



About the GLBT Historical Society

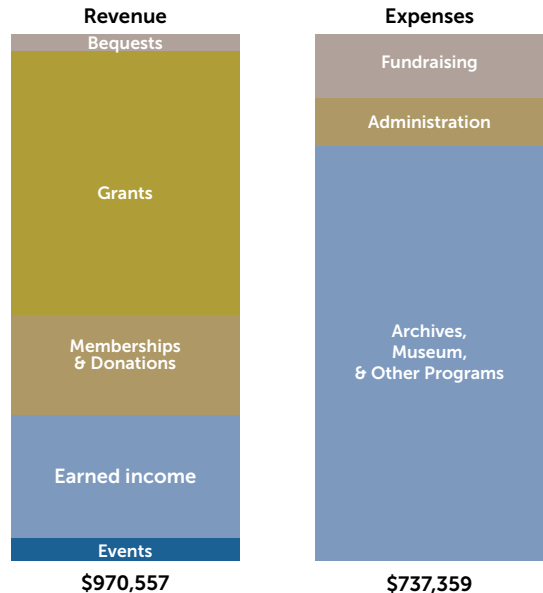
The GLBT Historical Society collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity. Founded in 1985, the society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history. Our operations are centered around two sites: our GLBT History Museum, located since 2010 in the heart of San Francisco's Castro District; and our Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market District.

Major Accomplishments in 2016

2016 was an eventful year for the society, both operationally and programmatically. Our most noteworthy activities included the following:

- Hiring a new executive director and managing archivist to oversee our operations and archival collections.
- Completing a major move of our archives, reading room and offices to a more spacious location in the Mid-Market neighborhood, more than doubling the archival stacks.
- Creating new working groups on Programming, Education and Historic Places to plan forums, public talks and other events and to facilitate policy and advocacy work on queer historic preservation activities in San Francisco.
- Expanding our museum and archival programming and enhancing our communications presence in print, email and social media.
- Scaling up our fundraising efforts, resulting

2016 Financials



in a 51 percent increase in revenues over the 2015 fiscal year while holding costs down to 32 percent.

- Completing our 2016 financial audit, conducted by Cook & Company, with flying colors.
- Relaunching the annual gala and conducting a successful \$100,000 year-end donor drive with a \$50,000 matching grant.
- Securing a doubling in funding from the City of San Francisco and a tenfold increase in nongovernmental grants for 2017.
- Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the GLBT History Museum, located in the center of the Castro district.
- Launching the Vision2020 campaign to plan, develop and create a New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture in San Francisco.



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AT THE ARCHIVES



Managing Archivist Joanna Black gives members a tour of the stacks in our new, expanded Archives and Research Center. Photo by Terry Beswick.

The GLBT Historical Society's archives are among the most extensive collections of original documents, photographs, audiovisual materials, and other sources on queer history and culture in the world. The year 2016 was especially eventful for the archives. At the beginning of the year, we hired a new managing archivist, Joanna Black, who came on board as we prepared to move our collections and the society's administrative offices to a new space in the Mid-Market neighborhood. With the help of a temporary manager to oversee the logistics and a legion of dedicated volunteers, the archives and related operations were successfully transferred at the end of May. Our new reading room officially opened to researchers at the end of June; it offers seating for significantly more patrons than did our previous space.

We're currently welcoming an average of 20 to 30 researchers monthly, for a total of 244 researchers in 2016.

Our major archival program initiative in 2016 has been the expansion of our digitization efforts. With the support of a National Historical Publications and Records Commissions (NHPRC) grant, we surveyed our entire collection of audiovisual materials to prioritize the materials for digitization. Together with the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California, San Francisco, we successfully applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant proposal to fund the digitization of a number of significant AIDS-related collections. We also teamed up with Cengage Learning to digitize a number of archival collections documenting underrepresented LGBTQ populations. Finally, we received significant funding from the Bob Ross Foundation to digitize the complete run of the country's longest continuously running LGBT weekly newspaper, the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Despite the disruption caused by the move, the archives still accessioned an impressive 19 new archival collections in 2016, totaling approximately 63 linear feet of material. Among the collections acquired last year are the records of the Modern Times Bookstore, which operated in the Mission District for over 40 years; the Marcia Muinson Lesbian Polyamory Reader papers; the files of PFLAG San Francisco; Zane Blaney's videotapes of the Gay Games; the Joshua Dunn collection of LGBTQ youth and American Indian two-spirit papers; and a collection of photographs and ephemera relating to the Gangway, San Francisco's oldest continuously operating gay bar.

The GLBT History Museum, located a half-block from the corner of Castro and 18th streets, celebrated its fifth anniversary in 2016. We kicked off the year with a highly successful, sold-out anniversary party in January. Throughout the year, a total of nearly 13,000 visitors passed through our doors to explore our exhibitions and participate in programs.

In 2016 the museum hosted a total of 43 public programs, including author talks, film showings, theater performances and panel discussions, continuing its mission to serve as a center for sharing LGBTQ history with our own community and the wider public. Universities, high schools, visiting travel groups and private companies continue to book tours of the museum. In 2016 we gave 54 docent-led tours to such groups, and many others took self-guided tours.

Our popular long-term exhibition at the museum, "Queer Past Becomes Present," is supplemented by temporary shows in our two smaller gallery spaces, which feature regularly rotating special exhibitions. In 2016, we presented seven temporary exhibitions on wide-ranging subjects. Curator Glenne McElhinney's "Dancers We Lost: Honoring Performers Lost to HIV/AIDS" chronicled the devastation wrought by the AIDS epidemic in the performing arts community. Gerard Koskovich curated "Through Knowledge to Justice: The Sexual World of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld," an exhibition dedicated to the life and work of the pioneering German-Jewish physician and sexologist who cofounded the first homosexual emancipation organization in the world in 1897. The museum closed out the year with Juliana Delgado Lopera and Ángel Rafael Vázquez-Concepción's exhibition "Noche de Ambiente," which opened a window into the worlds of



TOP LEFT: One of the cocreators of the temporary installation "Noche de Ambiente," Juliana Delgado Lopera, speaks with a reporter during the exhibition. Photo by Gerard Koskovich.

TOP RIGHT: Charles Francis, founder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C., signs our museum's guest book. Photo by Gerard Koskovich.

BOTTOM: Visitors peruse the permanent collection at the GLBT Historical Society's museum, which celebrated its fifth birthday this year. Photo by Gerard Koskovich.

ambiente—meaning "atmosphere" or "environment"—as reflected in Latino drag performance and LGBTQ and AIDS activism in San Francisco from the 1970s into the 1990s.



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VISION2020

HONORING OUR HERITAGE
& BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Join **Vision2020** and help create the New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture in San Francisco. We're only just beginning this multiyear effort to build a comprehensive center for LGBTQ public history, **a world-class facility with galleries, program space and archives much larger than our current museum**, that will 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

VISION2020

HONORING OUR HERITAGE & BUILDING OUR FUTURE

In June 2016, the GLBT Historical Society announced a long-term initiative to build a "new museum of LGBTQ history and culture," which would serve as a world-class center for LGBT public history. Projected for completion in the coming decade, the center would include expanded galleries and archives, new spaces for hosting public programs and researchers, and other enhanced facilities. We launched the campaign, dubbed Vision 2020, with fundraising for capacity building. Early in 2017, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Supervisor Jeff Sheehy and cosponsored by Supervisor Jane Kim "calling on municipal authorities, philanthropists and business leaders to support the GLBT Historical Society's efforts to develop a new LGBTQ museum and public history center in the city." The society also commissioned the internationally renowned architecture firm Gensler to conduct a feasibility study for the museum.

Archives & Research Center
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415-777-5455

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

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

www.glbthistory.org