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INTRODUCTION



What is the Nonbinarian Book Bike?

The Nonbinarian Book Bike is a trans- and queer-led mutual aid initiative bringing LGBTQIA2S+ and QTBIPOC titles, authors, characters, narratives, histories, and educational guides directly into the hands of the community.

Established in October 2022, we achieve our mission through solidarity, not charity! This means we take care of us through mutual aid contributions of book and monetary donations, as well as time, labor, and community outreach.

Many young queer people do not have the funds or access to these books and with the rise of these titles being pulled and banned from schools and public libraries, free resources for queer and trans youth are becoming more and more scarce. Bringing these books to the folks that need them most will directly contribute to their empowerment, affirmation, and reclamation in a time of rising censorship and legislative violence.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

The Nonbinarian Book Bike was started in 2022 by K Kerimian, a trans-nonbinary disabled working-class artist, advocate, and reader. From October 2022 to June 2023, the custom book bike was entirely community funded, and our inventory is still collectively sourced through trades, exchanges, volunteers, and donations.

We achieve our mission through several means:



Outings and Book Drives

A volunteer takes the bike from the storage unit to a public park. Together with the help of other book bike volunteers who introduce the book bike mission and help catalog our available titles, the cargo bike stays open to the public for several hours and/or until it is empty. Drop-offs and donations are encouraged.



Local Event Pop-Ups

The book bike appears as a physical resource for community events hosted by local organizations with programs or services.



Digital Community

Our volunteers host a virtual queer book club and send out a monthly newsletter; we also maintain a robust network of Instagram and Discord users who help facilitate community discussions and projects.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Since successfully funding the purchase of our book bike last June, the Nonbinarian Book Bike has been on a total of seven park outings, five local community event pop-ups, a book drive, and helped co-host two beach read-ins this summer.

Photos from our first book drive on August 19.



We've been featured in places like *Electric Literature*, *The Mary Sue*, and *The Washington Post* thanks to the community's response and enthusiasm. We've also established an online presence and maintained several different avenues of fundraising to keep our mutual aid sustainable.



Thanks to your help, we've received, cataloged, and distributed over 500 unique titles this year.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We believe that book ownership is a right, not a privilege.

That includes new as well as used books; to that end, we've partnered with publishers and local independent bookstores to share brand new books with the community.

People can purchase these titles through a local independent bookstore willing to set aside these books for pickup, or directly purchase them through our Bookshop.org storefront. When enough books accumulate, a local volunteer can pick them up for bike outings and distribution events. We've also received donated titles in bulk from publishers, agents, and authors of queer books.

Many of these folks found us first online, whether through our website or our Instagram presence. We can source through our digital community book recommendations, project leads, partnerships, and media pitches that get the word out about our mutual aid initiative.

We also partner with fellow community members to coordinate book drop-offs. You can find some of our donated titles and materials at Mutiny, a collectively-owned queer barbershop in Gowanus, and through Operation Human Dignity, a local effort to build a library for queer and trans youth in adolescent wards and hospitals.



DIGITAL COMMUNITY



We use the following platforms as digital venues:



Newsletter

Our newsletter goes out on a monthly basis to subscribers who found us online or physically signed up at an outing. It includes our events calendar, purchasable links to queer books, articles written by volunteers, and themed book recommendations.



Discord

Our Discord server hosts several channels dedicated to queer books as well as a few channels specifically intended for strategy and event planning. We also periodically update our community of the bike's newest acquisitions through the #inventory channel.



Book Club

Our monthly virtual book club features a queer title co-distributed by a partner bookstore and facilitated by a community volunteer.



Instagram

Our Instagram account updates our followers about bike outing days and features queer authors and other book folk in #TandemTalks or platform takeovers.



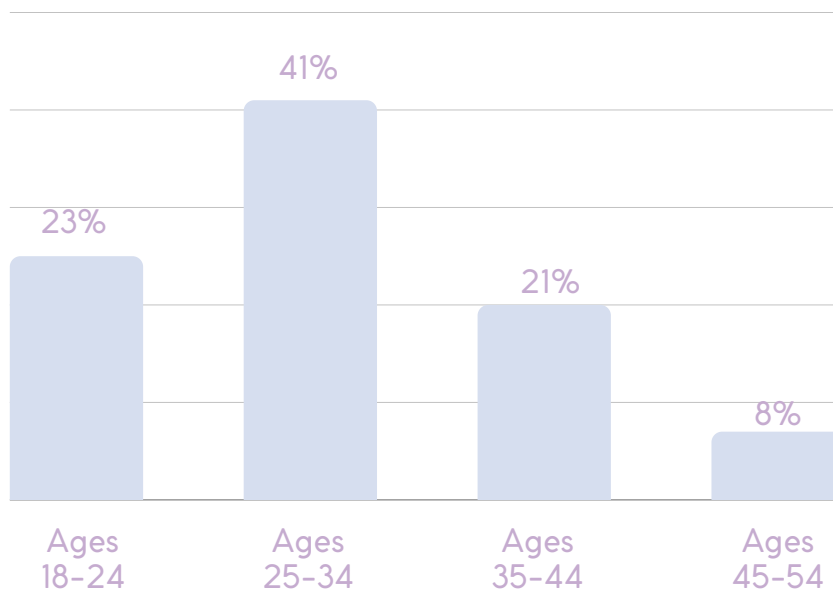
DIGITAL COMMUNITY

Social Media Insights



A Nonbinarian Book Bike Instagram post reaches over 6500 unique accounts, with a 8.77% engagement rate from 3K followers. That puts us in the **20th percentile** of accounts with a similar focus and follower count.

Our audience skews young, with the majority of our followers in the 18-35 range. Here is a general representation of our audience by age range:



Note:

The missing 7% are profiles held by minors or bots and have not been taken into account when calculating demographics.

Our peak posting hours are Mondays and Tuesdays at 3pm; Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12pm to 3pm; Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 12pm to 6pm.

Many of our top performing posts of the year were interactive and project-related. Many of them were photo carousels like our #RiisReads gallery or our Banned Books display.

FUNDRAISING

The Nonbinarian Book Bike continues to service the community through individual donations, scholarships, and grants.

We are previous winners of the BINC Foundation's Carla Gray Memorial Scholarship for Emerging Bookseller-Activists (2022) and the American Booksellers Association's James Patterson Holiday Bookstore Bonus Program (2022).

Support for the Nonbinarian Book Bike funds the following:



Inventory Storage

We rent a storage unit to hold the rest of our inventory. It also provides a safe space for the cargo bike during off-hours.



Bike Maintenance

The bike has previously been vandalized and needed to be restored. It also requires regular tune-ups, tire changes, and other standard maintenance tasks (just like any other bike).



Production Costs

We pay an annual fee for website and domain hosting. We also produce book bike merch and promotional materials, and there is an occasional recurrence of administrative costs, such as permits and shipping fees.

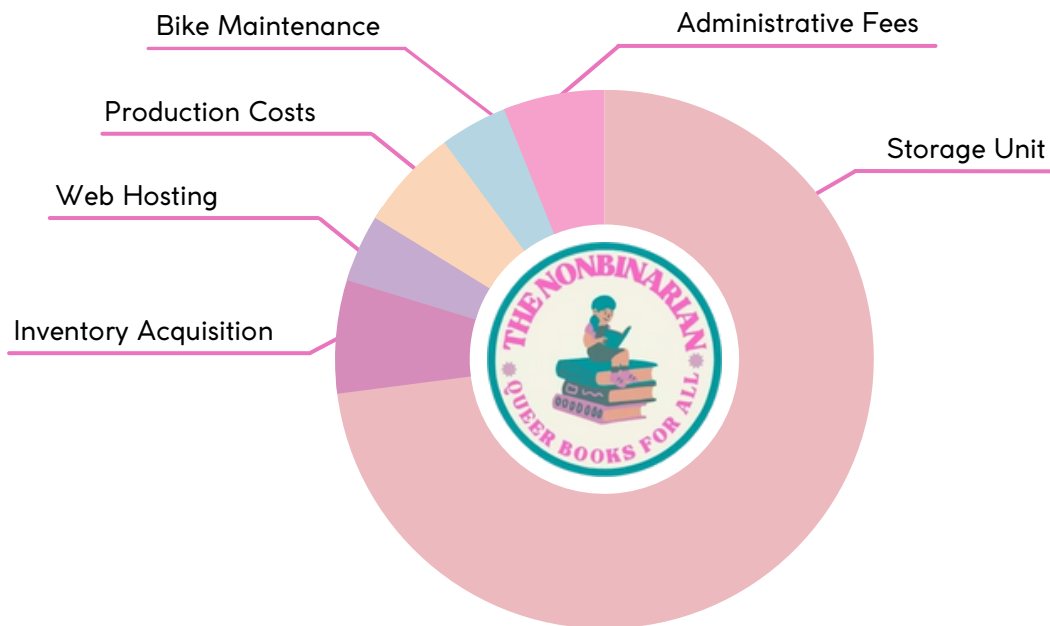


FUNDRAISING

Some costs, such as the web hosting and storage unit fees, are fixed. Others, such as merch production and inventory acquisition, are more flexible. When we run over budget, sometimes individuals pay them out of pocket at personal cost. We want to keep that from happening as often as possible in order to keep the bike going.

We use proceeds from Ko-fi, Bookshop.org, LibroFM, and individual Venmo donations as well as Bonfire and sticker merchandise sales.

Here is a visual representation of where that money goes:



Budget Items for the Nonbinarian Book Bike 2022-2023

Accessibility, intersectional inclusivity, and transparency are key to fulfilling our goals of service and solidarity.

NEXT STEPS

As the book bike turns one, we want to set a few goals for the future.

As we grow as a mutual aid initiative, and as a community of queer readers and literacy advocates, we want to think of the Nonbinarian Book Bike as a social activism effort with long-term goals and impact. We want to continue our stated mission of bringing LGBTQIA2S+ and QTBIPOC titles, authors, characters, narratives, histories, and educational guides directly into the hands of the community.

In the coming months, we'd like to establish an emergency fund, and find a more permanent 'winter home' for the book bike. We'd also like to be able to stock the bike with foreign language titles as well as brand-new middle grade or young readers' books. And finally, we'd like to have more outings. We always see a spike in contributions once people see the bike in action!

As our motto goes, *everyone deserves to see themselves on the shelf*, and now more than ever there is a need for queer and trans-led storytelling.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the contributions of the individuals and organizations who committed to the projects mentioned within.

It is their donations of books, money, time, knowledge, labor, and community outreach that make everything possible.

For a full list of friends and community partners of the Nonbinarian Book Bike, please go to our website.



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