2017 Annual Report

We envision a world in which LGBTQ people are appreciated and celebrated by one another in all their diversity and by all people who understand us and our history, lives, and cultures. We believe that knowledge of our diverse queer past is an invaluable resource for promoting civic engagement, social and economic justice, and promotion of connection.

Our Mission

The GLBT Historical Society 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. We believe that knowledge of our diverse queer past is an invaluable resource for promoting civic engagement, social and economic justice, and promoting connection.

Our Values

We believe in acknowledging their heritage and in promoting civic engagement, social and economic justice, and promoting connection.

Our Vision

We believe in acknowledging their heritage and in promoting civic engagement, social and economic justice, and promoting connection.

Goal 1: Continue to build our archival collections, while sharing it with society as a whole.

Goal 2: Establish a permanent home for exhibitions, of communities and individuals they represent.

Goal 3: Improve access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.

Goal 4: Develop collaborations with other institutions to educate, inspire and empower LGBTQ people and our allies in building our future.

Goal 5: Develop organizational structures and policies centered around two sites: The GLBT History Museum and the Archives & Research Center: Photographer anonymous, GLBT Historical Society, Lesbian Photos Collection.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

The strategic plan provides a framework to guide the further growth and evolution of the society over the next few years. The plan is structured around the following five goals:

- Goal 1: Continue to build our archival collections, while sharing it with society as a whole.
- Goal 2: Establish a permanent home for exhibitions, of communities and individuals they represent.
- Goal 3: Improve access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.
- Goal 4: Develop collaborations with other institutions to educate, inspire and empower LGBTQ people and our allies in building our future.
- Goal 5: Develop organizational structures and policies centered around two sites: The GLBT History Museum and the Archives & Research Center.

The entire plan is available on the society’s website: glbthistory.org/reports.
Five-Year Strategic Plan 2018–2022

The strategic plan provides a framework to guide the further growth and stability of the society over the next few years. The plan is structured around the following five goals:

Goal 1: Continue to build our archival collections, while improving access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.

Goal 2: Establish a permanent home for exhibitions, archives, and programs where the stories and cultures of our diverse LGBTQ communities can be shared.

Goal 3: Develop collaborations with other institutions to reach young people and other diverse audiences with the lessons of LGBTQ history and culture.

Goal 4: Communicate effectively who we are and the work that we do.

Goal 5: Develop organizational structures and policies to increase stability and ensure sustainable growth.

The entire plan is available on the society’s website: gblthistory.org

About the GLBT Historical Society

Founded in 1985, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history. Our operations are centered around two sites: The GLBT History Museum, located since 2011 in the heart of San Francisco’s Castro neighborhood, and our Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market District.

Our Mission

The GLBT Historical Society collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) history, culture and arts in all their diversity.

Our Vision

We envision a world in which LGBTQ people are appreciated and celebrated by one another in all their diversity and by all people for their contributions to history and culture. We envision a world in which everyone can learn about LGBTQ history as a vital means for promoting civic engagement, social justice and political change.

We envision a world in which LGBTQ people find acceptance, strength and pride in acknowledging their heritage and in sharing it with society as a whole.

Our Values

We believe that knowledge of our diverse LGBTQ past is an invaluable resource for understanding the challenges of the present and inspiring dreams for a future of greater social justice.

We appreciate the importance of LGBTQ history for building community and promoting connection.

We support debate, dialogue and discussion about the LGBTQ past as a way to educate, inspire and empower LGBTQ people and our allies in building our future.

Selected Educational Forums

Preserving & Promoting San Francisco’s LGBTQ Cultural Heritage

Eclectic Modernisms: Making Differences in the History of American Art

Faces of the Past: Queer Lives in Northern California Before 1950

"She Made My Daughter Do It!" Lesbian Inheritance & Family Conflict

Queerness in Flux: Shifting Lesbian, Trans & Genderqueer Identities

Selected Accessions: 2017

Rex Ray Graphic Art Collection
Wayne Fidelity Collection
Tito Latimer Collection
David Scott Collection
Gilbert Baker Collection
Sylvester Collection
Betty Wimmer & Ruth Babcock Photographs
Pax Triangulum Collection
Catherine Martin Collection
Lenore Chinn Photographs
And Castro for All Collection

Anything that Moves Magazine Collection

After more than three decades, the GLBT Historical Society is growing, fueled by an increasing thirst for knowledge of our LGBTQ past. As the political and legal threats to LGBTQ people, immigrants, women, people of color and others grow more ominous, preserving and sharing our diverse histories and cultures has become part of the resistance as well as a celebration of our past accomplishments.

Each year, thousands of people from around the world stream through our museum in the Castro, and thousands more read or experience creative and scholarly works that are produced with materials from our archives. The impact of our work is most visible in the faces of the young people who visit our museum, in the communities museum patrons post on social media and in the projects that come to fruition after consulting our archives.

In 2017 the GLBT Historical Society expanded our operations and invested in planning for future growth. We hired additional program and development staff and established a National Advisory Council. We engaged in an extensive community consultation process to create a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the years 2018 to 2022, with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts and the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development. We also took steps toward implementing the plan, which lays out a number of key goals to guide us in our work.

Central to these goals is the establishment of a New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture, which will be the first full-fledged museum and public history center dedicated to the stories of LGBTQ people anywhere in North America. The museum will be the centerpiece of a research and public history center that will house our archives, exhibitions and educational programs. The establishment of the museum and increased space for the archives is critical to showcasing the full spectrum of our diverse LGBTQ histories.

We are deeply grateful to all those who made this progress possible. As demand for our programs continues to grow and we work toward achieving all our strategic goals—including identifying a site for our new museum and public history center—we hope you will join us in this effort today by becoming a member, by donating to our annual fund or through planned giving as a member of our Legacy Circle. Working together, we will continue to realize our mission “to collect, preserve, exhibit and make accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity.”

Thank you for being a part of this vision.

Yours in understanding that history truly matters,

Tina Valentin Aguirre
Chair, Board of Directors

GLBT Historical Society

1471 18th Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
415-527-5445

GLBT History Museum

989 Market Street, Lower Level
San Francisco, CA 94103
415-621-1107

The GLBT Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Our Values

We believe that knowledge of our diverse LGBTQ past is an invaluable resource for understanding the challenges of the present and inspiring dreams for a future of greater social justice.

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**Goal 1:** Continue to build our archival collections, while improving access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.

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**Goal 4:** Communicate effectively with all who we are and what we do.

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The entire plan is available on the society’s website: glbt历史.org/strategic-plan.

After more than three decades, the GLBT Historical Society is growing, fueled by an increasing thirst for knowledge of our LGBTQ past. As the political and legal threats to LGBTQ people, immigrants, women, people of color and others grow more ominous, preserving and sharing our diverse histories and cultures becomes even more necessary. The GLBT Historical Society has become part of the resistance, preserving and sharing our diverse histories and cultures as a celebration of our past accomplishments.

Each year, thousands of people from around the world come to our museum in the Castro and visit the archives, more read or experience creative and scholarly works that are produced with materials from our archives. The impact of our work is most visible in the faces of the young people who visit our museum, or in the comments museum patrons post on social media and in the projects that come to fruition after consulting our archives. In 2017 the GLBT Historical Society expanded our operations and invested in planning for future growth. We hired additional program and development staff and established a National Advisory Council. We engaged in an extensive community consultation process to create a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the years 2018 to 2022, with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts and the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development. We also took steps toward implementing the plan, which lays out a number of key goals to guide us in our work.

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Yours in understanding that history truly matters,
The Public Face of History

Six years after its opening, the GLBT Historical Society remains a key setting for the GLBT Historical Society to share our past with LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ publics and to advocate for the preservation of queer history and culture. Visitors and media from around the world continue to make the museum a significant cultural destination in the city. The museum experienced a close to 25 percent increase in visitors in 2017, welcoming a total of nearly 26,800 people.

In 2017 we refreshed our popular long-term exhibition in the Main Gallery, Queer Past Becomes Present, replacing several of the displays with new themes, including one section focusing on Sano’s Historic leather community and another dedicated to early AIDS activism in San Francisco. We also installed a dynamic new video wall visible through the front windows of the museum. This display draws greater foot traffic from 18th Street when the museum is open and attracts viewers even when we’re closed.

The museum welcomed four temporary exhibitions exploring a range of topics. Curator E.G. Crichton’s OUTLOOK and the Birth of the Queer invited 38 participants to create new artistic works in response to one of the 17 issues of OUTLOOK; the groundbreaking queer publication from the late 1980s and early 1990s. Later in the year, artist Harrison Tate True Lattimer curated Picturing Kitship, a 35-year retrospective of LGBTQ portraits in painting and photography by San Francisco artist and Loomer Choe. In addition, the museum hosted more than 50 programs and events, including community forums, author talks, lectures and panel discussions. Particularly notable was the launch of our continuing monthly “Fighting Back” series of panel discussion that link LGBTQ history to contemporary issues. Our dedicated volunteer docents also gave more than 70 guided tours of the museum to class groups ranging from junior high to university students and to community organizations, professional groups and other visitors from around the United States and from as far away as Norway and Japan.

By The Numbers 2017

Exhibitions Mounted 7

New Archival Collections Accessed 22

Archival Collections Digitized 10

Years of the Bay Area Reporter Digitized 11

Museum Visitors 26,000

Educational Forums 50

Group Tours of Museum 71

Revenue

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Expenses

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For full financial details, please visit our website, gblthistory.org/reports
By The Numbers 2017

- **7 Exhibitions Mounted**
- **22 New Archival Collections Accessioned**
- **10 Archival Collections Digitized**
- **11 Years of the Bay Area Reporter Digitized**
- **26,000 Museum Visitors**
- **50 Educational Forums**
- **71 Group Tours of Museum**

### Archives

#### Market Street Downtown

**Cataloging Our Stories**

After accomplishing the move to our new space in 2014, the year 2017 was a dynamic period of growth for the society’s archives—growth in numbers of patrons, collections and personnel. A total of 503 research cases were completed in 2017, a dramatic increase over the previous year. Over the summer, we welcomed a new archivist assistant to support our managing archivist and help orient our burgeoning number of users to the holdings.

We continued to prioritize expanding our holdings in 2017, acquiring 22 new archival collections. This year we welcomed several especially exciting acquisitions, notably materials from the estate of American artist and activist Gilbert Baker (1951–2017), internationally renowned for his iconic 1978 design of the rainbow flag.

In addition to many fragmented items, the collection contains letters, drawings, correspondence with close friends, protest banners, photographs and costumes, all of which paint a detailed and complex picture of a man fiercely dedicated to social justice. We also gave an honored place to the family of San Francisco’s most celebrated disco diva, Sylvester, who donated a collection of his publicity shots, handmade jewelry, family photos and other personal artifacts to the archives.

The year also brought an acceleration of our efforts to make more content from the archives available in digital formats, enhancing remote access to our holdings. With the assistance of Gale, a Cengage Company, we made 10 archival collections available in digital form, including parts of the frequently used Papers, plus two collections focusing on the transgender community: the National Transgender Library Collection and the Transgender Archives.

In addition, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant shared with the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California at San Francisco enabled us to make available online 127,000 pages from 49 archival collections held at the three institutions. These materials all relate to the early days of the AIDS epidemic. And our most significant digitization effort has been devoted to the Bay Area Reporter, the longest running continuously published gay newspaper in the United States. In 2017, we completed digitization of issues from 1994 to 2005 (when the BAP itself began publishing its content online), the remainder going back to 1971 will be posted by the end of 2018.

### Making History

**VISION 2020**

**GALLERIES & MUSEUMS PLAN FUTURE**

Galleries 

Since the Museum began, Vision 2020 has helped create the New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture, a brand new facility world-class facility to be followed by a multiyear capacity-building campaign to prepare it for a comprehensive 21st-century history. This world-class facility will feature galleries, a comprehensive and accessible experience to be enjoyed by all, and also allow us to do justice to our early collections. Architecturally, the New Museum is designed to share all of the GLBT Historical Society’s building capacity for presenting an expanded range of exhibitions. To join us in this vital work, please make a tax-deductible donation today online:

[bghistory.org/donate](http://bghistory.org/donate)
Museum
in the Castro
The Public Face of History
Six years after its opening, the GLBT History Museum remains a key setting for the GLBT Historical Society to share our past with LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ publics and to advocate for the preservation of queer history and culture. Visitors and media from around the world continue to make the museum a significant cultural destination in the city. The museum experienced a close to 25 percent increase in visitors in 2017, welcoming a total of nearly 26,000 people.

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Archives
Market Street Downtown
Cataloging Our Stories
After accomplishing the move to our new space in 2014, the 2017 year was a dynamic period of growth for the society’s archives—growth in numbers of patrons, collections and personnel. A total of 353 research cases were handled in 2017, a dramatic increase over the previous year. Over the summer, we welcomed a new archives assistant to support our managing archivist and help extend our burgeoning number of users to the holdings.

We continued to prioritize expanding our holdings in 2017, acquiring 22 new archival collections. This year we welcomed especially exciting acquisitions, notably materials from the estates of American artist and activist Gilbert Baker (1930–2017), internationally renowned for his iconic 1978 design of the rainbow flag. In addition to many fragmented items, the collection contains paintings, drawings, correspondence with close friends, protest banners, photographs and costumes, all of which paint a detailed and complex picture of a man fiercely dedicated to social justice.

We also were honored that the family of San Francisco’s most celebrated disco diva, Sylvester, chose to donate a collection of his publicity shots, handmade jewelry, family photos and other personal artifacts to the archives.

The year also brought an acceleration of our efforts to make more content from the archives available in digital form, enhancing remote access to our holdings. With the assistance of Gale, a Cengage Company, we made 10 archival collections available in digital form, including several of the frequently used paper copy collections and two books, Papas, plus two collections focusing on the transgender community, the National Transgender Library Collection and the Transgender Studies collection.

In addition, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant shared with the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California at San Francisco enabled us to make available online 127,000 pages from 49 archival collections held at the three institutions. These materials all relate to the early days of the AIDS epidemic. And our most significant digitization effort has been devoted to the Bay Area Reporter, the longest running continuously published gay newspaper in the United States. In 2017, we continued digitizing issues from 1994 to 2005 (when the BAR itself began publishing its online content), the remainder going back to 1971 will be posted by the fall of 2018.

Making History

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**Museum in the Castro**

**The Public Face of History**

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**Archives Market Street Downtown**

**Cataloging Our Stories**

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We continued to prioritize expanding our holdings in 2017, occasioning 22 new archival collections. This year we welcomed several especially exciting acquisitions, notably materials from the estate of artist and activist Gilbert Baker (1931–2017), internationally renowned for his iconic 1978 design of the rainbow flag. In addition to many fragile formats, the collection contains correspondence and witness statements, collections and ephemera, as well as a group of rare items, and the resulting collection, correspondence with close friends, protest posters, photographs and costumes, all of which paint a detailed and complex picture of a man tirelessly dedicated to social justice. We also were honored that the family of San Francisco’s most celebrated disco diva, Sylvester, chose to donate a collection of his publicity shots, handmade jewelry, family photos and other personal artifacts to the archives.

The year also brought an acceleration of our efforts to make more content from the archives available in digital formats, enhancing remote access to our holdings. With the assistance of Gale, a Cengage Company, we made 10 archival collections available in digital form, including series of the frequently used Alan Bérubé Papers, plus two collections focusing on the transgender community: the National Transgender Library Collection and the Transgender San Francisco Collection.

In addition, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant shared with the San Francisco Public Library and the University of California at San Francisco enabled us to make available online 127,921 pages from 49 archival collections held at the three institutions. These materials all relate to the early days of the AIDS epidemic. And our most significant digitization effort has been devoted to the Bay Area Reporter, the largest running continuously published gay newspaper in the United States. In 2017, we completed digitization of issues from 1994 to 2005 (when the BAF itself began publishing its content online), the remainder going back to 1971 will be posted by the fall of 2018.

**Making History**

**Board of Directors**

- Troy Barber & Dan Stewart

**National Advisory Council**

- Andy VanDeWater

**Archives, Museum & Other Programs**

- Activities & Educational Programs
- Cataloging
- Curship
- Exhibitions
- Grants
- Gifts
- Special Collections
- Publishing & Education

**Communications**

- Jeanette Richer

**Supporters**

- The GLBT Historical Society
- The San Francisco Public Library
- The San Francisco AIDS Foundation
- GLBT Historical Society
- San Francisco AIDS Foundation
- San Francisco Art Commission
- San Francisco History Center
- San Francisco Public Library

**Donations**

- $25,000 or more
- $10,000 or more
- $1,000 or more

**Sponsors**

- The Crown

**Vision 2020**

- BUILDING OUR FUTURE
- VISION 2020

**Giving to GLBT Historical Society**

- Donate to our annual fund, VISION 2020
- Make a tax-deductible donation today online:

**glbthistory.org/donate**
Five-Year Strategic Plan 2018–2022

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Goal 4: Communicate effectively with the communities we serve.

Goal 5: Develop organizational structures and policies to increase stability and ensure sustainable growth.

The entire plan is available on the society’s website: glbthistory.org

Temporary Exhibitions

January–May

Beattie-Moldos of San Francisco; Sketching an Emerging Subculture
Curated by Jeremy Prince

April–September

Lavender-Tinted Glasses: A Groovy Gay Look at the Summer of Love
Curated by Josy Can

May–September

Picturing Kinships: Portraits of Our Community
Curated by Tito True Latimer

October 2017–January 2018
CUTOUT & The Birth of the Queer
Curated by E.G. Critchon

Main Gallery Updates

South of Market: San Francisco’s Leather Scene
Curated by Will Murdoch & Greg Pennington

Faces from the Past: We Have Always Been Here
Curated by Bill Lipsky & Paula Lichtenberg

Curated by Mike Shriver

Selected Educational Forums

Preserving & Promoting San Francisco’s LGBTQ Cultural Heritage

Eclectic Modernism: Making Differences in the History of American Art

Faces of the Past: Queer Lives in Northern California Before 1930

“The Made My Daughter Do It”: Lesbian Inheritance & Family Conflict

Queerness in Flux: Shifting Lesbian, Trans & Genderqueer Identities

for the years 2018 to 2022, with support from the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts and the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development. We also took steps toward implementing the plan, which lays out a number of key goals to guide us in our work.

Central to these goals is the establishment of a New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture, which will be the first fully-fledged museum and public history center dedicated to the stories of LGBTQ people anywhere in North America. The museum will be the centerpiece of the GLBT History and Public History Center that will house our archives, exhibitions and educational programs. The establishment of the museum and increased space for the archives is critical to showcasing the full spectrum of our diverse LGBTQ histories.

We are deeply grateful to all those who made this progress possible. As demand for our programs continues to grow and we work toward achieving all our strategic goals—including identifying a site for our new museum and public history center—we hope you will join us in this effort today by becoming a member, by donating to our annual fund or through planned giving as a member of our Legacy Circle. Working together, we will continue to realize our mission “to collect, preserve, exhibit and make accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity.”

Thank you for being a part of this vision. Yours in understanding that history truly matters,

Terry Beswick
Executive Director

Tina Valentin Aguine
Chair, Board of Directors