THE BLACK LUNCH TABLE

DIY Pop-up photo booth guide

Black Lunch Table (BLT) is a collaborative project begun by Heather Hart and Jina Valentine in 2005. Within the universe of Wikimedia, BLT encourages people of color and women to join the movement while also asking white male editors to focus on gaps in coverage. We mobilize the creation and improvement of a specific set of Wikimedia articles pertaining to the lives and works of Black artists.

Our edit-a-thons empower people to write history. At our events we train attendees to edit and author Wikipedia, focusing on visual artists of the African Diaspora who are under-documented on the platform. We have also realized that there is a lack of visual representation of these same artists. To increase the visibility of notable artists, BLT's photo initiative invites professional photographers to host a photo-booth at our edit-a-thons, and invites local artists to have their photos taken. The photos are uploaded to the open license platform, WikiCommons and can be used on artists Wikipedia articles.

But it's not only professional photographers that can make images available on Wikimedia! We encourage students to use the platform as an opportunity to connect with local artists, practice their craft and interact with Wikimedia. This document details the steps for you to contact artists, photograph them, and how to share that image on Wikimedia Commons.

Objective [how + why]:

- Any of the articles on the Black Lunch Table task list may be a subject
- Many articles have photos but the photos are poor or aren't images of the artist.
- Many artists on our list have no pages yet, and no photos. We can still collect photos of these artists for future use!

How to get started :

- Pick an artist of the African Diaspora
    - Don't have anyone in mind?
        - Check out the task list for the BLT edit-a-thon in at your institution
        - Or check BLT's main Task List for additional artist
    - Have someone in mind?
        - Search for their Wikipedia page
            - If they have a page
                - Does it have a picture?
                    - Yes!
                        - Does it have a good picture?
                            - If yes, then choose another artist

            - If no, then you found yourself a subject!
        - No!
            - You found yourself a subject!
    - If they don't have a page
        - You can still take a picture of them!
        - See guidelines for adding artists to the BLT task list
- Contact the artist!
    - An online search for them will help find institutional affiliations
        - If they:
            - Teach, you can contact them through their .edu
            - Exhibit, you can try contacting their gallery
            - Have an artist website, contact via their website address
            - Work with other organizations…
    - Below is a draft email you can use
        - It's a template for telling them about the project and asking them to meet up for a photograph.
        - Feel free to edit!
            - Be patient and courteous.
            - Tell them why you chose them.
    - If an artist doesn't want to have their photo taken, don't be discouraged!
        - You can still ask them for an image that you can upload.
        - THESE GUIDES have step by step information for asking artists for images.

- Take their picture [see guidelines below for instructions & suggestions]

- Upload their picture [see guidelines below]

- *Thank the artist for their time!*

- Tell us about your work!!

- Thanks & good luck.

Hello,

I am a student in [X] class, working with [X].

I/we are supporting the work of Black Lunch Table(BLT) founded by Jina Valentine and Heather Hart which intends to fill holes in the documentation of contemporary art history. Their Wikimedia project creates a space to encourage people of color and women to join the Wikimedia movement to create and improve articles that pertain to the lives and works of Black artists.

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As a photo student and Wikimedia contributor, I would like to take your photograph to upload onto Wikicommons so that when your name and work are searched on the internet, people see YOU. The photographs captured so far are HERE.

You can read more about their project on their website: blacklunchtable.com

Please let me know if you are interested and then we can schedule a location and time that is convenient.

Thank you,

[X]

IMPORTANT RULES GUIDELINES:

Once you have established a connection with an artist, here are some guidelines for the portrait

Copyright/licenses/appropriation are all important issues when considering appropriate images for Wikimedia's open license platform (free for ANYONE to use, edit and distribute).

You may not simply upload an image you take of an artist's work. This would violate copyright rules. If you *are* the artist and you want to donate an image of your own work to this open license platform, that is great! Just make sure you read the copyright rules before releasing the photo.

-Photos on Wikipedia must be licensed under the GFDL, cc-by-sa or public domain. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Image_use_policy

-These images should NOT be artistic, take a complementary and traditional portrait. These photos will be part of an encyclopedia, a document of the subject. They must, therefore, simply convey information about the topic.

-Portraits should be taken in an uncluttered, not distracting environment.

-Portraits of artists and in front of their work would be fine BUT the work must be partially obscured. This protects the image from appropriation.

-Photos of the artist themselves at a public event or posed are good!

What do you do once you have the photo? How do I get it on Wikimedia? What are the licenses/permissions?

If you are not already a Wikimedia editor you can become one, JOIN HERE, and then log in

1. Upload your photo to WikiMedia Commons: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Special:UploadWizard
2. Title your photo with the name of the subject. You can enter more information in the "details" section.
3. IMPORTANT: Select the Category: **Black Lunch Table** amongst any other applicable categories for your photo
4. Notify BLT that you have added images or if you have questions

   You can contact the following talk pages: Fishantena, Heathart, Raggachampiongirl

   email wiki@blacklunchtable.com