

MEDIA RELEASE

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Major new Mellon Foundation funded initiative will support trans and nonbinary scholarship

San Francisco — The GLBT Historical Society and Susan Stryker, Ph.D. announced the creation of TEN:TACLES, a new initiative that brings trans-oriented humanities and cultural studies scholarship to bear on practices of social transformation, at the Society’s anniversary celebration last night. With \$1.5 million in funding from the Mellon Foundation, this three-year initiative will support a range of projects that combat disinformation and promote accurate narratives about trans and nonbinary lives.

The Transgender Educational Network: Theory in Action for Creativity, Liberation, Empowerment, and Service Initiative (TEN:TACLES) was conceptualized and proposed by historian, filmmaker and trans studies scholar Susan Stryker. The initiative supports activist work that draws on cutting-edge scholarship as well as scholarly study groups that investigate contemporary social issues.

“This feels like such a homecoming,” Stryker said. “I’m so thankful for the opportunity this organization and the Mellon Foundation have given me to continue doing work that I love to do.”

Roberto Ordeñana, the Society’s executive director, announced the initiative on Wednesday night while discussing the organization’s ongoing commitment to investing in trans and nonbinary communities. “We are thrilled to be working with Susan Stryker on this groundbreaking project.” He continued, “at a time when our trans and nonbinary communities are under sustained attack, it is so important for us to be able to support this vital work. We are incredibly grateful to the Mellon Foundation for making this investment, and excited to see what Susan and the project participants bring to life.”

The TEN:TACLES Initiative will provide three rounds of funding to selected participants. The pilot round, which will begin later this year, will be by

invitation only. Subsequent rounds of funding will be open for proposals, with projects selected by a steering committee.

Projects funded through the TEN:TACLES Initiative will engage with trans and nonbinary scholars and scholarship, benefit trans and nonbinary communities and causes, exemplify a commitment to DEI and intersectional values, and contribute to a social justice mission.

A project website will be launched this summer. In the meantime, individuals and groups interested in updates about TEN:TACLES can subscribe to the GLBT Historical Society's newsletter at glbthistory.org/newsletter.

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ABOUT SUSAN STRYKER

Susan Stryker holds a Distinguished Visiting Faculty appointment at Stanford University's Michelle Clayman Institute for Gender Research, after retiring from her position as Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at University of Arizona. She is the author of multiple works, including *Transgender History*, and is the Emmy Award-winning director of *Screaming Queens: The Riot at Compton's Cafeteria*. She served as the GLBT Historical Society's first executive director, from 1999 to 2003.

ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The GLBT Historical Society is a public history center and archives that 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 and maintains one of the world's largest archival collections of LGBTQ historical materials. Our operations are centered at two sites: the GLBT Historical Society Museum, located in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and the Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market district. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

ABOUT THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through our grants, we seek to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more at mellon.org.

GRAPHICS

The following images may be reproduced only in association with coverage of the TEN:TACLES Initiative. Credits noted in captions are mandatory.



Susan Stryker photo, courtesy of same.



GLBT Historical Society Executive Director Roberto Ordeñana, San Francisco Mayor London Breed, trans visual artist Marcel Pardo Ariza, and politician and activist Honey Mahogany at the Society's Anniversary Party on April 3, 2024, where the TEN:TACLES Initiative was announced. They are posing in front of a new piece of site-specific artwork designed by Pardo Ariza, unveiled at the event, which celebrates historic queer and trans spaces. Photo by Andrew Shaffer.

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