



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

2019 Annual Report

About the GLBT Historical Society

Founded in 1985, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of LGBTQ public history. Our operations are centered at two sites: The GLBT Historical Society Museum, located since 2011 in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and our Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market District.

Our Mission

The GLBT Historical Society collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity.

Our Vision

We envision a world in which LGBTQ people are appreciated and celebrated by one another in all their diversity and by all people for their contributions to history and culture.

We envision a world in which everyone can learn about LGBTQ history as a vital means for promoting civic engagement, social justice and political change.

We envision a world in which LGBTQ people find acceptance, strength and pride in acknowledging their heritage and in sharing it with society as a whole.

Our Values

We believe that knowledge of our diverse LGBTQ past is an invaluable resource for understanding the challenges of the present and inspiring dreams for a future of greater social justice.

We appreciate the importance of LGBTQ history for building community and promoting connection.

We support debate, dialogue and discussion about the LGBTQ past as a way to educate, inspire and empower LGBTQ people and our allies in building our future.



Participants at a February 2019 event at the GLBT Historical Society Museum; photo by Nalini Elias.

Temporary Exhibitions

January–May

Two-Spirit Voices: Returning to the Circle
Curated by Roger Kuhn, Amelia Vigil & Ruth Villaseñor

February–May

SoMa Nights: The Queer Nightclub Photography of Melissa Hawkins
Curated by Marke Bieschke & Melissa Hawkins

May–October

The Mayor of Folsom Street: The Life & Legacy of Alan Selby
Curated by Jordy Jones, Jeremy Prince & Gayle Rubin

June–October

Chosen Familias: LGBTQ Latinx Stories
Curated by Tina Valentin Aguirre

November 2019–April 2020

Performance, Protest & Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker
Curated by Joanna Black & Jeremy Prince

Selected Educational Forums

- A Great Ride: Adventures in Lesbian Aging
- Stop AIDS Now or Else: Protest as Community Catalyst
- Love, Marriage & Queers: 15 Years of Bliss?
- Lana & Lilly Wachowski: Sensing Transgender
- The L and the GBTQ: Lesbian Visibility, Leadership & Political Power
- Two-Spirit Voices: Still Here, Still Queer
- Thrill Spot: The Raid on Tommy's Place
- Rainbow Rice: Intersectional Justice for LGBTQ Asian and Pacific Islanders

Selected Archival Accessions

- AIDS Emergency Fund Records
- Jean-Baptiste Carhaix Papers
- Spring Ruth Friedlander Papers
- Alpheus Koon Papers
- Shiloh Quine Papers



The Year 2019, Through a 2020 Looking Glass

It is with a bittersweet blend of pride and nostalgia that we take this opportunity, from the perspective of mid-2020, to look back on the year 2019 at the GLBT Historical Society. Little did we know what the future held on December 31 as we celebrated another fabulous year of collecting, preserving and sharing the richly diverse stories of LGBTQ history.

Our world-renowned archival and exhibition programs continued to expand, and we redoubled efforts to be more fully inclusive and representative of our LGBTQ communities. Today, in the wake of the murder of George Floyd and of so many other Black and Brown lives around the country, these educational programs are more important than ever before. Without a fuller understanding and appreciation of our LGBTQ histories, and their intersectional connections to broader struggles for justice and equality, we are all in danger of being further marginalized, fragmented and oppressed.

GLBT Historical Society Executive Director Terry Beswick and San Francisco Mayor London Breed at the society's 2019 Gala, where she endorsed our vision of creating a full-scale museum of LGBTQ history and culture. Photo by Steven Underhill, used with permission.

We're proud of the five exhibitions we mounted at our Castro neighborhood museum, augmented with a wide array of educational forums. The year's exhibitions provided a living platform for the individual and collective voices of members of the LGBTQ family from five wonderful, distinct points of view.

The GLBT Historical Society maintains perhaps the largest independent community archives of LGBTQ historical materials in the United States and, as such, we strive to fully represent the members of our community. In 2019, we were pleased to accession a greater proportion of collections from communities of color, women and transgender people. And we need to do much more. We are committed to including and representing historically underrepresented and disadvantaged communities in all aspects of our organization.

As we write these words, we are of course in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been focusing our energies on expanding our online offerings, with a broad spectrum of exhibitions, forums and archival resources. Thank you for supporting the work of the GLBT Historical Society in 2019. We were very pleased to end the year in a favorable financial position and we hope you will stand with us in 2020 and beyond.

The LGBTQ community's strength lies in its diversity, and throughout our history we have proven our resilience when we have stood together to overcome adversity.

With respect for our shared past and hope for our future,

Tina Valentin Aguirre
Chair, Board of Directors

Terry Beswick
Executive Director

Museum

In the Castro

A Local Gathering Place & International Destination

In 2019, the GLBT Historical Society Museum held nearly 40 public programs and mounted five high-quality exhibitions on topics ranging from the construction of queer families to how costumes can be used as a form of protest. With more than 20,000 visitors throughout the year, the museum remains an important local gathering place as well as a destination for visitors from around the world.

The year began with "Two-Spirit Voices: Returning to the Circle," a celebration of the 20th anniversary of frequent society collaborator Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits, an organization committed to activism and service for the Two-Spirit and ally communities of the San Francisco Bay. Two exhibitions in February and May documented the famous nightlife and leather/kink subcultures of the SoMa neighborhood. "SoMa Nights: The Queer Nightclub Photography of Melissa Hawkins" displayed never-before-seen photographs of nightclubs from the late 1980s to the early 1990s, showcasing the exuberance of the era's nightlife even at the height of the AIDS epidemic. "The Mayor of Folsom Street: The Life and Legacy of Alan Selby," examined the life, loves and philanthropic work of "Daddy" Alan Selby, the founder of the city's iconic Mr. S. Leather emporium.

Over the summer, our board chair Tina Valentin Aguirre curated "Chosen Familias: Bay Area Latinx Queer Stories," a loving exploration of how LGBTQ Latinx people have redefined notions of family and kinship. Finally, in November the society opened "Performance, Protest and Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker," which considered the less well-known dimensions of rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker's life and drew on a major archival collection that we received from Baker's heirs in 2017.

We held three dozen programs in 2019, including curatorial talks, living history discussions, book talks and film screenings, with many events at capacity or sold out. Our volunteer docents continue to guide and instruct the public, giving over 50 tours to student groups, community organizations, professional groups and visitors.



Top: Conceptual drawing for the BAAITS contingent in the San Francisco Pride Parade, 2002; Joshua Dunn Collection of LGBTQ Youth & Two-Spirit papers (2016-22), GLBT Historical Society.
Bottom: Duo With Cigar, The Eagle, 1990s; photo by Melissa Hawkins, used with permission.

Archives

Market Street Downtown

Collection Development & Improved Research Access

2019 was a year of sustained growth and exciting new initiatives aimed at making our holdings more available and accessible than ever. We welcomed over 370 researchers during the course of the year, hired a new reference archivist to better support patrons, and hosted numerous school tours and college volunteer days to share queer history with a new generation.

Our ongoing collection development efforts continued to bear fruit, as we accepted over 70 new archival accessions. Among the most significant acquisitions was the Shiloh Heavenly Quine Papers, which includes a set of unique self-portraits created in prison by Quine, the first U.S. inmate to receive state-funded gender confirmation surgery while incarcerated. The AIDS Emergency Fund Records document the work of a historically significant nonprofit organization that provided critical financial assistance to those living with the disease. And just in time for the 50th anniversary of San Francisco Pride in 2020, we received the organizational records of the Pride Celebration Committee, which includes ephemera, photographs and videos dating to the late 1970s.

In 2019, the archives staff prioritized making our extensive collections more easily discoverable and accessible. We migrated our complete catalog to the Online Archive of California (OAC) and integrated its robust search function with our website. We also unveiled three new topical research guides that familiarize researchers with our holdings related to religion and spirituality; people with disabilities; and transgender, nonbinary, intersex and Two-Spirit people. Finally, our ongoing digitization efforts enabled us to make publicly available materials from two important collections: photographs from the Elaine Gay Jarvis Collection, which documents the 1978 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day parade, and selections from the Beowulf Thorne Papers, which chronicles Thorne's early AIDS activism and his publication *Diseased Pariah News*.

The breadth and depth of our collections is reflected in the growing number of archival loan requests from institutions around the world. In 2019 we lent precious archival items to the Newseum in Washington, D.C., the Oakland Museum of California, the Bundekunsthalle in Bonn, Germany, and, closer to home, to the SFO Museum to help inaugurate Harvey Milk Terminal 1 at San Francisco International Airport. Rare objects in our Art and Artifacts collection were also featured in a five-part series in the *Bay Area Reporter* in the autumn.

Top: Self portrait of Shiloh Quine, 2011; Shiloh Quine Papers (2019-04), GLBT Historical Society.
Bottom: A couple embraces at the 1978 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade; photo by Elaine Gay Jarvis, Elaine Gay Jarvis Photographs (2018-90), GLBT Historical Society.



By The Numbers 2019

5 Exhibitions Mounted

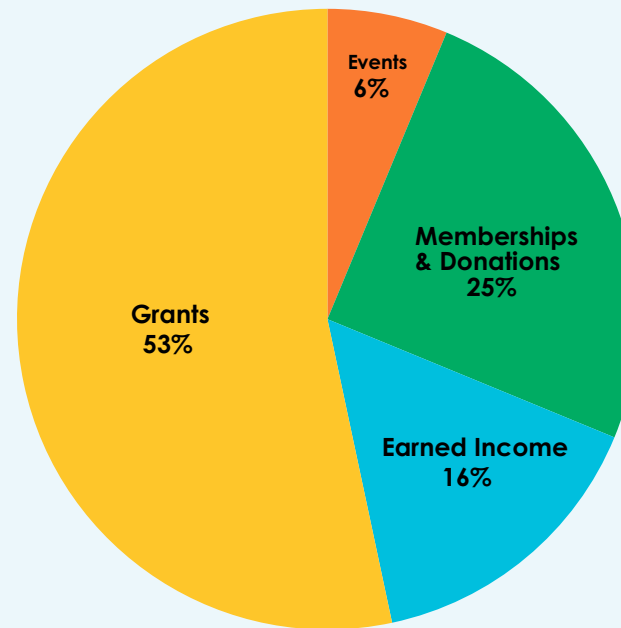
79 New Archival Accessions

370 Archives Researchers

26,000 Museum Visitors

39 Educational Forums

55 Group Tours of Museum



Revenue

Events

\$87,712

Memberships & Donations

\$348,973

Earned income

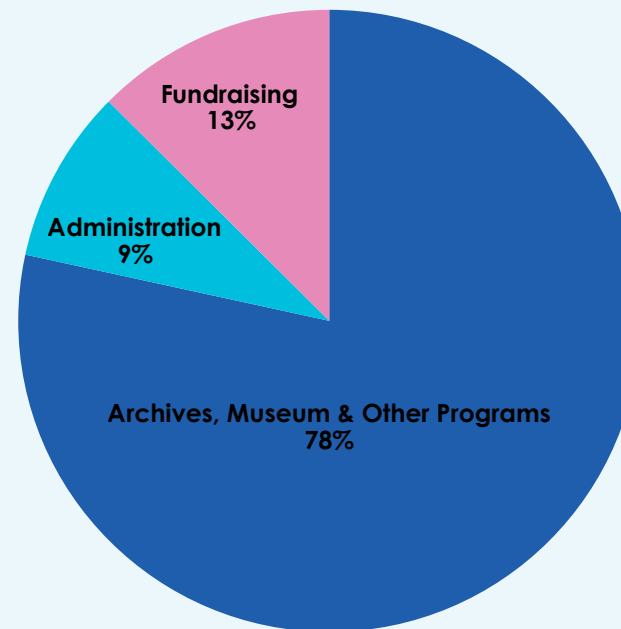
\$215,977

Grants

\$746,143

Total Revenue:

\$1,398,805



Expenses

Archives, Museum & Other Programs

\$1,087,073

Administration

\$125,295

Fundraising

\$173,942

Total Expenses:

\$1,386,310

For full financials,
please visit our website:
glbthistory.org/reports

Making History

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of July 31, 2020

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Tina Valentin Aguirre

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As of December 31, 2019

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Daniel Bao

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Terry Beswick

Curator of Exhibitions

Nalini Elias

Director, Dr. John. P. De Cecco

Archives & Special Collections

Kelsi Evans

Reference Archivist

Isaac Fellman

Museum Operations Manager

Leigh Pfeffer

Development Coordinator

Mikaela Rioux

Communications Manager

Mark Sawchuk

Registrar of Collections & Exhibitions

Ramón Silvestre

Director of Development

& Communications

Andrew Shaffer

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Exhibitions

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Peter Lundberg & James Mowdy

Jason Macario & Steve Holst

Alexander Marucci

Scott Mussell

Les Natali

Maria Powers & Bobbi Marshall

San Francisco Badlands

Serovita

tru | med

\$1,000 or more

Estate of Gilbert Thomas Baker

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John Bell & Jason Spicer

Terry Beswick

John Caldwell & Zane Blaney

Mario Castaneda

Paul Chin & Chuck Street

Paul Christensen

William Cohen

Terry Colbert & James Mason

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John Cunningham

Robert Darrow

Martha Ehrenfeld & Carla McKay

Beth Feingold

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Benjamin Gilliam

Peter M. Gilligan

Paul Giurlanda

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Planet Granite

Planet Horticulture

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John Raines

Gayle Rubin

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SFMOMA

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Daniel Bao

Neil Austin & Tom Burtch

Frederick J. Baumer

Tomlinson Holman

& Friederich Koenig

Larry Lare Nelson

Brian Turner

Andreas Weigend

We also thank our many members

who support the GLBT Historical

Society's museum and archives.

Five-Year Strategic Plan 2018–2022

The strategic plan provides a framework to guide the further growth and evolution of the society over the next few years. The plan is structured around the following five goals:

Goal 1: Continue to build our archival collections, while improving access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.

Goal 2: Establish a permanent home for exhibitions, archives, and programs where the stories and cultures of our diverse LGBTQ communities can be shared.

Goal 3: Develop collaborations with other institutions to reach young people and other diverse audiences with the lessons of LGBTQ history and culture.

Goal 4: Communicate effectively who we are and what we have to offer.

Goal 5: Develop organizational structures and policies to increase stability and ensure sustainable growth.

The entire plan is available on the society's website: glbthistory.org/reports

Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives & Special Collections

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GLBT Historical Society Museum

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The GLBT Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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