



# 2012 in review



2012 was a banner year for the GLBT Historical Society. The GLBT History Museum completed its second year with new exhibits, many programs and 15,000-plus visitors. The archives celebrated its 27th year with additional staff and volunteers processing significant amounts of material and assisting more researchers. The society continued receiving substantial global media attention and serving as a voice for GLBT history in many forums.

## The Archives

For the last two years, the archives has been carrying out a major project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). This grant has enabled us to hire additional staff, survey all our manuscript collections, revise finding aids and scope notes, and process over 300 collections (more than 500 linear feet). Partly because of interest in these newly available historical materials, the number of researchers using the archives increased significantly in 2012.

The archives staff also began to catalog artwork and large artifacts, a process that involves describing and photographing items for use in future exhibitions. We also continued to digitize our vast video holdings, investing in new equipment that is essential to preserving and making these collections available. More and more filmmakers are using our moving images in their work.

In addition, the archives acquired a number of important collections in 2012, including dozens of boxes of new material from José Sarria, the legendary performer and activist. Other notable accessions include the Purple Moon Dance Project records, the Ramon Contreras photograph albums and notebooks by artist Ernest Posey.

**Goals for 2013:** The NHPRC grant ends in March 2013, but we hope to maintain higher staff levels so we can process even more collections. Research assistance will continue as will selective accessions of new materials. Digitizing moving images will be a priority as we work with local filmmakers to make more materials available. Finally we will explore the digitization of manuscript collections so they can be made available to universities around the world.



Managing Archivist  
Marjorie Bryer



Multimedia Coordinator  
John Raines



## GLBT History Museum

In its second year, the museum was a hub of activity as thousands of people came to explore GLBT history. The museum sought to offer a wide and diverse range of experience to our visitors, from those with little previous knowledge to those with personal recollections of our history. Changing exhibits, an array of programs, and docent-led and self-guided tours provided a dynamic cultural offering for both locals and tourists.

## Exhibitions

### Main Gallery

Our Vast Queer Past: Celebrating San Francisco's GLBT History

### Front Gallery

- Great Collections From the GLBT Historical Society Archives
- Life and Death in Black and White: AIDS Direct Action in San Francisco, 1985-1990
- For Love and Community: Queer Asian Pacific Islanders Take Action, 1960s-1990s

### Corner Gallery & Special Displays

- Creating the Gay Vote: José Sarría's 1961 Run for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
- Harvey Milk Day: Rare Videos From the Daniel A. Smith/Queer Blue Light Collection
- Birth of the Rainbow Flag
- Play Fair! The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Make Sex Safer

## Docent-Led Tours

Gay Scouts, Santa Clara University students, San Francisco City College students (two tours), Aragon High School students, San Francisco State University classes, North Carolina State University students, Middle Tennessee State University GSA, University of Utah students, American University students (Washington, DC), University of Nevada at Las Vegas students (two tours), Casa Grande High School (Petaluma, Calif.), Sonoma State University students, College of the Sequoias students, American Sign Language group, College Avenue Congregational Church (Modesto, Calif.), Willow Glen High School GSA, San Rafael High School GSA, Stanford University students, Transgender North Bay MTF support group, San Francisco Hotel Concierges, Alameda High School GSA, Intercollegiate Adventist Gay Straight Alliance Coalition, Submerged Queer Spaces (in conjunction with movie and walking tour), Mission High School students (two tours), Extended Learning High School teachers, St. Helena High School students, Napa Valley College students, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Our Family Coalition, California Institute for Integral Studies students, International Visitor Leadership Division, California College of the Arts, Chinese Cultural Center, Bay Area Queer Women's Meetup, Hamilton Family Center, CBS Employee Group, San Francisco Police Academy, Wells Fargo Pride Employee Group (three





tours), Barnard Club of Northern California, Napa Valley College students.

**Audio Tours:** The museum offers all visitors cell phone and smartphone audio tours free of charge in English, Spanish and Japanese.

## Public Programs

- Author Talk : *Why Are Faggots So Afraid of Faggots? Flaming Challenges to Masculinity, Objectification and the Desire to Conform*
- Panel Discussion: The Past, Present and Future of Public Sex
- Exhibition Opening: Life and Death in Black and White
- Panel Discussion: Documenting the Emergence of AIDS Activism
- Author Talk: *Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi*
- Author Talk: *Riding Fury Home: A Memoir*
- Author Talk: *Deviations: A Gayle Rubin Reader*
- Performance & Conversation: Collaborative Practice and the Future of Queer Memory
- Film Discussion: Submerged Queer Spaces: Urban Archeology and Architectural Remains
- Joint Lecture: Religion and Homosexuality in 20th-Century America
- Author Panel: GuyWriters Presents Three San Francisco Queer Novelists
- Living History Talk: Birth of the Rainbow Flag: Gilbert Baker in Conversation with Cleve Jones
- Panel & Clip Showing: Trans Forming Film: Transgender Filmmaking Past & Future, Part I
- Panel & Clip Showing: Trans Forming Film: Transgender Filmmaking Past & Future, Part II
- Author Talk: Jesse Bering: *Stubbornly Queer*
- Panel Discussion: Queer Sex and Technology
- Author Talk: Amy Stone: *Gay Rights at the Ballot Box*
- Panel Discussion: These Walls Can Speak: Telling the Stories of Queer Places
- Exhibition Opening: For Love and Community: Queer Asian Pacific Islanders Take Action, 1960–1990s
- Exhibit Opening: Play Fair! The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Make Sex Safer
- Panel Discussion: Age Diversity and Gender Fluidity; Sponsored by the SF Dyke March
- Reading & Reception: The Bay Area Bisexual Network 25th Anniversary Kick-Off
- Panel Discussion: *Picture This: Representing Queer People in Text and Visuals*

**Goals for 2013:** Create a new Main Gallery exhibition; produce changing exhibits in the Front Gallery and Corner Gallery, expand public programming; expand the docent-led tours program.



Curator Dr. Amy Sueyoshi speaking to media at the museum

Mariela Castro, prominent Cuban Sexologist, being given a tour of the museum by Gerard Koskovich, Cleve Jones and Daniel Bao.

## Communications Program

Throughout 2012 the GLBT Historical Society was called on not only to address issues relative to the museum and archives, but also to be a voice for GLBT history itself. Historical Society representatives presented in settings such as the American Historical Association annual conference and the Centre for Sexual Dissidence at the University of Sussex (England); wrote guest editorials; and discussed our approach to GLBT public history in a variety of other forums. In addition, we advised other communities on how to create GLBT archives and museums. National and international media attention to the museum's activities continues to be robust. Involvement with the museum and the Historical Society on social media such as Facebook remains strong, as does interaction via our website.

**Goals for 2013:** Expand online content.

## Thank You

The GLBT Historical Society's work in 2012 was made possible by the support of many individuals, corporations, foundations and other institutions:

**City & County of San Francisco: Grants for the Arts**

**National Historical Publications & Records Commission**

**Platinum Sponsors:** Bob Ross Foundation, Badlands & Toad Hall, Harvey's Restaurant, David R. Kessler, M.D., Banana Republic, PG&E, Real Bad (Grassroots Gay Rights West), Union Bank, Wells Fargo Foundation, Walgreens

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**The Estates of Archibald Wilson, Judy Freespirit & Hank Wilson**

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The society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID # 94-2989004.

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