



**GLBT**  
**Historical**  
**Society**  
*museum & archives*

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## **Annual Gala of the GLBT Historical Society Featuring Popular Diva Juanita MORE! Celebrates Connections and Honors Awards Recipients**

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**San Francisco** — The GLBT Historical Society’s annual gala will bring together enthusiasts of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history and culture on Friday, October 18. The festive soiree will take place on the Ohana Floor of San Francisco’s newest iconic skyscraper, the Salesforce Tower, offering breathtaking and panoramic views of the city. The gala will support the public history initiatives of the society, including its renowned museum and archives.

“[Chosen Family: The 2019 GLBT Historical Society Gala](#)” will open with welcome remarks by Mayor London Breed and will feature entertainment by San Francisco philanthropist and performer [Juanita MORE!](#), who is celebrating her 27th year as a drag activist.

Gala guests will enjoy elegant hors d’oeuvres and a signature cocktail. [Asilent auction](#) will feature travel, fine dining, art, photography and queer memorabilia.

The GLBT Historical Society will bestow three awards at the gala. California State Senator Scott Wiener will present the Clio Award to Cornelis “Cees” van Aalst, one of the society’s most dedicated and passionate volunteers. Mr. van Aalst was active in the gay liberation movement during the 1970s, including in the Beloved Disciples, a church for gay people. He has welcomed visitors to the GLBT Historical Society Museum for more than six years.

Miss MORE! will present the Willie Walker Founders Award to PAX Labs, an award-winning consumer technology brand founded in San Francisco in 2007 with the goal of creating responsible, enjoyable and personalized vaporizer experiences. PAX’s partnership with Miss MORE! during Pride this year raised over \$133,000 for the society.

Finally, San Francisco Supervisor Rafael Mandelman will present the History Makers Award to Project Inform, an organization founded in 1984 that was a global leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS until its closure earlier this year. From its early years offering life-saving information, a national hotline, town hall

meetings and publications, to its advocacy for testing, combination therapy and experimental treatments, to its later role fighting for access to healthcare, biomedical prevention, effective treatments and a cure for both HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, Project Inform's tireless work over 35 years is widely credited with saving countless lives.

Gala tickets have sold out, but members of the public can still bid online for silent auction lots through October 18. For more information, visit [www.glbthistory.org/gala](http://www.glbthistory.org/gala).

Sponsors for this year's gala include the Bob Ross Foundation, PAX, AT&T, Hamburger Mary's, Toad Hall, San Francisco Badlands, First Republic Bank, the Horizons Foundation, Tina Valentin Aguirre and Bill Jennings, Peter M. Lundberg and James Mowdy, Les Natali and Terry Beswick. The media sponsors are *SF Weekly*, the *Bay Area Reporter* and the *San Francisco Examiner*.

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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](http://www.glbthistory.org).

### **About Juanita MORE!**

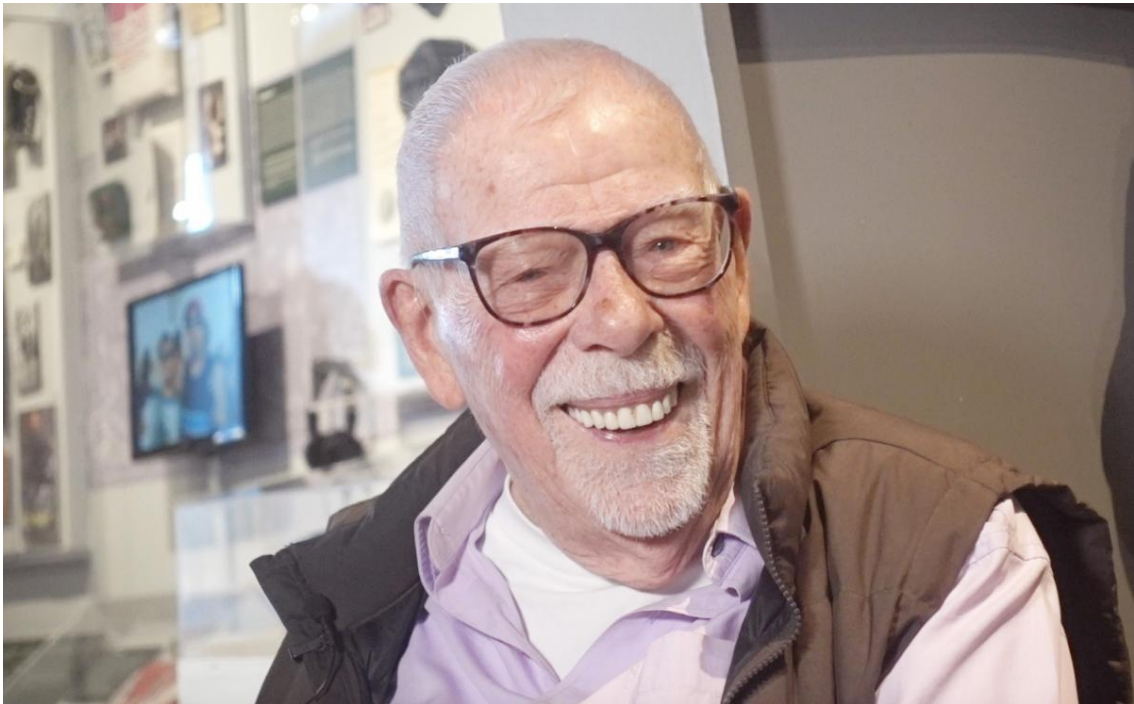
Juanita MORE! is a denizen of the limelight. For almost three decades, the tireless hostess has blitzed San Francisco with high glamour, drag irreverence, danceable beats, culinary delectables, political activism and a philanthropic heart that has illuminated the entire city. Juanita remains a creation of fashion and glamour, generosity and nerve. Inspiring those around her to make a positive difference in their lives and in their communities, doing it all with a timeless elegance and an innovative spirit. For more information, visit her website at <https://juanitamore.com>.

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Juanita MORE! and GLBT Historical Society Executive Director Terry Beswick at the GLBT Historical Society Museum; photo by Fred Rowe Foto, used with permission.



Cornelis "Cees" van Aalst, the recipient of the 2019 Clio Award, at the GLBT Historical Society Museum; photo courtesy of Leo Herrera.



Logo of PAX Labs, the recipient of the 2019 Willie Walker Founders Award;  
image courtesy of PAX Labs.



Former logo of Project Inform, the recipient of the 2019 History Makers Award;  
image courtesy of David Evans.

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