



JORDAN MYERS

Jordan Myers is a Political Science major with a concentration in American Policy, and a Hispanic Studies minor. She grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey but is proud to call Philadelphia home. She would credit the most important lessons she has learned while at this university to her work at Civic House and Bread & Roses Community Fund and to her involvement in theatre as the historian and light designer of the African American Arts Alliance (4A). She feels grateful for the numerous hours she spent on these commitments, devoted to learning what it means to build community, to working towards “change, not charity,” to understanding her roots, to getting her act together because people believe in her, and to reminding herself that sometimes the work is more important than the credit. Above all, she is thankful for her family, her mentors, and for the many communities that helped her to be where she is today. She will continue to center the voices and experiences of marginalized people in all her work, and is excited to become more active in the Philadelphia community.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

IN OUR OWN WORDS PROJECT

Faculty Advisor:

*Dr. David Grossman, Director, and Noemi Hernandez, Associate Director,
Civic House and Civic Scholars Program*

The *In Our Own Words* project is an audio democratic epistemology of Black womanhood. Nadinne Cruz, activist and a pioneer of community-based learning, created the term democratic epistemology to describe the act of locating academia in our work but centering those with direct experiential knowledge. In that spirit and with the theoretical backing of Patricia Hill Collins, this project became a collection of audio recordings about Black womanhood by over twenty Black women and continues to grow. Women across race, class, age, socioeconomic status, and sexuality contributed to an intentionally incomplete understanding of how Black womanhood is learned and experienced. Each contributor chose someone they felt was critical to their understanding of Black womanhood and recorded a conversation about how it can or cannot be defined, its comforts, difficulties, and complexities. The result was a multi-part collection of their stories. The project began as an act of self-validation against an academy that privileges the voices of only a few to describe the vast experiences of many, but has become an act of self-definition and reflection to the many who have collaborated on its creation.