

LGBT Center Central PA History Project

Discovering
Stories of
Extraordinary
Lives

Introduction

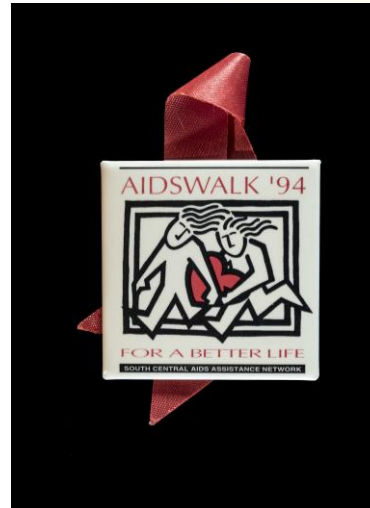
- History Project started in August 2012
 - Story Circle presentation for LGBT Center's Aging with Pride
 - Widespread interest led to creation of a history project
 - We concluded that oral history would be an essential component



Two of the presenters in our first story circle, Mary Nancarrow and Joe Burns. Both are also narrators in our oral history collection.

Mission

- To engage people to discover, document, collect, preserve and present the history of the LGBTQ+ community in central PA through oral histories and material culture



Historical photographs of some of our oral history narrators and pin from our collection.

Discover

- Through outreach efforts, we are finding people willing to share their stories and artifacts from:
 - LGBTQ+ events
 - Publicity
 - Word of mouth



Dr. Lonna Malsheimer, left and Barry Loveland at an appearance on local public radio program



Project volunteers staff information table at local pride festival

Document

- Expert consulting and training in oral history



Amy Skillman, Director of
Graduate Program in Cultural
Sustainability, Goucher College,
Baltimore, MD



Dr. Lonna Malmshemer, Professor
Emerita, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA

Document

- Video oral history interviews
 - Created a list of interested narrators
 - Created a questionnaire of prompts/categories
 - Developed an oral history training program
 - Conducted video oral history interviews
 - Prepared transcriptions



Volunteers at training program



Volunteers learning video operation

Document

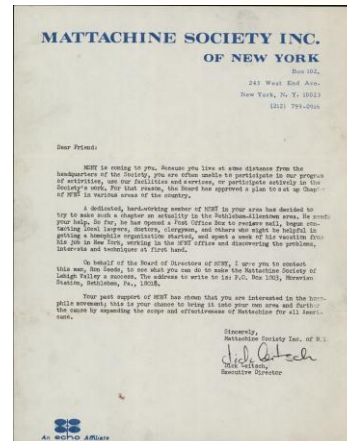
- Interns



Interns from local colleges and universities have done original research, conducted and transcribed oral history interviews, created videos, curated exhibits and created digital exhibits.

Collect

- Started collecting documents and artifacts
 - Historical photographs
 - Personal papers
 - Archival documents from LGBTQ+ Organizations
 - T-shirts, buttons, pins, flags, signs and more



Some examples from our collection

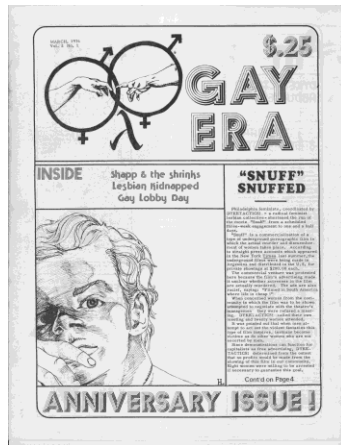
Collect

- Collection has grown rapidly
 - More than 160 oral history interviews with transcriptions
 - More than 130 linear feet of archival documents and artifacts



Preserve

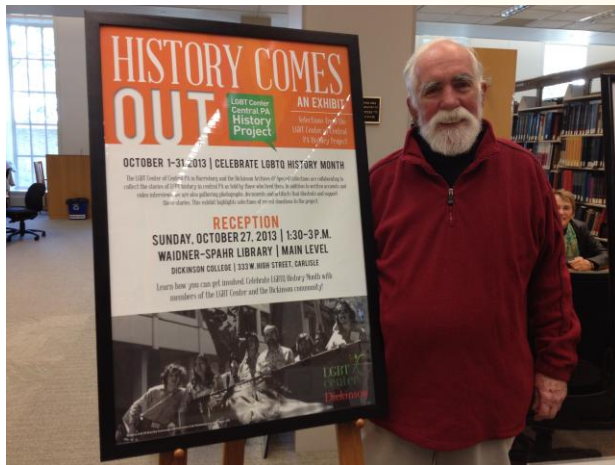
- Developed partnership with Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections
 - Provide professional archival care
 - Catalogue, describe and arrange collections
 - Provide storage and access for researchers
 - Opportunities to collaborate on exhibits, original research and publications



Document, artifact and historical photograph from our collection.

Present

- (Mostly) annual exhibit series at Dickinson College Archives: *History Comes Out*, since 2013



lgbt
HISTORY
MONTH

Present

- Pop-up exhibits, special exhibits at various venues



Special exhibit for Lock Haven University Library



HIV/AIDS pop-up exhibit for art gallery in Harrisburg

Present

- Art/history exhibit series



Photos from retrospective exhibit of 40-year career of Paul Foltz, costume designer

Present

- Art/history exhibit series



Exhibit of photographs by Jack Radcliffe of performers in the Lily White and Company drag troupe founded by Paul Foltz



Present

- Art/history exhibit series

Retrospective
photographic exhibit on
the 40+ year career of
jewelry designer Jude
Sharp



Present

- Art/history exhibit series: *Inspired*
 - Susquehanna Art Museum, Lancaster Museum of Art and Art Association of Harrisburg

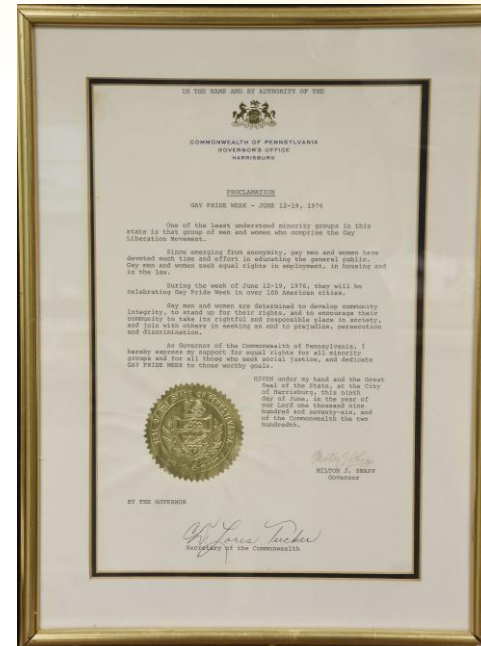


Photos of the opening reception of *Inspired* at the Susquehanna Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA

Present

- Collaborative exhibits

Photographs and document from the collaborative exhibit on Governor Milton Shapp's initiatives in LGBTQ+ rights. Right: Governor Shapp, (left) with Tony Silvestre, chair of the PA Council for Sexual Minorities. Below: some of the original members of the Council. Lower right: Governor Shapp's proclamation for Gay Pride Week 1976



Present

- 2016 symposium on the 40th anniversary of the PA Council for Sexual Minorities



Left: symposium with original members of the Council. Right: Mark Segal, believed to be the first gay activist to have an official meeting with an elected Governor in the U.S., in 1974. The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, PA

Present

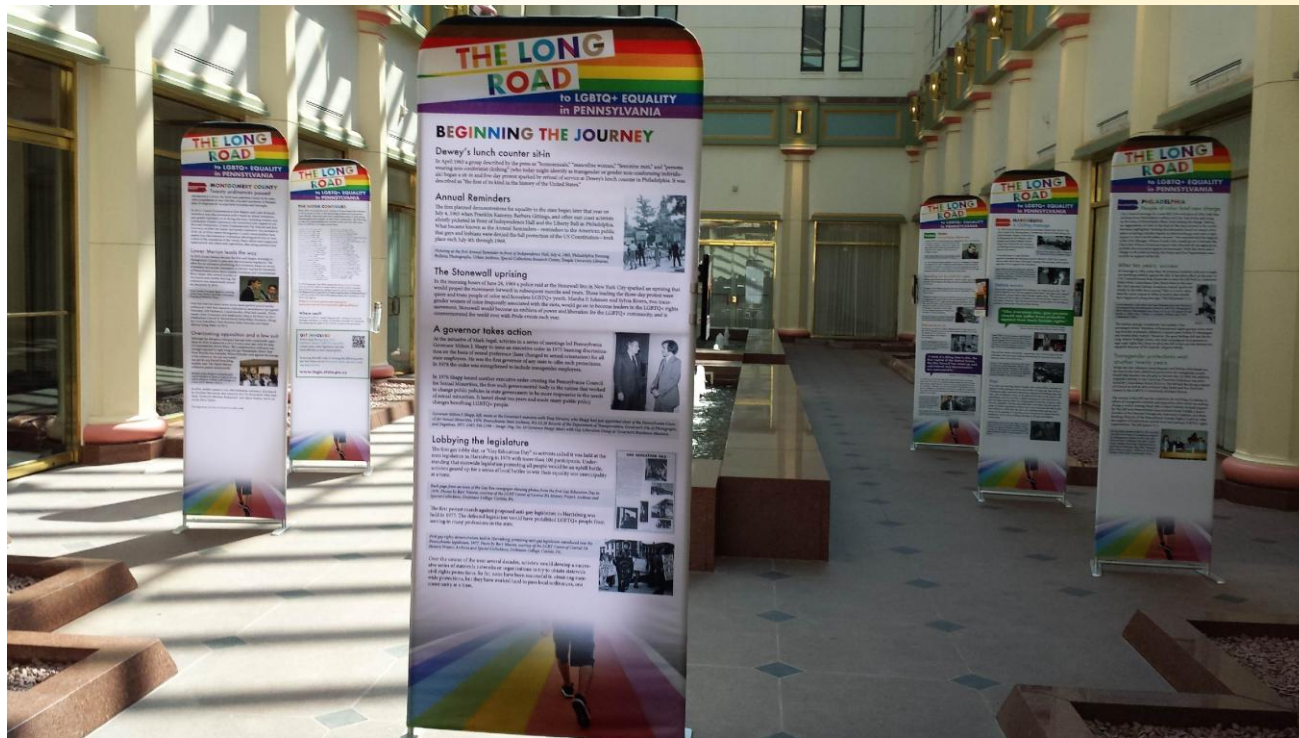
- Historical Marker for Gov. Shapp's LGBTQ+ policy initiatives



Left: four of the original members of the PA Council for Sexual Minorities gather at the marker dedication ceremony. Right: PHMC state historical marker at the corner of 3rd and North Streets, Harrisburg.

Present

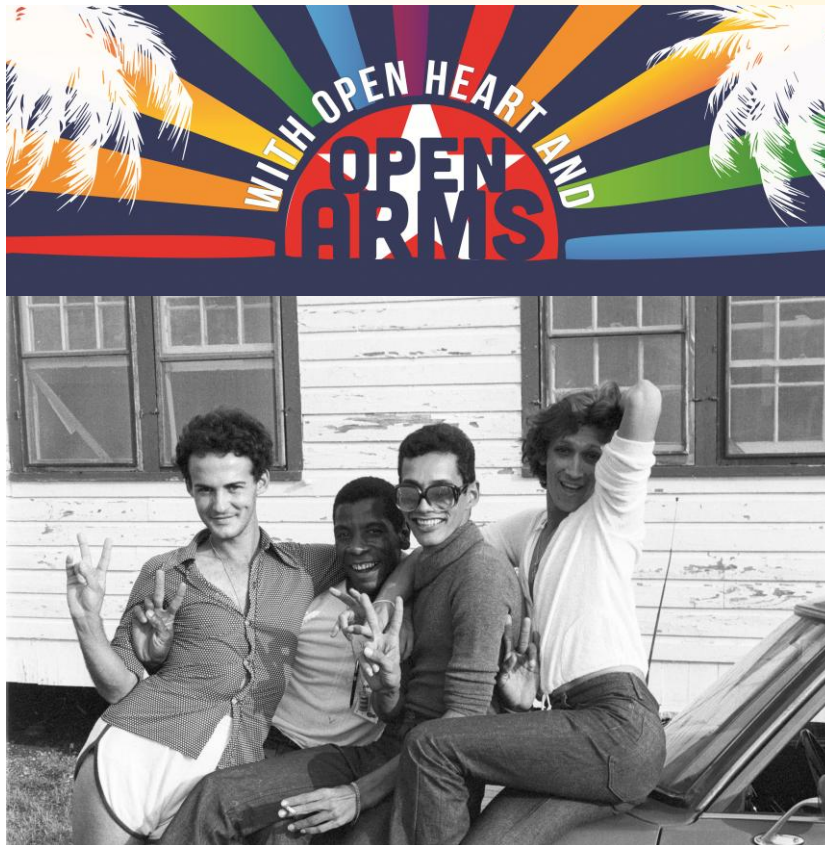
- Collaborative traveling exhibits



The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania, here at its premier at the Pennsylvania State Capitol, has traveled to 50 venues across the state.

Present

- Collaborative traveling exhibits



Left: Exhibit logo and photograph from the traveling exhibit, *With Open Heart and Open Arms: LGBTQ+ Cuban Refugees and the LGBTQ+ Community's Response to the Mariel Boatlift of 1980*. Above: Premier of exhibit at Historic Harrisburg Resource Center.

Present

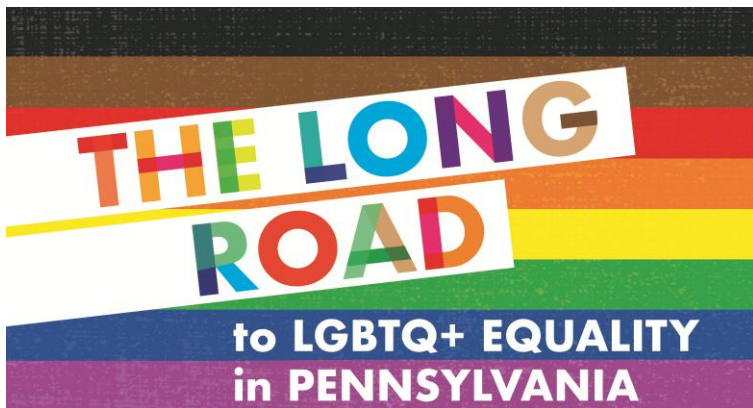
- Changing exhibits gallery



History Gallery in lobby of new LGBT Center of Central PA.

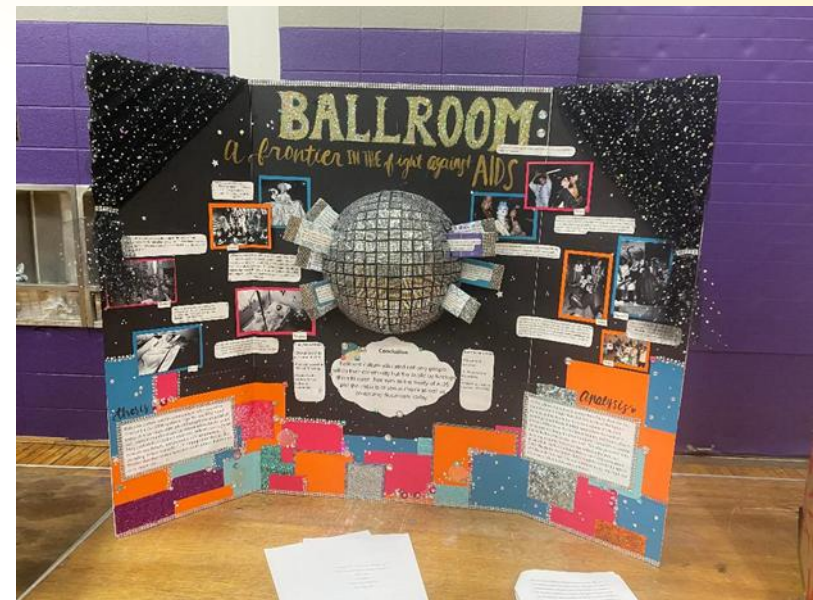
Present

- 21 digital exhibits
 - And more in development
 - Available at our digital museum on the web:
www.centralpalgbthistory.org



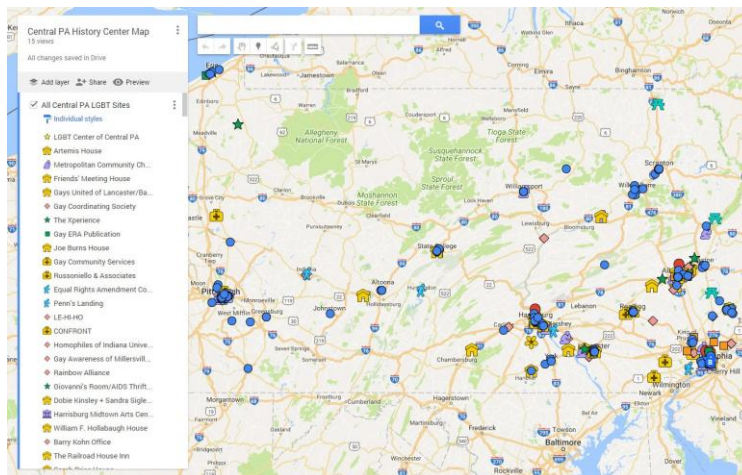
Present

- Lesson Plans
 - 10 educator lesson plans for use with 10 of our digital exhibits
- NHD in PA
 - Creator and sponsor of the annual LGBTQ+ History Prize at the National History Day in PA competition



Present

- Other digital content:
 - Online guides to collections
 - Oral history transcripts online
 - Oral history videos on YouTube
 - Google Maps spreadsheet and map of LGBTQ+ history sites
 - Flickr album of about 400 images of collections
 - Collections digitization project

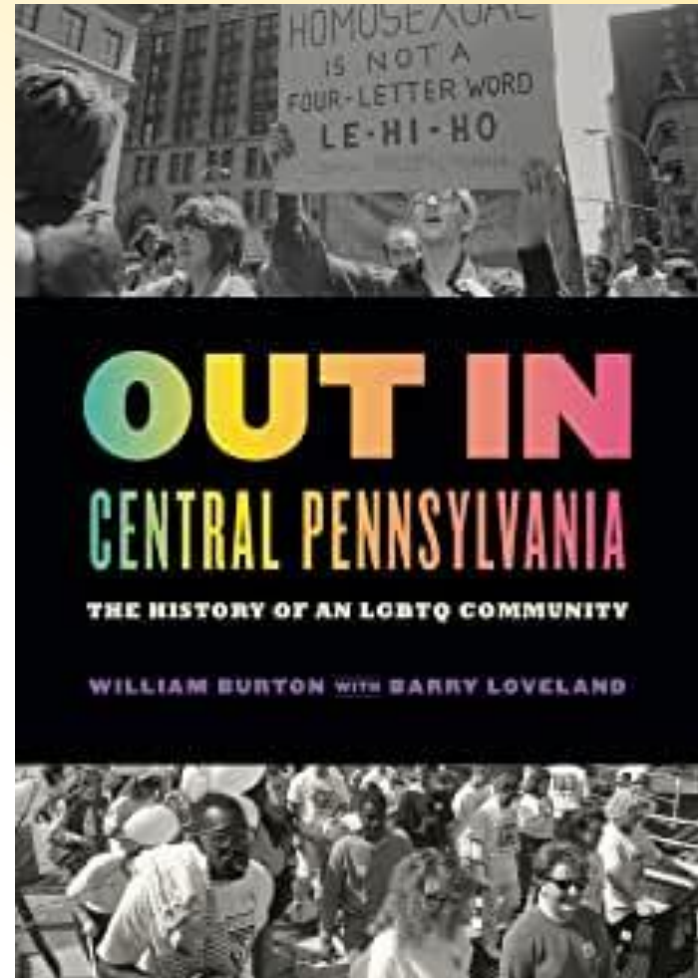


Google map showing more than 400 sites linked to LGBTQ+ history in Pennsylvania

Present

- Publications
 - *Out in Central Pennsylvania*
 - Winner of 2020 Book of the Year from Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Book cover: *Out in Central Pennsylvania: The History of an LGBTQ Community*



Present

- Publications
 - *Three self-guided tour booklets of LGBTQ+ history sites in Harrisburg, Lancaster and York*



Awards

- Winner of the 2014 J. Franklin Jameson Award for Archival Advocacy from the Society of American Archivists
- Winner of the 2022 Pogue Award from Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region



LGBT Center Central PA History Project

Thank you!

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www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project

www.centralpalgbthistory.org

facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa

