



## SeeHer and Horowitz Research's Gen Z Vibe Check



Tarya Weedon Horowitz Research



Yatisha Forde SeeHer



Passing The Gender Equality Vibe Check With Gen Z: From Truth To Trust

## WELCOME TO THE GEN Z **VIBE** CHECK **SESSION**

#### **AGENDA**

- About SeeHer & Horowtiz
- Background, Partnership, Purpose
- Gen Z's Truths: Insights for Reflecting
   & Resonating with Gen Z

- Driving Brand Growth Through Accurate Portrayals of Gen Z
- Recommendations
- Q&A

**Presented By:** 



Tarya Weedon
Cultural Insights Strategist
and Moderator,
Horowitz Research



Sr. Dir. Insights & Thought Leadership SeeHer





SeeHer is committed to increasing the representation and accurate portrayal of all women and girls to achieve gender equality and drive business growth in the global marketing and media ecosystem, now and for generations to come.

#### BACKGROUND PARTNERSHIP PURPOSE

In a two-part qualitative / quantitative study, SeeHer, in partnership with Horowitz Research, set out to explore Gen Z's truths about identity, gender, roles, and sexuality and how they are shifting cultural norms.

The Passing The Gender Equality Vibe Check With Gen Z: From Truth To Trust, uncovers actionable insights from this generation for how to connect and create trust through accurate representation, authentic allyship and truthful dialogue.

It also provides the top 5 things media and marketers need to consider and recommendations for **how to most accurately reflect and resonate** with Gen Z **through media and advertising depictions to drive growth**.







#### PHASE 1 QUAL: THE GEN Z GLOW UP

- Gen Z prefers to self identify and define their own truth
- Gen Z is redefining culture through their expansive views on identity, gender, sexuality, and fluidity
- The power dynamic between Gen Z and brands has shifted...you must walk the walk
- Media and brands can be influential, but authenticity and dialogue are paramount for trust









#### LABELS DON'T DEFINE ME

40% of Gen Z says labels should be chosen by the individual, not society.

"My definition is that normal is different for everyone... who are we to say someone is normal or not normal?"







# 2

#### **ROLES ARE NOT GENDER DRIVEN**

Over 50% of Gen Z says both male and female identifying people can do anything from using makeup, to doing heavy manual labor, to be emotional, to having careers in STEM.

"I feel that the roles of men and women in society have shifted drastically. I feel that people of all gender identities should have the same opportunities as each other and be able to fill any role they'd like."









#### **DISAPPEARING BINARY, EMERGING FLUIDITY**

50% of Gen Z says gender is non-binary.64% say sexuality is fluid.

"I think gender is a spectrum and people can shift how they identify from day-to-day and in different phases of their life. It's something to explore... How do you feel most truly yourself?"









88% of Gen Z disagrees that increased acceptance of non-traditional ways of thinking about gender and sexuality is bad for society.

"The fact that things are changing makes me feel really excited and hopeful, and I feel that these changes have a positive effect on society. I feel that people of all gender identities should have the same opportunities as each other and be able to fill any role they'd like."







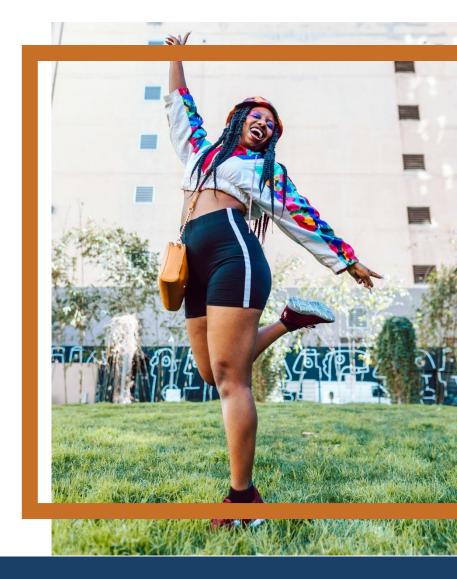




46% of Gen Z say to trust a brand, it's not enough for them to claim support... but show it in action.

47% say it feels like pandering when a brand makes ads focused on a cause that they're not involved in.

"The (brand) lives by the code of "We promote accountability, equality, and kindness in an effort to end misogyny and re-write archaic gender roles" which is shown by their efforts to give all people, especially working mothers' flexible schedules."



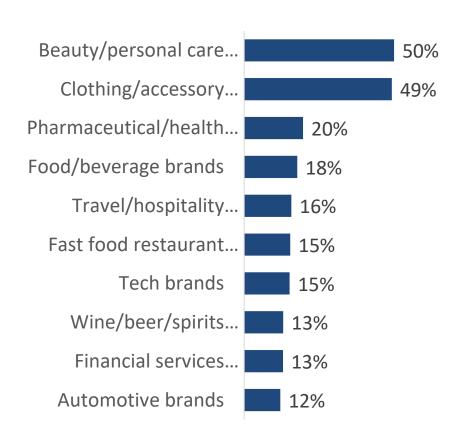






### GEN Z EXPECTS BRANDS, TO VARYING DEGREES, TO INFLUENCE PERCEPTIONS ABOUT GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Types of brands that have a bigger responsibility







- Gen Z feels most authentically like themselves on social
- Media content reflects their identity
- Fewer Gen Z feel advertising does a good job reflecting them

## ADVERTISING REQUIRES THE MOST IMPROVEMENT WITH ACCURATELY REFLECTING GEN Z

89%

Social media platforms is where they feel most like themselves **78%** 

Media (content) does a good job of reflecting Gen Z identity/lifestyle 47%

Advertising does a good job of reflecting Gen Z identity/lifestyle



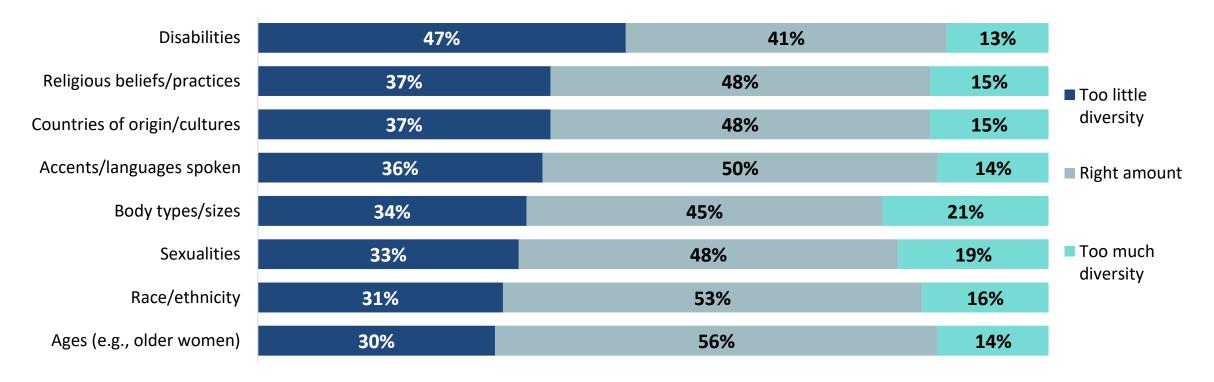


#### IMPROVE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN ACROSS THE BOARD

Especially People With Disabilities, Different Religious Beliefs/Practices, And Cultural And Linguistic Diversity

Amount of diversity in media that represents women that are/have...

Among total Gen Z





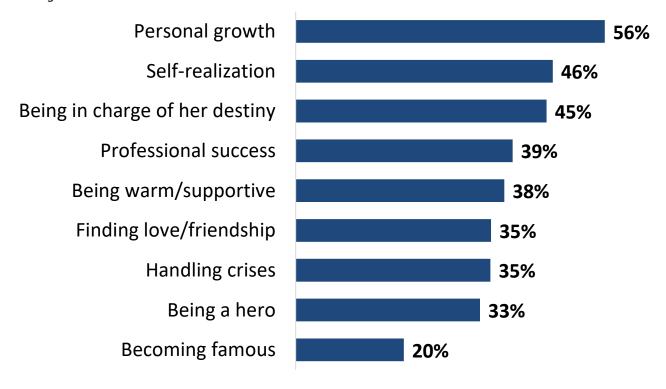




## DEPICT WOMEN ENGAGED IN STORIES OF PERSONAL GROWTH, SELF-REALIZATION, AND BEING IN CHARGE OF THEIR DESTINY

Key themes around women Gen Z want to see more of in ads/content

Among total Gen Z







## GEM® RESULTS PROVE LEVERAGING GEN Z REPRESENTATION & PORTRAYAL BEST PRACTICES DRIVES GROWTH FOR ADVERTISERS



(top  $3^{rd}$  vs. bottom  $3^{rd}$  of SeeHer members' GEM® scored creative tested among Gen Z )



Ad Likeability: +87%

Ad Relevancy: +91%

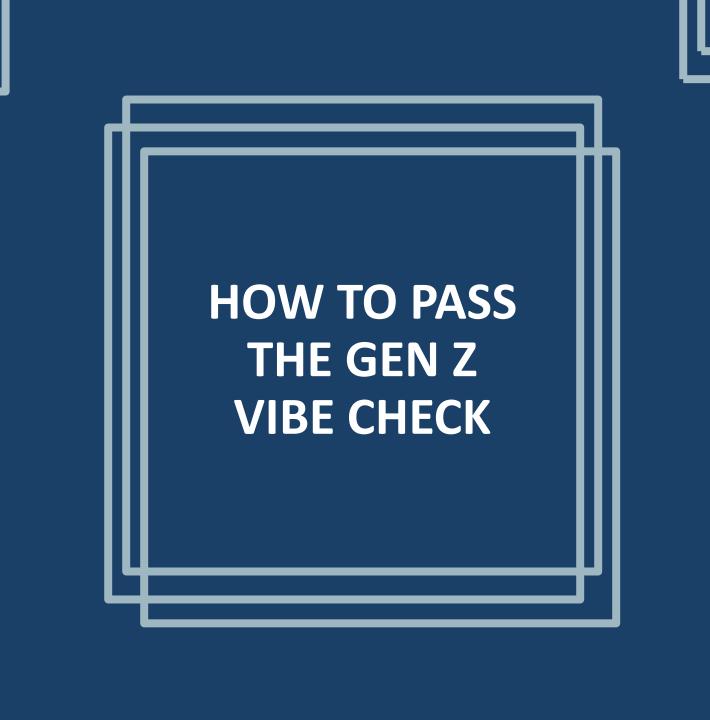
Brand Reputation: +75%

Purchase Intent: +91%

Calls to action: +88%







# TOP 5 THINGS BRANDS MUST CONSIDER

- 1. What's in your brand's DNA when it comes to DEI?
- 2. Is your brand accurately reflecting consumer's identities?
- 3. How does your brand portray genders, roles and sexuality?
- 4. Would Gen Zs consider your brand inclusive?
- 5. How does your brand model allyship?

Brands must be authentic to themselves, not to their imagined or desired audiences to earn Gen Z's trust.







# How To Pass The Gen Z Vibe Check

- Make diversity a natural part of your brand/media ethos. Not doing it will make your brand/content feel outdated and out of touch
- Reimagine the way gender, sexuality, etc. are expressed in advertising and content in order to resonate with Gen Z
- Accurate and inclusive depictions for Gen Z means featuring more diversity/ aspects of intersectional identity in ads and content
- Leverage SeeHer's guides and GEM® best practices. Portray women engaged in personal growth, self-realization, and being in charge of their destiny in ads/content. Do more to reflect males challenging traditional male roles
- Find ways to open dialogue that is inclusive and without judgment



**QUESTIONS?**