

**LIBERATION** is the goal.



**ABOLITION** is the journey.

Welcome to Woke Kindergarten.

copyright 2021

**Liberation is the goal.**  
**Abolition is the journey.**

**Woke Kindergarten**

Akia "Ki" Gross

WOKE KINDERGARTEN IS...

**The VISION:**

**A global, abolitionist early learning community, creative expanse and consultancy supporting children, families, educators and organizations in their commitment to abolitionist early education and pro-Black, queer and trans liberation.**

**Woke Kindergarten**  
20494 SummerSong Lane  
Germantown, MD 20874

Tel 301.660.0337 [www.wokekindergarten.org](http://www.wokekindergarten.org)

Contact: [wakeup@wokekindergarten.org](mailto:wakeup@wokekindergarten.org) | IG @WokeKindergarten | @BlackChildrenPlay

© 2021 Woke Kindergarten, LLC



## WHO WE ARE.

**We're educators building the liberatory future all children deserve.**

**The Woke Kindergarten experience hit different.**

### 2020 Social Justice in Education Award Recipient

Akiea "Ki" Gross (they/them) is a Black, queer, nonbinary and trans abolitionist early educator, coach, consultant and creative entrepreneur currently innovating ways to unlearn, heal, liberate and create with their pedagogy, Woke Kindergarten. In the many years they spent teaching in classrooms, their experiences spanned infancy to 6th grade. Prior to leaving the school system, they served as a Kindergarten Teacher and an Instructional Coach of Inquiry-Based Learning in Harlem.



#### Akiea "Ki" Gross

Video: [https://youtu.be/\\_rAkS1obqgw](https://youtu.be/_rAkS1obqgw)

Akiea "Ki" Gross is our Social Justice award for their outstanding work with WokeKindergarten. WokeKindergarten is owned and created by Ki and is a global abolitionist early learning community that supports children, families, educators, and organizations in their commitment of abolitionist teaching and Pro-Black liberation in the early years. They said that children need a space where they can envision possible futures or present realities, where they can be affirmed, celebrated and seen. They said that "a liberatory future is where Black Trans people, Black Queer people, all Black people, all Indigenous people are able to, not only live, but to thrive in this world." Their saying is "All power to the little people!"

Recently, Ki was selected as one of Martha P. Johnson Institute's 2021 Leaders of the New School and the Early Childhood Education Assembly's 2020 Social Justice Award Recipient. They have participated as a speaker, panelist, facilitator, consultant and moderator for many organizations including Harvard Graduate School of Education, Bank Street College, Georgetown Day School, San Diego Youth Services, SXSW EDU, Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented, Teachers for Social Justice, Montclair State, UMBC, NYPL, Abolitionist Teaching Network, HUGE, Inc., Amplify Education, Wheelock College of Education, Camino Nuevo Charter School, NJPAC, Brooklyn Heights Montessori, The College of New Jersey, Bard College, AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation and more.

It was their experiences with the carceral state of schooling and the trauma enacted upon Black children in these systems, that galvanized them to create #BlackTeachersMatter, Black Teachers Mentor and Equitable Schools years ago. As their ideologies and experiences with abolition evolved, they dissolved Equitable Schools and created @WhyAbolition.



Their commitment to creating safe, inclusive and liberatory spaces for BIPOC queer & trans artists also led them to create Sisters Unsigned, an intimate concert series that amplifies the voices of independent queer, trans, gender and genre expansive BIPOC artists and creators.

Along with their partner Sonic and creative team, Womxyn Amplify, they've directed, curated and hosted many other creative pursuits including Sisters

Unsigned presents: Women in Hip Hop, Archway Pride, and *SEASONS: A Voyage Through Sound*, their team's 2020 artist residency at National Sawdust.

They hold an M.A. in Developmental Psychology from Teachers College, an M.S. in Childhood Education/Special Education from the Progressive Education Institute/Touro College and two B.A.'s in Child Development and Family Studies and Psychology, respectively.



All workshops come with downloads of all Woke Word of the Day resources to distribute to staff and families. All entities we work with will all get a digital download copy of our zine when it is complete.

For every institutional booking Woke Kindergarten receives, we organize a free community workshop for Black and brown families and educators. We also dedicate a portion of our payments as mutual aid. All prices subject to change.

### WORKSHOP & KEYNOTE OFFERINGS:

**Abolitionist Teaching in the Early Years**

*A Woke Kindergarten Mixtape*

Akiea "Ki" Gross  
Woke Kindergarten

**Protecting Joy: The Art of Critical Conversations**

Woke Kindergarten

Akiea "Ki" Gross

**It's Lit! Early Literacy through the Woke Kindergarten Lens**

*60 Second Texts*

Akiea "Ki" Gross  
Woke Kindergarten

**WOKE WONDERINGS: KIDS AS COMRADES IN BUILDING ABOLITIONIST FUTURES**

Woke Kindergarten

Akiea "Ki" Gross  
Copyright 2021

**Woke Read Alouds: Making Life Affirming Connections to our World**

Woke Kindergarten

Copyright 2021

Akiea "Ki" Gross  
Woke Kindergarten

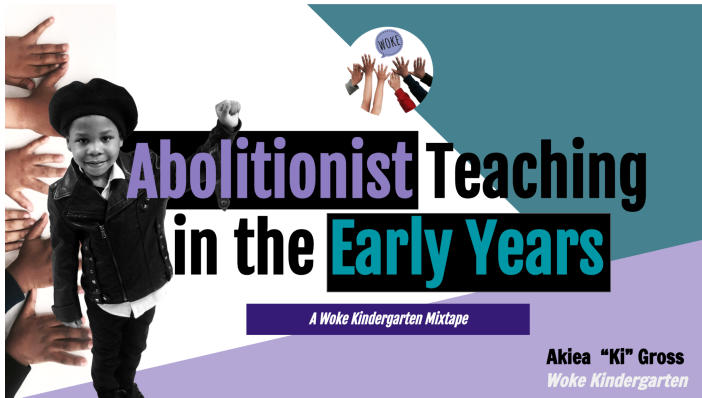
**RESIST, HEAL, CREATE: A WOKE KINDERGARTEN MIXTAPE**

Woke Kindergarten

Akiea "Ki" Gross  
Copyright 2021



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

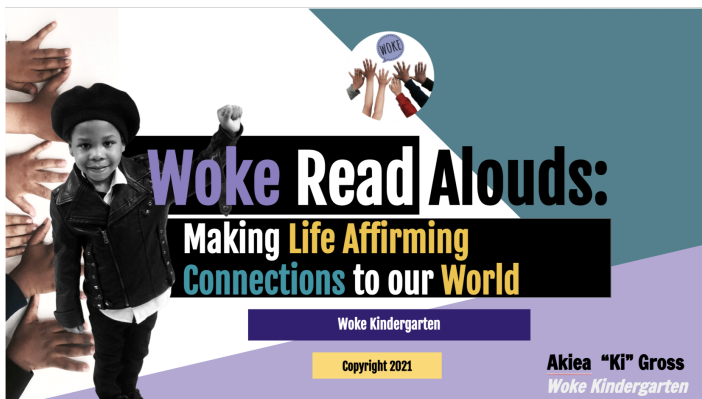


In this workshop, Ki illuminates the ways the prison industrial complex manifests in early childhood and takes participants on an exploration of how we can disrupt the PIC through a comprehensive and interactive journey into Woke Kindergarten's abolitionist early learning pedagogy. Participants can expect to leave with an introductory understanding of abolitionist teaching in practice, how to use Woke Kindergarten's resources as healing-centered engagement in practice and a more thorough understanding of abolitionist politics, the pursuit of liberation and ultimately what that means—and how we show up—for our very youngest

Black and brown children and their families. This workshop uses an interactive guide. [2 hours]



This workshop introduces participants to Woke Kindergarten's framework for engaging in critical conversations with young children & equips them with the tools and insights they need to use Woke Kindergarten's resources as anchors in these conversations. Participants will dive deep into where our hesitation to have these conversations comes from, how we can enter them through a healing-centered, humanity affirming lens, and how understanding children as self-determined participants in co-creating the futures they deserve empowers us to feel equipped in moving through hard truths with our kids. [2 hours]



This workshop examines the historical nature of reading aloud as an act of resistance and takes participants through an experiential exploration of how to approach and plan read alouds through an abolitionist lens by making authentic connections and creating life-affirming experiences for children who are often excluded from seeing themselves & their lived experiences in the books that we read. [4 hours]





## WHY WOKE KINDERGARTEN?

Take a look at some slides from our pitch deck to learn more.

Currently, we are the only abolitionist early childhood ecosystem of our kind.

**The VISION:**

**A global, abolitionist early learning community, creative expanse and consultancy supporting children, families, educators and organizations in their commitment to abolitionist early education and pro-Black, queer and trans liberation.**

**The PROBLEM:**

The Prison Industrial Complex manifests in early childhood in a variety of ways and anti-racist teaching & reform just isn't disruptive enough.

- punishment
- confinement
- dehumanization

SCHOOL	PRISON
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authoritarian structure</li> <li>• Dress code</li> <li>• Emphasis on silence and order</li> <li>• Negative reinforcement</li> <li>• Walk in lines</li> <li>• Loss of individual autonomy</li> <li>• Abridged freedoms</li> <li>• No input in decision making</li> <li>• Set times enforced for walking, eating, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authoritarian structure</li> <li>• Dress code</li> <li>• Emphasis on silence and order</li> <li>• Negative reinforcement</li> <li>• Walk in lines</li> <li>• Loss of individual autonomy</li> <li>• Abridged freedoms</li> <li>• No input in decision making</li> <li>• Set times enforced for walking, eating, etc.</li> </ul>

School is like prison

**The SOLUTION:**

We **CREATE** abolitionist early childhood resources

to **CURATE** opportunities for children to feel affirmed, safe, loved & empowered **our communities.**

and **EDUCATE** their adults on how to engage with them **LIBERATE**

to **ELIMINATE** carceral logics **in order to**



We've innovated our own frameworks & workshops and do all of our work through an abolitionist lens.

pedagogy, design our own

The 4 main components of our pedagogy consist of:

- 60 Second Texts
- Woke Word of the Day
- Woke Wonderings
- Woke Read Aloud

## The DIFFERENCE:

### WOKE WONDERINGS

SHARE

CREATE

INQUIRE

WONDER

EXPAND

IMAGINE

created by Abbie "60" Gross  
copyright Woke Kindergarten, LLC

**We design our own frameworks!**

**We've innovated our own pedagogy.**

**60 Second Texts**  
All concepts that take place in 60 seconds!

**Woke Read Alouds**  
Reading critically & connecting authentically

**Woke Word of the Day**  
Language of the resistance

**Woke Wonderings**  
unconventional questions rooted in liberatory thought

**WE MAKE THINGS!**

## The DIFFERENCE:

**Black Joy**

by Ki  
@WokeKindergarten

Our resources are healing-centered, & work for our inner children too.

by Ki  
@WokeKindergarten

**We are the only truly abolition-focused early childhood venture of its kind.**

**WE LOVE THE BABIES! EARLY CHILDHOOD EVERYTHING!**



# Woke Kindergarten x Glassbrook ES

[PROPOSAL]

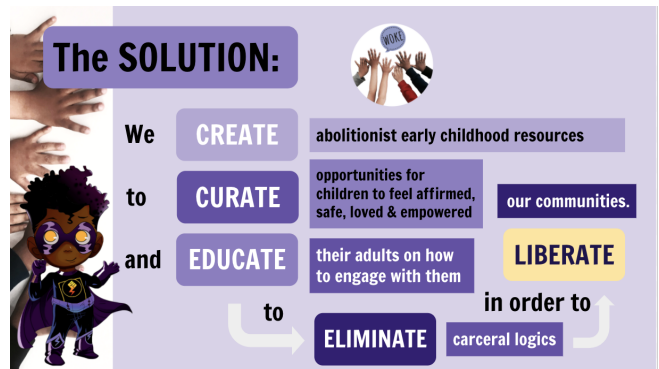
## OVERVIEW

Woke Kindergarten will partner with Glassbrook Elementary school to improve staff’s capacity to implement healing-centered & liberatory learning practices made possible by developing their understanding of teaching through an abolitionist lens. Glassbrook ES requests a two-school-year long (16-20 month) partnership that incorporates a combination of workshop follow ups, unit development, feedback and coaching.

**Date: July 2022-June 2024**

## WHO WE ARE

Woke Kindergarten is a global, abolitionist early learning ecosystem, creative portal and consultancy supporting children, families, educators and organizations in their commitment to abolitionist early education and pro-Black, queer and trans liberation.



## WHY US

Glassbrook ES requires expert consulting services from an innovative, experienced and trusted partner in early childhood & elementary education – capable of tackling complex social challenges that disrupt white supremacy culture through an abolitionist lens. We are a comprehensive entity, one that creates, curates and educates. The resources that we facilitate with are our own, and we are able to provide them to our clients as part of our consulting packages.



## **OUR PREVIOUS WORK**

During the 2021-2022 school year, Woke Kindergarten partnered with Glassbrook Elementary to facilitate four workshops and support staff in creating and implementing healing-centered, early childhood & elementary tools and frameworks to support teachers in supporting children's holistic needs in the classroom. In addition, Woke Kindergarten offered all Glassbrook teachers 20-minute, 1:1 weekly coaching opportunities. Due to unforeseen obstacles from COVID and HUSD closing for distance learning, we were able to complete three of the four workshops planned.

Over the course of 24 months, Woke Kindergarten will support Glassbrook teachers in developing an overall thematic unit scope and sequence and process for designing, creating and implementing thematic units that are culturally relevant, justice-focused, and academically aligned. Woke Kindergarten will also facilitate a read alouds workshop, as well as virtual workshop post-sessions that support teachers in diving more deeply into the frameworks that they learned in Year 1. Woke Kindergarten will also host 1:1, grade team, and group coaching sessions regularly with staff. Coaching will focus on supporting teachers in developing their understanding and implementation of abolitionist praxis, incorporating Woke Kindergarten resources as healing-centered engagement and schoolwide thematic unit planning.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- **To design, develop and implement justice-focused, healing-centered and academically aligned thematic units that create a more horizontally and vertically aligned learning atmosphere for teachers and students.**
- **To develop Glassbrook's own Woke Kindergarten resources, specific to their community including the creation of thematic units and a process for planning.**
- **To provide 1:1, grade level and group coaching that supports staff in their capacity to support the academic and social and emotional needs of their students.**
- **To improve staff's capacity and aptitude for engaging in critical conversations with children using literacy and play as anchors to move through tough moments.**
- **To implement Woke Kindergarten's resources and pedagogical approaches in practice as a way to disrupt whiteness, white dominant/settler colonial narratives and anti-Blackness in the Glassbrook community through coaching and thematic unit building.**





## PROPOSED PERSONNEL

- Founder: Akiea “Ki” Gross
- Facilitator/Coach: Ana Duque, anti-racist facilitator
- Historian: TBD (to potentially support with thematic units)

## COST/BUDGET

**TOTAL: \$200,000**

**Cost:** In addition to time with teachers, all costs include prep and planning time for facilitators, time for creating resources as well as planning and debriefing with site leaders. The cost of the hourly labor may not be equally distributed because some tasks require more intensive labor than others.

COMPONENT	EXPECTED OUTCOME	LABOR TIME (total)	COST
<b>Summer Planning with teachers (2022)</b>	A small group of teachers will engage in planning thematic units with Ki & Ana	30-50 hours hours prep, planning & creation 10 hours facilitating	<b>\$20,000</b>
<b>Woke Read Alouds Workshop</b>	Prior to beginning the school year, this workshop will set the tone and support teachers in connecting literacy to abolition. Teachers will plan a Woke Read utilizing the resources developed by WK.	4 hours facilitating 6 hours planning 1 hour debriefing	<b>\$10,000</b>
<b>Post-Workshop Follow Up Sessions</b>	GBK staff will develop a more thorough understanding of Woke K’s frameworks & be able to implement the resources that they learned about in the previous year	10 hours Facilitating 15 hours planning 5 hours debriefing	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Thematic Unit Building</b>	Teachers will plan 1-2 full units with their teaching teams. In addition, WK will support GBK to develop a process for planning.	80 hours Facilitating 60-80 hours prep, planning	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Coaching</b>	Coaching will continue around supporting teachers to support students using WK resources, thematic units, and healing-centered praxis	16 hours a month x 20 = 320 hrs	<b>\$75,000</b>
<b>Meeting with School Leader</b>	Meetings will occur regularly to plan and debrief learning and coaching sessions	1 hour month x 24	<b>\$5,000</b>



**\*This proposal is specific to the duration requested. If Glassbrook ES is not able to fulfill the proposed cost, Woke Kindergarten will consider a decrease in time commitment and adjust the proposal once if said request is reasonable.**

#### CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:

The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and then delete this message and any attachments. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, copying, or storage of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited.

## **So what's the Woke Kindergarten difference?**

**Let us break it down for you.**

**Woke Kindergarten, first & foremost, is an **expansive creative house**, which means, while most consultants come in & facilitate workshops that use other people's resources, we create & facilitate the use of our own.**

**We design multimedia resources that take an incredible amount of time, and we do all the work in house. We also collaborate with our partners to create resources relevant to their context.**

Think of this as paying graphic designers, video editors & artists for their labor. We aren't just facilitators or coaches, we are multi-hyphenate in our offerings.

In our table above, when we reference strategic planning & development, design, labor, communication etc., this is what we are referring to.

Between Ki & their video editor Meilei, we work tirelessly to develop resources that serve as the source content not only for our workshops, but for teachers, kids, & families to use.

Partnering with us, means that we won't only be facilitating workshops & coaching sessions, but **we will be creating the following resources specifically with Glassbrook feedback, needs & wants in mind:**

- **One 60 second text [bilingual]**
  - Photos sourced from Glassbrook community
- **One Woke Read Alouds video**



- Glassbrook staff & kids choose the book
- This includes prep, recording, captioning & 2 rounds of edits
- **One Woke Wonderings Prompt** (this is our resistance framework for kids, which will be implemented in every teacher's classroom)
  - Specific to a problem that kids and/or families and teachers are thinking about

**Additionally, we will be working alongside with Glassbrook ES staff to equip them to use Woke Kindergarten's resources as a lens to create and implement their own as part of their ongoing professional practice.**

### **Virtual vs. In-Person**

**If at any point, Glassbrook requests that Ki comes in person, Glassbrook agrees to cover reasonable travel accommodations [airfare & lodging] that can be discussed at a later date & booked well in advance to ensure the most ideal pricing.**

**JFK-SFO**

### **CONTACT:**

**Akiea "Ki" Gross (they/them)**  
[wakeup@wokekindergarten.org](mailto:wakeup@wokekindergarten.org)