

THE "QUEER  
AGENDA" AS A  
MEANS OF PEER  
INVOLVEMENT  
TOWARDS  
REDUCING  
2SLGBTQ+  
HOMELESSNESS

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Support. Inspire. Overcome.



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# THE QUEER AGENDA

The Queer Agenda (QA) is a program that focuses on involving peers with lived experience in community services and focuses on education and support. Peer involvement shows itself rather promising when supporting youth through navigating adversity (Cowie & Wallace, 2000), including homelessness.



YOUTH GROUPS



COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH



GENDER AFFIRMING  
SUPPORTS

The 2SLGBTQ+ youth population experiences barriers to accessing housing based on their sexual and gender identity (Gomes et al., 2018) as well as a result of compounding environmental factors such as discrimination, stigma and lack of population-specific services.

**81%**

of 2SLGBTQ+ youth reported self-harming since the start of the pandemic (A. Abramovich, 2021)





# BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE TEAM

## LIVED EXPERIENCE


Hiring and training peers with lived experience in fields of 2SLGBTQ+ support

## INTERVIEWING PROCESS

Adapting the interview process to the population that we serve in our spaces

## ALLOWING GROWTH

Creating a working environment that fosters growth rather than reprimand

A Menti poll interface displayed within a browser window. The window has a dark red title bar with standard OS window controls (minimize, maximize, close) and a yellow progress bar. The main content area is white and contains the Menti logo and poll code at the top, followed by a large, bold, dark brown question. The background of the entire image features large, stylized floral shapes in shades of yellow and red.

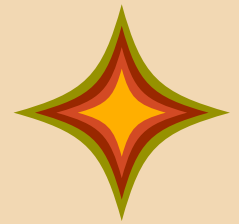
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**WHAT  
REPRESENTS  
QUEERNESS IN  
YOUR  
WORKPLACE?**

# CHALLENGES



Delivering quality services online



Ensuring allyship within administrative circles



Compensating our peers justly

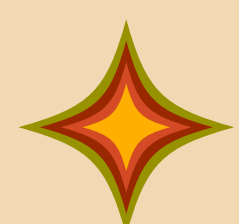


Stigma within the homelessness sector

# SOLUTIONS



Providing a variety of tools to engage online participants, fostering safety for 2SLGBTQ+ youth at-risk & ensuring consistency



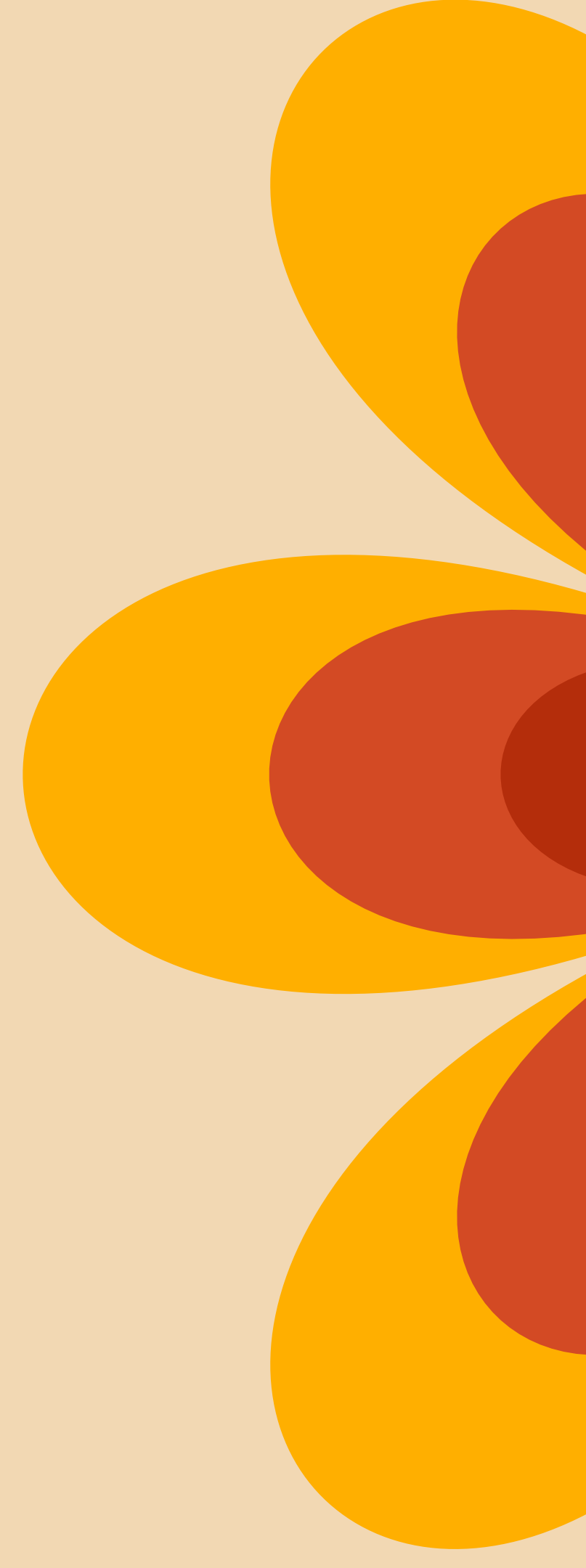
Building rapport between youth and administrative staff, unapologetic advocacy & reviewing community research



Using cash/direct deposit rather than gift cards & going above living wage



Having open conversations about stigma, establishing a training system & providing education



# CREATING SAFE SPACES

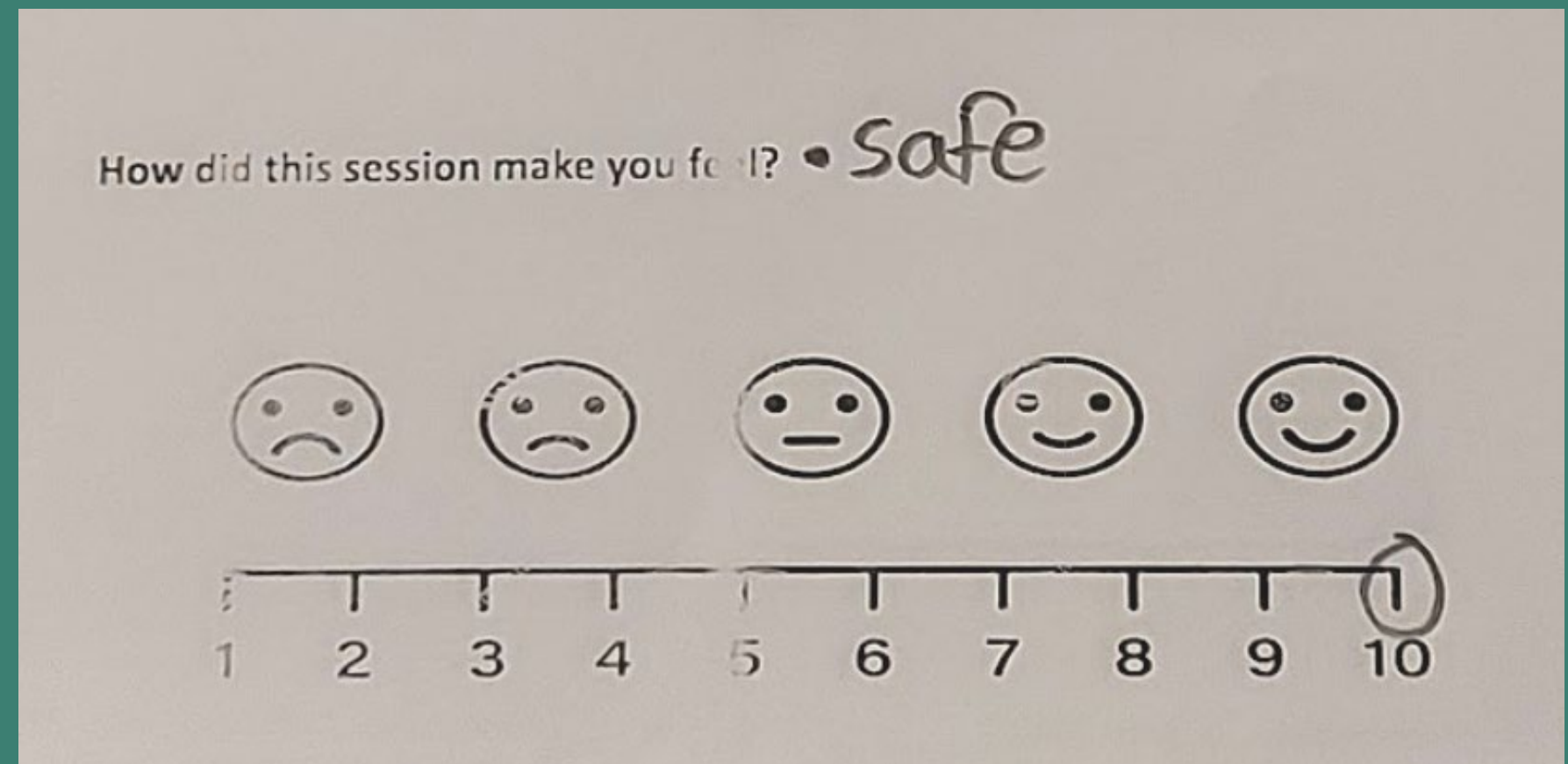
Peer-to-peer education

Representation in our  
spaces & the  
community

Establishing a training  
system

Bridging the gap  
between frontline and  
administrative

Gaining and  
implementing client  
feedback



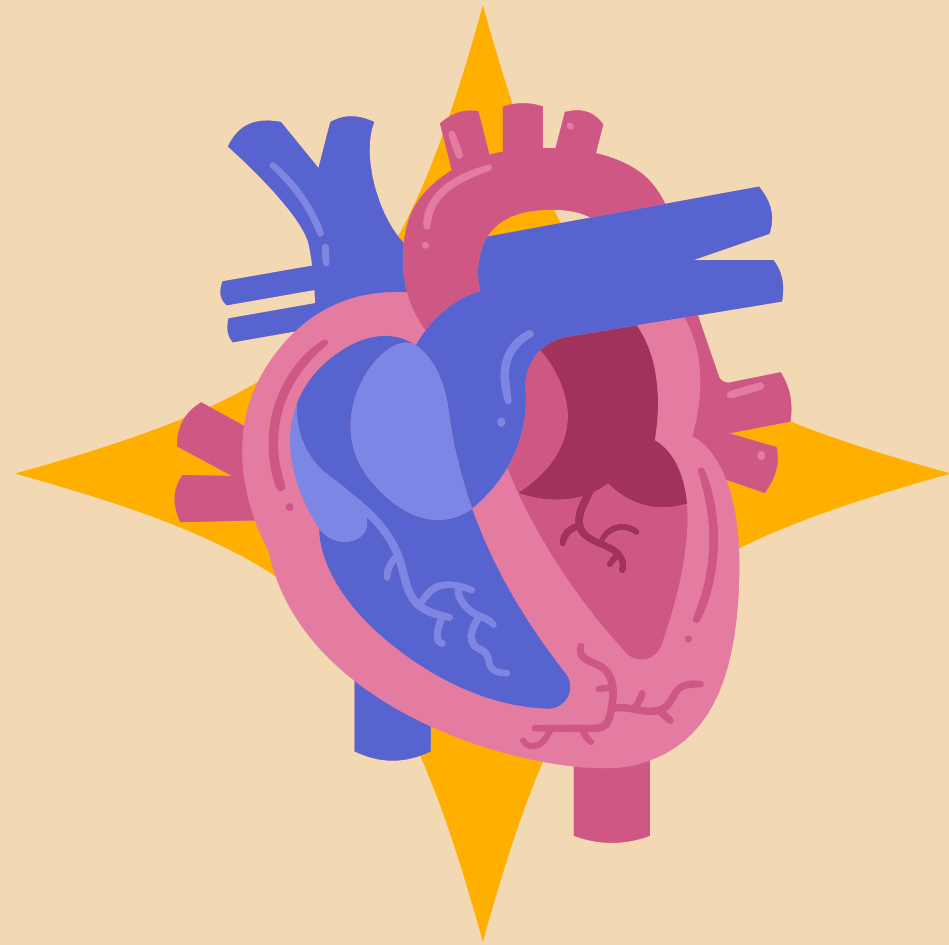


# FEEL PRIDE, SHOW PRIDE

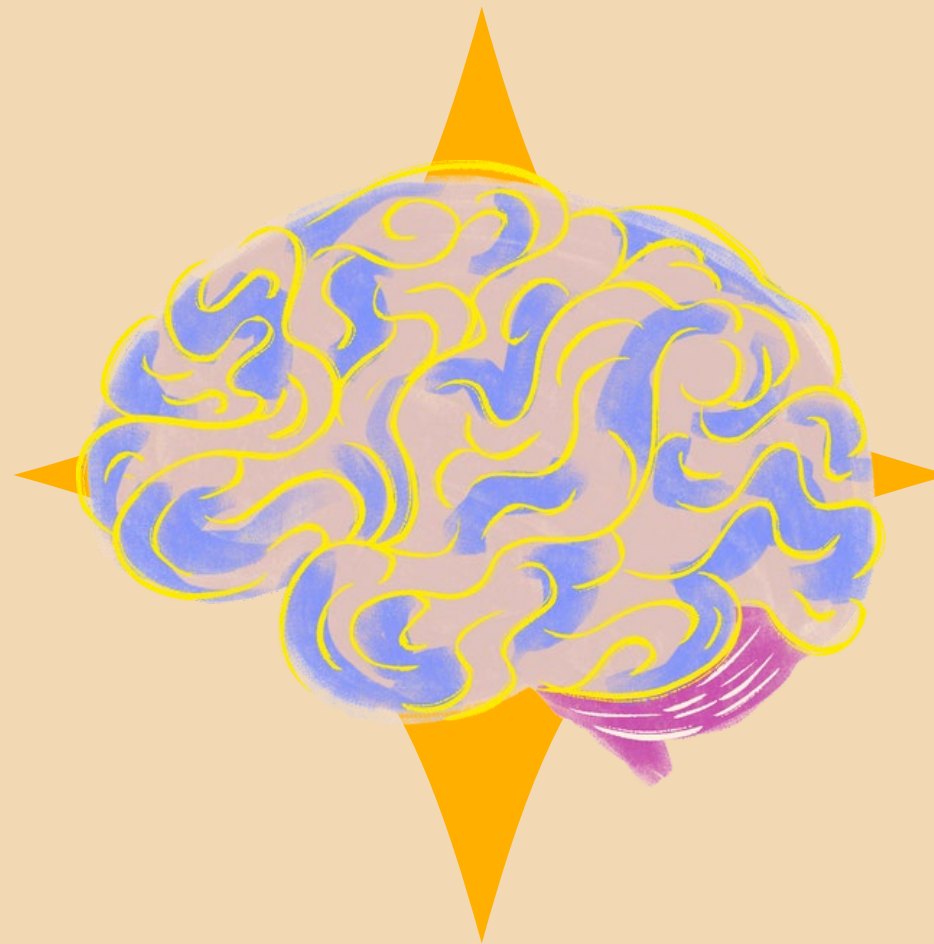
- Goal
- Objectives (that youth get to)
- Age group of participants
- Number of participants
- Materials needed
- Budget
- Location
- Discussion questions
- Schedule
- Guidelines
- Resources
- Takeaway content



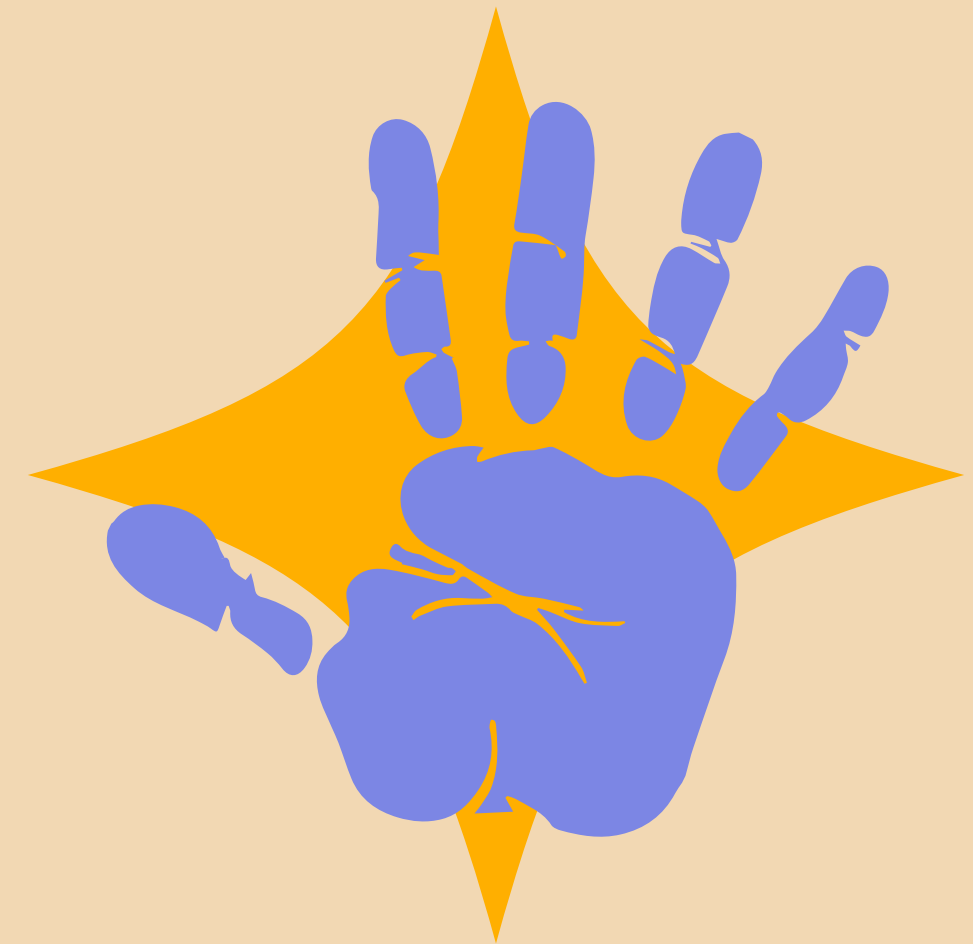
# KEY FINDINGS



**PASSION**



**AFFIRMATION**



**TEAM WORK**



# OUR IMPACT

Please list what you have discovered during this session that you did not know prior to participating.


A good metaphor for consent is like a cup of tea  
Only share things when you yourself feel comfortable  
Sharing it and only if you feel like you're in a  
safe environment to do so.

Please list the resources that were provided to you during this session.

I felt heavily supported via the ~~the~~  
clear communication of all members  
present implying a sense of community.

Please share your top highlights and/or takeaways from this session.

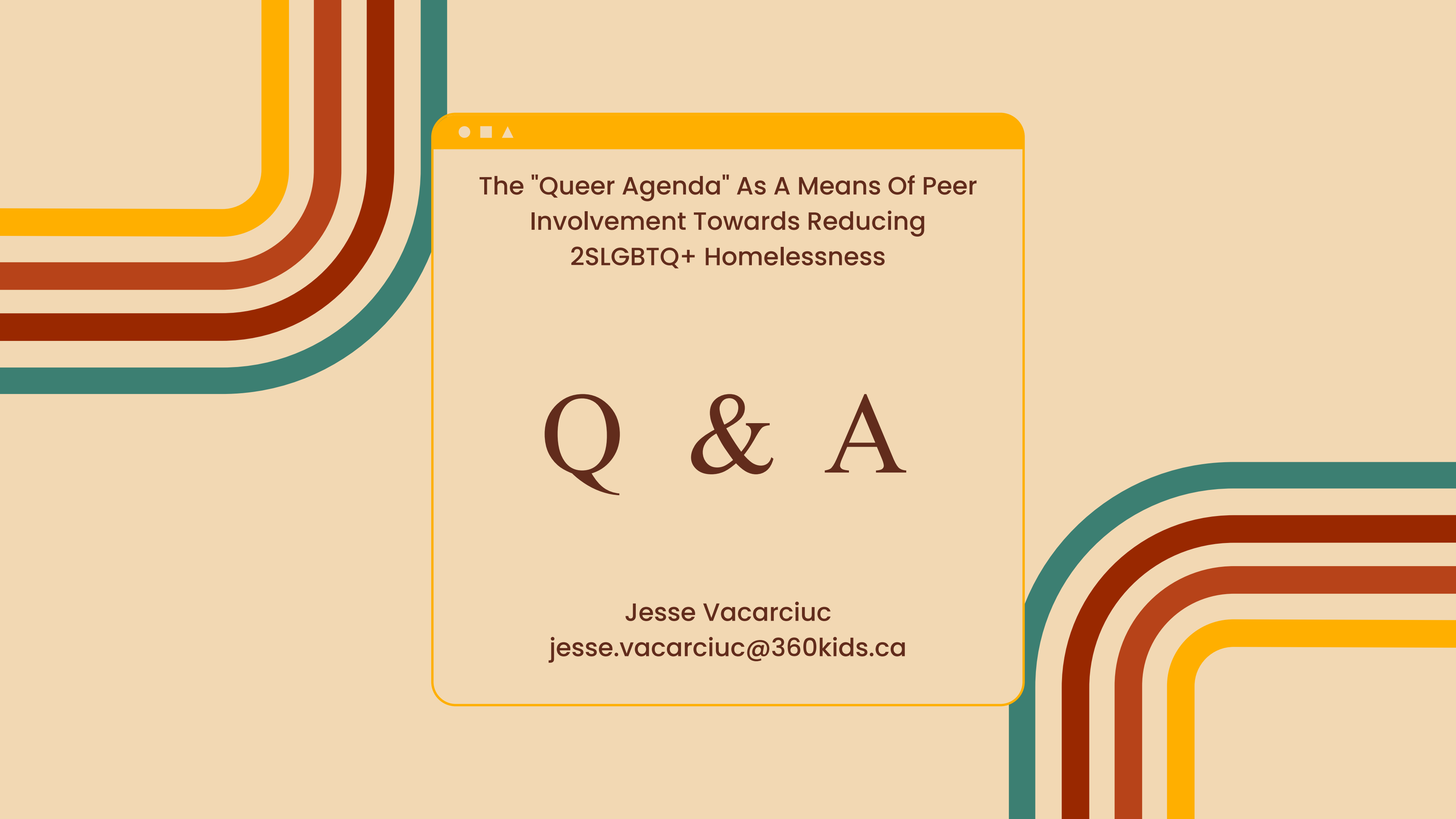
Inclusive nature of the bells  
Representation matters

A Menti poll interface displayed within a browser window. The window has a dark red title bar with standard OS window controls (minimize, maximize, close) and a yellow progress bar. The main content area is white and contains the text 'menti.com' and 'code: 4235 1154' at the top. Below this is a large, bold, dark brown question: 'WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST TAKEAWAY FROM THIS SESSION?'. The background of the entire image features large, stylized floral shapes in shades of yellow and red.

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**WHAT IS YOUR  
BIGGEST  
TAKEAWAY  
FROM THIS  
SESSION?**





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Q & A

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