April LGBTQ History Programs Highlight Interviews With LGBTQ Pioneers, First Decade of San Francisco Pride

San Francisco — The program series for April 2020 sponsored by the GLBT Historical Society will highlight interviews with LGBTQ pioneers collected by the OUTWORDS Archive, and a new exhibition mounted by the GLBT Historical Society that documents the first ten years of San Francisco Pride between 1970 and 1980. All events take place at the GLBT Historical Society Museum at 4127 18th St. in the Castro District. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

Panel Discussion
Tales From the OUTWORDS Archive: Stories of LGBTQ Activism
Thursday, April 2
7:00–9:00 p.m.
The GLBT Historical Society Museum
4127 18th St., San Francisco
Admission: $5; free for members

The OUTWORDS Archive, based in Los Angeles, is the first national effort to capture in-depth, professional quality, on-camera interviews with the full spectrum of LGBTQ pioneers and elders. So far, OUTWORDS has conducted more than 140 interviews in 26 states, including a robust cohort of subjects in the Bay Area. Some interviewees are better known to the public than others, but all played fascinating, important roles in the struggle for queer rights and representation. Join OUTWORDS founder and Executive Director Mason Funk and a panel of OUTWORDS supporters and participants for a fascinating evening featuring clips from the completed interviews and a lively discussion of the enduring meaning and importance of these stories. Tickets are available online at https://bit.ly/3caA3rF.

Exhibition Opening
Wednesday, April 15
7:00–9:00 p.m.
The GLBT Historical Society Museum
A new exhibition at the GLBT Historical Society Museum showcases how San Francisco forged the internationally renowned annual celebration that would come to be known as Pride. The exhibition begins in 1970, when a handful of queens and hippies marched down Polk Street, and culminates with the 1980 Gay Freedom Day Parade, which gathered nearly a quarter-million participants. Featuring historic photographs, ephemera, artifacts, and film and sound recordings from the archives of the GLBT Historical Society, the exhibition explores the goals, the controversies, the hard work, the desires, and the sometimes competing spirits of struggle and celebration that laid the foundations for one of the city’s best-known public festivals. Light refreshments will be served, and the curators will give brief remarks. Tickets are available online at https://bit.ly/2w6OVXx.

ABOUT THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Open since January 2011, the GLBT Historical Society Museum is the first stand-alone museum of its kind in the United States. Its Main Gallery features a long-term exhibition on San Francisco LGBTQ history, “Queer Past Becomes Present.” Its Front Gallery and Community Gallery host changing exhibitions. The institution also sponsors forums, author talks and other programs.

The GLBT Historical Society Museum is a project of the GLBT Historical Society, a public history center and archives that collects, preserves and interprets the history of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and the communities that support them. Founded in 1985, the society maintains one of the world’s largest collections of LGBTQ historical materials. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org.

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April 2: Panel Discussion
Bay Area singer, songwriter and activist Blackberri during his interview for the Outwords Archive, May 2017; still courtesy of the Outwords Archive.

April 15: Exhibition Opening

Celebrants at the 1973 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade; photo by Marie Ueda, Marie Ueda Papers (2006-12), GLBT Historical Society.