

MEDIA RELEASE

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Announcement of Resignation

San Francisco — The Board of Directors of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society announces the resignation of Terry Beswick, effective September 15, 2021, as he leaves to pursue other career and life opportunities.

Beswick has served as Executive Director for five and half years and leaves with significant accomplishments. When he started at the Society, we were just a small set of loyal volunteers, contractors, and two other staff members. During his tenure, the team grew substantially – and so did the Society’s footprint – with archive and museum leases secured and exhibitions and archival programs expanded to more fully represent our community’s stories. He also played a critical role in bringing diverse and committed stewards to the Society, who share his and our passion for preserving our community’s history, and who have committed to supporting the Society’s plan for a new museum. He spearheaded developing a five-year strategic plan and a soon-to-be-launched capital campaign, which together will help support the Society’s exciting five-year trajectory towards opening the first full-scale museum of LGBTQ history in America.

“The Society has become a stronger, more diverse and more effective organization during Terry’s tenure and we are grateful for his efforts on behalf of LGBTQ history,” said board chair Maria Powers. “Terry leaves us well-positioned for future growth, and we know he will continue to make a positive impact in our community.”

“I have always believed that it is important for a leader to know when it is time to step aside and let a fresh pair of eyes take an organization to the next level,” explained Beswick. Beswick has been a fighter for LGBTQ lives and equality for 35 years and we have no doubt that he will continue doing this work in one

form or another. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him well in his future endeavors.

The Board of Directors is proud to announce the appointment of Kelsi Evans and Andrew Shaffer as Interim Co-Executive Directors. Evans is the Society's Archives Director and Shaffer is Director of Development and Communications. Together they bring a combination of community engagement, program management, and executive leadership that will provide great continuity during the transition.

"I have every confidence that the committed team we have assembled at the Society will succeed in taking on the new challenges and opportunities ahead," said Beswick. "I'm so excited to see the Society fulfill our dreams of more fully preserving and sharing our richly diverse community's histories, and I will always support the Society however I can."

The Board will be establishing a search committee and looks forward to updating the community on the results of its executive leadership search.

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ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that 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. Founded in 1985, the Society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history and maintains one of the world's largest archival collections of LGBTQ historical materials. Our operations are centered at two sites: the GLBT Historical Society Museum, located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and the Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market district. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

GRAPHICS

The following image may be reproduced only in association with coverage of this announcement.



Photo of Terry Beswick courtesy of the same.

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