

CUNY STUDENT SUMMIT

**MAY 5,
2023**

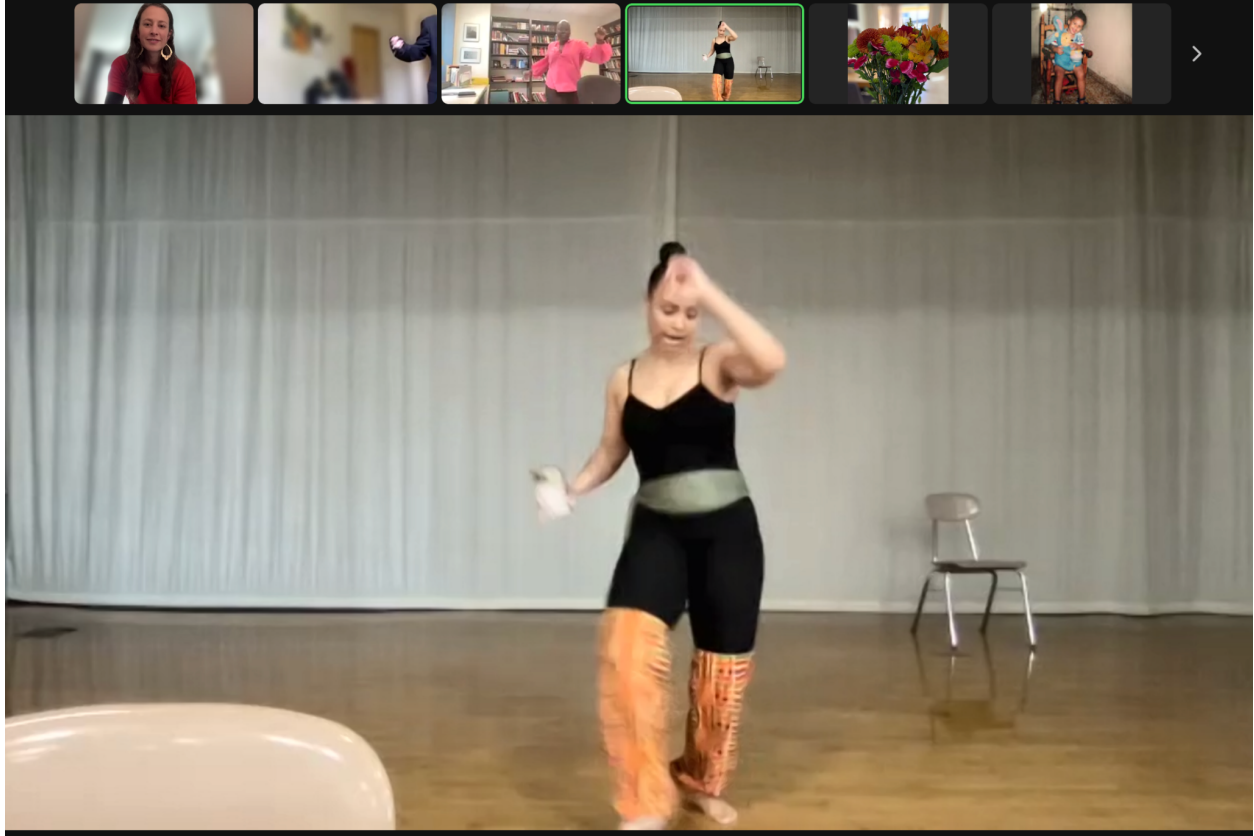
**9:00 AM –
5:00 PM ET**

**A virtual conference
hosted by TLH**

TLH | Transformative
Learning in the
Humanities

TLH CUNY Student Summit on the Role of Humanities in a Just Society - Event Recap

On May 5, 2023, [Transformative Learning in the Humanities](#) (TLH) hosted a day-long summit, organized by summit coordinator, Yuma Carpenter-New (MFA Program, Brooklyn College) and a 24-member [student advisory board](#), which worked throughout the 2022-2023 academic year to develop a call for proposals and plan the event. Over the course of 8 hours and with presentations from 45 students, participants and audience members of the virtual summit discussed, debated, and turned on its head the question: *What is the university you want?* Over 220 people came together to think about what their college community needs most, and to imagine ways to improve their social learning experience and academic life. The student summit showcased the voices of students, and provided them a platform upon which to practice for a future within the university of their dreams. Those dreams included safe spaces where respect, communication, and transparency are valued, and providing resources and support to faculty to equip them to put students' needs first.



The summit opened with a reading of a collaborative poem crafted by the Student Advisory Board, a manifesto outlining the desires and needs of students within the university, and an introduction to the summit to come, all read by TLH student advisors. TLH Faculty Co-Director Shelly Eversly shared her thoughts on the manifesto as an exercise and the role of students in shaping higher education. Eto'o Tsana then led participants through a dance pedagogy workshop which got everyone moving at the early hour. The bulk of the day was devoted to 11 different panel discussions with thought provoking ideas, broken up by brainstorming sessions and other creative breaks. Student panels were organized by interests shared by the student proposals and covered a wide range of topics including:

- On- and Off-Campus Resources
- Student Mental Health and Wellness
- Democracy in the Classroom
- Increasing Enrollment
- Better Support for Immigrant, First-Generation, and Undocumented Students
- Practical Tips for the Classroom
- Better Support for Non-Traditional Aged Students
- Decolonial Love: Importance of Ethnic Studies
- Mentoring in Faculty-Student Relationships
- Online Learning
- Peer Tutoring & Student Clubs

Students cannot prioritize their education if their basic needs are not being met!

If we want students to do well in school (graduating on time, participating in extracurriculars and honors programs, etc...) then we **must** eliminate outside factors that will inhibit their success SUCH AS housing insecurity, food insecurity, and economic instability!

One of the studies from earlier reads:

"The stress associated with housing instability and food insecurity negatively impacts daily life for low-income college students. The inability to meet basic needs has adverse consequences for their psychosocial outcomes and educational attainment including college completion, academic performance, concentration in class, class attendance, fear of disappointing family, sadness, hopelessness, isolation, embarrassment and frustration."

(*"Many College Students Struggle to Have Their Basic Needs Met"*, Harmony Reppond, Ph.D.)

University of Divine Arts

A University Dedicated to Social Change

By Keshon McNeil

After a packed day of presentations and discussion, the summit ended with an exercise inspired by the work of TLH Faculty Co-Director Matt Brim (Queer Studies in the English, CSI), who asks his students to write about their educational journeys with the simple question, "how did you get here?" taken several different ways (i.e. how did you get here, today; how did you get to this class; how did you get here, to college, and to this college?). Graduate Center Ph.D. candidate, Madeleine Barnes, who is researching the storytelling embedded in the centuries-old art form of embroidery, invited participants to create their own embroidery forms to tell the story of their own educational journeys.

