The National LGBTQ Task Force is the nation’s oldest LGBTQ advocacy group, advancing full freedom, equity, and justice for all people. To make that happen, they do a combination of policy and movement building work.
Creating Change is the largest political gathering of activists and community leaders in the LGBTQ movement. The Task Force gathers 3,500+ attendees each year for skills building and networking. It was my job to help the CC Department plan the 2020 conference in Dallas, TX.
MY ROLE AT THE TASK FORCE

OUTREACH
- Built partnerships with racial justice organizations in Dallas to develop programming

RESEARCH
- Compiled conference resources on accessibility and gender identity data that can be used for years to come

LOGISTICS
- Began determining logistics for a robust list of day-long trainings on gender, race, higher ed, and more
The Racial Justice Institute is a series of racial justice trainings on the first day of Creating Change. For 2020, we aimed to source programming from local leaders. My main project was taking the lead on outreach and connecting with racial justice organizations in Dallas to convey the importance of Creating Change.
Analyzed feedback on previous years’ day-long trainings to create a ‘best practices’ list for future conferences.

Created a detailed research-based accessibility checklist to welcome attendees living with disabilities.

Researched practices for collecting gender identity data to make sure attendees feel respected.
Representing the Task Force at trainings and rallies, I learned about the magnitude of the social justice work being done in DC and across the country. Immigration justice, reproductive justice, equity in healthcare—these things are all inextricably linked to shaping LGBTQ lives.
Learning how to ask for help effectively and pursue opportunities to make my experience better was hugely important.

Solidarity is an actionable practice for all of us, and incorporating it into my life daily is more important than ever.

It is possible to have a workplace that accepts ALL of me as a queer Korean American woman. And I should accept nothing less.
CHALLENGES I FACED

COMMUNICATION
When organizations did not respond promptly to my requests, I had to problem-solve and strategize to keep the conversation going.

ISOLATION
As the only intern in my department, I sometimes felt detached from the workings of the rest of the Task Force.

UNFAMILIARITY
Not having done any conference planning work at this scale before, I often had to ask my supervisor for examples of my tasks.
Laid the foundation for the first locally sourced Racial Justice Institute programming at Creating Change.

Created resources that can be updated and used for many conferences to come to make the experience more equitable for all.

Greatly expedited timeline for assigning hotel space to day-long trainings, putting logistics ahead of schedule.
Although I have come to respect all forms of advocacy work, I have become most interested in working on policy.

Having a creative component to my day-to-day work is far more important to me than I had realized.

Forging relationships is essential to any kind of advocacy work, whether with collaborators or with authority figures.

POLICY  CREATIVITY  CONNECTION
Taken during my last week at the Task Force! I can’t believe I got to call these fiercely passionate, smart, funny, justice-minded humans my peers for eight weeks.
THANK YOU

to the National LGBTQ Task Force,
to my supervisor, Evangeline Weiss,
to my alumni partner, Suman Chakraborty,
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CREDITS

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