



OUR BODIES OURSELVES

In Perspective
December 2025



A Note From Our Program Director

Dear Friends,

I usually use the word perspective in the abstract, as a way to think about something. But as I pause to reflect on the year that's almost past, I'm most struck by the visual reference embedded in perspective. A perspective is literally a point of view, a place from which we look down or across, or back. And admittedly, I'm a historian at heart, but if we want to gain clear perspective, don't we need to look from a distance? Seeing 2025 from today's vantage point, the day-to-day pieces connect to reveal a bigger landscape.



This year, Our Bodies Ourselves lost a founder: the mighty **Norma Meras Swenson**, an extraordinary mentor and leader of the global women's health movement. Norma is the fourth founder to pass away, after Pam Berger and Ruth Bell Alexander in 2024, and Esther Rome in 1995. We deeply feel their absence as we recommit to the still-relevant work they began.

Also in 2025, **Suffolk University became our official, permanent home**, the global hub of our entire program and the living legacy of Our Bodies Ourselves.

We added 20% more resources to our digital platform, trustworthy and including a growing series of original video interviews with feminist experts:

- Krystin Brandi on **contraceptive choice and reproductive autonomy**
- Michele Gilman on **surveillance and reproductive justice**
- Shruthi Mahalingaiah on **women's health and the environment**
- Erin Matson on **how big tech censors abortion information**

We launched **Next Chapters**, the first ever Our Bodies Ourselves podcast, with its rich and candid conversations about women growing older.

We marched with the historic orange Our Bodies Ourselves banner, literally and figuratively, linking our informational activism with grassroots **advocacy** for women's health, patient safety, healthcare access, single-payer medical insurance, and the rights of women and gender-expansive people everywhere.

Behind the scenes, we moved with the Center for Women's Health and Human Rights to an **inviting new space on campus**. We continued collaborating with **Breast Cancer Action** to bring their powerful education and advocacy resources to Our Bodies Ourselves. We began developing material for our next new subject area, Chronic Illness, collaborating with an amazing group of experts led by epidemiologist and Black Women's Health Study investigator, Dr. Yvette Cozier.

Collaboration remains key to our ethos. We worked with eight undergraduate interns from multiple universities, and over a dozen Suffolk students, in 2025. We welcomed additional **volunteers** through our new portal and we formed new committees to guide our future work on advocacy, global projects, and the legacy of the Boston Women's Health Book Collective (authors of OBOS). We offered public programs in partnership with Sister Song, Mass NOW, the Massachusetts Menstrual Equity Coalition, the Ford Hall Forum, and the Boston Public Library — the latter to digitize **the earliest newsprint editions** of "Our Bodies, Ourselves."

Forty new powerful feminists joined our corps of **content experts** - activists, researchers and professionals whose diverse perspectives ensure the integrity of the resources that Our Bodies Ourselves offers. We will be celebrating their many accomplishments on our social media over the rest of this month.

Most importantly, in 2025, we stayed connected with you. Thank you for using our resources. Thank you for entrusting us with your stories and **creating art about us**. Thank you for coming to our events, virtually and in person – like our author talks, film screenings, an open house, two Menstrual Equity Summits, and a meetup to sew (or glue!) squares for the ongoing **Our Bodies Our Quilt**

project. It may sound cliché but, undeniably, it's your support, in its many forms, that makes our work possible.

With that beautiful, end-of-year vista in front of us, we pause to rest and welcome the new year. Then we will keep climbing.

In solidarity,



Laura R. Prieto (she/her/ella)
Our Bodies Ourselves Program Director

Please give in support of Our Bodies Ourselves! ✨ all end-of-year donations doubled ✨



*Your accurate and inclusive
guide to health, sexuality, and
reproductive justice*

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