

Summary of Lansdowne Scholar Visit from J Mase III

Visiting Lansdowne Scholar, J Mase III, arrived in Victoria, late, on Jan. 25. On Jan. 26th he met for approximately 1 hour with Dr. Aaron Devor, Canadian Research Chair in Transgender Studies and Founder and Director of the Transgender Archives. Afterwards, Mase attended a dinner with various faculty from the Department of Psychology.

Mase's talk on the night of Jan. 26th was titled, "How I Survived the Gay Rights Movement as a Trans Person of Color". Despite late planning and advertising (necessary, given the short window of availability for Lansdowne Scholar funds), and competing with Diversity Week activities, our room was filled to capacity (>50 attendees) with faculty, students, staff, and community members taking in Mase's talk. After his hour-long presentation, there was a lively question-and-answer session, and many stayed beyond the event's end to continue discussing issues of privilege, allyship, White Supremacy, and intersectionality that Mase's talk had raised.

On the following day, Jan. 27th, Mase gave a 3-hour workshop entitled, "The Solidarity Framework". Once again, our event was filled to capacity (~30 attendees), consisting of faculty and students from numerous departments. At the end of workshop, attendees had defined and shared concrete solidarity plans for the next week, month, three months, and six months. Mase was then taken to the airport, and departed back to Seattle.