About the GLBT Historical Society

Founded in 1985, the society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of queer public history. Our operations are centered around two sites: our 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 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.
This strategic plan provides a framework to guide the further growth and evolution of the GLBT Historical society over the next few years. The plan is the result of a careful consultative process, including a membership survey, stakeholder interviews, and a series of workshops that took into account input from the organization’s members, curators, current and past board members, staff, organizational working groups, volunteers and donors.

Funded in part by a grant from the City and County of San Francisco’s Grants for the Arts, the plan is structured around five strategic goals, each of which is broken down into a number of objectives. Staff, board and volunteers have developed implementation timelines for these objectives and will be pursuing the strategic partnerships necessary to fulfill them. While not intended to be exhaustive, the plan highlights key programmatic activities that will shape our work in the coming years.

**Goal 1: Continue to build our archival collections, while improving access to the collections and the diversity of communities and individuals they represent.**
- Objective 1: Create a comprehensive plan for collections development and management that reflects the full diversity of the LGBTQ communities of Northern California.
- Objective 2: Establish a long-term digital collections program that includes establishing, maintaining, and upgrading technology to improve digital preservation and access, as well as a commitment to actively engage with policies, procedures, trends, and training related to digital archives and collections. This program will support the needs of students, scholars, and other researchers who access the archives.
- Objective 3: Provide adequate resources and staffing for anticipated growth in collection acquisitions, loan programs, digitization, researcher demand, and outreach activities.

**Goal 2: Establish a permanent home for exhibitions, archives, and programs where the stories and cultures of our diverse LGBTQ communities can be shared.**
- Objective 1: Ensure that current and future museum exhibition space provides for optimal diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion of LGBTQ communities and their histories and cultures.
- Objective 2: Establish an interim new home for the museum prior to October 2020 when the current lease expires.
- Objective 3: Develop a plan for a permanent home for the museum, archives, and programs, including a feasibility study, a space needs assessment, an endowment fund, and a capital campaign.
Goal 3: Develop collaborations with other institutions (K–12 schools, colleges and universities, professional associations, archives, libraries, museums, nonprofits, community groups) to reach young people and other diverse audiences with the lessons of LGBTQ history and culture.

- Objective 1: Collaborate with schools on curriculum development to generate innovative, age-appropriate LGBTQ history lesson plans drawing on our collections and resources that can be used in implementing the new California Department of Education K-12 History-Social Science Framework guidelines.
- Objective 2: Collaborate with nonprofit organizations and groups that serve diverse communities on exhibitions and programs that represent their unique histories and cultures.
- Objective 3: Collaborate with institutions of higher education to design programs drawing on our collections and resources that can be used to advance education of undergraduates and graduate students.
- Objective 4: Establish a network of LGBTQ libraries, archives, museums, special collections, and professional organizations in the United States and internationally to develop collaborations and joint-venture activities.

Goal 4: Communicate effectively who we are and what we have to offer.

- Objective 1: Produce communications that represent the full spectrum of LGBTQ life by reflecting and extending the society’s commitment to diversity in its exhibitions, programs, and archives.
- Objective 2: Create a unified and effective name and image for the organization, reinforcing the society’s reputation as an internationally recognized LGBTQ public history institution.
- Objective 3: Advance public engagement with our initiatives, archival holdings, programs, and activities.
- Objective 4: Promote social justice by expanding public knowledge of LGBTQ history.
Join Vision2020 and help create the New Museum of LGBTQ History and Culture in San Francisco. We’re only just beginning this multiyear effort to build a comprehensive center for LGBTQ public history, a world-class facility with galleries, program space and archives much larger than our current museum, that will do justice to our richly diverse community’s past. All funds will help the GLBT Historical Society build its development capacity in preparation for a capital campaign.

To join us in this vital work, please make a tax-deductible donation today online:

glbthistory.org/donate

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

- Objective 1: Create a board development plan that prioritizes the following:
  1) ensures a diverse board membership;
  2) maintains strong organizational oversight;
  3) contributes to fundraising efforts; and
  4) institutes a board orientation and team-building program.

- Objective 2: Increase permanent staffing levels to manage operations and achieve key programmatic and development objectives.

- Objective 3: Diversify revenue streams to ensure financial stability.

- Objective 4: Employ appropriate and up-to-date technology to increase operational efficiency and provide better access to our historical archives.

- Objective 5: Review and update organizational policies and procedures to reflect current best practices in the fields of museums, archives, and nonprofit management and to reinforce the society’s commitment to diversity.

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

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