

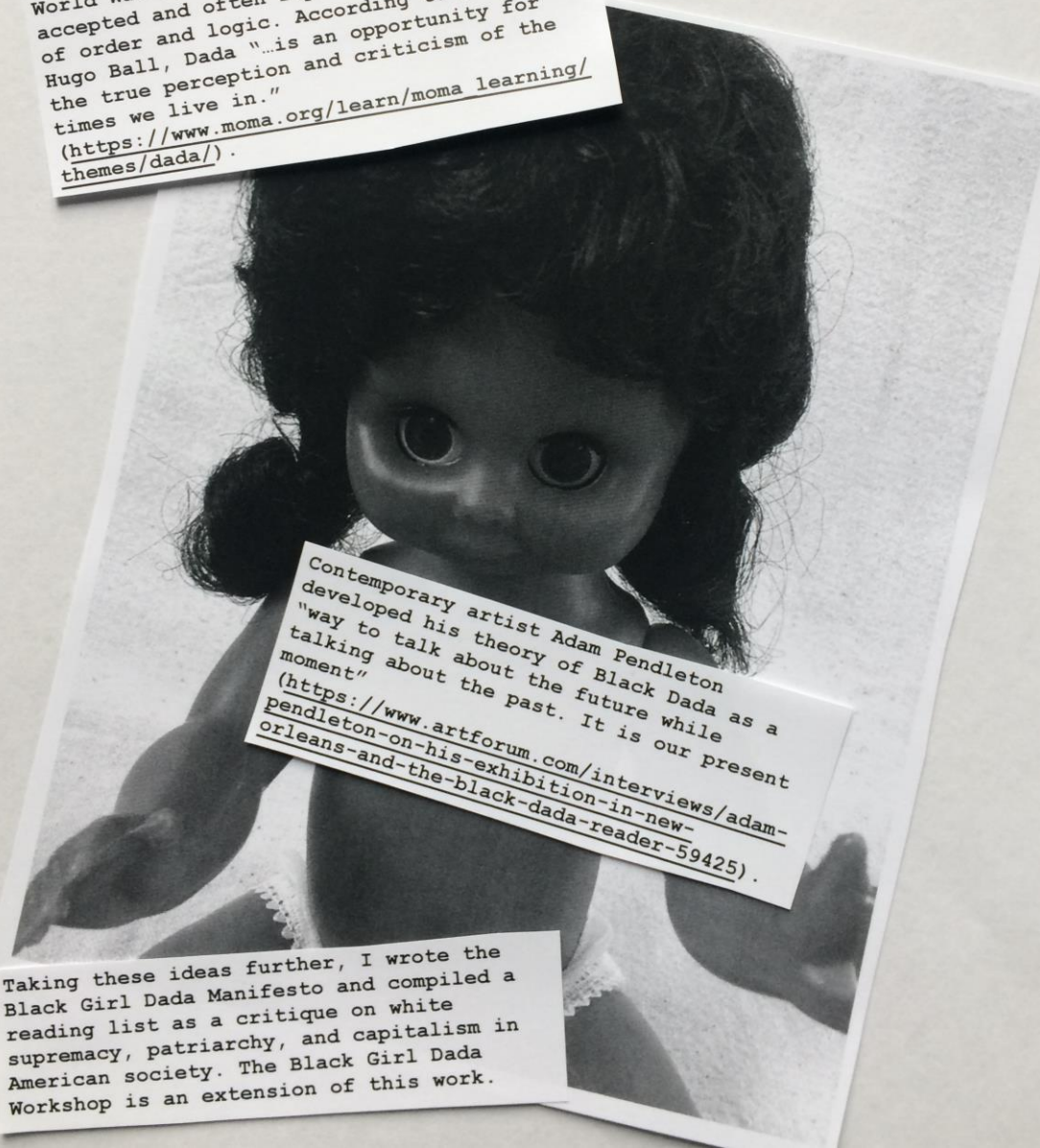


**Black
Girl
Dada**

***a project by
Nicole Davis**

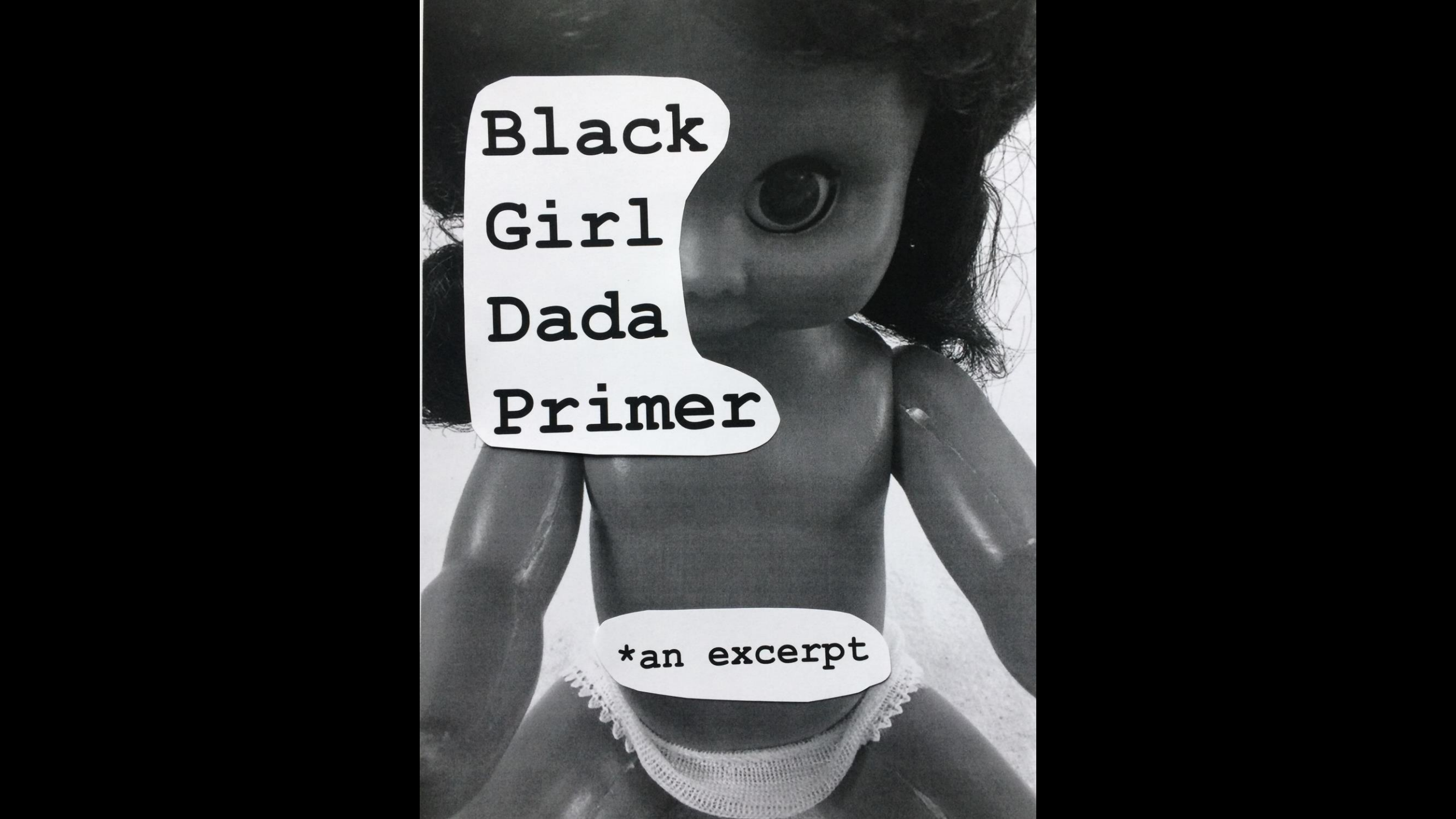
WHAT IS BLACK GIRL DADA?

Dada is an art movement started in the United States and Europe in 1916 and ending in the mid 1920's. Started in response to the brutality and horror of World War I, the movement sought to expose accepted and often repressive conventions of order and logic. According to Dada poet Hugo Ball, Dada "...is an opportunity for the true perception and criticism of the times we live in."
(<https://www.moma.org/learn/moma-learning/themes/dada/>).



Contemporary artist Adam Pendleton developed his theory of Black Dada as a "way to talk about the future while talking about the past. It is our present moment"
(<https://www.artforum.com/interviews/adam-pendleton-on-his-exhibition-in-new-orleans-and-the-black-dada-reader-59425>).

Taking these ideas further, I wrote the Black Girl Dada Manifesto and compiled a reading list as a critique on white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism in American society. The Black Girl Dada Workshop is an extension of this work.

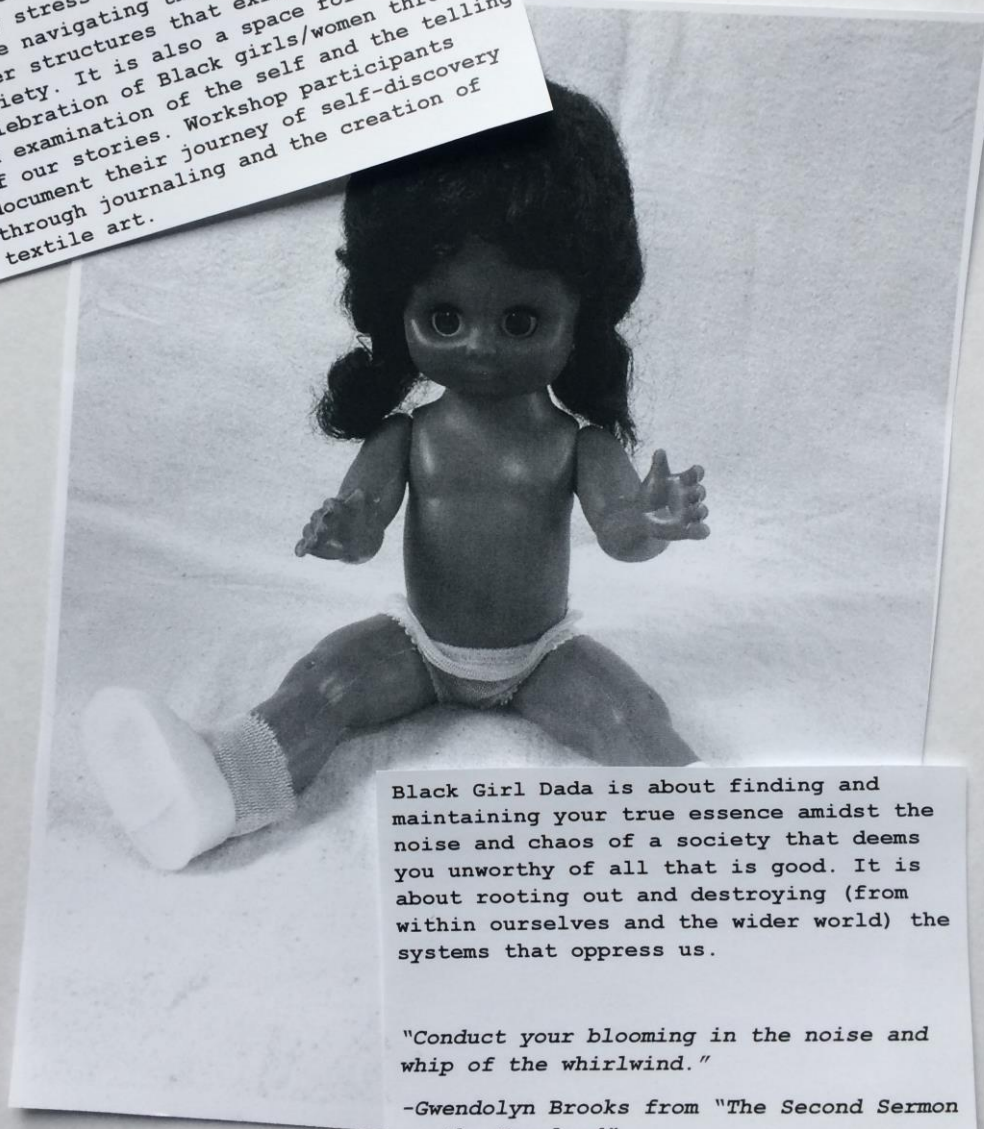


**Black
Girl
Dada
Primer**

***an excerpt**

INTRODUCTION

Black Girl Dada is a workshop created for Black girls and women. The aim of the workshop is to provide a space for respite. A space in which to process the daily stress of being a Black girl/woman while navigating the oppressive societal power structures that exist in our society. It is also a space for the celebration of Black girls/women through an examination of the self and the telling of our stories. Workshop participants document their journey of self-discovery through journaling and the creation of textile art.



Black Girl Dada is about finding and maintaining your true essence amidst the noise and chaos of a society that deems you unworthy of all that is good. It is about rooting out and destroying (from within ourselves and the wider world) the systems that oppress us.

"Conduct your blooming in the noise and whip of the whirlwind."

-Gwendolyn Brooks from "The Second Sermon on the Warpland"

WHAT TO EXPECT

Each section of the Black Girl Dada Primer is divided into three activities: SHARE, JOURNAL, and STITCH. The activities in the primer serve as a guide in your exploration of self. SHARE is a time to

hear the wisdom of others in the form of song, poetry, and quotes. JOURNAL is a time for internal reflection guided by given prompts. STITCH time is for visual expression of the self through the creation of your own textile piece.

"...come celebrate/ with me that everyday/
something has tried to kill me/ and has
failed."

-Lucille Clifton from "Won't You Celebrate
With Me"

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50974/wont-you-celebrate-with-me> (text and audio of Lucille Clifton reciting the poem)



SECTION 1: MANTRA

Black Girl Dada is about knowing who you are and defining yourself from the inside out, independent of what society expects or presents as "normal". Our definition of our true selves is often different than popular representations of Black girls and women. Defining ourselves sometimes involves turning away from what is being presented as "good" and "normal" in order to tune in and discover our own truth.

Take a moment and consider the following...
How do you view or define yourself? How does society view or define you?



SHARE:

"Turning" (poem) by Lucille Clifton
"turning into my own/ turning on in/to my
own self/ at last..."

-Lucille Clifton from "Turning"
http://openvault.wgbh.org/catalog/V_69EA2B8797C844D9A4A934FBA9B80B0C (video
commentary and reciting of the poem by
Lucille Clifton)



JOURNAL:

What do you hear when you turn, or tune, into yourself?

What is the tone of the voice that you hear? Is it a supportive and encouraging voice? Does it talk down or bad mouth you?

What words of wisdom does your spirit self have for you?

What are you turning, or tuning, out?

What are you turning, or tuning, in(to)?

STITCH:

Look closely at what you have written. Are there words that you have repeated? Is there a theme that runs through your writing? Circle or highlight what you find.

Use your response to the writing prompt and your investigation of it to create a mantra of what you are tuning/turning in(to). You are welcome to finish the sentence "I am tuning/turning in(to) _____", create a mantra of your own, or just choose one word for your mantra.

Stitch your mantra onto your fabric.

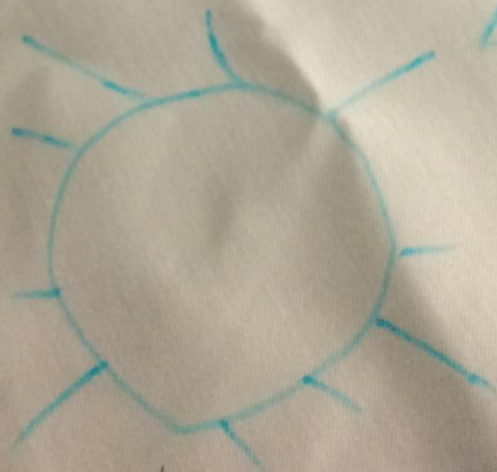


Workshop
photos

Handwritten notes on a piece of paper, partially obscured by a white envelope. The text is mostly illegible but includes the words "Diploma" and "Back".

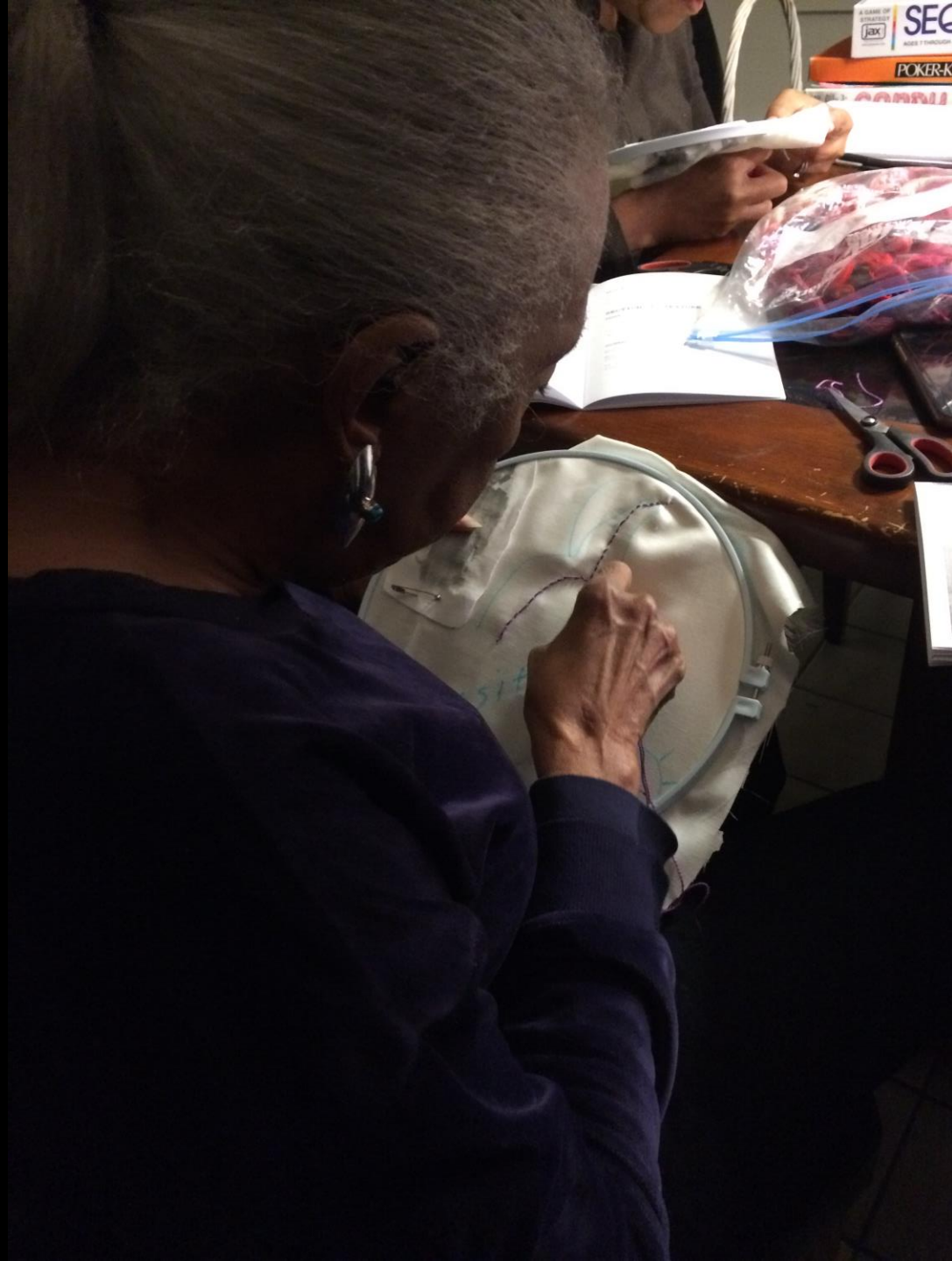


Positivity





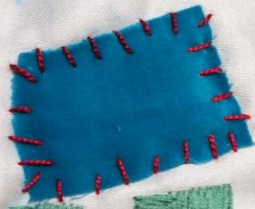












HOPE





Thank You
Broadway
Advocacy
Coalition!