

# 2013 in review



## The GLBT Historical Society & The GLBT History Museum in 2013

In 2013, 28 years since our founding, the Historical Society welcomed over 15,000 visitors to its museum and archives. Whether scholars or students, locals or visitors from around the world, members of the GLBT community or allies from the wider public, the museum and archives provided entry points for all into the vastness that is GLBT history.

### The Archives

The Society's archives house one of the largest collections of queer historical materials in the world and are eagerly used by hundreds of authors, filmmakers, artists, students and other researchers every year. Led by Managing Archivist Marjorie Bryer, the archive team served over four hundred patrons in 2013 alone. Projects that drew on the archives this year include:

- Exhibitions: *Surviving and Thriving: AIDS, Politics and Culture* organized by the National Library of Medicine; *Twice Militant: Lorraine Hansberry's Letters to The Ladder*, at the Brooklyn Museum of Art; *A Queer History of Fashion: From the Closet to the Catwalk* at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.
- Documentaries: *The Reel in the Closet*, *I Am Divine*, *The Campaign*, and the forthcoming film, *Folsom Forever*.

The archives accessioned or received additions to 28 collections including the papers of disability rights activist Laura J. Bock, the Purple Moon Dance Project and gay rights pioneer José Julio Sarria.

Led by project archivist Juliet Demeter, the archives team processed nearly 200 linear feet of material in 2013. We completed a major processing initiative funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and began another in collaboration with the ONE Archives at the University of Southern California.

Work on digitizing our video, audio and photo holdings continues. We converted the collection of documentary filmmaker Karen Everett from VHS to digital format and began the conversion of our oral history video recordings. We also launched a digital asset management system for improved access to scanned images.

**Goals for 2014:** Process 200 linear feet of archival material; implement digital asset management system; continue research assistance at current level.



Managing Archivist  
Marjorie Bryer



José Julio Sarria



## GLBT History Museum

Some 15,000 people visited the museum in its third year. We strove to reflect the richness and diversity of queer history for both locals and tourists by offering changing exhibitions, an array of programs as well as docent-led and self-guided tours.

### Exhibitions

#### Main Gallery

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

#### Front Gallery

- *For Love and Community: Queer Asian Pacific Islanders Take Action, 1960s-1990s*
- *Migrating Archives: LGBT Delegates From Collections Around the World* (now on loan to the James Branch Cabell Library at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va.)
- *The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus: Celebrating 35 Years of Activism Through Song*

#### Corner Gallery

- *Play Fair! The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Make Sex Safer*
- *Legendary: African American GLBT Past Meets Present*
- *Be Bad...Do Good: Activism With a Beat*
- *Vicki Marlane: I'm Your Lady*

**Goals for 2014:** Five new exhibitions including a new Main Gallery exhibition; increased use of multimedia in the galleries; creation of gallery guides and other supplemental exhibition information.

### Museum Tours

**Schools:** Aragon High School GSA • Everett Middle School • George Washington High School: Japanese Exchange Students • Golden Oaks Montessori Charter School • GSA Network of Northern California (in conjunction with Codebreaker at Frameline) • Hillsdale High School GSA • James Logan High School GSA, Union City, Calif. • Jewish Community High School GSA • Leadership High School GSA • Lincoln High School GSA • Napa Valley Community High School GSA • Town School for Boys, San Francisco • Tracy High School, GSA • Washington High School, Fremont, Calif. • Junior State of America at Stanford

**Colleges & Universities:** American University, Washington, D.C.: Alternative Spring Break • California College of the Arts • California State University, East Bay: Integrative Social Work Practice Class/Center for Innovation in Teaching Excellence, Columbia College, Chicago • Hamline University, St. Paul, Minn.: Service Learning Group • Middle Tennessee State University Lambda • Napa Valley College: LGBT Studies Class • Napa Valley Community College: Police Academy Group • San



San Francisco City College: LGBT Studies Classes (multiple tours) • San Francisco State University: LGBT Studies Class • San José State University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center Thomas Long School of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, University of the Pacific, Stockton • UCSF Alliance Health Project • Université de Québec à Montréal • University of California, Berkeley: LGBT Studies Professors • University of Nevada, Las Vegas • University of Utah: LGBTQ Advocacy Trip • University of Wisconsin

**Organizations, Companies & Institutions:** American Educational Research Association: Queer Studies Special Interest Group • Center for Human Development Empowerment Program, Pleasant Hill, Calif. • Organization of American Historians • Grupo Sociocultural Hispano • IDEO LGBT Employees, San Francisco • International Education Group • LGBT Stars Community Service Group • LGBTQ Argosy • Lyric • National Scholastic Press Association • National Scholastic Press Association • Openhouse San Francisco • Rainbow Community Center • South Bay Women's Book Club • Victor Treatment Center Group Home • Vitas Innovative Hospice Care

**Goals for 2014:** Increase capacity to provide docent tours; enhance training of docents and outreach to welcome a greater number and variety of tour groups

## Public Programs

**Author Talks:** Guy Writers Presents Novel Discussions • Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, *The End of San Francisco* • Phil Tiemeyer, *Plane Queer: The History of Male Flight Attendants* • Witness to History—Felice Picano and Ron Williams

**Exhibition Openings:** *Migrating Archives: LGBT Delegates From Collections Around the World* • *Be Bad...Do Good: Activism With a Beat*

**Film Screenings & Discussions:** Michelle Tea's *Valencia* • Sister Sinema Presents *Tracks and Gender Freak* • *Submerged Queer Spaces* • *United in Anger: A History of ACT UP*

**History Talks:** "From Beatniks to Gay Liberation—Allen Ginsberg and Queer San Francisco" • Greg Youmans: "The Life and Times of Tede Mathews—Poet and Revolutionary"

**Living-History Panels:** *Bad for Good—The History and Legacy of a Legendary Dance Party* • *March on Washington: 50 Years Later—Where Are We Now?* • *What Is a Bear? Exploring and Defining a Gay Male Subculture*

**Performance:** Reading of *Dear Harvey* by the New Conservatory Theatre

**Receptions:** *Lewd & Lascivious* film launch • Meet and Greet New San Francisco State University President Leslie Wong

**Special Events:** Great Homo History Hunt • Red Envelope Giving Circle Fund-raiser

**Walking Tour:** *Submerged Queer Spaces in the Castro*

**Goals for 2014:** Continue high quality programs in response to community interest.



## Sponsored Projects

The Historical Society regularly sponsors autonomous projects that relate directly to our mission, but fall outside of standard operations. Two of note in 2013:

**GLBT Historic Context Statement:** A two-year project to document historic sites associated with San Francisco's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender history. Funded by a grant from the San Francisco Historic Preservation Fund Committee.

**Lewd & Lascivious:** A film that tells the story of the police raid on a 1964 New Year's Eve fundraiser for the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, often referred to as "San Francisco's Stonewall."

## Thank You

The GLBT Historical Society's work in 2013 was made possible by the support of many individuals, corporations, foundations and other institutions:

**Presenting Sponsors:** Bob Ross Foundation • City & County of San Francisco: Grants for the Arts • Council on Library and Information Resources • National Historical Publications & Records Commission • Real Bad (Grassroots Gay Rights West)

**Platinum Sponsors:** David R. Kessler, M.D., Levi Strauss, Wells Fargo, Walgreens

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