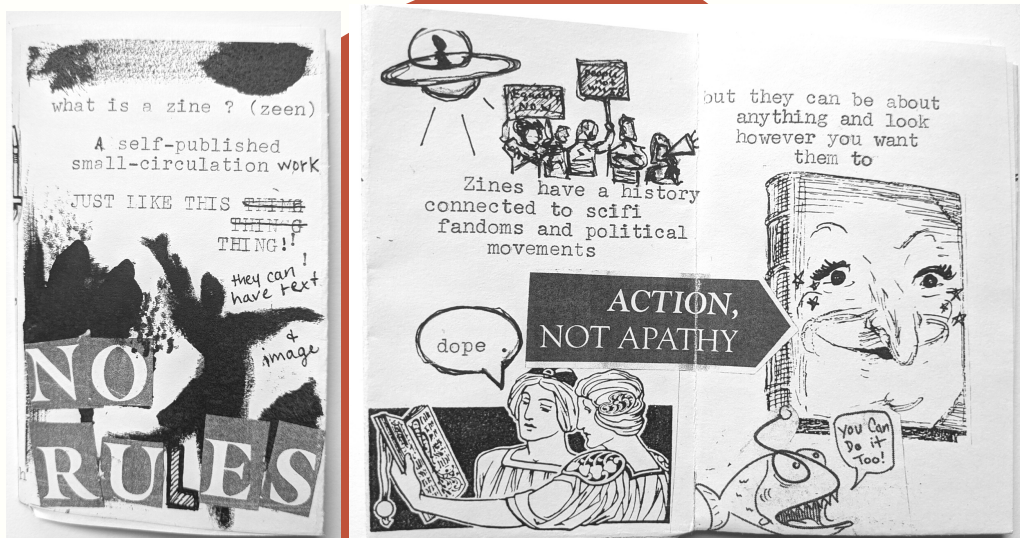




CHALLENGE

Sex and health education in Seattle Public Schools is implemented inconsistently. Despite efforts for a more comprehensive and inclusive sex education curriculum, students are left with questions.

Our project aims to address how the BHS Library can connect with and expand on the existing sex education curriculum.



Zines and Body Image at BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

MICHELLE GRINSTEAD, HANNA ROSEEN, & BROOKE THOMAS MLIS 2020

WE INTRODUCED THE IDEA OF A ZINE COLLECTION AND THE CREATION OF A BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL ZINE TO MAKE THIS CONNECTION CREATIVE AND STUDENT-LED.



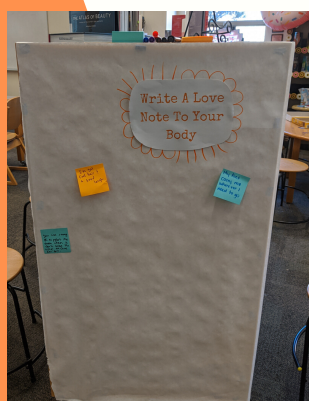
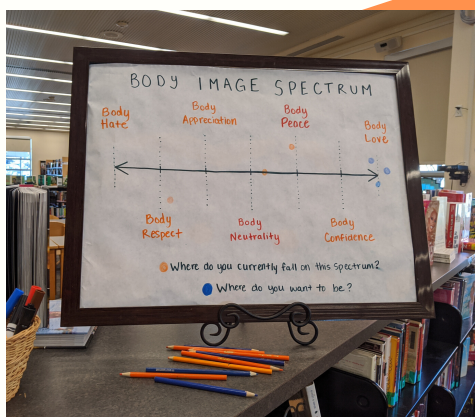
SOLUTION

- Identified body image as a topic within sex education which students wanted to discuss
- Selected book and zine titles centered on sex education to add to BHS collection
- Designed an advertising zine and distributed guerrilla-style around the school
- Set up book display of existing titles related to sex education and body image in the library
- Created passive programming including a body image chart and place for students to post positive notes to their bodies
- Purchased and gathered materials for zine creation in the BHS makerspace



COVID-19 RESPONSE

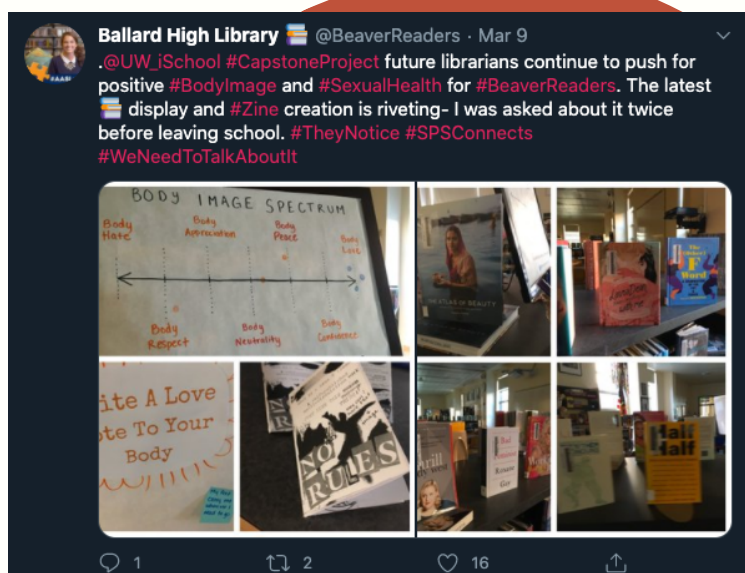
- Moved workshops online
- Created a video workshop
- Curated a resource guide to substitute for in-person discussion
- Hosted a Makerspace Monday event for synchronous zine making



IMPACT

Before the school closures, teachers and students interacted with the display and checked out books.

After closures, students and staff submitted zine pages to an online repository.



COMMENTS FROM BHS TEACHERS

"I saw the zines in the hallway and it totally took me back. In the early 90s I had several friends who wrote, drew and "published" zines. The stories in the zines were often based on their creator's life and often featured thinly disguised people in "the scene". A new zine being published was eagerly awaited and celebrated. Zine distribution became a part of our social life. The sometimes silly, sometimes poignant and often weird stories became a part our community's lore. Zines are powerful, fun and cool. I would love to see them make a comeback."

"Coming into the library and seeing in front of me books (with visual covers) of all different bodies, genders, and sexualities was inspiring and made me feel seen."



MOVING FORWARD

We started a conversation in the BHS community about body image. Our zine workshop model can be used to continue this conversation and start new ones about other important topics.



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