Our Bodies Ourselves Today Launch Celebration
October 4, 2022

Transcript:
00:04 Welcome to the celebration of the launch of our bodies ourselves today at Suffolk University.
00:13 We did it. We did it.
00:16 And here we are to celebrate it. I know that you all took time out of your very busy schedules, and it is so much appreciated.
00:26 When I say that we did it, I mean all the many people who made this possible that our bodies, ourselves,
00:35 founders and board, all the contributors and this don't worry, this is not going to turn into like a an acceptance speech.
00:44 But there are a lot of people to think. And I want to thank the Obas Founders Board contributors. 00:49 I want to thank Suffolk University, which is home to our bodies ourselves today, including my colleagues, staff, students and alumni.
01:00 I want to thank our over 100 volunteers who are and also our partners and co collaborators,
01:10 and most notably, Sinead KENNEALLY, our program director, and also our incredibly generous donors.
01:19 So it really has taken there's an ecosystem of people who have worked together to support this and and get us to this point.
01:30 So here you're going to at this celebration today, you're going to hear briefly from a number of people,
01:36 a handful of people who will maybe more than a handful of people who have been major participants in our bodies ourselves today and in creating it.
01:47 And then we'll have a little time for Q&A, and then we will end the hybrid portion of the event,
01:53 and we'll go out and eat and schmooze and in the interests of concision.
02:00 I will now hand it over to Suffolk University President Marissa Kelly.
02:04 Thank you. Thank you, Amy.
02:12 And and thank you all for being with us.
02:15 Whether you're here in the room or joining us from all over the region, the nation, the world,
02:24 It is really exciting to be here today, exciting to to be at this point and most of all,
02:32 exciting to have our bodies ourselves today as part of Suffolk University.
02:39 You know, I was talking this morning, my wife was remembering, as you know, as a young child woman just getting into her teenage years,
02:48 her mother bringing the bringing the book home and introducing it to her and her older sister.
02:55 And, you know, what a what a important resource it has been for generations of of women now
and for me, both personally and professionally,
03:06 is exciting to to think about our bodies ourselves today continuing that on so that future generations of women will be looking back and saying,
03:16 you know, I remember when my mom introduced me to that website and and to the resources that it it provides.
03:23 So really, really an important step forward and way to ensure that this important resource continues to be available for for generations to come.
03:38 And it's especially, I think, appropriate that our bodies ourselves today is now a part of Suffolk University.
03:45 I mean, it makes sense from my perspective. And so if you'll allow me, I'd like to say why we
think it makes such great sense.
03:51 First, this is even going back to, you know, its early years.
03:57 There are lots of intersections between, between Suffolk and our bodies ourselves today.
04:03 First of all of course as a, as a book and as the board has always been, Boston based and Suffolk
was founded here in Boston in 1906.
04:12 And while we now have global reach as our bodies ourselves does,
04:17 we are still grounded in the city of Boston, and we have a lot of other intersections.
04:24 One of the founders, Paula Dress Orders, is a Suffolk alum, class of 1964.
04:32 But not too many of you knew that another Wendy Sandford served as Suffolk's campus minister
and also taught a class here on sex and society.
04:45 And in fact, over the years, we have had many other founders who
taught here, who were part of
advisory boards,
04:53 who sponsored events here, came and used our facilities and intersected with their faculty and our
students.
05:01 So a lot of really important connections over over time.
05:06 And as important as all that is,
05:08 I think actually what we share in common is a much more important reason that this is really a
logical home for this incredible resource.
05:18 Suffolk was founded in 1906 as an educational institution, obviously initially as a law school,
05:24 and grew from there and founded as on a mission of access and opportunity.
05:29 And that has been true at core to our mission as an educational institution from day one.
05:37 What that means, of course, has evolved as the world has evolved.
05:40 And so I'm very proud that we are now, you know, an institution committed to education,
05:47 to committed to access and opportunity for people of all races, socioeconomic backgrounds,
05:53 face gender identity, sexual orientations, while we, you know,
06:00 always have more to do to be an inclusive community, we're really committed to to education for
all.
06:07 And, of course, our bodies,
06:09 ourselves and our bodies ourselves today is first and foremost an educational resource committed
to ensuring that all people,
06:18 in this case women specifically have access to the resources that they need to make their
06:27 choices in the way that they want for their goals and the way they choose to live their lives.
06:34 And that is absolutely in alignment with Suffolk's mission.
06:38 So we're very excited to be at this point, again, to be part of this launch, excited for all that is to
come.
06:47 Great appreciation for Amy as the director of our Center for Women's Health and Human Rights.
06:53 And on behalf of the university, I want to thank the our bodies ourselves today community for
bringing this resource to to Suffolk,
07:01 letting us partner with you and again to do our work together to ensure that this resources of.
07:08 Valuable for generations to come. Thank you very much for joining us today.
07:24 Well, hello and welcome. I'm Judy Nursey and.
07:28 I'm one of the co-founders of Our Bodies ourselves. I'm also the current chair of the board.
07:33 That will be changing next year, which is exciting.
07:37 I have to say, this is a very emotional moment because it represents such hard work and
commitment on the part of a large group of individuals.
07:47 It's the culmination of a lot of thinking,
07:50 visioning and dreaming of a way to make our bodies ourselves live on this beautiful, wonderful
digital platform.
08:00 It is a work in progress, as you will see the groups that are curating some of the best content that's
out there,
08:09 either being created now or on the Internet and bringing it to this platform are amazing.
08:16 It's such a talented group and I encourage all of you to go and look at who those folks are.
08:22 I have a special personal thank you to Suffolk University.
08:27 I taught here for two years in the Master of Arts in Women's Health Program, and I taught
women's health advocacy.
08:34 I probably would call that reproductive health and justice advocacy now if I were to rename that
course.
08:41 And I was so impressed with the students and the other faculty and the commitment to focusing
on community needs.
08:49 It wasn't just about building an institution that would be famous.
08:52 It was about what does our immediate community need? And this institution has always thought
about that.
08:58 So for me, Suffolk is a perfect home for our bodies ourselves today.
09:02 And even as I step down as chair,
09:04 I'm going to stay active in all the ways that I hope to bringing the vision and the excitement and
the talents of so many people hundreds,
09:13 if not thousands in the Our Bodies Ourselves community, which is now a global community.
09:19 I'm not going to say more about the website. You're going to be walked through that,
09:22 but I do want to say that it's so inspiring and encouraging for me to see the kind of activism and
thinking and
09:32 the ways in which we're making this website even better than the book was by using gender
inclusive language,
09:39 by reaching out to groups of individuals that often don't have a voice.
09:43 Women who are incarcerated. Women with disabilities. We tried our best.
09:47 We did some of that. But this opportunity with the digital platform is going to enable us to expand
that vision,
09:54 that content and that ability for this website to be a useful resource to an ever growing audience.
10:01 So special thanks to you, Amy, and to you, Sonia, and to Kiki.
10:07 Zelda's, who is the web manager for our bodies herself, as you'll hear from her in a minute,
10:11 because working with you over the last year and a half and watching what the three of you have
done in particular has been overwhelming,
10:18 gratifying and immensely satisfying. So a special thank you from the.
10:30 Yes. That's right. Yeah. Me again.
10:36 So I want to just talk for 2 minutes.
10:40 We'll see if I can do it. See if I can keep it to 2 minutes about why I wanted to create our bodies
ourselves today here at Suffolk.
10:50 And any of you who know me know that I can talk about this for a long time, so see how concise I
can be.
10:59 There are personal reasons for me to want to continue our bodies ourselves into the future.
11:07 It was also in my household when I was growing up.
11:11 My mom kept it in the bathroom so me and my sister could, you know, learn what we needed to learn and be amazed.
11:19 And it's also been an important part of my professional life.
11:24 It is so important for all of us to have access to the information and resources we need,
11:31 as President Kelly said, to make the choices that we need to make.
11:36 And, you know, we're living in so I'll just briefly point out that we are living in an era where our civil rights and our human rights are being taken away from us.
11:43 And, you know, we're living in so I'll just briefly point out that we are living in an era where our civil rights and our human rights are being taken away from us.
11:48 Right. Not only the right to abortion in many states, but also the right to talk about it.
11:56 So my colleagues in Idaho this week got a memo from their administration saying that they are not allowed to talk about reproductive rights,
12:08 about abortion or about contraception. Okay.
12:11 They're coming for our contraception, too. Make no mistake.
12:14 I've been saying this for years, but now maybe people believe me a little bit more.
12:20 So there's the don't say gay bill. There's the all the anti-trans laws.
12:25 There's so much all the, you know, don't teach black history.
12:28 And, you know, all this clampdown on our free speech.
12:33 And I really see our bodies ourselves today as such among everything else that it is as a real antidote to that constriction on our rights and our freedoms,
12:47 including freedom of speech, freedom to say what we need to say.
12:52 I'm so glad I'm living in Massachusetts right now, so I'm not in danger as my colleagues in Idaho or Texas would be.
13:01 Of being charged with a felony for saying these words. And same for everybody else speaking today.
13:08 So we want to be the trustworthy resource, bringing together all the amazing work being done by activist organizations,
13:19 by scholarly organizations, etc. on the internet.
13:22 The one stop shop and to at the same time to lift up the work that's being done by all these incredible groups.
13:34 So that's all I'm going to say for now. I handed over to Sonya to do the walk through.
13:40 Thank you. Hello, everyone.
13:48 Thank you for joining us today. My name is Sonia Gannaway. I'm the program director for Our Bodies Ourselves today.
13:55 I just want to take a brief moment to basically thank everyone who has already been thanked.
13:58 But I will do it as well as, again, from myself.
14:01 It's been an extraordinary experience and I'm so thrilled to share the website with you, which is what I'm going to do.
14:07 So I'm going to take you through a quick walk through of the website.
14:10 You're just going to see some screenshots today. So, you know, they're not very interactive.
14:14 Please go to the site, explore the site, dig into it. We want you.
14:18 We built this for you and we want you to experience it. But with that, let's do a little walk through.
14:25 So this is a screenshot of our home page.
14:27 And when we designed the site, we really wanted it to be as welcoming and fun as inviting for as many people as possible.
14:34 And I'm going to talk a little bit about some of those elements. But one thing we just did with that is through the use of color.
14:39 And so we use a lot of dual tones and different subject areas have a distinct color.
And we wanted this to, like I said, be really fun for our users.
It was critical that we also had different ways of folks who could get at the resources.
And so we have numerous avenues of searching.
You can see the search bar here and you can also see in the upper right hand corner our menu, which appears on every single page.
As you scroll down, you can actually see some of our featured health and sexuality info posts.
We have the ability to change that and we will. As you know, life changes and stories change.
We can feature different resources on the home page.
You continue to scroll down, you can see the nine subject areas with which we launched.
We will grow and add to that as the years, as the years, come on.
And we grow as an organization. You continue further down the Web on the homepage.
Excuse me. You can see a little bit about the history of oboes.
We have global translations, the history and legacy and activism and advocacy that you can explore at your leisure as well.
And then finally, at the bottom of the page, we have news and press. Given that we launched just a few weeks ago,
we actually received some wonderful news coverage and we can change that and feature that on the home page as well.
Now, taking you to what is colloquially called the hamburger menu, you can find this in the upper right hand corner.
This is kind of your toolkit or your guide for the entire site.
You can access this at any time by clicking that hamburger icon in the upper right hand corner.
And you can see almost every aspect of the site, including our health and sexuality info the about us and the other aspects of the site as well.
We also, like I said, really wanted to make sure that folks had access, easy access to the subject areas.
So we included the dropdown menu from any page. You can actually go and see the different subject areas and you can click on them if you're, you know,
then want to learn something about pregnancy and childbirth, you can click directly on that.
And when you go to our Health and Sexuality Info homepage, this is what you're greeted with.
We have our subject areas in alphabetical order. Order that you can scroll through.
And as I mentioned earlier, with the use of color, we actually assigned each subject area with a specific color scheme.
So it's kind of a road map for you as you explore the site.
This, for example, is gender based violence, heart health, and you can also see mental health as well.
So it's really just a way to kind of a visual guide for users of the site.
When you click into one of the subject areas, in this case, contraception and abortion,
you can see we have a short intro that really provides wonderful contextual information for folks as they explore that particular subject area.
And as you scroll down, you can see the specific themes within each subject area.
In this case, you're seeing access to contraception and abortion.
Again, we did this to kind of create a road map for folks.
Some people to go to the site, they don't actually know what they want, what they're looking for.
And so this road map helps folks there. And you can also see we have you can identify how many individual resources are in that theme.

You can view all of them. Or you can see just a teaser of a couple of a couple here.

This is just one example of a resource. I wanted to show you what happens when you click into it. This is a brief history of birth control in the U.S. It's one of our most read resources, actually.

As you scroll down the page, you can just see the text in a very clear way.

We also have numerous links that we provided there to provide more contextual understanding.

This site would not exist without our experts, there's no doubt about that.

We have over 100 folks who have been working with us to curate the resources, and I don't have time to go through 100 people today.

So I am encouraging you to go to the site and explore the experts on your own.

You can read their bios and things like that, but I just wanted to show you and kind of walk you through on the left hand side,

you can see the menu and you can click on a particular subject area.

You can also go into each of the individual experts, like I said, to read about their bio and learn more about them.

But I did want to highlight a few of those today. Again, don't have time for all 100.

The last thing I wanted to bring your attention to was our topic section.

Our bodies, our souls. Today is a comprehensive resource and we have a lot of material in there.

And as I said, not everyone goes to the site knowing exactly what they want to want to look for, what they're looking for.

And so we created this topics A to Z section to really highlight the vastness of the resource.

So on the left hand side, you can see you can search by subject area again, you can also search by content type.

This is not you know, the book is a text format.

We're not doing that anymore. We have a lot more freedom to play with resources and including videos, audio and so forth.

And then you can actually click on the different topics and you can see it's a very long list.

I'm not going to show all of them today, but you'll be able to see a good number of them.

And the other thing we've done is created a filter option.

So if you go up, you can actually start to search for something.

So in this case, if you're searching for menstruation, you can start to type in E and S and it will actually filter the topics for you.

So this is a great resource. If you're not if you're a user to the site and you're actually not sure what language to use,

you can play around with that and really be greeted with a good number of topics then that you can explore.

And then I will conclude by just saying, if you like what you saw today, you're welcome to donate to our bodies ourselves.

Today we are. We really appreciate all your support and the support of those who have worked with us in the past.

So with that, we actually have a small video presentation we want to share with you from Kiki, who is one of the original Our Bodies Ourselves founders that will take you through a little bit more of the site.

Hi, my name is Kiki about this and I work for our bodies ourselves.
So I just gave you a brief overview of the heart of the new website, which is in health and sexuality resources.

And I want to give you just a brief overview of some other sections that are on the website. The History and Legacy Section tells the story of the founders of our bodies ourselves, who first met more than 50 years ago at a female liberation conference in Boston. On the site, you can find the newspaper announcement of that conference, the entire first edition, which was published in 1970, and details about each of the following eight US editions.

You can also find materials on the history of the early women's health movement and learn about what has changed and what hasn't changed since those early years.

The next area of the site is the Global Projects section. This features the work of the women's groups from around the world who have translated, adapted our bodies ourselves into 34 different languages.

Most of these books are available on the site, either as excerpts or as a full downloadable edition. You can also find information about the global groups that produced these adaptations and the challenges they faced as they adapted the book for women in their own countries.

The translations and adaptations projects continue today with a group of women in Brazil about to publish a Portuguese adaptation and a grassroots feminist organization in Morocco who is about to release Arabic and French adaptation.

Finally, I want to point out the section on the site that highlights the activism and advocacy that our bodies ourselves is currently involved in, from increasing access to midwifery care to spreading the word about self-managed abortion.

I want to end by saying that all of us at our bodies ourselves are thrilled to be collaborating with Suffolk, with the center, and with the whole team at Opus today.

We are just delighted that so many of you at this gathering are contributing your energy, your expertise, and your wisdom to our work today so that the work of us began more than 50 years.

Okay. So next we are actually going to hear from several members, some expert members of our panel.

So we are actually going to start with Pamela merritt, who is chair of our contraception and abortion panel.

And I will leave it up to the individual experts to introduce themselves more fully if they should choose to.

Thank you so much, Sonia, and thank you and congratulations to you, to Amy, to Suffolk, into the world of reproductive health rights and justice.

So excited about this launch.

And I want to speak just briefly about why I decided to be a content chair, a vertical chair.

So I am the executive director of Medical Students for Choice, which is a global nonprofit that basically supports medical students and physicians in training as they seek a modern and comprehensive medical education in abortion and family planning all over the world in 28 countries.

To me, getting being asked to chair this vertical was a tremendous honor.

And my decision to join was based in a just tremendous respect I have for our bodies ourselves,
24:24 for its incredible role in the movement for reproductive health rights and justice, but also for the reality that I knew we were going to be facing.
24:37 It wasn't a matter of if it was really going to happen soon.
24:44 So to my knowledge and my value system.
24:49 Knowledge is power in every way, shape and form.
24:54 Learning keeps knowledge alive, and particularly the knowledge of abortion and contraception across multiple cultures.
25:05 Education is in a time of great oppression, is revolutionary, and it's fundamental no matter what.
25:16 But right now, with the threats to access and to education and to facts that we currently face in the United States and all over the world,
25:29 sites like our bodies ourselves today provide an opportunity to to keep this knowledge
25:37 and expand this knowledge so that we can build towards liberation in the future.
25:43 So thank you so much for the opportunity to speak, and I hope that you get a chance to check out the abortion and contraceptive that vertical.
25:56 Thank you. So next we have Janie Ward, who's chair of our mental health panel.
26:06 Hello, everyone. I am Jenny Victoria Ward.
26:09 I am professor emerita of from Simmons University.
26:16 I just recently stepped away from my teaching and caring responsibilities and actually retired.
26:26 And it's great. And like many of you here, I saw my very first version of our bodies ourselves when I was in high school.
26:39 I had just begun high school.
26:41 And I remember that that copy, I think it was sort of mimeographed, if any of you here remember mimeograph with the staples on the side.
26:52 And it was distributed clandestinely in this high school in Watertown.
26:58 And what I remember is that a lot of the women in the school were just totally blown away by this document.
27:07 And I think that the younger women were like, you know, oh, okay.
27:13 You know, so you've never seen that. And I tell you that story because I think that one of the things that young people
27:22 learn by watching older young girls learn by watching older women is that,
27:28 you know, they become used to things.
27:31 And I think that our generation learned to expect explicit, honest, gender relevant health related information because of our bodies ourselves.
27:45 Right. Of course. Now, when we got a little bit older and hit the real world and said, doesn't quite work that way, but that was our expectation.
27:54 And of course, over the years, additional editions of the book, it got bigger, it got better, it became more inclusive and more up to date.
28:04 But something else happened, and that is the Internet.
28:08 The proliferation of information on women's health, on the Web just exploded.
28:15 There was a lot of good stuff. There is a lot of good stuff. But we also know there's a lot of not so good stuff, you know.
28:23 So when I received the call that our bodies ourselves today was about to start a new project that would shift from print to a digital format.
28:35 I thought, Wow, that's really kind of cool.
28:39 And then I thought, How are you going to do that, Cynthia?
28:47 Thank God. I mean, I have to give so many shout outs to this woman.
28:52 She helped to assemble an incredible group of intrepid curators in mental health.
29:01 Our group consisted of clinicians, researchers, professors, activists.
29:08 It was a multicultural group of women who came together to discuss what we feel is really important information to disseminate about
29:18 women and mental health in these times that we are living in and to go through the very many resources that exist on the web and,
29:29 you know, really think about what is what's a value that we should be directing people towards.
29:36 It was truly a daunting task and continues to be kind of daunting.
29:41 There's an awful lot that's out there, but we did our best to get some really good mental health resources up and ready for the launch.
29:54 I want to first I want to just say thank you to the women who were the mental health experts who were in my group who generously gave their time.
30:07 We had great conversations. I mean, really interesting conversations that pushed a lot of us beyond what we were comfortable with, frankly.
30:19 And we learned so much. And thanks once again to Cynthia and to Amy and to everybody at our bodies ourselves.
30:28 You guys are problem solvers, you know, are of the highest caliber.
30:36 And your calm, decisive demeanor helped us to get to where we are today.
30:44 And you and I are more organized than I will ever be.
30:49 So I want to encourage everyone here to go online, play around with what's there.
30:54 If there are things that you think are missing, get in touch with us because we are still working on this baby.
31:03 And it's very exciting. And I'm. Glad you're all here.
31:11 Thank you. So next we have Noel Spencer, who is a member of our Menstruation through Menopause panel.
31:17 Noel Thank you, Sonia. Hello, everyone.
31:20 It's so great to see you all here. My name is Noel Elizabeth.
31:24 I'm a member of the Menstruation Through Menopause panel and I'm really excited to just talk to you
31:28 a little bit about why I wanted to be part of the panel and what that experience has been like.
31:33 So when you asked that question of, you know, why did you want to be part of the panel?
31:37 I initially listed out about five main reasons.
31:41 I would say. The first would be just personal interest and investment.
31:44 As a woman living with PCOS, I really understand how difficult it can be to find accurate,
31:49 relevant and timely health information that felt accessible and interesting to me,
31:56 especially for our health conditions that are considered to be women's reproductive health.
32:00 I think a lot of us in this room know that those conditions are not often given the same attention as others.
32:07 So I was really appreciative first to hear of a resource that was going to focus on more of those types of conditions and thoughts.
32:15 Secondly, as a public health,
32:16 professional mental health is an important part of the overall health and well-being of more than half of the global population.
32:24 And access to resources, including medicinal products and educational resources like those offered by our bodies ourselves today,
32:31 are key to really starting to advance human rights and to address some issues of gender equity.
32:37 Again, with that mentioned education piece, access to information that is diverse in its content, whether that's with age, race, ethnicity, gender and any other identity category as well as looking across the lifespan, is key to really addressing menstrual stigma and having comprehensive answers to any questions. And information about menstruation can really reduce internalized stigma and hesitancy to discussing menstruation and a societal level.

33:06 And finally, it was really just excitement from the people around me. So everyone that I've spoken to about our bodies ourselves today, whether that's my peers, my friends, my great aunt, my mom, everyone's been incredibly excited about this new era and the newest era of our bodies ourselves.

33:23 And we are just I'm just so excited to be able to be a part of that. And now just thinking about the experience very briefly and I'm running out of time.

33:28 It's overall but an amazing experience. It's been fun and exciting. Our discussions, it sounds like, have been similar to the mental health discussions that have been complex at times and really pushed boundaries and, you know, asked all of us to share our expertise, but also make space for others and for all diverse perspectives and really encouraged all of us to think about the content that's out there on the Internet in diverse ways and think through lenses that are really going to bring as many voices into the room as possible.

34:01 And I'll just close a little anecdote. I've been very excited by the menstruation through menopause team, how we've been able to identify and fill our own gaps. So one gap that came up right before we launched was you realize even though we're menstruation through menopause, we did not have as many menopause resources as we would have liked.

34:20 And so instead of waiting for after launch or just sort of resting on our laurels, we got together over those, I think, two weeks. And we're able to curate some really engaging, quality, quality resources that reinforce the focus of our bodies ourselves today on the life span approach, not just on any one part of the life.

34:39 So I just want to echo my colleague here by encouraging you to go online and to check everything out, because our bodies ourselves today really highlight the importance of mental health, education, health, education overall for anyone who wants to learn more.

34:52 Thank you. Thank you. And next, we have Pablo Jamal Santiago, who is actually a Suffolk student and was one of our great interns. Hello, everyone.

35:04 And she will talk about her experience as well. Hello, everyone. I just wanted to thank you all for coming to celebrate all the hard work we've done these past few months for our bodies ourselves.

35:13 Today, as Sonia mentioned. My name is Bella Santiago and I'm a senior here at Suffolk University, majoring in sociology.

35:22 This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to work with a wonderful group of people, an intern with us today.
Our common goal was to prepare for the launch of the website so that women, girls and gender expansive people could have a platform to search for accurate and reliable information regarding health and sexuality.

As someone who is about to begin her career in sociology, I have decided that whatever I choose to do with my career, my main goal is to help make this world a better place to live. And since we all know how hard life can be, at times, this means helping people understand others and showing them how to be inclusive and empathetic towards all kinds of people and society.

So when I heard about the opportunity to intern for our bodies ourselves today,

I recognized how I could impact the lives of those who don't feel as included in society.

Throughout my journey with all of us today, I was able to learn so much not only about myself and my body,

but about I'm sorry, but about those around me as well.

Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in our lives and disregard other people's lived experiences just because we don't personally go through the same things others go through.

But with this internship,

I was able to take a step back and learn about other people's experiences and understand how the things we go through in life shape our past,

present and future.

One of my favorite things about working with our bodies ourselves today was a variety of tasks that I got to work on based on my interests.

During my experience with OCD, I was able to become a better interviewer and a better writer.

My second favorite thing about interning with a boss today was that I shared the same values as organization.

I strongly believe that we all deserve to know about our bodies.

In fact, I believe that learning about your body should be a basic human right.

Our bodies ourselves today shares this belief and ensures that those who want to learn more about themselves are being provided with accurate, reliable and up to date information.

If you agree with or relate to anything I said, I think you should definitely try interning for our bodies, ourselves, souls today,

and experience working with people who share your values and who want to see you succeed in whatever it is you choose to do.

If you enjoy helping other people and want to make this world a better place for all, then I suggest volunteering with our bodies ourselves today.

Thank you. Thank you. Let the record reflect.

We did not ask her to say that. I promised. No. Okay. And lastly, we will hear from one of our leadership council members, Jaclyn Friedman.

Hi, everyone. Congratulations, everyone.

This has just been honestly incredible to hear from everyone to be with you, at least virtually, to celebrate.

What an incredible accomplishment. At a time when we are being reduced and put in narrower and narrower boxes,

our bodies ourselves today is here to help us understand ourselves as a whole, get what we need to stay that way and connect us to a larger whole.
Having this reliable one stop shop on the Internet for trusted information is especially important right now as public education itself is under attack around the country, especially education about race, gender and sex and sexuality. They're calling for public education. They're on record. Greg Abbott is on record saying he'd like to undermine the Supreme Court case that set a right to universal public education.

So please be aware they're doing it because they know knowledge is power and they know that what Janie Ward just referred to, once people learn that they're entitled to information about themselves in their lives, you can't take that knowledge away from us about what we're entitled to.

Once we know that we have that entitlement. So, you know, there are lots of folks, including myself, fighting back against this extremism. But people that need this information now and it is more important than ever in 2022 that this resource has come roaring back to life in such an incredible way.

I'm just thrilled about it. Building movement power is what this is really doing. And, you know, in addition to increasing individual access to information, connection and education, our bodies ourselves today is bringing attention and power to the trusted sites that our experts are lifting up and curating.

So we're creating a network of resources on the Web that we are saying, here's where you can get the information you need. Right. That links out to Scarlet Teen. That's also a way that somebody might learn about the great other resources you can read at Scarlet Teen.

And I love the way that this project not only is building out the information that's on the site itself, but building up the movement resources that we know that we can trust that are experts say that we can trust.

It's also, as we heard today, building communities and connections among our experts, which we hope like I love hearing these stories about what the conversations are like in the expert panel rooms and what's happening.

And I'm very hopeful that people getting to engage with each other on these expert panels will foster all kinds of fruitful collaborations.

And I'm excited to see where that goes. And in the very design of the new our bodies ourselves today as a constantly updated and evolving resource.

Right the website is not a fixed thing like a book. It's a it's a different kind of a thing. It models that our understanding of our bodies and ourselves are constantly evolving, building our own resilience and adaptability in a time when we could not need it.

More on a personal note, I first came to this project in 2018 when I ran to Amy outside the Boston Book Festival, and she was like, I think that I'm going to reboot our bodies ourselves as a website.

And I was like, Do you know how to do that? She was like, Yeah, I'm fine, and we can do that. And I had the honor of coming on in the early couple of years of the incubation of the project as a consultant, and for a year at Suffolk as an activist and residents also helping to foster this project and now on the Leadership Council.

And I just want to say, I mean, I we owe a debt of gratitude to everybody on this project. But I just want to say one more thanks to Amy for just making the impossible possible.
And I want to end on that note, because I think that producing hope at a time of such loss and such difficulty and fear, a game like this, this incredible thing, you know, this is a thing that we didn't think we would have anymore or bodies ourselves. And to bring it roaring back into life is a demonstration of what's possible when we work together for justice and liberation. And I can't wait to see what more continues to come of it for years and decades to come. So everyone, please share this resource. Let everybody know our bodies ourselves is back and it's online. Donate and volunteer. If you've got gifts, we can use them. And also, please join me in giving a huge round of thanks to everyone who brought this project to life. Thank you. So that is the conclusion of our presentations. But we do want to allow a few moments for Q&A. If there's Q&A, either from our online audience or an in-person audience, we are really here to open the discussion. So do we have any from the online audience munchkins? We do not yet. So anyone online, feel free to pop in your questions. Any improvement in my. It's a question. So the question should go in the Q&A, not in the chat. We have the chat closed down for this, but it looks like we have two questions in Q&A, I think, and is going to tell us what those are. Yes. So we have one. How are you getting the information out to a giant audience? Well. That's where you come in. You know, I think we we have a wonderful and difficult problem, which is we want to reach as many people as possible. But that also means then you have to go very specific and you have to, you know, really reach specific and target audiences. And so this is an ongoing thing. You know, we launched several weeks ago, we hit some mainstream news publications, but now we're actually refocusing and target and targeting audiences. So, for example, we're speaking with different college newspapers across the country to get stories written in student newspapers. We're targeting or not Target, I should say, but we're reaching out to LGBT, LGBTQ youth groups to share the site with them as well. So that is an ongoing process that involves thinking both big and small so that they work together. Judy. Yes, I can add a little to that. Many of us have media contacts, and we're just starting that process of reaching out to old interested contacts. There was this wonderful teen Vogue feature when the the website went live. We're also reaching out to colleagues, both in universities and in organizations. But one thing that excites me a lot is the opportunity to use social media like Tik Tok, for example, to reach a very large, younger audience. And we're experimenting with that right now with a wonderful film produced in 1970, 71. It's called Abortion and Women's Rights. One of the co-founders of Our Bodies or selves, Jane Pincus, produced that film with three other women.
None of them were real filmmakers, but one of them had some filmmaking experience, and that is an important film to watch now, especially as we see all these attacks on reproductive justice.

And there is a very large PR firm that is donating its time to help a younger audience find out about that 1970 black and white 22 minute documentary, which is phenomenal. And it's not the kind of thing you would easily reach an audience with.

And this is when we find good resources like that, we are going to be creative about reaching out to particular people who care about that topic and ask them to move the information out into their world, into their networks, because going viral is really what we're after right now.

And it's going to take everybody using their personal and collegial networks to make it happen.

So thank you for all your contributions. I think Mindy has a question and I can share something.

Yeah. So. Oh, okay.

Can you hear me now? Even through the mask. So I chair the growing older vertical.

And one thing that our group is doing is writing an op-ed piece that looks at issues of economic inequity for older women and tying it into current prescient issues related to Social Security and so on.

And that's something that we are writing as a collective of experts on the panel, and then we'll run it by the both folks, Amy and Sonia, and hopefully get it out there and use our vast geographical locations to try and pitch it locally around the country.

And we just really encourage other other verticals to try and do the same thing because it's another way of reaching folks.

And we have another question. We do.

We've had a couple people ask about sort of the restrictive legislation going across the country.

And so just to read one of those questions about that, given the issues of restrictive legislation, even with seeking information, how are you dealing with information about privacy of visitors or participants or possible tracking or considerations like that?

You want to take that? Sure. We are very aware of it.

And we're doing everything that we can that we know of to be able to protect our users.

You know, unfortunately. So we have things like we don't take personal information.

But it's really on some level, it's really beyond what any one website can do.

It has to do with how the industry is regulated or not.

And that's something that, you know, we all have to do collectively.

You know, that's a political question. So, you know, we're trying we're on the side of of people having privacy and as well as free speech.

But we're kind of limited in what we can do. So if I could just.

Sorry. Yes. Sorry to interrupt you, Amy, but I just wanted to add that, you know, in my day job, we are dealing with this as well.

And so I think it's important to remember that knowledge is still until somebody takes a case up to the Supreme Court, protected under the First Amendment.
The other issue is that this is actually a great resource for folks who want to know about or get the language of talking about, you know, reproductive health rights and justice in a way that is sharing information and not encouraging behavior. And even though we know that there are states like Texas that could care less about the difference between those two things, we have to operate, you know, kind of pushing that a little bit with the fact that people are seeking knowledge and people are seeking information. And, you know, at a certain point, we're going to have to see the courts weigh in on whether or not seeking information and getting education is is not protected. But we are we have not seen that yet. And as somebody who runs a global organization seeking to educate people about abortion and family planning, I can say that, you know, we are not we're not going to stop in our bodies ourselves, is not going to stop sharing facts, knowledge and information. And even if people try to define that as aiding and abetting. So we've we've gone longer than we planned to go for this part of it. For the hybrid part, I want to just thank everybody who joined us online for taking time out of your day. And I'm sorry we didn't get to everybody's questions, but I hope you'll stay in touch. And I want to just make one call for action that if you care about these issues, which you obviously do, if you're still, you know, on this call, please share this with other people. Share the resource, go use it yourself and think about who you know either personally or in your groups and your profession who would benefit from knowing about this. Thanks so much. And the rest of us are going to who are here in person are now going to go schmooze and eat. So thanks, everybody. Thank you for your.