# Appendix A: Consent Form (Participants 18+)



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**Research Project Title:** The Impact of Creative Expression Workshops on Resilient 2SLGBTQ

Communities

**Principal Investigator Contact Information:**

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Sponsor: University of Manitoba

This consent form, a copy of which will be left with you for your records and reference, is only part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. If you would like more detail about something mentioned here, or information not included here, you should feel free to ask. Please take the time to read this carefully and to understand any accompanying information.

**Introduction and Purpose of the Study**

You are invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of the study is to ask you about the effects of creative expression on your ability to self-advocate to service providers and/or others in your community or circle of care.

**What you will be asked to do**

The study is made up of multiple components. You can participate in all of these research activities or some of these, and can stop participating at any time. You can also participate in the creative expression workshop without being a research participant.

A creative expression workshop once every week on Wednesdays beginning January 22, 2020 and ending February 12, 2020. Within the workshop, you will participate in:

* + An interview once during the span of the workshop at a time and location of your choosing.
  + Participatory research activities
  + Ethnographic Writing
  + Creative projects as data
  + Zine-making workshop

At the last workshop, we will discuss whether or not we want to collect our work for publication and/or public performance. Inclusion in this collection or event(s) is voluntary, should the group choose to go ahead with it/them. You may also choose to publish in this collection with the use of pseudonym. You may also publish your work independently. Should you decide to publish or perform your work, you will need to sign a separate consent form at that time. Note that publication is dependent on the guidelines of the publisher.

The zine we publish together, for the benefit of Sunshine House and other similarly-minded community organizations, will be published with the use of pseudonyms (fake names), and will not identify you as a participant of the study.

We (Katelyn and Fenton) will also participate in a panel discussion and companion podcast about the project at the University of Manitoba’s Institute for the Humanities after the workshop’s completion. If you would like to also participate in these events, you are more than welcome but are in no way obligated to do so. Any participants in these events will use pseudonyms for other research participants. If you would not like to be mentioned at all, please let us know.

**Overview**

The study includes a weekly creative expression workshop at Sunshine House over the course of 4 weeks (4 workshops), where we will all engage in creative exercises and be given time to construct and share longer pieces of writing/performance. All creative work will happen within the space of the workshop, though you are encouraged to be thinking about your piece(s) and others’ outside of the time of the workshop and working on any pieces you would like to develop for public performance/publication. You may create in any genre of your choosing (ie. Drag performance, monologue, poetry, prose, fiction, or non-fiction, etc.). Should you wish to write in a language other than English, please let me know and we can work on a strategy for sharing your work with others. In the final workshop, we will create a zine together that will collaboratively explore how creative expression affects our ability to advocate for ourselves and others to service workers and our communities of care that will then be published and distributed to Sunshine House and other non-profits.

Before the end of the workshop (in February), you will be asked to participate in an interview with Katelyn that may last up to one hour. In it, you will be asked questions about your strategies for self-advocating to service workers, loved ones, and others in your community; your capacity for constructing stories; and your sense of the value of literacy (not only language literacy, but also the way we read and understand our communities and others’).

Throughout the workshops, you will also be asked to participate in the construction of this research project (ie. what research output would be useful for you? What would you like to find out as a result of it?). At any time should you not want to participate in the research portion of these workshops, you may withdraw your consent by contacting Katelyn via phone or email or in person.

**Study Design**

**Who Can Participate in the Study?**

Any person 18+ who feel that they would benefit from an increased capacity to construct narratives about their lives and/or potentially gain a sense of empowerment through creative expression (eg. identify as 2SLGBTQQIA+, people of colour, people who use drugs, etc.).

**Who will be Conducting the Study?**

Dr. Katelyn Dykstra is the primary investigator of for this research project which is being supervised by Dr. Fenton Litwiller at the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management. Katelyn is a queer-identified white settler researcher whose prior research is in queer life-writing. Fenton is a genderqueer white settler researcher who has experience researching genderplay workshops with queer youth.

Both members of the research team have completed ethics training on the Tri-Council Policy Statement.

In addition to the researchers, there is a mentorship committee that will be providing guidance to the researchers on the design of the project, and also will be helping Dr. Dykstra provide feedback on your creative writing. This mentorship committee consists of the following people:

Dr. Hee-Jung Serenity Joo, Director of the Institute for the Humanities

Dr.Warren Cariou, Director of the Centre for Creative Writing and Oral Culture

Dr. Jordan Abel, Nisaga’a poet and assistant professor of Creative Writing at the University of Alberta

Dr. Richard Lemm, Creative Writing Professor at the University of Manitoba

Dr. Elena Ioannidou, Literacy researcher at the University of Cyprus

Levi Foy, Executive Director, Sunshine House

These mentors will not have access to any of the research data, but Katelyn or Fenton may discuss your creative work with them using pseudonyms so they can help you develop it, or may ask you if they can share your written work with these mentors using your pseudonym. The mentors will, therefore, not be able to identify you. They will not have access to any other research data.

**Possible Risks and Discomforts**

Other participants will know that you are participating and will hear the comments that you make in the workshop. Although all participants will be asked to keep information on who participates and what they say confidential, there is a risk that this information will be shared. Sunshine House will also be named in publications that come out of the workshop, which may indirectly identify you.

A transcriptionist will be hired to type up the recorded audio files from the interviews, but this transcriptionist will sign a confidentiality agreement and will remove files from their computer following confirmation of receipt of the transcripts by Katelyn.

Personal experiences that may be uncomfortable to hear may come up in the workshop, or may be brought to mind through the process of answering interview questions. You do not have to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable answering. You can leave the workshop, participatory activities, or interview at any time. For your support, the following resources are available:

Manitoba Suicide Prevention & Support Line (24/7)

1-877-435-7170

Klinic Crisis Line (24/7)

(204) 786-8686

Toll free: 1-888-322-3019

Sexual Assault Crisis Line (24/7)

(204) 786-8631

Toll Free: 1-888-292-7565

Crisis Chat Line (Monday to Friday: 10am-9pm)

www.supportline.ca

**Possible Benefits**

Currently, there is not existing research on the potential benefits of creative expression workshops. Therefore, there may not be any. That said, the possibility to secure and build community through the workshop and develop your own skills as a storyteller are potential benefits. You will also receive a short summary of the results of this study. After the workshop is complete you will have the opportunity to publish the work you have created in the workshop, either collaboratively or independently. Finally, the information you provide will be used in the educational materials of Sunshine House.

**Compensation and Reimbursement**

24-hour bus passes will be provided to anyone who needs them to get to and from the workshop and interviews for the day of that event. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will also be provided at each workshop.

**Confidentiality and Anonymity**

Other participants, Katelyn, Fenton, and staff at Sunshine House will know you are participating so it will not be possible for you to remain anonymous, though we will all sign confidentiality agreements. But, we will not disclose any information about your participation in this research except if compelled by law. This will be the case if we have reason to suspect the neglect or abuse of a child (under the age of 18), in which case we must report that to the appropriate authorities (Child and Family Services).

Notes about data storage: The participatory action activities will be transcribed to a word document. The field notes and journals will be transcribed into a word file. The interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed from an audio file to a word document and then uploaded into data analysis program. All original copies of the survey, participatory activities, field notes, and journals will be destroyed. All digital files will be stored on a password-protected computer and password-protected external hard drive. They will also be uploaded onto a secure data storage space (ie. Dataverse), but will not be shared with any other researchers or the public.

Based on findings from this study, Katelyn and Fenton will write journal articles, give conference presentations and other public presentations, update the educational materials of Sunshine House, and use this data to create other non-academic materials (e.g., the executive report for participants and Sunshine House). Every effort will be made to preserve confidentiality. For example, all participants will be asked to give a fake name (pseudonym). I will use that name to attribute any quotes that I use. Additionally, all contextual information will be removed from any quotes. No participant will be identified in these materials, although the final report I write, the zine, and academic publications, will indicate that this study took place in Winnipeg and with Sunshine House.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study/Freedom to Withdraw**

Please note, when you give your permission to participate, you are giving to participate in the workshop, participatory research activities, zine-making workshop, and interviews. However, you may withdraw from the participatory research activities, and/or interview at any time, just let me (Katelyn) know.

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You can choose which components of the study you want to participate in, and can withdraw from these at any time. However, once you participate in the participatory research activities it will be impossible to remove one person’s comments because the activity will not allow for the identification of one person’s contribution. You have **until February 24, 2020** to decide if you want me to remove your survey, interview data and the data related to the field notes taken during the workshop. After that time, it will become impossible to remove it because it will already be analyzed.

**Debriefing and access to research results**

By April 15, 2020 a summary of the results and a copy of the zine will be either emailed or sent by mail to a location of your choice.

Your signature on this form indicates that you have understood to your satisfaction the information regarding participation in the research project and agree to participate as a subject. In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the researchers, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, and /or refrain from answering any questions you prefer to omit, without prejudice or consequence. Your continued participation should be as informed as the initial consent, so you should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

The University of Manitoba may look at your research records to see that the research is being done in a safe and proper way. This research has been approved by the Education/Nursing Research Ethics Board. If you have any concerns or complaints about this project you may contact any of the above-named persons or the Human Ethics Coordinator at the University of Manitoba at 204-474-7122. A copy of this consent form has been given to you to keep for your records and reference

Please initial the statements below.

I have been provided with enough information to make a decision as to whether or not I would like to participate

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Initials)

I consent to participating in the workshop, participatory research activities, and interviews.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Initials)

I consent to having field notes taken by the researchers at the workshop

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Initials)

I consent to having the information from this study (including parts of my own creative work) used in journal articles, conference presentations and other public presentations, the educational materials for Sunshine House, and other non-academic materials (e.g., the report for participants and Sunshine House).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Initials)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Initials) I understand that my creative work is my own property and that I may use it in future publications, but copies of it may be made for research purposes by Katelyn. The original copies will be returned to me at the close of the workshop.