



GLBT  
Historical  
Society  
museum & archives

WE ARE  
YOUR CHILDREN

GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**2022**  
ANNUAL REPORT

Participants march at the 1977 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade; photograph by Crawford Barton, Crawford Barton Papers (1993-11), GLBT Historical Society.



# GLBT Historical Society

*museum & archives*

Founded in 1985, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of LGBTQ public history. Our operations are centered at two sites: our GLBT Historical Society Museum, located since 2011 in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and our Dr. John P. De Cecco 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 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.



**W**e have experienced a staggering attack on LGBTQ rights this year, as more than 520 laws have been introduced in state legislatures around the country that attempt to shove LGBTQ people, our culture, and our history back into the closet.

As the new leaders of the GLBT Historical Society, we are deeply troubled by the increasingly violent ideology that is attempting to erase us, particularly the Transgender and Gender Non-Binary community members, women, and BIPOC folks who are bearing the brunt of these latest attacks. We are committed to using every resource at our disposal to fight back.

**The preservation, exhibition and comprehension of our LGBTQ history has never been more important.**

That's why our museum – the first of its kind in the country – highlights the brave transgender folks who stood up against police brutality at Compton's Cafeteria, one of the first uprisings of LGBTQ people in the United States. It's why we offer personal stories from Asian and Pacific Islander elders engaged in AIDS activism and community building, and share home movies that show queer joy and chosen families stretching back a century. It's why we make our archives available to hundreds of researchers, advocates and community members every year, who use our materials to push for greater understanding and appreciation of our vast queer past.

We share these stories – and many more – to fight back against the forces attempting to erase us. **By keeping these stories alive, we expose the simple truth that LGBTQ people have always been here – and we always will.** LGBTQ people have and continue to make important contributions to society, and we are committed to sharing stories that celebrate the vast diversity of our community.

For nearly 40 years, we have preserved and shared these vital stories with people from around the world. With your support, we will continue to share them for many more.

We are incredibly proud of what we have accomplished this past year, and are deeply grateful to all who have partnered with us. As you page through this report, we hope you feel proud to know that your contributions help make all our work possible. Together, we will keep our history alive for current and future generations.

With respect for our shared past and hope for our future,



*Roberto Ordeñana*

**Roberto Ordeñana**  
Executive Director



*Ben Chávez Gilliam*

**Ben Chávez Gilliam**  
Board Chair

# IN THE ARCHIVES



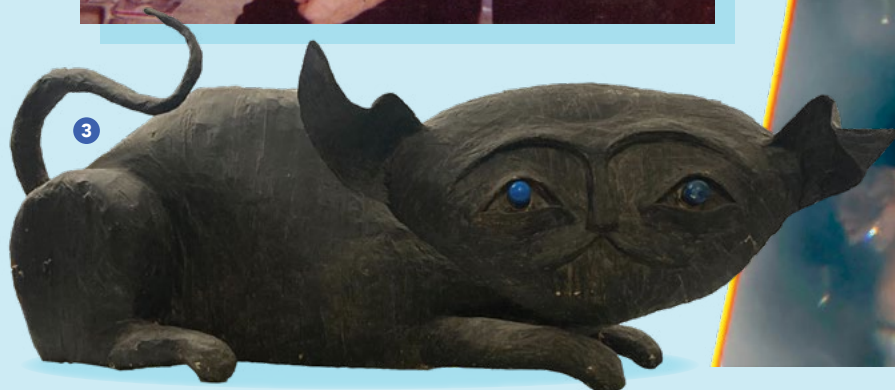
The archives of the GLBT Historical Society had a tremendously productive year. We received several important grants, digitized a substantial amount of material, and had a surge in new archival collections that greatly enriched our holdings. To accommodate our growing collections, we installed new shelving in our vault and upgraded our photography station for better digitization of textiles, works of art and artifacts. We also continued implementation of a new digital asset management system, which provides robust digital infrastructure and helps us better preserve and share digitized content. Visits to the reading room rebounded to pre-pandemic levels, with us welcoming over 350 onsite researchers working on diverse projects.

We continued to expand our online offerings, making 13 new digital archival collections available, including:

- The Bill Beardemphl Papers, documenting the work of Beardemphl (1926–2002), a founder of the early homophile organization, the Society for Individual Rights, and journalist who in the 1980s owned the San Francisco Sentinel.
- The Camille Moran Papers, that provide insight into the life of a transgender poet and painter who dedicated herself to activism in response to her traumatic childhood institutionalization in the 1950s due to her gender identity.
- The Maria Sanchez Papers, containing photographs, disco zines, ephemera and recordings illustrating the life of a Cuban-American DJ who was active in the Bay Area's disco and bathhouse communities.

The archives accessioned 144 new collections in 2022, including some previously donated in 2020 and 2021 that had not been formally accessioned due to onsite COVID restrictions. Acquisitions included:

- The Rane Richardson and Carse McDaniel Collection, containing over a dozen rare pieces of museum-quality Native American pottery thrown and painted by Two-Spirit potters, including works by Navajo, Hopi, and Pueblo ceramicists.



- The Black Cat Café Mascot, a cheeky papier-mâché creation that served as the original mascot of the legendary Black Cat Café in San Francisco's North Beach District, where drag performer and activist José Sarria (1922–2013) performed.
- The Transgender District Records, documenting one of nine officially designated cultural districts in San Francisco. The Transgender District, the only such district dedicated to trans people anywhere in the world, established an ongoing archival collection with us.

Several important grants supported our work in 2022, and we received new funding from a number of agencies. We completed a major grant from the National Archives' National Historic Publications and Records Commission, which funded the processing and digitization of ten music and theater-related collections. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported key staff positions in the archives and funded accessioning and processing of the backlog of donations that accumulated during the pandemic. Through California Revealed, a California State Library initiative, we began digitization of recordings from the Linda Garber Oral History Collection, including interviews of lesbians in California's rural Central Valley.

New grants begun in 2022 include a two-year grant from the California State Library. This grant funds continued digitization efforts, including the second phase of digital asset management system implementation, the creation of ten new digital collections, and processing and digitization of the society's LGBTQ Film and Video Collection. Funding awarded from the Jewish Pride Fund, a program of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, supports the creation of a new online primary source set about Jewish LGBTQ history and the publication of an article focused on Jewish LGBTQ activism and community building in the Bay Area. The Al Larvick Conservation Fund awarded a grant to digitize a unique 8mm film in the Larry Butwinick Collection that includes footage of drag events in San Francisco, circa 1965–1975. Finally, a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources funds the digitization of 211 audio recordings of interviews conducted by Mary Richards, a freelance writer for the San Francisco-based LGBTQ newspaper the Bay Area Reporter.

We are deeply grateful for the support of all of these funding agencies and the individual donors who help make our work possible.

**1** Cora Latz (left) and Etta Perkins at their 1998 vow renewal. Cora Latz and Etta Perkins photographs (2003-43), GLBT Historical Society. This photo is part of the Jewish LGBTQ Voices and Activism Primary Source Set created through a grant from the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund.

**2** Photograph of Bill Beardemphl with his lifelong partner Johnny DeLeon, circa 1960s. Photographer unknown, Bill Beardemphl Papers (2022-04), GLBT Historical Society.

**3** Papier-mâché Black Cat Café mascot, ca. 1940s; Black Cat Café Mascot Collection (2022-110), GLBT Historical Society.

**4** A reel of film in the Larry Butwinick Collection shows a drag queen adjusting her outfit; Larry Butwinick Collection (2006-44), GLBT Historical Society.

**5** Ceramic ware by Two-Spirit artist, Mark Tahbo (1958–2017, Hopi-Tewa); Rane Richardson and Carse McDaniel Collection (2022-44), GLBT Historical Society.



# REACHING GLO



**1** Her Majesty Queen Máxima of the Netherlands with Liesje Schreinemacher, Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development; Tom Horn, Chair of the San Francisco Host Committee; London Breed, San Francisco Mayor; Rafael Mandelman, San Francisco District 8 Supervisor; Mason J., member of the GLBT Historical Society Board of Directors; and Andrew Shaffer, Interim Co-Executive Director. Photo by Santiago Mejia / San Francisco Chronicle / Polaris. **2** Representatives from the San Francisco Office of Transgender Initiatives visiting the GLBT Historical Society Archives vault, along with Ben Chávez Gilliam, current Chair of the GLBT Historical Society Board of Directors. **3** Daniel Mulhall, the outgoing Ambassador of Ireland to the United States posing in front of the exhibition, *Out in the World: Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora*.



# BAL AUDIENCES

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we strengthened our online presence to share LGBTQ history with people from around the world. As tourism returns to San Francisco, we have continued to expand our global audience by hosting a number of international dignitaries and VIPs in our museum and archives in 2022.

Building on our strong relationship with the Consulate of Ireland in San Francisco, we welcomed a number of Irish luminaries, including Colm Kelleher, the Lord Mayor of Cork; Catherine Martin, a member of the Dáil (parliament) and the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; and Daniel Mulhall, the outgoing Ambassador of Ireland to the United States. From Japan, we hosted Councilor Taiga Ishikawa, the only openly gay member of the Japanese Diet (parliament). A major highlight of the year was the visit of the queen consort of the Netherlands, Queen Máxima, who made the museum the inaugural stop on her tour of the Castro District during an official royal visit to California and Texas.

In addition to museum visits, we hosted numerous tours of our archives for student groups and representatives from several organizations. Among those were representatives from the American LGBTQ+ Museum, San Francisco's Office of Transgender Initiatives, the Curve Foundation, and more.



4 Councilor Taiga Ishikawa at the GLBT Historical Society Museum. © Rick Gerharter. 5 California State Senator Scott Wiener with Catherine Martin, Ireland's Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Andrew Shaffer, Interim Co-Executive Director; and Robert O'Driscoll, then Consul General of Ireland to the Western United States. 6 Susan Stryker; Ben Garcia, Executive Director of the American LGBTQ+ Museum; and Andrew Shaffer on a tour of the GLBT Historical Society Archives vault.

# AT THE MUSEUM



The GLBT Historical Society's museum and exhibition team successfully guided the museum through an eventful 2022. One of the year's most positive developments was the increasing return of visitors to the museum, which was open for nearly the entire year with only a slight interruption in January due to a surge in the COVID-19 pandemic.

The upswing in tourism in 2022, coupled with a number of museum profiles in both online and print travel media, brought back many of the out-of-state and international visitors that have made the museum a must-see stop on many tourists' itineraries.

The easing of the pandemic in 2022 made it possible to rotate the exhibitions on display for the first time since the autumn of 2019. In April, we opened two new temporary exhibitions in the museum's Front Gallery, both of which explored topics in LGBTQ history and culture from an international perspective.

- With the support of the Consulate of Ireland in San Francisco, we hosted the exhibition *Out in the World: Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora*, an exhibition first mounted at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin in 2021. Across six themes—exclusion, community, love, defiance, solidarity and return—*Out in the World* highlighted 12 moving stories drawn from the vast history of Ireland's LGBTQ diaspora. The exhibition's run at our museum inaugurated its tour in select locations around the world.

- We also welcomed an installation of *The Flag in the Map: LGBTQ Rainbow Flag Stories*, a partnership project between the Gilbert Baker Foundation and ReportOUT. This exhibition documents people flying their pride flags around the world, from Shanghai to Kyiv, with participants sharing what the flag means to them. Some of the responses were on display and in additional exhibitions around the world. The exhibition complements the original 1978 rainbow flag from the museum's permanent collection.

Our hardworking museum staff also invested in projects that enhance the visitor experience. After nine months of efforts, in July we made a 35-minute audio guide available to visitors for our long-term exhibition *Queer Past Becomes Present*. The audio guide provides enriched curatorial content and is available for purchase on visitors' mobile phones through the CloudGuide app.





**// [THE RAINBOW] IS A SYMBOL I USE TO MAKE TROUBLE WITH. IT MAKES MY OPPRESSORS UNCOMFORTABLE, SO I RAISE IT HIGHER UNTIL THEY GET IT. WE, THE ETHIOPIAN LGBT+ COMMUNITY, ARE HERE TO STAY, AND WE DEMAND OUR HUMAN RIGHTS BE RESPECTED. //**



**1** The Irish Lesbian & Gay Organization (ILG) marching in 1995. ILGO's fight for inclusion drew allies from across the LGBTQ+ community. Photo by Saskia Scheffer, courtesy of EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, from *Out in the World: Ireland's LGBTQ+ Diaspora*.

**2** Bahiru Shewaye in Ethiopia. Photo courtesy of the Gilbert Baker Foundation from *The Flag in the Map: LGBTQ Rainbow Flag Stories*.

**3** Tania Stevenson at an unofficial Trans Lives Matter protest in Nottingham, United Kingdom during the summer of 2020. Photo by Maryam Din, courtesy of the Gilbert Baker Foundation from *The Flag in the Map: LGBTQ Rainbow Flag Stories*.

# EXPANDING OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVES

Digitizing our archival materials allows us to ensure long-term preservation and expand access to researchers around the world. In recent years, several donors have made generous contributions that helped us perform vital processing and digitization work to help meet these goals, including Larry Brenner and Angelo Figone.

To make a contribution to help us continue to expand our digital archive visit [glbthistory.org/donate](https://glbthistory.org/donate) or email us at [donate@glbthistory.org](mailto:donate@glbthistory.org).

Angelo Figone is a well-known transportation professional in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a Principal at CHS Consulting Group and formerly was Chief Transportation Officer-Rail and General Superintendent of Scheduling and Data Services for the San Francisco Municipal Railway. He has been involved in multiple historical and environmental preservation groups both in San Francisco and in surrounding counties.

Larry Brenner is a clinical psychologist. He has worked as a clinician and in administration for non-profit health agencies in the Bay Area for over thirty years.

As members of the GLBT Historical Society and as longtime San Francisco residents, we are committed to preservation endeavors. The GLBT Historical Society has, over several decades, demonstrated to us a professional approach to acquiring historical materials and to preserving those artifacts. Our goal is to support the archive activities and in particular to enable greater access to the collections.

Digitization of documents and images has enabled more than fifty collections to be accessible online. Over the last few years we recognized the need to prioritize digitization of specific collections – the SF Gay & Lesbian History Records and the Forget-Me-Nots items. In both cases, they documented community members who forged awareness and advocacy during challenging times, making them good candidates for enabling access. Increasing public research capability helps to bring awareness of the unique treasures conserved in the GLBT Historical Society, and in all archives.

We have been fortunate to commit time to various volunteer activities. Larry has appreciated the accomplishments at the GLBT Historical Society Museum and has volunteered there to support the museum and augment visitor experiences.

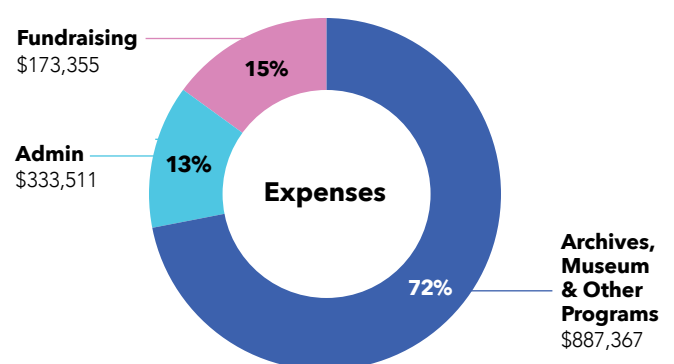
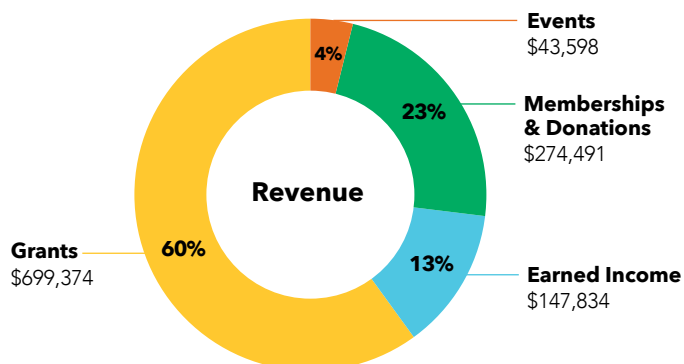
Angelo volunteers at the Western Railway Museum and the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Historical Society, both organizations committed to preservation and archival activities. His multi-decade involvement with archives has enabled him to author a railroad history book featuring an oral history project. Capturing first-hand accounts of individual contributions and making them accessible provides an incentive for younger generations to embrace their history. That is especially relevant and important for the LGBT community.



**Angelo Figone & Larry Brenner**

*Photo courtesy of Angelo Figone & Larry Brenner*

## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



Financial information is preliminary. For full and finalized financials, please visit our website: [glbthistory.org/reports](https://glbthistory.org/reports).

# REUNION

Reunion is our annual Gala, where we gather to celebrate our vast queer past, honor the history makers who move our communities forward, and raise funds to keep LGBTQ history alive. Our 2023 Gala will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Marines' Memorial Club and Hotel. Learn more at [glbthistory.org/reunion](https://glbthistory.org/reunion).



1 Julián Delgado Lopera and Per Sia representing Drag Story Hour, recipient of a 2022 History Makers Award, with California State Senator Scott Wiener.

2 Donna Persona, recipient of a 2022 History Makers Award, with Roberto Ordeñana, Executive Director.

3 San Francisco Mayor London Breed with Roberto Ordeñana, Executive Director.

4 Olga Talamante, recipient of a 2022 History Makers Award, with former Board Chair Lito Sandoval

5 John Caldwell and Zane Blaney, recipients of the 2022 Founders Award.

(All photos by Bradley Roberge)

# MAKING HISTORY

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of June 1, 2023

### Chair

Ben Chávez Gilliam

### Vice Chair

Tali Bray

### Treasurer

Rachel Pokorny

### Secretary

Francisco Rosas

### Members

Yves Averous  
Matthew Goudeau  
Ardel Haefele-Thomas  
Mason J.  
Ani Rivera  
Emily Rosenberg  
Jaime Santos  
Peggy Sue  
Laura Thomas

## STAFF

As of June 1, 2023

### Finance Director

Daniel Bao

### Director, Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives & Special Collections

Kelsi Evans

### Reference Archivist

Isaac Fellman

### Development & Events Coordinator

Sailor Galaviz

### Project Archivist

Devin McGeehan Muchmore

### Manager of Museum Experience

Leigh Pfeffer

### Executive Director

Roberto Ordeñana

### Director of Development & Communications

Andrew Shaffer

### Museum Registrar & Curatorial Specialist

Ramón Silvestre

## 2022 SUPPORTERS

### The City and County of San Francisco

Grants for the Arts  
The Mayor's Office of Housing and  
Community Development  
The Office of Economic and Workforce  
Development  
The San Francisco Arts Commission  
The San Francisco Office of Small  
Business

### The State of California

The California State Library

### Federal Agencies

The National Endowment for the  
Humanities  
The National Historical Publications  
and Records Commission  
The U.S. Department of Transportation,  
National Highway Traffic and Safety  
Administration

### Other Granting Agencies

The Council on Library and Information  
Resources

### \$20,000 or More

Daniel Bao  
Denise D'Anne Estate  
The Bob Ross Foundation  
Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

### \$10,000 or More

Arne Bakker & Jeremy Sackett  
Big Run Studios, Inc.  
John Caldwell & Zane Blaney  
William F. Owen Jr. M.D.  
Mariette & Alexander Sawchuk

### \$5,000 or More

Larry Brenner & Angelo Figone  
Castro LGBTQ Cultural District  
First Republic Bank  
Ben Chávez Gilliam  
Tomlinson Holman & Friederich Koenig  
Jewish Community Federation  
William J. Smith Estate

### \$1,000 or More

Affirm  
Randy Alfred  
Allbirds  
Tony & Timothy Archuleta-Perkins  
Fernando Armenta  
Yves Averous & Marc Smolowitz  
Jeffrey Baker  
Frederick Baumer & Philip Browning  
Bay Area Air Quality Management  
District  
John Bell & Jason Spicer  
Jonathan Bell  
BlackRock  
James Bowler  
Fernando Castaño & Peter Chase  
Community Thrift Store  
Elisabeth Cornu  
E.G. Crichton  
Delta Dental of California  
Robert Dockendorff  
Dolby  
Calvin Doucet  
Etsy  
Fifth Generation Inc.

Marc Geller & Kevin Lyons  
Kevin Gerber  
Paul Giurlanda  
Susan Goldstein & Andrew Kivel  
Peter Groom  
Timothy Gullicksen  
Michael Hulton & David Michael  
Stewart  
Laura Kinley & Kelli Lent  
Thane Kreiner & Dr. Steven Lovejoy  
Christopher Lentz and Chadwick  
Hauther  
Peter Lundberg & James Mowdy  
Richard Lynch, Frank Steil & Sam  
Jennings  
Jason Macario & Steve Holst  
Steven Mandeville-Gamble  
Rigoberto Marquez  
Karen Merzenich & Ross Fubini  
Weston Milliken  
Kenneth A. Moore  
Oracle  
Ken Overholt Estate  
Alfredo Pedroza & Wayne Bautista  
Rachel Pokorny  
Ken Prag & Steve Collins  
PubMatic, Inc  
Glenn Reynolds & Oreste Ibarra  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
San Francisco Opera  
Lito Sandoval  
Jason Seifer & Brian Ayer  
Shutterstock  
Dan Slaughter & Stephan Blachowski  
Sparc BPN-RPC Financial Inc.  
Faolan & Giovanni Trimble  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Cornelis van Aalst & Jeffrey Robinson  
Andreas Weigend  
Michael Yang & Jim Kren



GLBT  
Historical  
Society  
museum & archives

The GLBT Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit organization. Tax ID #94-2989004

[glbthistory.org](http://glbthistory.org) GLBTHistory

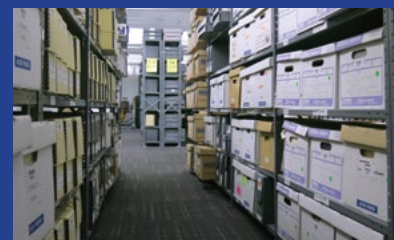
glbt\_history GLBTHistory

Report designed by Christopher Paguio (@phristopher.com)



## GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

4127 18th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415-777-5455



## DR. JOHN P. DE CECCO ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

989 Market Street, Lower Level  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-777-5455