



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

2017 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 queer public history. Our operations are centered around two sites: The GLBT History 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 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (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.

Temporary Exhibitions

January–May

Beartoonist of San Francisco: Sketching an Emerging Subculture

Curated by Jeremy Prince

April–September

Lavender-Tinted Glasses: A Groovy Gay Look at the Summer of Love

Curated by Joey Cain

May–September

Picturing Kinship: Portraits of Our Community by Lenore Chinn

Curated by Tirza True Latimer

October 2017–January 2018

OUT/LOOK & the Birth of the Queer

Curated by E.G. Crichton

Main Gallery Updates

South of Market: San Francisco's Leather Scene

Curated by Will Murdoch & Greg Pennington

Faces from the Past: We Have Always Been Here

Curated by Bill Lipsky & Paula Lichtenberg

Finding Our Voice, Claiming Our Place: The Evolution of AIDS Activism, 1981–1990

Curated by Mike Shriver

Selected Educational Forums

Preserving & Promoting San Francisco's LGBTQ Cultural Heritage

Eccentric Modernisms: Making Differences in the History of American Art

Faces of the Past: Queer Lives in Northern California Before 1930

"She Made My Daughter Do It": Lesbian Inheritance & Family Conflict

Queerness in Flux: Shifting Lesbian, Trans & Genderqueer Identities



Disco diva Sylvester sings at the 1980 Castro Street fair. GLBT Historical Society, Robert Pruzan collection.

Selected Accessions: 2017

Rex Ray Graphic Art Collection

Wayne Friday Collection

Tirza Latimer Collection

David Scott Collection

Gilbert Baker Collection

Sylvester Collection

Betty Warner & Ruth Babcock Photographs

Pink Triangle Park Collection

Catharine Martin Collection

Lenore Chinn Photographs

And Castro For All Collection

Anything that Moves Magazine Collection



After more than three decades, the GLBT Historical Society is growing, fueled by an increasing thirst for knowledge of our LGBTQ past. As the political and legal threats to LGBTQ people, immigrants, women, people of color and others grow more ominous, preserving and sharing our diverse histories and cultures has become part of the resistance as well as a celebration of our past accomplishments.

Each year, thousands of people from around the world stream through our museum in the Castro, and thousands more read or experience creative and scholarly works that are produced with materials from our archives. The impact of our work is most visible in the faces of the young people who visit our museum, in the comments museum patrons post on social media and in the projects that come to fruition after consulting our archives.

In 2017 the GLBT Historical Society expanded our operations and invested in planning for future growth. We hired additional program and development staff and established a National Advisory Council. We engaged in an extensive community consultation process to create a Five-Year Strategic Plan

Left: Photographer Crawford Barton, GLBT Historical Society.
Center: Photographer anonymous, GLBT Historical Society, Lesbian Photos Collection.
Right: Photographer Crawford Barton, GLBT Historical Society.

for the years 2018 to 2022, with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. We also took steps toward implementing the plan, which lays out a number of key goals to guide us in our work.

Central to these goals is the establishment of a New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture, which will be the first full-fledged museum and public history center dedicated to the stories of LGBTQ people anywhere in North America. The museum will be the centerpiece of a research and public history center that will house our archives, exhibitions and educational programs. The establishment of the museum and increased space for the archives is critical to showcasing the full spectrum of our diverse LGBTQ histories.

We are deeply grateful to all those who made this progress possible. As demand for our programs continues to grow and we work toward achieving all our strategic goals—including identifying a site for our new museum and public history center—we hope you will join us in this effort today by becoming a member, by donating to our annual fund or through planned giving as a member of our Legacy Circle.

Working together, we will continue to realize our mission "to collect, preserve, exhibit and make accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity."

Thank you for being a part of this vision.

Yours in understanding that history truly matters,

Terry Beswick
Executive Director

Tina Valentin Aguirre
Chair, Board of Directors

Museum

In the Castro

The Public Face of History

Six years after its opening, the GLBT History Museum remains a key setting for the GLBT Historical Society to share our past with LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ publics and to advocate for the preservation of queer history and culture. Visitors and media from around the world continue to make the museum a significant cultural destination in the city. The museum experienced a close to 25 percent increase in visitors in 2017, welcoming a total of nearly 26,000 people.

In 2017 we refreshed our popular long-term exhibition in the Main Gallery, *Queer Past Becomes Present*, replacing several of the displays with new themes, including one section focusing on SoMa's historic leather community and another dedicated to early AIDS activism in San Francisco. We also installed a dynamic new video wall visible through the front windows of the museum. This display draws greater foot traffic from 18th Street when the museum is open and attracts viewers even when we're closed.

The museum welcomed four temporary exhibitions exploring a range of topics. Curator E.G. Crichton's *OUT/LOOK and the Birth of the Queer* invited 38 participants to create new artistic works in response to one of the 17 issues of *OUT/LOOK*, the groundbreaking queer publication from the late 1980s and early 1990s. Later in the year, art historian Tirza True Latimer curated *Picturing Kinship*, a 35-year retrospective of LGBTQ portraits in painting and photography by San Francisco artist Lenore Chinn.

In addition, the museum hosted more than 50 programs and events, including community forums, author talks, lectures and panel discussions. Particularly notable was the launch of our continuing monthly "Fighting Back" series of panel discussion that link LGBTQ history to contemporary issues. Our dedicated volunteer docents also gave more than 70 guided tours of the museum to class groups ranging from junior high to university students and to community organizations, professional groups and other visitors from around the United States and from as far away as Norway and Japan.

Left Column:
OUT/LOOK exhibition.
Photographer anonymous, used with permission.

Executive Director Terry Beswick gives a tour of the museum.
Photographer Mark Sawchuk.

Community members gather for a panel at the museum.
Photographer Gerard Koskovich.

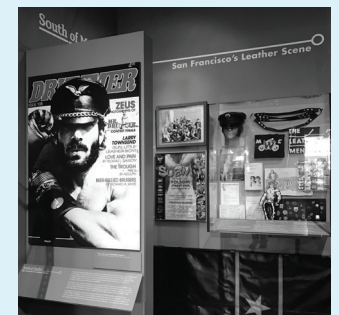
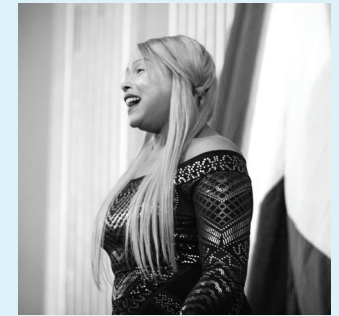
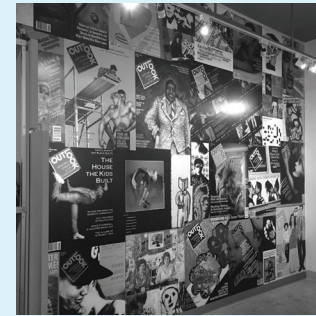
Joey Cain interviews Jae Whitaker as part of the *Lavender Tinted Glasses* exhibition. Photographer Gerard Koskovich.

Right Column:
Transgender opera singer Breanna Sinclairé at the 2017 Gala.
Photographer J. Alex Photography.

Entrance to the museum.
Photographer anonymous, used with permission.

Scholar Amy Sueyoshi gives a talk at the museum.
Photographer Gerard Koskovich.

South of Market main gallery exhibit.
Photographer anonymous, used with permission.



Archives

Market Street Downtown

Cataloging Our Stories

After accomplishing the move to our new space in 2016, the year 2017 was a dynamic period of growth for the society's archives—growth in numbers of patrons, collections and personnel. A total of 353 researchers consulted the archives in 2017, a dramatic increase over the previous year. Over the summer, we welcomed a new archives assistant to support our managing archivist and help orient our burgeoning number of users to the holdings.

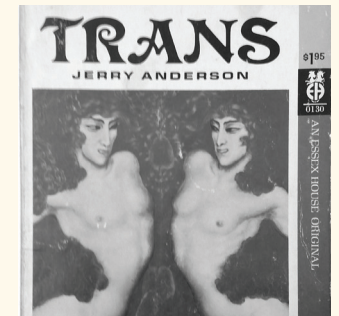
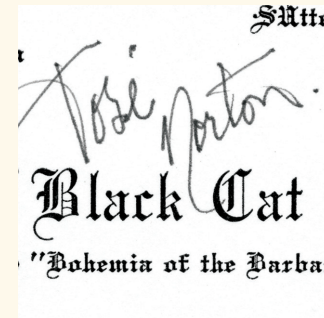
We continued to prioritize expanding our holdings in 2017, accessioning 22 new archival collections. This year we welcomed several especially exciting acquisitions, notably materials from the estate of American artist and activist Gilbert Baker (1951–2017), internationally renowned for his iconic 1978 design of the rainbow flag. In addition to many flag-related items, the collection contains private writings, correspondence with close friends, protest banners, photographs and costumes, all of which paint a detailed and complex picture of a man fiercely dedicated to social justice. We also were honored that the family of San Francisco's most celebrated disco diva, Sylvester, chose to donate a collection of his publicity shots, handmade jewelry, family photos and other personal artifacts to the archives.

The year also brought an acceleration of our efforts to make more content from the archives available in digital formats, enhancing remote access to our holdings. With the assistance of Gale, a Cengage Company, we made 10 archival collections available in digital form, including portions of the frequently used Allan Bérubé Papers, plus two collections focusing on the transgender community: the National Transgender Library Collection and the Transgender San Francisco Collection.

In addition, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant shared with the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California at San Francisco enabled us to make available online 127,000 pages from 49 archival collections held at the three institutions. These materials all relate to the early days of the AIDS epidemic. And our most significant digitization effort has been devoted to the *Bay Area Reporter*, the longest running continuously published gay newspaper in the United States. In 2017, we completed digitization of issues from 1994 to 2005 (when the BAR itself began publishing its content online); the remainder going back to 1971 will be posted by the fall of 2018.

Left Column:
Autographed Black Cat business card from the Ephemera Collection.
Visitors from Japan tour the archives. Photographer Gerard Koskovich.
Leather vests from the Art and Artifacts Collection. Photographer Sean Greene.
Museum Collections Registrar Dr. Ramón Silvestre. Photographer Ellis Martin.

Right Column:
José Sarria and friends in 1996. Anonymous, GLBT Historical Society, Photography Collection.
The stacks in the GLBT Historical Society's archives. Photographer Jeremy Prince.
A title from the Rare Books Collection. Photographer Sean Greene.
A poster from the Ephemera Collection. Photographer Sean Greene.



By The Numbers 2017

7 Exhibitions Mounted

**22 New Archival Collections
Accessioned**

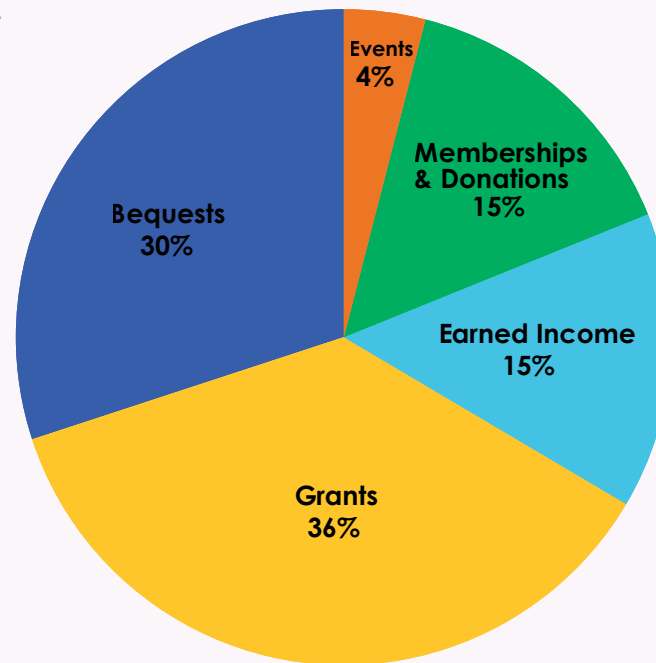
**10 Archival Collections
Digitized**

**11 Years of the Bay Area
Reporter Digitized**

26,000 Museum Visitors

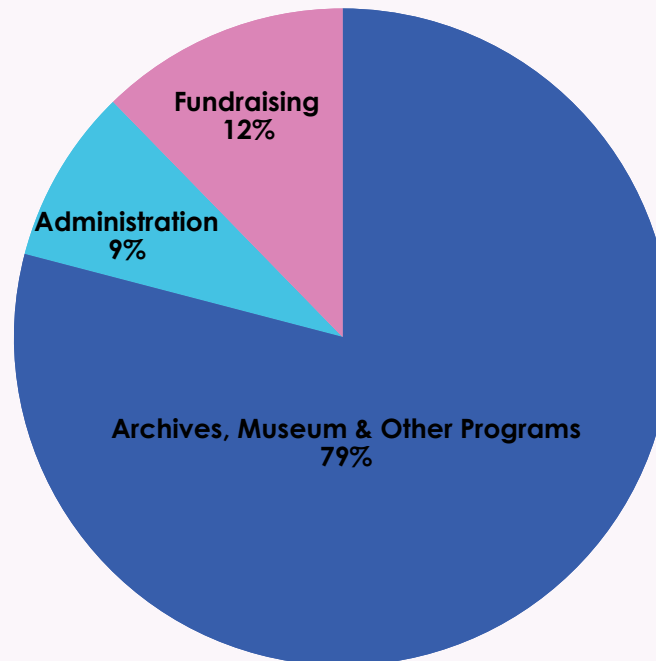
50 Educational Forums

71 Group Tours of Museum



Revenue

Events	\$55,224
Memberships & Donations	\$204,952
Earned income	\$201,429
Grants	\$502,516
Bequests	\$414,030
Total Revenue:	\$1,378,151



Expenses

Archives, Museum & Other programs	\$734,018
Administration	\$80,146
Fundraising	\$114,217
Total Expenses:	\$928,381

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

Making History

Board of Directors

Board officers as of June 30, 2018

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Communications

Gerard Koskovich

Exhibitions

Elisabeth Cornu

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Shayne Watson

Programming & Education

Lito Sandoval

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City & County of San Francisco

Grants for the Arts | Hotel Tax Fund
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& Workforce Development
Mayor's Office of Housing
& Community Development
San Francisco Arts Commission

Sustaining (\$400,000 or more)

The Estate of Dr. John P. De Cecco

Presenting (\$25,000 or more)

Emily Rosenberg & Darlene deManincor

Platinum (\$10,000 or more)

Al Baum & Robert Holgate
The Bob Ross Foundation
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David Kessler, MD
The Estate of Manuel E. Mingoa

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AT&T
Chevron
Excelerate Foundation
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Joq Lasner in Honor of David Weissman
Robert Ostertag
Toad Hall & Badlands
Wells Fargo Foundation

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John Caldwell & Zane Blaney
(John & Zane's Queer Legacy Fund)
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Disney Worldwide Services
Marc Geller
Richard C. Hoblock & Gerald E. Garrels
Imperial Council of San Francisco Inc.
The LEF Foundation
St. Francis Foundation
Brian Turner

Bronze (\$1,000 or more)

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Anonymous
Troy Barber & Dan Stewart

Bears of San Francisco
Beaux

Michael Betts

Calamus

Paul Chin

Paul Christensen

Gray Clossman

Community Thrift Store

Calvin Doucet

Becky Escamilla & Aimee Chang

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Peter Lundberg

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Susan Goldstein in Honor of Bill Walker

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James C. Hormel & Michael P. Nguyen

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Brian Turner

Wooden Boats for Veterans

We also thank our many members who support the GLBT Historical Society's museum and archives.



VISION2020

HONORING OUR HERITAGE
& BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Donate to our annual fund, **Vision2020**, to help create the New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture in San Francisco. Vision2020 is a multiyear capacity-building campaign to prepare for a comprehensive center for LGBTQ public history. **This world-class facility with galleries, events space and archives is expected to be much larger than our current museum,** and will allow us to do justice to our richly diverse community's past. All funds will help the GLBT Historical Society build its development capacity in preparation for a capital campaign.

To join us in this vital work, please make a tax-deductible donation today online:

glbthistory.org/donate

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

Archives & Research Center
989 Market Street, Lower Level
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-777-5455

GLBT History Museum
4127 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
415-621-1107

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Tax ID #94-2989004

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