

**Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar
Policies records, 1984-1988
Ms.Coll.44**

Finding aid prepared by John Anderies

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
January 13, 2017

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical/Historical note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents note</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Related Materials</u>	6
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6
<u>Collection Inventory</u>	7

Summary Information

Repository	John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center
Creator	Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies (Philadelphia, Pa.).
Title	Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies records
Date [inclusive]	1984-1988
Extent	0.2 Linear feet 1 slim document box
Language	English
Abstract	The Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies was a grassroots organization made up of representatives from several of Philadelphia lesbian and gay organizations. Active from 1984-1986, their goal was "to examine the practices and policies of bars serving Philadelphia's gay/lesbian community as they relate to the treatment and employment of women and racial minorities, and to analyze the results of this examination in order to decide on appropriate actions to address problem areas." The records include correspondence to and from the Coalition, typed meeting minutes, press releases, bar study questionnaires and results, bar observation forms and tabulated data, as well as a final report of findings from the Coalition.

Preferred Citation note

Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies records, 1984-1988, Ms. Coll. 44, John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center, Philadelphia, PA.

Biographical/Historical note

In the final report of the Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies, the Coalition gives the following "History of the Project":

"The Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies began in June of 1984, when representatives from six area lesbian and gay organizations [Beth Ahavah, Black and White Men Together - Philadelphia, Dignity/Philadelphia, Integrity, Metropolitan Community Church - Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force] met to discuss ways 'to examine the practices and policies of bars serving Philadelphia's gay/lesbian community as they relate to the treatment and employment of women and racial minorities, and to analyze the results of this examination in order to decide on appropriate actions to address problem areas.' The group eventually included ten participating organizations [having added the Big Bear Club, Gay Fathers of Greater Philadelphia, the Mayor's Commission on Sexual Minorities, and Sisterspace of Philadelphia]. A survey was drafted to document the employment, promotion and admission policies of area bars. Coalition members conducted this survey in teams, visiting local bars and interviewing owners or managers at each bar. The survey process began in the fall of 1984; over the next six months, the Coalition attempted to survey every gay and lesbian bar and private club in the city.

To back up the information provided by the survey, the group conducted observations at various establishments over a period of eight months, beginning in the spring of 1985. Teams of volunteer observers made over 100 visits to collect first-hand information about the racial and sexual composition of bar employees and patrons, as well as admission policies. The observations were completed in February of [1986]."

The bars that were surveyed and/or observed during the course of the project include: Allegro 2 (2056 Sansom St.), The Bike Stop (206 S. Quince St.), The Black Banana (201 N. 3rd St.), The Cellblock and DCA Club (1219 St. James St.), CR Bar and Millbourne Social Association (MSA Club) (6405 Market St.), The Drury Lane and Cafe Lafitte (and temporarily called Justine's) (1302 Drury St.), Equus (252 S. 12th St.), Gatsby's (Route 70, Cherry Hill, NJ), JP's (1511 Spruce St.), Key West (207 S. Juniper St.), Kurt's (1229 Chestnut St.), Mamzelle's (204 S. Quince St.), Park's Place (also called Odyssey) (1526 Delancey St.), The Post (1705 Chancellor St.), Raffles (233 Camac St.), Season's Cabaret (1306-08 Drury St.), The Smart Place (922 Arch St.), Sneakers (7 N. 3rd St.), 2-4 Club (1221 St. James St.), 247 Club (247 S. 17th St.), Venture Inn (255 S. Camac St.), Westbury Bar (271 S. 15th St.), Woody's (202 S. 13th St.). Because some bars closed, changed ownership, or were renamed during the course of the project, not all establishments are included in the final report.

The final report also gives the following "Summary of Findings":

"Our surveys and observations confirm the existence of pervasive racial and sexual exclusivity in Greater Philadelphia's lesbian and gay bars. This pattern stems from two sources: a desire on the part of many bar owners to create an atmosphere that attracts a specific clientele, and the attitudes and assumptions of bar patrons, most of whom select themselves as customers of a particular bar or bars. These attitudes produce the above-mentioned pattern without the employment of systematic discrimination. Because of this, most of our recommendations ... focus on raising the lesbian and gay public's consciousness about

the issues of racism and sexism. Our surveys and observations also show the admission and employment policies vary greatly among establishments. This situation leaves room for arbitrary practices that could prove discriminatory; our recommendations also include uniform procedures to reduce the chances of such practices."

Individuals who participated in the Coalition included: Len Bost, Burt Fishman, Larry Frankel, Bill Kenvin, David Lauer, Maureen M., Gary Mullen, Kenny Newman, Don Ransom, Sandy Smith.

Scope and Contents note

The Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies records appear to be complete and include correspondence to and from the Coalition, typed meeting minutes, press releases, bar study questionnaires and results, bar observation forms and tabulated data, as well as a final report of findings from the Coalition.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

John J. Wilcox, Jr. LGBT Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center January 13, 2017

Conditions Governing Access note

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Conditions Governing Use note

This collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Gift, Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies, circa 2000.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At John J. Wilcox, Jr. Archives, William Way LGBT Community Center:

"Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies (Philadelphia)" file in William Way LGBT Community Center ephemera files, 1972-present, Ms. Coll. 35

"Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, 1982-1984" file in Tommi Avicolti Mecca collection, 1967-1992, Ms. Coll. 25

"Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force, 1978-1988" files in Tommi Avicolti Mecca collection, 1967-1992, Ms. Coll. 25

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Coalition on Lesbian-Gay Bar Policies (Philadelphia, Pa.).

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Gay bars
- Gay community
- Lesbian bars
- Lesbian community
- Race discrimination
- Sex discrimination

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Correspondence 1984-1988, undated	1	1
Meeting minutes 1984-1986	1	2
Press releases 1985-1986, undated	1	3
Bar study questionnaire 1984, undated	1	4
Bar study questionnaire results undated	1	5
Bar observation forms completed 1985-1986	1	6
Bar observation data 1985-1986, undated	1	7
Final report: "Racial Discrimination in Lesbian and Gay Bars in Philadelphia: A Report on Admission and Employment Policies and Practices" 1986 May	1	8