo '23. "Lexie's role fills the need for an accessible person who can relate to queer students, give them advice, and help connect them to the resources that they need. Additionally, Lexie has created spaces for discussions regarding sexuality, gender identity and asexuality."



New virtual LGBTQIA+ support groups such as TNC (Trans, ENBY & Gender Creative), Open Doors (LGBTQIA+) will begin the week of February 15th and will run 8-12 weeks. You can reach out to Lexie if you have any questions using the following email: lmucci@hamilton.edu

Meet Our Director: Paola Lopez



Pronouns: She/her/hers

Major(s): B.S. Human Services, Masters of Human Relations

Hometown: San Juan, Puerto Rico & Claremore, Oklahoma

Role as Director of the DMC: I have the wonderful opportunity to engage in greater scale social change within the Hamilton community. I get the honor of working with the amazing DMC Student Ambassadors and supporting the Days-Massolo Center Cluster student organizations. In addition, we partner with faculty, staff, and other campus centers like Student Activities, Sadove Programming, the Levitt Center and the Chaplaincy to develop unique co-curricular opportunities.

Have any questions?

[Schedule an appointment with Paola by clicking here!](#)