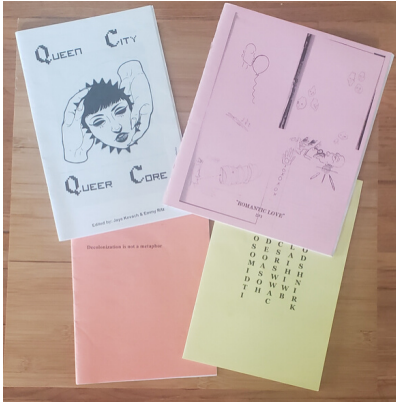


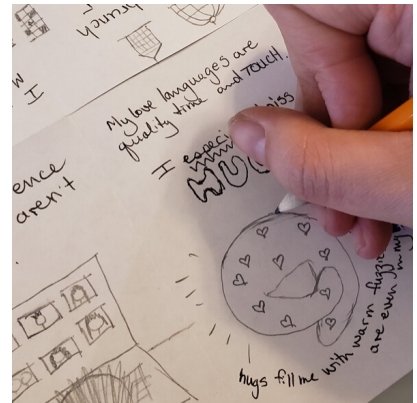
COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS Artful Isolation Activities

Week Seven: DIY Zines with Cat Haines



Cat Haines is a trans woman, lesbian, kitchen witch, and activist. Her work focuses on the needs of queer and trans youth, creating more accessible trans affirming healthcare in Saskatchewan and building community with food and love. She is the Operations and Program Manager at [UR Pride Centre](#).

This activity is possible thanks to a partnership with the [Heritage Community Association](#) in Regina, Saskatchewan.



Share your world with a DIY self-published zine.

What is a Zine? Zines are a form of self-published booklets/magazines that are often reproduced via photocopier machines or scanners and printers. Zines can be about anything and everything: a collection of poetry or philosophical musings, a story or comic book, a list of your favourite ice cream flavours or recipes, a collection of drawings people can colour, or anything else you can imagine.

Why Zines? Cat runs zine workshops to help queer and trans youth explore their identities and experiences. This is a vital aspect of her art practice. Zines play an important role in queer and trans histories (along with Punk, Riot GRRL, and other subcultures), often serving as an outlet to push back against the system, and print material that would otherwise not be printed or distributed. Regardless of your identity, zines are a great way to share your experiences and passions with the world around you. In Cat's own words, "nothing is off limits with zines, they come from a culture where the only boundaries are the ones we impose on ourselves, so make something that really speaks your truth."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CAT HAINES

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS IN SASKATCHEWAN

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Suitable For: All Ages (note that wee ones may need help cutting and assembling the zine).

What You'll Need: Paper, scissors, and art supplies such as pencils, markers, glue sticks, tape, etc. Access to a printer/scanner and/or photocopier is ideal, but not necessary.

Getting Ready:

- Get inspired! Look at the zine examples on this page, made by Cat and her pals. For a broad overview of zines, including how to plan and make them, check out these great articles by [Rona Akbari](#), [Scholastic](#), and [Brightly](#).
- If you're looking for some examples of existing zines, take a look at this list of [zines for kids](#), or the [Queer Zine Archive Project](#) (note that many of the zines in the QZAP deal with sensitive content and may not be suitable for little ones).
- Consider what kind of content you'd like to include in your zine. This can be anything two-dimensional (ie. content that can be photocopied). You may write or draw, print out text or images and glue or tape them to pages, make a collage from magazine or newspaper clippings, or anything else you can imagine. Different mediums will give the end result a specific aesthetic, so think about what your zine will be about, and how you'd like the zine to look.



Activity:

- Zines come in all kinds of formats, but we're going to be creating an eight page zine (including the front and back cover) using a single sheet of paper. You can find a short tutorial about how to layout your zine, as well as fold and cut the paper [here](#). Work through the tutorial to prep your paper.
- Create the content of your zine. Fill in pages one through six with your content. Don't worry if it's a bit messy, that's often part of the DIY aesthetic of zines.
- Create front and back cover pages. Give your zine a name and don't forget to include your name as author, you made it after all!

Reflection:

- What kind of aesthetic does your zine have? Does it have a DIY feel, or is it more polished and professional? How did your choice of materials affect the aesthetic?
- Share the finished zine with one or more friends or family members. If you have access to a printer/scanner and/or photocopier you can make copies of your zine and drop them off in the mailboxes of friends and family for contactless delivery. If you don't have access to a printer/scanner and/or photocopier, you can take pictures of each page and share those instead.
- What did people think of your zine? Did they react how you were expecting them to? Share images of your zine with us via Facebook or Instagram, tagging [@skcommonweal](#) and using the hashtags [#cwzines](#) and [#cwneighbours](#).

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