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Student-led Collection Development for Diversifying Collections and Making Connections

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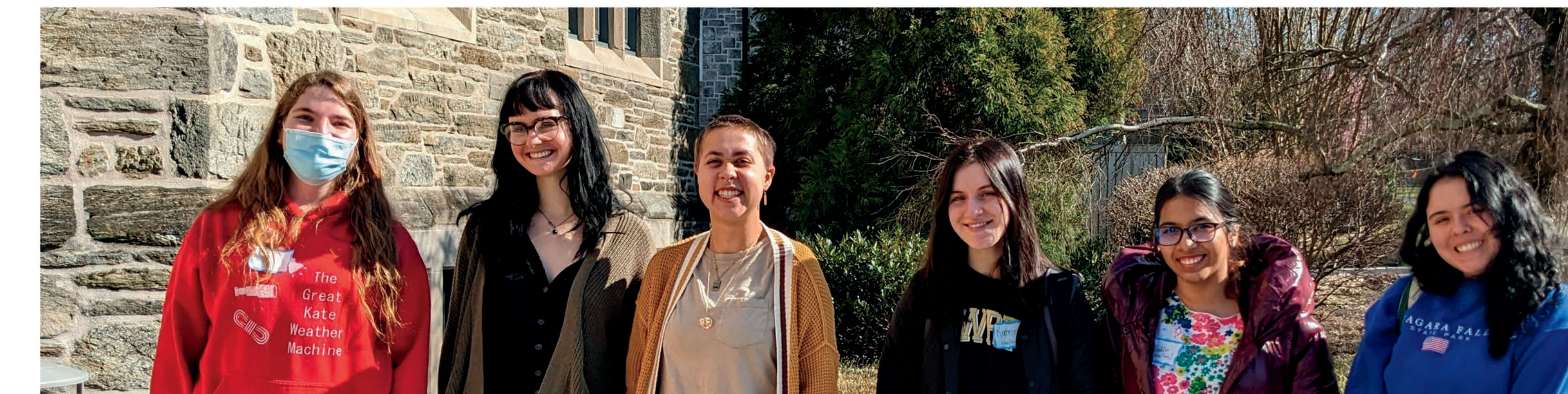
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Student-Led Collection Development for Diversifying Collections and Making Connections

Kate Blinn, Jennifer Coval, and Camilla MacKay
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BRYN MAWR
COLLEGE

Goal: promote diversity in the library collections by providing students with the knowledge and a budget to purchase popular reading material from Philadelphia independent bookstores whose collections reflect diverse voices



2023 student interns

Internship Development

Librarians at Bryn Mawr College established an annual paid spring break internship for undergraduate students focused on collection development.

Six students of diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and academic disciplines are selected based on their interest in books and reading.

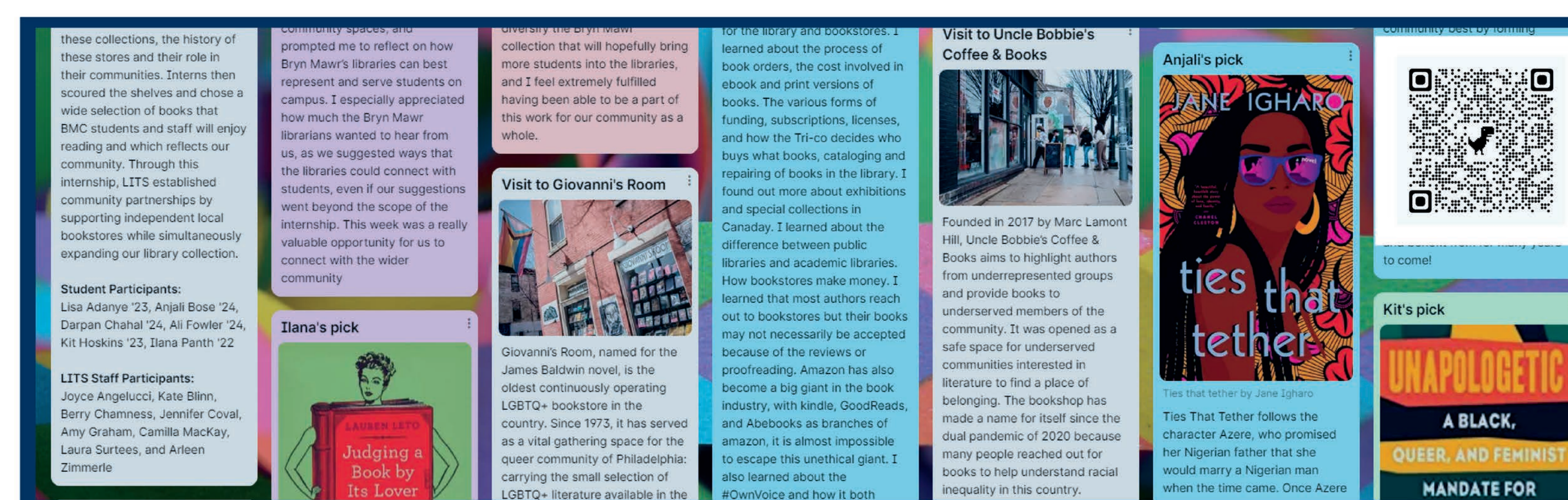
Independent bookstores with a focus:

- Philly AIDS Thrift @ Giovanni's Room, an LGBTQ/feminist bookstore
- Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books, a Black-owned community bookstore

Budget: \$5000 (books, student wages, incidentals)



Students at Uncle Bobbie's Coffee and Books, March 2022



Student-created Padlet with reflections and book recommendations

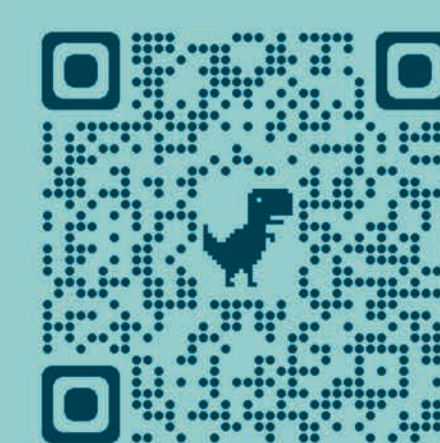
Program Highlights

Visits

- Local independent bookstores & college bookshop
- Local public library
- Behind the scenes tours of campus libraries

Student collection process

- Discuss academic library acquisitions and collection development
- Collate book selections; check library holdings
- Review and discuss selections; decide together on final purchases
- Students create online presentation with reflections and book reviews
- Library buys student selections from the bookstores
- Public celebration and display of new titles in the library



See more on
our program website

Outcomes

Students gain understanding and appreciation of

- Processes for choosing, acquiring, and displaying books in libraries and bookstores
- Themselves as consumers and the role this plays in shaping the shelves

"I did not realize that there is an immense amount of time, labor, and care necessary for a book to arrive on a shelf and, eventually into my hands."

Library expanded

- Relationships with student participants
- More ethical, equitable, and impactful selection and acquisition practices
- Business relationships with the bookstores
- Local impact by sharing replicable model: Haverford hosted 2023 internship featuring other bookstores

100+

student-selected books purchased each year

38%

of 2022 titles checked out

300+

firm order books purchased from independent bookshops since 2022