



Catwalk4Power

(C4P)

Name of Creator: Catwalk4Power

Extent: 6 boxes, 11 large items, 2 banners, 1 pdf, 4 png.

Administrative/Biographical History: Women with HIV and their allies started the Catwalk4Power project, toward the end of 2017, with a vision to create actions that would address the silence around women and HIV.

Leading the project, women with HIV used and developed established safe spaces and peer support to enable creative participation. In these spaces, women with HIV were invited and empowered to write, share, and perform their personal and political stories, beauty and creativity.

Catwalk4Power events create a space where women with HIV can embody and physically manifest how to be in the world without stigma. As women strut along a catwalk runway, in costumes of their creation, they can feel for a moment what it is like to walk in the world openly. This is the act of taking space, which has had a transformative effect on many of the Catwalk4Power women, increasing their self-confidence and self-belief.

Throughout 2019, the project connected women with HIV in London, Brighton, and Manchester, funded by the Public Health England Innovation Fund. Across the UK, and internationally (Amsterdam, 2018), participation numbers and leadership roles have steadily increased, to facilitate crafting workshops, online 'women's rooms', panel events, public performances at conferences and festivals, and market stall management as craft producers and sellers.

This award winning project now has a significant online presence with the Catwalk4Power Toolkit which launched in April 2020. Catwalk4Power participants encourage people to visit the online toolkit, plan events, get in touch, and share their experiences and knowledge.

Custodial History: Deposited at Bishopsgate Institute by members of Catwalk4Power from January 2020.

Scope and Content: Placards, ephemera, banners, photographs and related papers created by Catwalk4Power. Includes: Placards from BHIVA World AIDS Day event; Speeches from BHIVA World AIDS Day performance; Banner from BHIVA World AIDS Day Event; 'Empowered' clutch bag/box; Body parts on canvas, 'Our Amazing Bodies' workshop; Lunar/moon polaroid photographs from moon-gazing event; Female body parts from 'Our Powerful Bodies' session one; 'I Am Here' festival banner; Clutch purse boxes from performance at Fast Track Cities conference; Catwalk4Power Zines and Catwalk4Power logo (2019-2020)

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN (apart from some instances of APPLY TO ARCHIVIST, see below).

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of hand list available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Name.

C4P	Catwalk4Power	2019-2020
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C4P/1	Placards from BHIVA World AIDS Day event	2019
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8 placards created by Catwalk4Power and used during a performance at the British HIV Association's (BHIVA) World AIDS Day event, 29 November 2019. Catwalk4Power women came up with a series of messages to inform placard creation and speeches, which were delivered at the event. The messages on the placards read:

- 'Women Must Be Included In All HIV Drug Research Trials'
- 'How Will U Provide Us With Peer Support And More HIV Safe Spaces'
- End Poverty For All Living With HIV'
- 'As A Black African Immigrant Woman I Say Involve Me In All HIV Decisions On My Treatment'
- 'We Want Support For Women Living With HIV + Mental Health'
- 'Sexual Health Education In All Schools Now! HIV PrEP U=U'
- 'End HIV Stigma Via Social Media Broadcasting + TV'
- 'More Research For Women Ageing With Menopause'

Information about the BHIVA World AIDS Day event from the depositor:

C4P women planned a performance delivered

by ten members at the British HIV Association's (BHIVA) World AIDS Day event, on Friday 29 November 2019. Leading up to this moment, planning, prop building, costume creation, speech writing, and stage direction had been threshed out over a series of four workshop and two drop-in sessions. These took place at St Margaret's Create Place in Bethnal Green or at Positively UK in Islington.

The aim of the performance was for women to deliver personal and political messages and challenges to the HIV sector. Issues addressed covered: women's inclusion in HIV treatment decisions; holistic treatment for menopausal women; the necessity for specialised mental health services and support; challenging the media on its use of victimising language and scare tactics when reporting on the lives of women living with HIV; ending poverty for all and finding ways to support people living with HIV and their families; more HIV treatment and prevention education for young people/students, including information on stigma; rights and healthcare for asylum seekers and many other invisible people; more women included in HIV clinical trials and research; more funding for HIV services and 'one stop' clinics; better educated health care providers, especially when it comes to women's bodies and HIV; peer-support and women-only safe spaces are absolutely essential; 'I Am Here' is a declaration of self-empowerment.

The performance:

Projected onto a large screen was an animated backdrop. Music played queued to the projection which showed C4P women and affirmations for the duration of the performance. Salt 'n' Peppa's track 'Let's Talk About Sex' signalled entry of the initial 'strutters'. Lyrics were reworded to:

"Let's talk about HIV
Let's talk about you and me
Let's talk about all the women, here in London
And overseas
Let's talk about sex
Let's talk about sex
Let's talk about meds
Let's talk about us..."

Two women holding a large calico banner strutted down to the stage. Their banner read: 'Being HIV+, supported by my peers, has given me the language of liberation.' Women followed, one at a time, strutting with their placards to the stage. Music volume lowered. The lead speaker stepped forward to introduce C4P and her sisters. Speaking notes were mounted on mini placards to assist speakers and decorated with red ribbon symbols, red crepe frills and red organza bows. As the MC finished she introduced the next sister to come forward who then spoke her words. This continued through all ten women. Speeches connected with issues stated on the large protest placards, women also held. Addresses varied in length; the shortest being a declaration 'I Am Here'.

Women wore bright, multi-coloured outfits, accented by crafted accessories: oversized rosette corsages, fascinator head pieces, ribbons and bows stitched into garments and wraps (items that were created in preceding weeks). The performance concluded with a chant sung repeatedly in Swahili and in English: "You heard us, you've seen us, it's time for action". The group danced to Sister Sledge's 'We are Family' as they exited the room.

Track list:

'Let's Talk About Sex', Salt-n-Peppa
'I'm Every Woman', Whitney Houston
'Ladies Night', Kool and the Gang
'Say Aha', Santigold
'We are family', Sister Sledge

OPEN

Individual speeches attached to 9 mini placards which were held by Catwalk4Power performers while they took turns addressing the BHIVA World AIDS Day performance, 29 November 2019.

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CLOSED

Painted banner created and used for Catwalk4Powers performance at BHIVA World AIDS Day event on, Friday 29 November 2019. Banner reads: 'Being HIV+, Supported By My Peers, Gives Me Strength And The Language Of Liberation'.

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OPEN

C4P/4 'Empowered' clutch bag/box 2019

Oversized handmade clutch bag in red with rainbow trimming, which on one side reads, 'EMPOWERED', and on the other reads, 'STIGMA FREE'. The sides of the clutch are decorated with the words, 'LOVE' and 'UNITY'. The clutch was created by a C4P participant during a workshop in preparation for the Healthy Partnerships Event, organised by Fast Track Cities in September 2019. Catwalk4 Power performed at the closing event of this conference, and smaller sizes of the bags were also created to strut with (2019)

OPEN

C4P/5 Body parts on canvas, 'Our Amazing Bodies' workshop 2019

Body parts made from various materials and attached to canvas, made at the second, 'Our Amazing Bodies' workshop which took place in Brighton. During the workshop, #SussexSistersOfPower created their body parts in this creative workshop to explore issues and ideas around women's bodies. A creative workshop series prepared C4P members for the Brighton Catwalk4Power event (7 September 2019)

OPEN

C4P/6 Lunar/moon polaroid photographs from moon-gazing event 2019

18 colour polaroid photographs of the moon through a telescope, a campfire and individuals who attended a moon-gazing event with Lumen, 18 February 2019.

Information about the event from the depositor:

On 18 February 2019, Catwalk4Power met with Lumen (lumenstudios.co.uk) in their crypt gallery space at St John on Bethnal Green Church. After group discussion and refreshments, we walked to Phytology's urban nature reserve. There, we sat around a campfire, shared stories of our histories and folklore in other countries, under

the shared night sky. We took polaroid photos of the moon through a telescope.

On Friday 15 March, we met again at St John on Bethnal Green Church to hang our exhibition and share discussion on our exhibited polaroids, written texts, and audio visual projections of campfire stories and songs.

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

C4P/7

Female body parts from, 'Our Powerful Bodies' session one

2019

Female body parts made out of various materials, created at the first 'Our Powerful Bodies' workshop, which took place at Positively UK in London on 28 January 2019.

Information about the workshop from the depositor:

Participants chose women's body parts to recreate with textiles: vaginas, vulvas, breasts, bottoms, legs, lips hands, etc. While creating these parts, discussion was initiated on women's anatomy, sexual reproductive health, pleasure, trauma, HIV activism, and more.

This workshop was the first creative session of the year, preparing women for the I am Here Festival on 9 March 2019. The festival and conference was scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day 2019.

OPEN

C4P/8

'I Am Here' festival banner

2019

Large banner with paper hand shaped cut-outs and various decorated statements surrounding the words, 'I Am Here'. The banner was created by a collective of women from all over UK, who attended the 'I am Here' Festival Conference on 8 March 2019. 'I Am Here' is Catwalk4Power's leading empowerment mantra (2019)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

C4P/9	Clutch purse boxes from performance at Fast Track Cities conference	2019
	<p>Three clutch purse boxes in red with empowerment messages which read, 'I Am Bless', 'London Babe Has Arrived', and 'We Are All One', and feature various decorations. Catwalk4Power women strutted a catwalk length holding these clutch purses at the closing event of Fast Track Cities conference (September 2019)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
C4P/10	Catwalk4Power Zines	[2019]
	<p>Three fold-out zines providing information about Catwalk4Power, including the Brighton group Zine, '#SussexSistersOfPower', the London group zine, 'Positively UK Women and Act Up London Women', the I Am Here Festival zine, 'What is Catwalk4Power?', and a digital copy of the Manchester Group zine, '#ManchesterBeautifulBees' [2019]</p> <p>Note: digital material is stored in the digital drive and can be consulted in the researcher's area.</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
C4P/11	Catwalk4Power logo	2020
	<p>4 digital copies of the Catwalk4Power logo, including; one transparent copy; one with a white outline on a black background and two with a black outline on a white background (2020)</p> <p>Note: digital material is stored in the digital drive and can be consulted in the researcher's area.</p> <p>OPEN</p>	