

2011

The GLBT Historical Society & GLBT History Museum in 2011

The GLBT Historical Society opened the first GLBT History Museum in the United States at the beginning of the year, attracting tens of thousands of visitors, generating international visibility and creating a base for expanded programming. We also launched a major new project in the archives. This report offers an overview of our new and ongoing accomplishments in 2011.

The Archive

The work of the archives, keeping the collections safe and accessible, never stops. This year Managing Archivist Rebekah Kim and her team assisted over 100 researchers, accessioned over 20 linear feet of new materials and digitized over 300 film and audio items—including newly discovered film footage of Harvey Milk.

The society's two-year project to survey and process our manuscript collections is well underway. Dr. Marjorie Bryer, the project archivist, has largely completed an extensive survey of all manuscript collections. The team also has been processing collections including that of noted historian Allan Bérubé, which includes more than 100 linear feet of documents.



Communications Program

GLBT history, particularly its inclusion in school textbooks, has become a subject of heated debate with blocked websites in schools and a possible ballot initiative to suppress mentions in textbooks in California. The society is increasingly drawn into this discussion as an advocate for inclusion of our history.

The opening of museum was covered by media in over 75 nations, and interest remains strong. The international visibility of the museum also has led to requests for presentations about our approach to queer public history. The society has made many such presentations, including at the International Maneo Conference (Berlin) and the Harvard Law School LAMBDA Conference.



GLBT History Museum Activities

Major Exhibitions

Main Gallery

Our Vast Queer Past:
Celebrating San Francisco's
GLBT History

Front Gallery

Great Collections From
the GLBT Historical
Society Archives



Photo: Daniel Nicoletta

Special Exhibits and Displays

Bay Area Reporter at 40 Years • Lenore Chinn: A Call to Memory (Exhibition of the 1981 Painting *Dos Cuates*) • 40 Years Together, 40 Years Strong: The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club • Alan Bérubé: My Desire for History • No Apologies, No Regrets: The AB101 Veto Riot • Creating the Gay Vote: José Sarria's 1961 Run for the San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk's Political Will (Audio Presentation) • Photographs by Rudy Lemcke (Video Wall)

Docent Led Tours

Academy of Art University
LGBT Students • Aragon
High School Gay Straight
Alliance • Billy DeFrank
LGBT Center (San Jose)
California School for the
Deaf Gay-Straight Alliance
Crusin' the Castro (10 Tours)
East Palo Alto High School
Gay-Straight Alliance
George Washington
High School Gay-Straight



Alliance • Hillsdale High School Gay-Straight Alliance • International Pow-Wow: Travel Journalists & Travel Professionals • Keiai University Student Group (Chiba, Japan) • Lincoln High School Gay-Straight Alliance • Loudon Nelson Community Center Seniors Group (Santa Cruz) • Our Family Coalition Staff • San Francisco City College LGBT Studies Classes (3 Tours) • San Francisco LGBT Center Youth Program • San Francisco State University Queer Theory Class • San Leandro High School Gay-Straight Alliance • Sonoma State University LGBT Studies Class, Queer Student Alliance • Stanford University Queer Alliance • University of California, Berkeley, Homoerotic Visual Culture Class • University of California, Berkeley, Queer Alliance • University of Utah Student Group • Wells Fargo LGBT Employee Group

Programs

Talks, Panel Discussions & Readings

Curator's Favorites Panel: Introducing "Our Vast Queer Past" • No Equality Without Economic Equality: The Struggle Against Gentrification and Displacement in the Castro During the late 1990s • Cultural Confluences: The Art of Lenore Chinn (co-presented by the API Cultural Center and the Queer Cultural Center) • Healthy Aging and Activism: Queers of Color Speak Street Power: The Story of San Francisco's Vanguard • Seeing Gertrude Stein: A Talk by Tirza True Latimer • My Desire for History: The Work of Pioneering Gay Historian Allan Bérubé Queer. Fat. Political: Readings, Performances, Discussion • Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club: Stories From Four Decades • All the Rage: Stories From the AB101 Veto Riot of 1991 Out of the Cases: Six Decades of Queer San Francisco • Writing Down the Past: Gay Men Reveal Their Histories • Once-Removed: Memoirs of a Gay Teacher • Becoming Visible: Stories From the First Black Lesbian Conference • Randy Shilts and the Creation of Patient Zero



Receptions

Bay Area Reporter 40th Anniversary Celebration • *With You: The Mark Bingham Story* Film Fund-raiser • LYRIC Alumni • Vitality (LGBT Business Networking Group) • International LGBT Travel Association • LGBT Caucus of the American Academy of Religion

Film Screenings & Discussions

A Very Natural Thing • *Tongues Untied* • *Last Call at Maud's*

Opportunities for Growth in 2012 and Beyond

There is significant public demand for the GLBT Historical Society to increase our work in several areas. Here's how we'd make use of additional resources:

Add to the Archives

The society's archives are reaching capacity. Inventorying large artifacts and artworks for off-site storage would open up space for new collections. In addition, new part-time staff would enable us to increase research hours. Estimated cost: \$25,000.

Expand the Oral History Program

Part-time staff coordinating volunteers could create an ongoing initiative to record the memories of our community members – a vital contribution to preserving our history. Estimated cost: \$25,000.

Increase Availability of Docent-Led Tours

Part-time staff working with interns and volunteers could undertake a campaign to expand our program of tours of the museum for schools, seniors and others. Estimated cost: \$25,000.

Produce Additional Exhibitions & Programs

Regularly producing new and updated exhibits and organizing more frequent programs would help us represent the wide range of GLBT histories. Estimated cost: \$50,000.

Enhance Online Content

Demand for access to the initiatives of the society extends far beyond San Francisco. A concerted effort to post Web versions of our exhibitions and programs would bring our content to a much wider public. Estimated cost: \$20,000.

GLBT Historical Society
657 Mission St., Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 9410

Web: GLBThistory.org

The society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID # 94-2989004.

Thank You

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Presenting Sponsor: Levi Strauss; **Platinum Sponsors:** Badlands and Toad Hall, Bob Ross Foundation, Harvey's Restaurant, David R. Kessler, M.D., Human Rights Campaign, Walgreens
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And our many volunteers.