

**First GLBT History Museum in the United States
Now Open in San Francisco's Castro District**

SAN FRANCISCO—Internationally renowned as a center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender culture, San Francisco has now welcomed yet another groundbreaking queer institution: The GLBT History Museum. A project of the GLBT Historical Society, an archives and research center established in 1985, the new museum will be the first of its kind in the United States—and only the second in the world.

“A quarter century after the founding of the GLBT Historical Society, we’re proud to open a museum to showcase our community’s history,” said Paul Boneberg, executive director of the Historical Society. “The GLBT History Museum is in the heart of the Castro, a neighborhood visited not only by locals, but also by tens of thousands of tourists every year who come in search of queer culture. At our museum, they’ll discover treasures from our archives that reflect fascinating stories spanning nearly a century of GLBT life. We have gone all out to create a museum as rich, diverse and surprising as the GLBT community itself. Whether visitors are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or straight, they’re sure to be moved, enlightened and entertained.”

Located at 4127 18th St. in San Francisco, the museum includes 1,600 square feet (150 m²) of gallery and program space built to the specifications of the Historical Society, with custom fixtures, lighting and multimedia installations reflecting professional standards. Funding has come from Levi’s, the City of San Francisco, the Bob Ross Foundation, Castro district merchants, and numerous other sponsors and individual donors.

The formal grand opening took place on Jan. 13, 2011. The new museum has attracted extraordinary interest worldwide, with coverage on the debut appearing in the media and on the Web in at least 70 countries and 36 languages.

The GLBT History Museum joins the Schwules Museum, the queer museum founded 25 years ago in Berlin, as one of only two stand-alone, full-scale museums devoted to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. A number of other LGBT archives and libraries also offer periodic exhibitions in the same location as their research collections or in space borrowed on an occasional basis from other organizations.

The GLBT History Museum currently features two exhibitions: In the main gallery, “Our Vast Queer Past: Celebrating San Francisco’s GLBT History,” curated by historians Gerard Koskovich, Don Romesburg and Amy Sueyoshi, and in the front gallery, “Great Collections of the GLBT Historical Society Archives.”

Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00; free for members and free to all visitors on the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, call 415-621-1107 or visit www.glbthistory.org.

GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum • Archives • Research Center

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