#WashUTakesResponsibility

Sam Fox Edition
Agenda

- Mission
- Initiatives
  - Visibility of Racial Diversity
  - Support Within and Beyond
- Recap & Closing Statements
- Questions
Mission

We seek to...
Increase the racial and social awareness of both students and faculty
Create an inclusive community for the Black population
Change perceptions of Black students within the Sam Fox social climate
Foster community self-reflection
Initiative 1: Visibility of Racial Diversity

As a result of the societal structure of primarily white institutions (PWIs), racial minorities and the social stressors they face remain commonly overlooked and unseen by the majority.

Initiative Goals

- Create community & instill safe social settings
- Combat racism in public spaces
- Protect minorities through educational training
The Role of Minority Professors at a PWI

Creation of out-of-class minority safe spaces

Discussion of the minority experiences within a school climate

Involvement of non-minority students and faculty within minority conversations

Promoting racial awareness

Racial sensitivity training
“Within one of my own classes, I experienced a classmate making a racially ignorant comment to the entire class. Instead of addressing the comment or educating the student on how their comment is offensive to minority populations, the professor remained silent. Not only did I feel unsafe and unwelcome in the classroom environment due to racial stigma against my own race, the professor failing to utilize the student’s ignorance as a chance to inform both the individual and other non-minority students within the group made me feel unwelcome among my students AND by the faculty.”

Sparkle Whitaker
Conflicts

- Ignorance within classroom settings which oppress racial minorities
- Lack of repercussion for microaggressions which segregate classroom settings
- Lack of organized safe spaces for both minority faculty and students

Solutions

- Creating safe spaces for minority students to speak on their experiences
- Funding teaching workshops and meetings to promote racial awareness
- Connecting minority faculty to minority students
Key Solution 1: Common Reading Program

A monumental form of introducing the student body to important lessons and new knowledge that will acclimate them to the higher education community is the Common Reading Program. By exposing all students to literature that exposes them to different cultures and social experiences of a diverse range of minorities, the school can actively combat racial ignorance and promote inclusivity.

Goals
- Explore literature and themes by African-American creators
- Emphasize “Our Names, Our Stories”
- Amplify African-American experience

Structure
- Facilitated group discussion
- Art element
- Self-reflection
- Self-awareness
“In an icebreaker during Wash U’s Summer Orientation Advising Registration, I addressed the first experience of racism I had when I was young within a group of peers that were all white students. Being the only black person in the group, sharing that experience I thought was just a normal part of life was eye-opening for everyone else. Addressing that racism and experience encouraged the other students to be more racially aware in the community. I love sharing my black experience and would like for more non-minority students to have the opportunity to become more racially aware!”

Allana Thompson
Key Solution 2: Multicultural Art Education

Another way we can continue educating the student body about racial and cultural significant information beyond the first-year Common Reading Program could also include the courses students take during their undergrad experience.

Goals

- Understanding cultures of minorities with respect versus quickness
- Scholarship of various artistic heritages
- Little to no diverse multicultural backgrounds

Courses we can implement to improve diversity in our curriculums:

- African-American Art History
- Native-American Art History
- Latinx Art History
- History of Asian Architecture
- Middle Eastern Architecture
Specifically, within the Architecture program, we wish to see more representation and study of architecture from a diverse range of minority societies to add on to the Eurocentric and Western-style architecture we study primarily. A large part of the minority experience are the communities we come from. This includes but is not limited to addressing the gentrification of cities like St. Louis, ongoing struggles of underprivileged communities, and more.
Both within the Wash U community and beyond, minorities deal with the cards they’re dealt from society. Due to the diverse backgrounds and situations all the students come from, some have less [access to] resources that are a given for non-minority students. Through the second initiative, we wish to provide support for minority students within their undergraduate experience and sufficient preparation to support themselves after graduation.

Initiative 4: Support Within & Beyond

Goal
- Support all racial identities’ ambitions
- Entrepreneurial alumni and alumna
- Business of design industry

Structure
- Display + sell functional or ornamental work in community
- Workshop or project pairing of Olin + Fox students
- Community spotlight of art businesses
Initiative 5: Fashion & Architecture Study Abroad Options

Mission
Providing students the chance to immerse in more than Florence’s artistry.

Goals
- Highlight culture and expertise in other regions
- Exploring fashion beyond current geographic studies such as Florence, Italy
- Discovering the significance of non-Western fashion and architecture

Immersive City Suggestions
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Morocco
A solution we’ve developed for supporting minority students during their undergraduate experience is development and utilization of a form of racial training for faculty and facilitators within Sam Fox at Wash U, which will promote knowledge and understanding of racial minorities to prevent racial exclusion and ignorance in the classroom.
Community Learning

- Common Reading Program (Involving Racial Minorities in Literature)
- Developing a Multicultural Art History Education
- Architecture in Underrepresented Societies and Addressing Non-Western Architectural History

Community Immersion

- Partnering with Business resources to prepare students for Post-grad careers
- Diversifying and broadening study abroad options for students within Sam Fox
- Encouraging staff and faculty to become racially aware through Racial Training

Recap and Closing Statements


Washington University in St. Louis Student Racial Demographics
Washington University in St. Louis Faculty Racial Demographics
First-Year Common Reading Program
Cape Town and Johannesburg: Fashion Capitals
Gucci Samples Dapper Dan’s Fashion
Questions?