

# History Happens



GLBT  
Historical  
Society  
museum & archives

The GLBT Historical Society Museum Reopens October 1!

October 2020



MISS  
MAJOR



MAGGI  
RUBENSTEIN



PAMELA  
PENISTON



GERARD  
KOSKOVICH



JUANITA  
MORE!

## Celebrating LGBTQ History Makers & Our Community at “Reunion: Making History”

We may not be able to offer you canapés through your screens, but our [virtual Gala](#) on October 16, “Reunion: Making History,” will nevertheless dish up a delicious menu of fantastic performances while honoring LGBTQ pioneers. This year, the GLBT Historical Society is recognizing five extraordinary individuals whose work has advanced the cause of LGBTQ history, arts, culture, society and political leadership.

### History Maker Awards

The society is bestowing three History Maker Awards, an honor presented annually to individuals “for significant artistry and

contributions to LGBTQ history and culture.” The first honoree is **Miss Major**, a Black, transgender elder and activist, and veteran of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, who has spent five decades fighting for a better world for the trans and gender-nonconforming community. Miss Major currently mentors Black trans and gender-nonconforming leaders from the South at the House of GG, a retreat center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Our second honoree is San Francisco-based artist **Pamela Peniston**. She is a founding member and artistic director of the city’s Queer Cultural Center, where she has provided leadership for the National Queer Arts Festival since 1998 and has commissioned works from many LGBTQ activists and artists of color.

Finally, the third History Maker Award goes to Dr. **Maggi Rubenstein**, a bisexual activist, educator, sex therapist and sexologist who has devoted her life to social and sexual justice, sex-positive education and health, and community organizing. Over the course of five decades, she cofounded three major sex-education institutions and three bisexual-support organizations. “‘B’ wasn’t originally there in ‘LGBTQ,’” she says. “So I thought it was important to educate people that bisexual people were part of the community, too.”

### Clio Award

The Clio Award, given “for advancing understanding of LGBTQ history,” is being presented to historian **Gerard Koskovich**, a founding member of both the GLBT Historical Society and the Collectif Archives LGBTQI in Paris. He has been active in the movement to create LGBTQ archives and museums for nearly four decades. “The society has been an anchor for many of my efforts as a queer public historian over the past 35 years,” he says. “It has provided invaluable resources, not least of which are the national and international networks of scholars, curators, archivists, collectors, activists and lovers of LGBTQ history it has helped build and sustain.”

### Founders Award

Last but not least, the Willie Walker Founders Award is presented “for steadfast support, philanthropy, and leadership.” This year’s honoree is the inimitable **Juanita MORE!**, who has dedicated her time to raising funds for LGBTQ charities for three decades. The society was the 2019 beneficiary of her legendary Pride party, when Miss MORE declared, “Our future is only as vibrant as it is informed by our past, and I’m honored to help keep that history alive.”

In a year that has disrupted our lives in more ways than we ever thought possible, gathering together — even if only virtually — to honor these five remarkable individuals is an opportunity to reaffirm our sense of belonging to our community. [Register for the Gala](#) now!

GALA  
REGISTRATION

## At the Museum

# The GLBT Historical Society Museum Reopens



Free Days!

First Tuesday of  
each month

Saturdays (Bay  
Area residents)

While our archives remain closed at this time, we are very happy to announce that the [GLBT Historical Society Museum](#) is reopening on Thursday, October 1 after six months of closure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

General admission is \$10, members receive free entry, and multiple discount programs are in place for youth, seniors, and others. Additionally, admission is free on the first Tuesday of each month, thanks to a grant from the Bob Ross Foundation, and Bay Area residents can access the museum for free on Saturdays.

The museum is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. New ticketing and visitor policies have been adopted to comply with city and state health regulations and ensure proper social distancing. Visitors must [reserve their tickets online](#) in advance. Tickets will be timed at hourly intervals, with the number of visitors capped at five people per hour. Daily museum attendance will be limited to 25 percent of total capacity.

We have implemented extensive cleaning procedures to ensure visitor, staff and volunteer safety, including hourly cleanings on open days and additional cleaning on days when the museum is closed. Hand-sanitizing stations are available, and visitors are required to wear face coverings or masks at all times during their visit.

We hope to expand our hours soon, based on volunteer availability. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum, please click [here](#).

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**From the Board**  
**History is Alive & Well**



By Francisco Rosas

In the year that I have served on the board of the GLBT Historical Society, San Francisco — and indeed the world — have been shaken by many historic events. We are witnessing history. I am very proud to contribute my energies and passions to support our uniquely queer organization, one that is rightly equipped and

prepared to document and interpret this moment, and those that will surely follow.

Although I'm a museum professional, I was motivated to join the society's board by both the museum and the archives. Since the beginning of the shelter-in-place orders in March, I have continued to be amazed by the thoughtful efforts the society has devoted to making [archival materials accessible online](#) and creating [digital exhibitions](#). If you have not yet had the chance to do so, I encourage you to lose yourself in one (or several) of the digital collections and online exhibitions the staff has expertly created. I have found comfort and inspiration in these resources that celebrate our communities.

At a time of immense confusion and fear, exploring these documents and media has given me the courage to hold my head high, inspired me to protest to support beliefs I hold dear, and to be a better advocate for the communities to which I belong, and more importantly, to support those communities to which I don't belong. If you are looking for hope and joy, I encourage you to enjoy these online resources and to join us at our [virtual Gala](#) on October 16.

I also hope you'll consider [donating to the society](#) so that we can continue to produce these rich interpretative experiences — and make history live.

*Francisco Rosas* is a member of the GLBT Historical Society Board of Directors.

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## Upcoming Online Events

### [Panel Discussion](#)

### [Podcasting LGBTQ History, Part I](#)



Wednesday, October 7

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m.

Online program

[Free](#) | \$5 suggested donation

With the advent of more digital media than ever before, people are finding new ways to learn about LGBTQ history and culture, including podcasts. In the last several years, there has

been an explosion in the number of queer voices in podcasting, a powerful tool and medium for teaching LGBTQ history in an accessible, intimate way. In the first of a two-part conversation, prominent queer podcasters whose shows cover a broad spectrum of LGBTQ history will share their experiences, perspectives and tips on how queer history can be shared beyond the classroom through podcasts that potentially reach a global audience. Register online [here](#).

## [Film Screening](#) Reel in the Closet



Thursday, October 8, 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 15, 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 22, 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, October 29, 6:00–9:00 p.m.  
Online program  
Free | \$10 suggested donation  
Tickets: [10/8](#) | [10/15](#) | [10/22](#) | [10/29](#)

In honor of LGBTQ History Month, the GLBT Historical Society is teaming up with film director Stu Maddox and producer Joseph Applebaum to present a special set of screenings of their 2015 documentary *Reel in the Closet*, which documents the search to identify and preserve rare home movies of LGBTQ people dating back to the 1930s. Containing rare and moving footage drawn largely from the archives of the GLBT Historical Society as well as from a number of other collections, the film depicts the personal moments and everyday lives of ordinary queer people in earlier decades. The screenings will take place on Thursdays in October starting on the 8th, and will be followed by a Q & A with the filmmakers and a panel of LGBTQ activists and historians. Register online for your selected date here: [10/8](#), [10/15](#), [10/22](#), [10/29](#).

## [Fundraiser](#) Reunion: Making History



Friday, October 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m.  
Online program  
\$25 suggested donation

Hosted by Peaches Christ and Marga Gomez and featuring performances by Freddie Seipoldt and Breanna Sinclairé, this year's GLBT Historical Society Gala, "Reunion: Making History," will be an evening of powerful performances, inspiring presentations and a heartfelt celebration of LGBTQ history-makers. The proceeds directly support our mission of preserving and sharing LGBTQ history. Register online [here](#).

## [Film Screening](#) 50 Years of Fabulous



Friday, October 23, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Online program

\$10 | \$7 for members

Together with Frameline and the Roxie Theater, the GLBT Historical Society is co-presenting a virtual screening of *50 Years of Fabulous*, director Jethro Patalinghug's 2018 documentary chronicling the foundation, history and impact of the world's oldest LGBTQ charity, the Imperial

Council. Established in San Francisco in 1965 by activist, drag queen and performer José Sarria — the first openly gay man to run for public office in the United States — the Council is the founding court in the international Imperial Court System, now a global network of LGBTQ nonprofits. The screening will be followed by drag performances by members of the Imperial Council and a panel discussion exploring its ongoing importance. Register online [here](#).

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## Current Exhibitions

### Queer Past Becomes Present Museum

Our long-term exhibition tells the amazing stories of over a century of everyday queer life among the diverse populations of San Francisco.

### Performance, Protest & Politics: The Art of Gilbert Baker Museum & online

Examine how rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker blurred the lines between artist and activist, protester and performer.

### 50 Years of Pride Online

This photography exhibition documents the evolution of San Francisco Pride over the past half century.

### Labor of Love: The Birth of San Francisco Pride Online

Learn how San Francisco forged the internationally renowned annual celebration that would come to be known as Pride.

### AIDS Treatment Activism: A Bay Area Story Online

Explore the rise of and growth of the treatment-activism movement in the San Francisco Bay Area in the 1980s and 1990s.

### Angela Davis: OUTspoken Online

Rare posters and ephemera from a private collection highlight the journey of Black lesbian activist Angela Davis.

### Reigning Queens: The Lost Photos of Roz Joseph

## Online

These evocative color photographs depict Francisco's epic drag and costume balls of the mid-1970s.

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# REUNION

## MAKING HISTORY

Friday, October 16  
6:00 – 7:30 PM PDT  
[glbthistory.org/gala](http://glbthistory.org/gala)



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## Visit Us & Online Resources

The archives are online only until further notice, but archives staff members are still available to work with researchers; please contact us at [reference@glbthistory.org](mailto:reference@glbthistory.org).

**Online exhibitions:** Our online exhibitions are available here.

**Online archives resources:** Browse dozens of digital collections.

**Upcoming events:** More information about all of our online events.

**Past events:** Video footage of a large number of our past programs.

### THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

#### Exhibitions & Programs

4127 18th St.

San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 621-1107

[www.glbthistory.org/museum](http://www.glbthistory.org/museum)

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 12:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Closed other days

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

Research & Public History Center

(415) 777-5455

[www.glbthistory.org/archives](http://www.glbthistory.org/archives)

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

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**CREDITS.** FEATURE: Illustrations by Andy Chiang. MUSEUM REOPENING: Nighttime image of the GLBT Historical Society Museum; photo by Dave Earl. FROM THE BOARD: Picture of Francisco Rosas courtesy of same. EVENTS. Panel Discussion 10/7: Logo artwork for "Making Gay History," "History is Gay," "Queer as Fact" and "Historically Queer" used with permission. Photo of Rick Oculito courtesy of same. Film Screening 10/8–10/29: Poster for *Reel in the Closet* courtesy of the Clowder Group. Film Screening 10/23: Detail of *50 Years of Fabulous* poster, courtesy of Frameline Distribution.

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