



GLBT
Historical
Society
museum & archives

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MEDIA STATEMENT

GLBT Historical Society Responds to Proposals to Redesign Harvey Milk Plaza

San Francisco — A campaign has been underway in San Francisco for three years to propose a complete redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza and the entrance to the San Francisco Muni Metro station at Castro and Market streets. The group promoting the process has developed several design concepts over that time, with the most recent released in May 2019.

Following is a media statement from Terry Beswick, executive director of the GLBT Historical Society, an internationally renowned LGBTQ public history institution that runs a museum in the Castro District, regarding the proposal and the process that produced it.

Beswick puts his organization on record as advocating a restoration, renovation and limited adaptation of the existing historic design for Harvey Milk Plaza in place of the proposed demolition and complete replacement.

Statement from GLBT Historical Society Executive Director Terry Beswick

The GLBT Historical Society applauds the goal of more effectively honoring the memory of Harvey Milk and the LGBTQ history of the Castro at the Muni Metro station and historic plaza that bears Milk's name at the corner of Castro and Market streets in San Francisco.

We support the efforts of the City and County of San Francisco to undertake the work necessary to bring the space into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and we congratulate the Friends of Harvey Milk Plaza and its supporters on their work to bring attention to the plaza.

However, after careful consideration of the proposed demolition and complete redesign of the space under consideration by the City, the society instead favors preservation and restoration of the existing historic plaza with limited adaptation of the original design to ensure ADA compliance, to allow for appropriate arts and history installations and to address other functional considerations.

We strongly encourage the City to refocus funding and to organize efforts to restore, refresh and make accessible the original design of Harvey Milk Plaza and the surrounding area with the utmost respect for the spirit of Harvey Milk and the history of the Castro neighborhood.

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About the GLBT Historical Society

Based in San Francisco, **the GLBT Historical Society** is internationally recognized as a leader in the field of LGBTQ public history. Its mission includes transmitting the history of LGBTQ places and ensuring the preservation of meaningful LGBTQ historic sites.

Founded in 1985, the society collects, preserves and exhibits materials documenting the LGBTQ past. By supporting researchers and welcoming the general public, the society promotes understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity.

At its Mid-Market archives and research center, the society maintains one of the nation's largest collections of primary LGBTQ historical materials. Since January 2011, the society also has operated the GLBT Historical Society Museum, the first stand-alone museum of its kind in the United States.

Located in the heart of the Castro District, the museum showcases the depth and breadth of the society's archives, demonstrates the value of queer history to the public, and mounts wide-ranging exhibitions and programs with an emphasis on diversity and social justice.

For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

The GLBT Historical Society | (415) 777-5455 | info@glbthistory.org | www.glbthistory.org

