

The Margins & The Masses:

Community-Curated
Promotion of
Queer, Feminist,
and Intersectional
Literature

Introduction

With its vibrant and diverse communities, organisations across the city of Montreal have long offered a rich cornucopia of arts and cultural programming. However, following a landscape analysis of these services, it became clear that a specific niche was not being served. The **goal** of this project was therefore to **serve** this **underserved** area **by offering a regularly recurring book club that focused on queer, feminist, and intersectional literature.**

Hypothesis

It was anticipated that through the **creation of this group**, Queereads Book Club of Montréal, an underserved **community would be able to come together**. The target population that this group hoped to support was bilingual, unilingual, and multilingual reading- and literature-lovers of diverse backgrounds and experiences that were looking **to gather to learn and share through readings and discussions of varied queer, feminist, and intersectional literature.**

Methods

In a **collaboration between a professional librarian and trained facilitators**, a survey was crafted, a programming calendar drafted, and a meeting location found. The first event was established for getting to know interested community members, to survey the types of materials they were interested in reading, and to establish group norms. In following meetings participants gathered to discuss books that they had read in preceding weeks. Feedback was solicited both informally and formally through a mid-season survey. Both the librarian and the facilitators used feedback to tailor future gatherings. Outside of and between meetings, communication was maintained with participants via online channels of Meetup, Facebook, & Instagram.

Results

With its first session in August 2018, the group has had steadily **recurring book meetings twice a month with added other content discussions (zines, films, etc.) and special events held throughout the season**. A core recurring group of participants attends these meetings, with new and visiting participants joining each meeting.

By the numbers



6 months
12 meetings

Meetup
+275
members



Conclusion

Queereads has **achieved its initial goal** of establishing a collaborative and inviting space to support those interested in reading and discussing feminist, queer, and intersectional literature. But growth and development is an iterative process. **Initial progress has shed light on areas for improvement**. Thus the focus of the second season of the group has shifted towards making the content, space, and discussions more accessible, equitable, and inclusive.

This poster is presented by
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Queereads Book Club gathers
in Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal on the traditional
lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

For more
information visit
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