

**Mission:**

Led by Black womxn, Exposure is a free year-round hybrid photo club designed for Stories In My Backyard (SIMBY) that is created to introduce Black girls in Philadelphia area middle schools to photography as a medium to tell their stories, find their voices, implement change, discover meaning in life, develop a possible career, and build community with others in an environment that supports their personal, social, and creative development.

**Objectives**

- Engage students and other community members in creatively making change through participatory photography
- Create a learning environment not rooted in white supremacy and the oppression of Black people
- Allot time for self reflection and professional support of counselors as needed
- Allow students to complete the program through self-pacing to accommodate student availability
- Represent multiple perspectives and modes of learning in instruction
- Guide learners to achieve their learning goals with collaborative learning plans and timely feedback on submissions based on ZPD's
- Create a learning environment that is complex and relevant to real life situations
- Provide examples of Black womxn photographers as representation and motivation for aspiring photographers
- Provide examples of photography's role in social change efforts
- Foster social negotiation
- Prioritize cultural relevance and Black femxle representation in learning material and community

**Inputs**

- Middle school aged Black girls interested in photography
- Black womxn photographers and educators as instructors and club sponsors from schools or SIMBY
- Weekly Hr long meetings: One in-person day one virtual Zoom session, and a hylflex option to accommodate varying schedules
- Coaching & ILPs: Learning goals for the semester and one-on-one support
- Media hub packs of professional camera equipment, tech hardware/software
- SIMBY grants and donations as well as public school budgets to cover costs of equipment, trips, instructors, and content creation
- Smartphones, film, DSLR, mirrorless cameras, computers, internet
- Reading and watch list on Black experiences and history/herstory
- Black experiences through images (past & present)
- Monthly Guest Speakers or workshop hosts: Black womxn photographers and industry professionals
- Digital or physical journals
- Images of/by Black womxn and girls
- Semester sign-ups
- PA state reps
- Tips on combatting Zoom fatigue and protecting eyes from blue light
- In-person meeting space in schools
- Instructor training on course management and content
- Support of counselors as needed
- Access to cover school and district wide events (sports, theater, concerts etc.)
- Group chat discussions
- Locations to take photos/trips/ conduct workshops
- Exhibit location
- Videos, tutorials, readings, pdfs, how-to guides designed for a Black femxle audience/reflective
- ≤ 1HR: Self-paced online modules with other learning material on basic photo skills and concepts featuring Black womxn and their work
- Communication with parents and school administration on program schedule and content
- Photo wall
- LMS

**Activities**

- Learners create learning plans for self pacing around personal schedules
- Complete interactive modules/ and other learning material on basic photography skills and concepts before meetings
- Photo challenge: Explore a new place
- Warm Up: Learners share what they create/write/think about images
- Technical workshops
- End of year exhibit of student images
- Research your state rep based on where you live
- Weekly journal entries to reflect on feelings, life experiences, learning or explore new thoughts based on prompts
- Community circle to chat about anything at the end of every session
- Trips/ Photowalks/ travel excursions
- Warm Up Photos of/by Black womxn/girls and images depicting Black experiences across the African diaspora (past & present)
- Module/ Presentation of Black womxn photographers and their work to combat social issues
- Photo challenge: Tell a story about your neighborhood/ school/home/ Philly
- Group activities: Games to learn basic technical photography skills or research to explore photo concepts and social issues
- Guest speaker: notetaking & discussion or workshop participation
- Write a pitch (why, how, what) calling your state rep to action on a social issue your photos highlight
- Share announcements, images, info on Black womxn photographers
- Serve as student event photographers for school and district wide events for practice and community service
- Peer teaching on chosen type of photography
- Photo challenge: Peer portraits using studio lighting
- Weekly student photos: See a photo, take a photo

**Outputs**

- Submission of semester plan to instructors indicating best days of the week for the program and extracurriculars/ personal responsibilities
- Course enrollment, attendance, module completion, activity completion or participation, and course progress analytics
- Oral responses in group discussions or written commentary
- Images taken or vision boards created
- Completion of journal entries written or digital: Sharing one thing out loud
- Notes submissions, questions/ comments, workshop photos and reflections
- Group discussions/written commentary on images presented: What do you see, think, and wonder? protocol
- Group chat responses, emojis to show announcements were received
- Submitting photos to school/district for websites, social media, and print publications
- 1 min or less video pitch to send to state reps
- Weekly photos taken on smartphone/film to share with the group for feedback
- Peer teaching: original projects and presentations shared with group
- Instructors return learning plans with guided revisions
- Completion of exhibit display and guest attendance

**Assumptions**

- Learners will resonate with the instructors and content
- Learners are interested in learning about Black womxn photographers
- Learners are seeking a community of like minded people to interact with as they learn
- Learners are aware of their school schedules and personal obligations
- Learners have a quiet and safe space to participate in this photo club
- Learners are negatively impacted by a lack of cultural relevancy and representation
- Learners face financial inaccessibility and a lack of offerings available to them that hinders their involvement in photo learning experiences
- Learners have reliable access to the internet and transportation for in-person opportunities
- Learners are interested in creating change through photography
- Learners are seeking photo opportunities to complete on their own time due to their busy schedules (self-paced and online)
- Learners will complete journal entries weekly
- We are able to gain support and services of counselors if needed
- Learners are intrinsically motivated to complete photowalks, photo challenges, travel excursions/ workshop tasks and other assignments
- The school district/ individual middle schools will agree to license our program

**Outcomes - Short-Term**

- Learners will practice using photo skills/concepts through gamification and explorative activities: self expression, capturing memories, documenting their communities, basic camera functions, basic editing
- Learners will be able to track their progress through weekly feedback on their exploration images
- Learners will practice skills for self-paced learning in photography that include scheduling, planning, research, and creative decision making
- Learners will choose a social issue impacting them and their communities, get to know who their state rep is, and decide how they can use photography to impact change in their communities regarding this issue
- Learners will use photography as a medium to discuss and be informed on Black experiences across the African diaspora and beyond present day
- Learners will weigh options to improve their photos based on timely feedback from peers and instructors
- Learners will walk away with a community of like-minded peers and mentors of support in their photography journeys
- Learners will start to build self-awareness of knowledge construction through reflexivity and metacognition
- Learners will identify examples of Black womxn photographers
- Learners will be able to practice methods to protect themselves from excessive blue light exposure and Zoom fatigue
- Learners will gain diverse hands-on experience as photographers in professional settings, recall the various types of photography available to practice, and walk away with community service experience
- Learners will create photo narratives to tell Black stories
- Learners will reflect on their experience in a learning environment that prioritized their representation and cultural relevance

**Outcomes - Mid-Term**

- Learners will be motivated to pursue photography as a career option, long term mode of creative expression, or area of further study after experiencing a sense of belonging in this club
- Learners will share their experience in the program and recruit more of their peers to join
- Learners will transfer knowledge of basic photography skills across types of photography and cameras (smartphone/film/ DSLR/mirrorless)
- Learners will use the examples of Black womxn photographers engaging social change in their work as inspiration for their own future projects for change
- Learners will develop an idea of the types of photography that interest them and conduct further study/practice
- Learners will seek other photo learning opportunities and experiences

**Outcomes - Long-Term**

- Learners will be able to refresh their knowledge using their access to the program modules, materials, and contacts
- Learners will develop self esteem in their academics and future careers due to this experience that provided them a sense of belonging as Black girls
- Learners will use problem solving and critical thinking skills to confront social discourse surrounding the negative ideas they're fed about life and their capabilities as Black girls
- Learners will continue journaling to work through their thoughts, feelings, experiences, and dreams
- Learners will exercise ownership over their life-long learning in photography and beyond
- Learners will develop a habit of creating community, discussions, and learning opportunities with/for Black womxn/girls in other environments
- Learners will further develop "what if" thinking using creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving to envision and seek social change

**Context**

- Black girls face inaccessibility, underrepresentation, and a lack of cultural relevance in photography programming and traditional learning experiences
- Black children's voices are devalued in society, at school, and at home
- Black girls face adultification in schools and other issues specific to their identity that should be prioritized in discussions and considered in the creation of learning environments
- Arts programming is a way for Black youth to develop their voices and advocate for social change
- Due to the pandemic and shift to virtual learning, students may be experiencing Zoom fatigue and an increased exposure to blue light
- Students have a variety of dismissal times, limited key card swipes on public transportation, and personal obligations outside of school. Programming should be brought to them.
- Students are in need of Black history learning that extends beyond pain and North America to empowerment, creativity, and knowledge of the African diaspora
- Exploration, travel, and fun are essential to youth learning environments, especially for those of color and from impoverished communities
- In SIMBY's previous club, students engaged most in discussions, expressing their appreciation for being able to speak and contribute to the learning environment with their perspectives and opinions
- Currently, students face safety concerns due to Philly's gun violence epidemic during the deadliest year in the city's history
- Participation by youth of color in arts programming can enhance awareness of social injustice and increase engagement in social action
- PSTV flooded and has no equipment, programming must be virtual or conducted within school media hubs
- There are district and school wide events throughout the year that require photography coverage that should provide opportunities for students to gain professional experience
- Students face scheduling conflicts and are worried about maintaining good grades, which hinders their ability to participate in clubs (specifically student-athletes who are forced to sacrifice arts exploration)