A woman with dark skin and long, thick braids is shown in profile from the chest up. Her eyes are closed, and her right arm is extended horizontally towards the right side of the frame. She is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt under a black vest. The background is a clear, solid blue sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

“We tell ourselves  
stories in order to live.”

J O A N D I D I O N

Aliyah Mitchell  
portfolio

# All that we tell is a story.



I am an Ann Arbor, MI-based filmmaker, photographer, and editor. I leverage the power of filmmaking and photo editing to ask and examine questions about people, ideas, and humanity. I have a BA in filmmaking from the University of Michigan and am actively engaged in film and photo projects that I hope can serve, enlighten, and uplift.



# In the Field.

“Marketing is no longer about the stuff that you make, but about the stories you tell.”

SETH GODIN



**Game Day Protection**  
University of Michigan (U-M)  
Facilities & Operations (F&O) Moving & Trucking

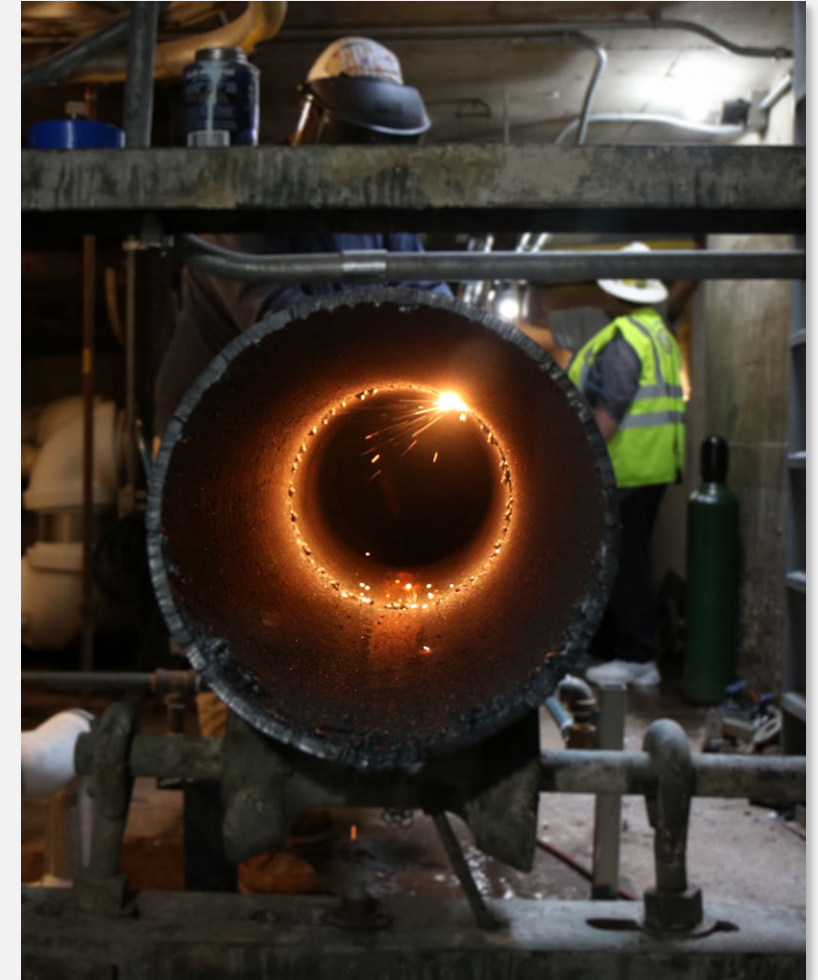




## Game Day Protection

### U-M F&O Moving & Trucking



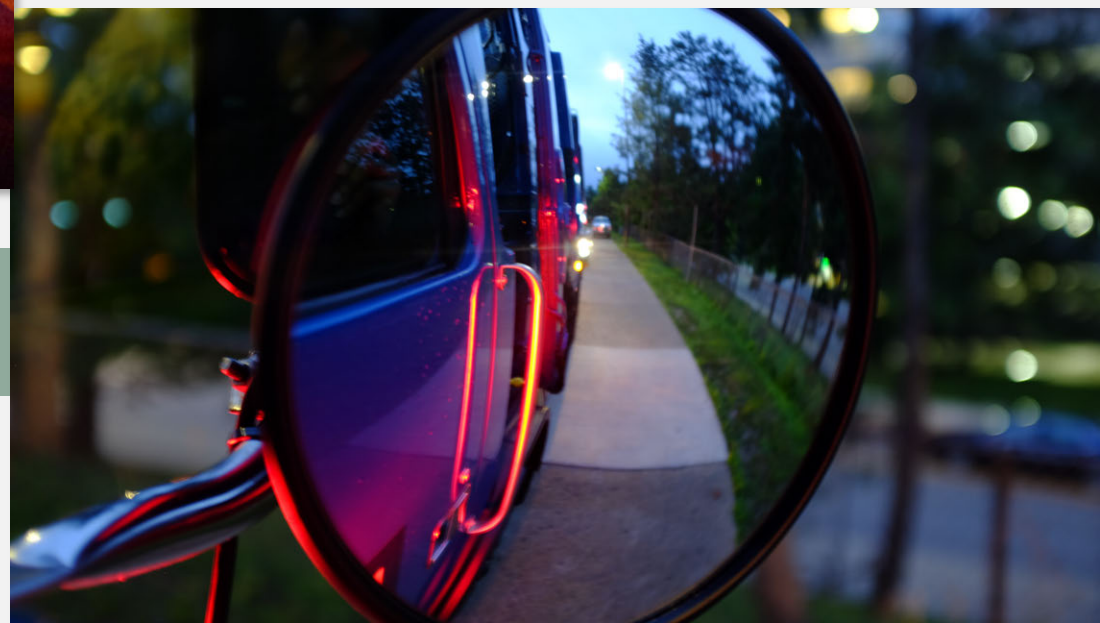


Tunnel Rats  
U-M F&O Tunnels Team





Early Pickup  
U-M F&O Waste Disposal







**Sustainable Transportation**  
U-M Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS)





Sustainable Transportation - MCity  
U-M OCS



## Sustainable Dining

U-M OCS







Ross Rooftop Garden  
U-M OCS





Planet Blue Begins with You  
U-M OCS





U-M Flora  
North Campus, Central Campus



A landscape photograph at sunset. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds illuminated by the low sun on the right. Below the sky is a long, low blue building with a tall, thin chimney. The foreground is a dark, grassy field. The quote is centered in the upper half of the image.

“Inside each of us is a natural-born storyteller, waiting to be released.”

R O B I N   M O O R E



# Portraits In the Field.







Celebrating Jewel







Graduation





Graduation 2





U-M Undergraduate  
Research Opportunity  
Program





# Stylized.









# Studio.







Baby J

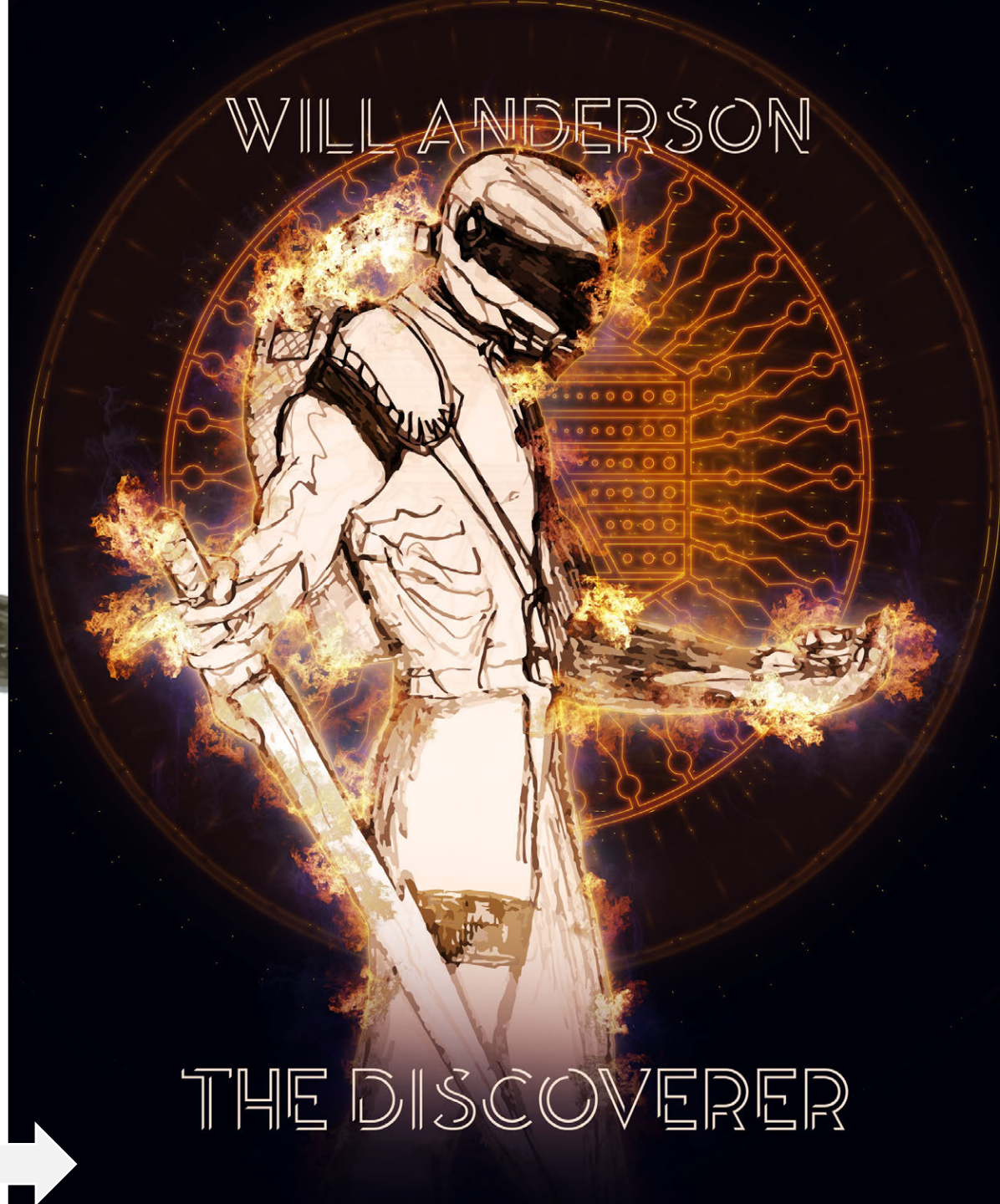




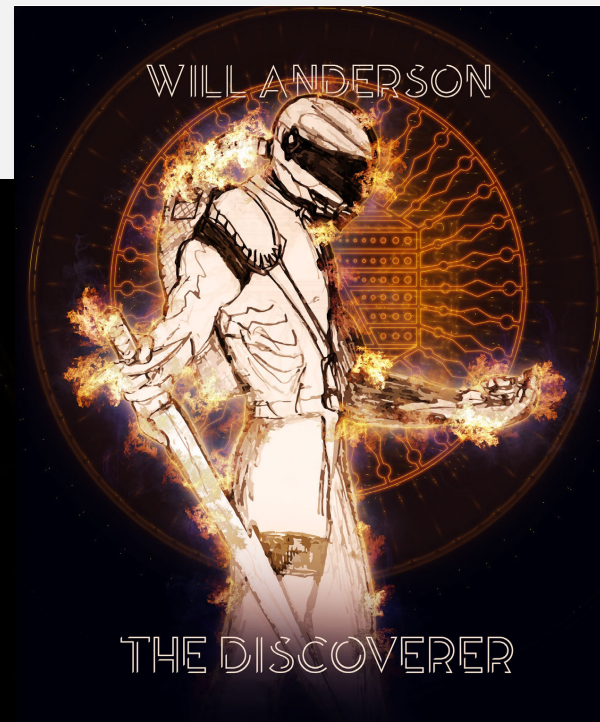
# Graphics & Design.

“There’s always room for a story that can transport people to another place.”

J . K . R O W L I N G





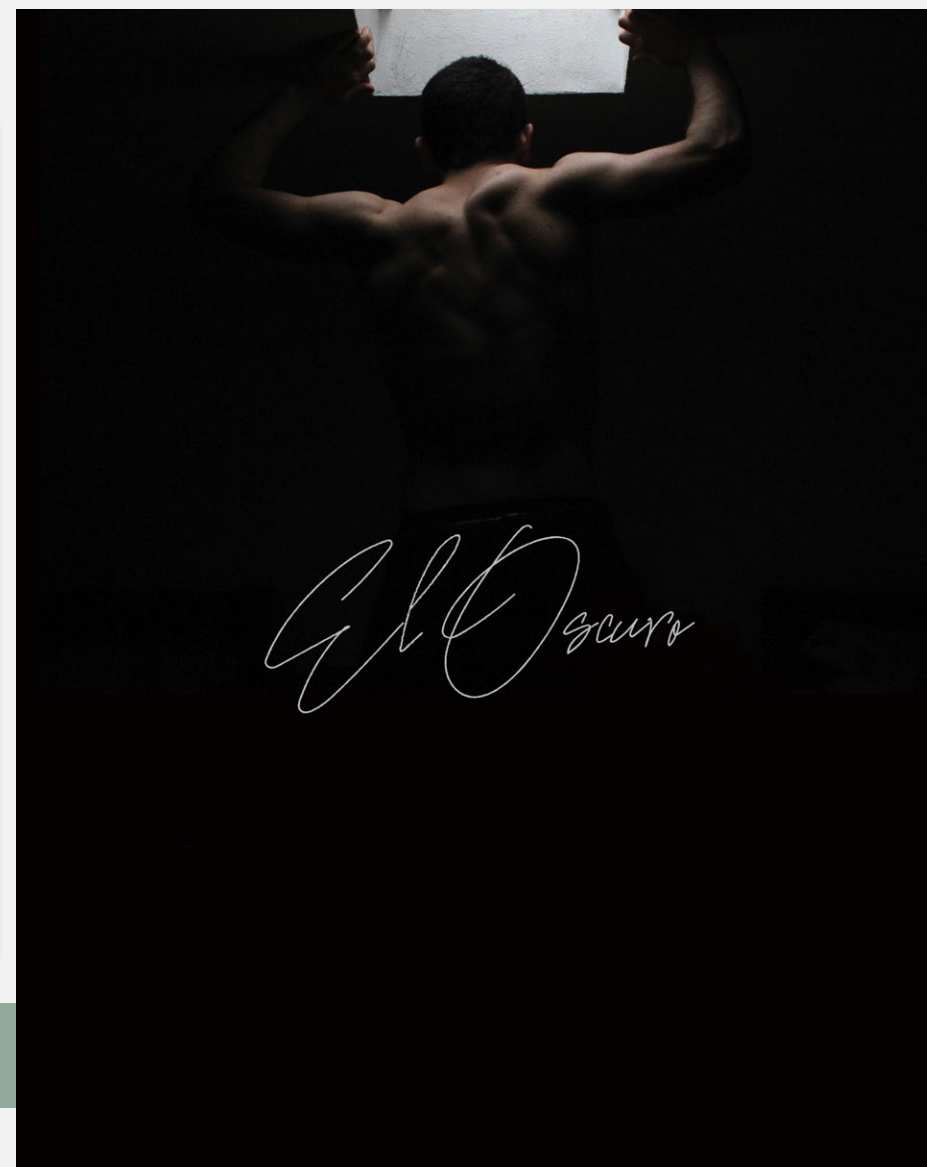


Film project posters  
"BX"





Project posters





CLASS EXPLOITATION THAT THEY WOULD IMMEDIATELY UNDERSTAND... BECOME ENLIGHTENED... AND THE WORLD WOULD MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU SHARE COMMUNITY AND HAVE ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY? PERSPECTIVES WHEN THEY'RE DRAWING ON TROUBLESOME PERSPECTIVES... DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF CAN BRING ABOUT DESTRUCTION OR THEY CAN BRING ABOUT LIFE. WORDS ARE LIKE, ONE PHILOSOPHER DESCRIBED THINGS... THEY HOLD THINGS TOGETHER, KEEP THINGS TOGETHER. WORDS CAN DO THE SAME THING... WE HOLD OUR FEEL THE LANGUAGE, ROOTS US INTO THE PLACE WHERE WE GREW UP INTO WHERE WE ARE... WE DON'T WE SPEAK... ALL THE SPACES OF POWER IN THIS COUNTRY... ENGLISH IS THE LANGUAGE OF GLOBAL ECONOMICS. SO PARTICIPATING BEING SORT OF LIKE A FULLY PARTICIPATING CONTRIBUTING CITIZEN MEANS HAVING COMMAND OF STANDARD LANGUAGE. THE NOTION THAT THERE IS THAT STANDARD LANGUAGE AGAINST WHICH OTHER VARIETIES OF THE LANGUAGE SHOULD LANGUAGE IS THE ONE THAT EVERYBODY SHOULD STRIVE TO MASTER. AND THEN OFTENTIMES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE OF US SPEAK... IT'S A VERY POWERFUL LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY THAT PUT THE STANDARD LANGUAGE AT THE TOP. NON-MAINSTREAM VARIETIES: IN THE UNITED STATES, IF YOU LOOK AT SOUTHERN ENGLISH REASONS... LINGUISTS BELIEVED LANGUAGE VARIETIES ARE CREATED EQUAL AND THERE OVER ANOTHER. OR ONE VARIETY MIGHT BE BETTER THAN ANOTHER. THERE ARE NO LINGUISTS WERE DEFINITELY PRO BLACK... SO THAT'S KIND OF THE, YOU KNOW, THE WORLD OF THE COLLEGES I WENT TO... IS WHEN I BEGAN TO SEE, YOU KNOW, MAYBE THAT THAT WAS EXPECTED OF BLACK PEOPLE TO REALLY TRY TO HELP THEM DRAW A COMPARISON. SO I WOULD DRAW A COMPARISON BETWEEN REFERRING TO THE WAY THAT THEY SPEAK OR THE VARIETY THAT THEY PROVIDING ALL KINDS OF AMMUNITIONS TO VERY ARBITRARY SET OF VALUES THAT ARE CHANGE IS A NECESSARY PART OF LANGUAGE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT INTO CONTACT WITH SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES. AND THAT MEANS THAT LANGUAGE THAT THEY CHANGE IS DUE TO CONTACT WITH MORE INFLECTED YOU KNOW, WITH OLD NORSE, WITH NORMAN F MORPHOLOGICAL INFLECTIONS, YOU KNOW, TYPE OF CHANGE. I REAL WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO ALWAYS TRY TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE YOU KNOW, PROVIDING A REALITY, A NEW WINDOW ON THE WORLD. REALLY NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT TO EXPLORE AS WE CAN, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT CREATES CULTURES, IT REALLY TENS UP YOUR MIND. DIFFERENT WAYS THAT THINGS CAN BE, AND REAL POWER OF THE TONGUE. I LITERALLY THINK THIS IS YEAH, LANGUAGE EQUAL TO, IN A VERY SIMPLE WAY, BUILDING A SECOND LANGUAGE THAT. OH JUST YOU SUPPOSED TO WHO PAYS THE BILL LANGUAGE? AND I'M MAKING A MINUTE WHEN AM I GOING TO GET THE TIME? BUT BIAS CAN HAVE POSITIVE OR ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE OUTCOME PATTERNS IN A WAY THAT CAUSE REINTERPRETE LANGUAGE AND BE SEPARATE FROM ONE ANOTHER HAVE ACCENTED ON YOU IS ONE GROUP OR CROSS A PARTICULAR RIVER MASQUERADING AS PART OF THE THE THIRTIES, IN THE DOMINICAN AND ASK THEM TO PRONOUNCE THE MARKS YOU FOR DEATH, THE WAY IN THE MEDIA, LIKE WE ACTUALLY SEE IT HAS VERY REAL CONSEQUENCES. SO WE SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT SORT OF NOT STAGNANT. WE DON'T SOUND LIKE THAT THINGS FROM AFRICAN-AMERICAN LANGUAGE LIVES IN THE WORLD. SO THE PROBLEM. SO WHAT I WOULD SAY TO SOMEBODY TO CHANGE OVER TIME. SOMETHING AMAZING ENVIRONMENTS, IN FACT, THAT EFFECT THAT OUT LANGUAGE, OR IF EVERYBODY KNEW THE LANGUAGE AND STAND, BECOME THE STANDARD LANGUAGE. ARE COMMUNITY... WE HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES... DEATH AND LIFE ARE IN THE POWER OF OUR MOUTH LIFE. WORDS ARE LIKE, ONE PHILOSOPHER DESCRIBED THINGS... THEY HOLD THINGS TOGETHER, KEEP THINGS TOGETHER. WORDS CAN DO THE SAME THING... WE HOLD OUR FEEL THE LANGUAGE, ROOTS US INTO THE PLACE WHERE WE GREW UP INTO WHERE WE ARE... WE DON'T WE SPEAK... STANDARD LANGUAGE INHABITS THE LANGUAGE OF GLOBAL ECONOMICS. SO PARTICIPATING IN A MARKET REQUIRES STANDARD LANGUAGE... SO JUST CITIZEN MEANS HAVING COMMAND OF STANDARD LANGUAGE. IT'S NOT RIGHT. IT'S JUST HOW THINGS ARE... THERE IS NOT WHICH OTHER VARIETIES OF THE LANGUAGE SHOULD BE MEASURED AGAINST. AND THAT PARTICULAR STANDARD MASTER. AND THEN OFTENTIMES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE I WOULD SAY, THE 'NON-MAINSTREAM' VARIETIES THAT MOST BY THAT PUT THE STANDARD LANGUAGE AT THE TOP. BUT THAT HAS MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS FOR SPEAKERS OF UNITED STATES, IF YOU LOOK AT SOUTHERN ENGLISH, THOSE VARIETIES ARE STIGMATIZED FOR ALL THE WRONG LANGUAGE VARIETIES ARE CREATED EQUAL AND THERE IS NO GROUNDS FOR US TO CONSIDER ONE LANGUAGE BEING

# WE ARE WHAT WE SPEAK

*the docuseries*

TV show marketing  
We Are What We Speak,  
the docuseries

# WE ARE WHAT WE SPEAK

*the docuseries*





## Logos



U-M Business & Finance Bright Spots concepts



90/90 Challenge:  
Positive Energizers





## Logos & Icons



Lash OD



Cinergy<sup>3</sup> Productions



We Are What We Speak





“Great photography  
is about depth of  
feeling, not depth of  
field.”



# Events.

Godaiko  
Ann Arbor  
District Library





# Year 5 Celebration

## Shared Services Center







Art Auction  
UHR Children's Centers







Mister G  
Ann Arbor  
District Library







Crazy Horse book signing  
Ann Arbor  
District Library







Michele Everard Retirement  
U-M Investment Office





## Higher Education Data Warehousing Conference

U-M Information Quest





## Leadership Forums

U-M B&F





# Work in Print.

**M** | BUSINESS & FINANCE  
FY2018 Progress Report

Building a **POSITIVE** and  
**INCLUSIVE** Organization





## B&F Progress Reports

### Our Progress

This year we developed and launched a new B&F Strategic Plan focused on building a culture. Across all areas of B&F, we're working to create an organization in which everyone do matters and that they can make a difference.

Foundational to this initiative are our ongoing efforts to create a more diverse, equitable environment. The continuing implementation of our B&F DEI Strategic Plan has become an to create a positive organization.

The following progress report includes key highlights of this work over the last year.

### Climate Survey

In January, 2018, we released results from the university-wide All-Staff Climate Survey, including reports for B&F overall as well as for each division. The findings provided key insights about our current culture, and we chose nine findings to serve as a baseline for our work to create a positive organization and measure progress over time (see our "Key 9" findings on the B&F website). In addition, our Diversity Working Group (DWG) developed a Climate Survey Discussion Guide, which was customized for each B&F division, to support leaders in discussing the results with their staff and inform future actions.

### APPRECIATING DIVERSITY AT THE SSC

Each year, the SSC diversity committee plans a number of fun and educational activities for staff to engage with each other and learn about topics related to DEI – from keynote speakers, to book and movie discussions, to cultural awareness potlucks. This year they added "Diversity Bingo" to the roster. All SSC team members were given one of eight bingo cards that had 25 categories, such as "is an author," "has three or more children," and "played a varsity sport in high school." Staff were given two days to identify colleagues who fit each category on their card. Once cards were completed, staff were entered into a raffle to win a prize.

The game was a huge hit among staff because participating gave them a chance to get to know their colleagues in a fun and informal way. It also provided an opportunity to learn something interesting about each other and, more importantly, about the breadth of diversity that exists at the SSC.

**M BUSINESS & FINANCE**

FY2018 Progress Report / 2

### B&F Purpose Project

As a way to recognize the behind-the-scenes support that our B&F teams provide to university students and further connect staff to a sense of purpose, this year we undertook the B&F Purpose Project with the help of two student photographers. Through their experience taking photos of B&F staff at work and interviewing teams about their roles at the university, the students realized that their incredible U-M experiences would not have been possible without B&F teams. To say thank you, they created a video montage of their favorite images and set it to an original script they wrote, which became known as the "You Matter to B&F." The project served to advance our objective of making everyone in B&F believe that what they do matters and provided a unique opportunity for our staff to see the importance of what they do (their purpose at the university) through the eyes of students.

Staff interviewed during the B&F Purpose Project share how they make blue go.

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FY19 Progress Report / 6

### Find Out More

You can see our full FY20, year-four DEI Strategic Plan and learn more about our efforts to create a positive organization on the B&F website.

An F&O Logistics, Transportation & Parking staff member repairs a Blue Bus.

**M BUSINESS & FINANCE**

FY19 Progress Report / 12



## Positive Energizers notebook



## Additional Skills & Competencies

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Project management
- Web accessibility
- Foreign languages
- Leadership
- Live event production
- Project and event consultation

## Equipment

I have many tools to support my work including both hardware and software necessary to carry projects to completion.

**Major items include:** mirrorless digital cameras, lens kits, specialty equipment, and lighting and sound equipment; transcription, editing, and asset management programs.

## Video Links\*

- [We Are What We Speak](#)
- [The Dragon Mosaic excerpt](#)
- [Why 1% Change?](#)
- [Thoughts of Thankfulness – Colleague to Colleague - B&F Finance](#)
- [B&F Principles](#)
- [Thanks to F&O Essential Workers](#)
- [Seeing the Helpers](#)
- [Day in the Life at the University of Michigan](#)

\*a sample of projects\*





# Thank You!

Contact me: [aliyahm@umich.edu](mailto:aliyahm@umich.edu)

See and learn more about my video work:

[www.saidaliyahmitchell.com](http://www.saidaliyahmitchell.com)

One of my language projects that I'm very excited about:

[www.wespeakdocuseries.com](http://www.wespeakdocuseries.com)

A short documentary film I'm currently developing:

<https://cinergy3.com/current-project/>

