

LGBT Center Central PA History Project



*Discovering stories of
extraordinary lives*

NEWS

Spring 2019

***The Long Road* traveling exhibit launches**

Our new traveling history exhibit will finally have its official launch on March 18 at 10 AM at the PA State Capitol, east wing rotunda, in Harrisburg after a snow storm in February caused postponement of its debut. Speakers will include elected officials and community activists, followed by a ribbon cutting. The exhibit is currently on display in the east wing of the Capitol from now until March 20, and again from March 25-29. The exhibit moves briefly from the Capitol March 20-23 for an appearance at the Keystone Conference of TransCentral PA at the Sheraton Hotel in Harrisburg.

Other copies of the exhibit have already begun traveling around the state. About 20 venues have already booked appearances of the exhibit.

The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania is a traveling history exhibit that chronicles the efforts that activists have undertaken in Pennsylvania to achieve full equality for LGBTQ+ people. With the lack of success in passing statewide legislative protections from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and education, activists have been working for more than five decades to obtain these protections one battle at a time, one municipality at a time. The exhibit uses case studies of several cities and townships to highlight not just the political struggles, but



The exhibit makes its first appearance at the Bucks County Visitor Center in Bensalem, PA.

the personal stories as well. This exhibit debuts in the 50th anniversary year of the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal event in the LGBTQ+ movement toward equality.

The exhibit is sponsored by the PA LGBT History Network, a cooperative group of organizations, institutions and individuals that have collections and/or an interest in LGBT history. Administrative support is being provided by the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania on behalf of the Network, and Barry Loveland, chair of our History Project, is the project manager and curator of the exhibit.

You can see where the exhibits are scheduled to be displayed by visiting the online calendar on our web site at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/thelongroad. If your organization would like to host and provide a suitable venue to display the exhibit, there is a request form on the web page.

This exhibit is made possible through the generous contributions of the Schlegel-Deibler Charitable Foundation, the Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld Fund, the Montgomery County LGBT Business Council, and individual contributors, as well as in-kind services from several organizations and individuals.

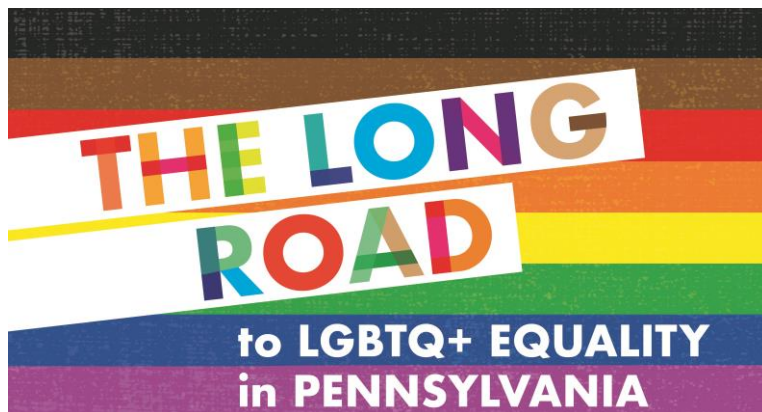
The PA LGBT History Network engages people in discovering Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ history, historic sites, history projects, artifacts and archival collections, and to facilitate collaboration between the organizations, institutions and individuals that provide stewardship of this heritage. Become a part of the Network on Facebook, or join our Google Group at [the-pa-lgbt-history-network@googlegroups.com](https://www.google.com/groups?hl=en&ik=6501410000000000000).

Arts collaboration starts May 10

Artists View Equality, our special collaborative project with several arts organizations in central PA will kick off in May as part of celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

The juried art exhibit *Inspired* opens on Friday May 10 at the Susquehanna Art Museum in the Lobby Gallery and DeSoto Family Vault. Plans are in process for some special programming during the run of the show which will be on exhibit through Sunday August 18.

The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project is partnering with the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM), the Art Association of Harrisburg (AAH), the Lancaster Museum of Art (LMA) and the Dickinson College Department of Art and Art History for the initiative called Artists View Equality.



The exhibit set up in the East Wing of the PA State Capitol in Harrisburg.

Artists are being invited to use one or more of the artifacts, documents or historical photos in the History Project collection as inspiration to create a work of art for exhibition at one of the venues of the participating arts institutions. The first exhibit, called *Inspired*, which opens in May at SAM in Harrisburg, will travel to the LMA in November. We will provide updates in future newsletters about where and when these amazing exhibits will be on view. If you are an artist interested in creating a piece of work for these exhibits, you can see the call for entries for *Inspired* at <http://www.susquehannaartmuseum.org/galleries/Inspired/>. If you are a member of the AAH, check their web site and Facebook page for announcements about the call for entries for their show which opens in October.

Digital exhibits planned

We currently have three volunteers and an intern working on three separate digital exhibits for the History Project. The topics will include a history of the local LGBTQ bars, stories of discrimination, and the local response to the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Samantha Reiersen is a senior history and political science major with a philosophy minor at Dickinson College, from Long Island, New York, and an intern with the History Project this semester. “I have done research on the AIDS epidemic in my classes and it is something I really care about, so I am really excited to be working on an online exhibit about AIDS in central PA. Working in the Dickinson College archives has been a great experience and my only regret is that I wish I had got involved earlier in my college career,” says Samantha.



Samantha Reiersen conducts research at the Dickinson College Archives in preparation for a new digital exhibit.

We also have a great team of two other interns trained as oral history interviewers, Michael Fox and Emmett Pegan, who anticipate completing about 8-10 oral history interviews this spring. Emmett is also doing some minor editing and adding titles to all of the video files of the oral history interviews, except for a few that have narrator restrictions, so that we can make these interviews accessible online. Emmett is also managing our bookings for our traveling exhibit. Michael is also doing transcriptions of interviews and helped set up the traveling exhibit in the Capitol.

Michael is a senior psychology major at Penn State Harrisburg. He has an Associate’s degree from Harrisburg Area Community College where he also majored in psychology. Emmett is a junior at Elizabethtown College majoring in socio-anthropology with a second major in music.

Progress continues

We continue to make progress on many fronts with the History Project, including oral history interviews, transcriptions and exhibits. We currently have oral history interviews completed with 143 individuals (and transcriptions completed for all but a few interviews). We have more than 100 linear feet of artifact and archival collections.

Visit our newly-redesigned web pages at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project.

Clean out your closets

We are always looking for historical materials pertaining to local LGBT history and many of you probably have such items buried in closets, attics, basements and in drawers you rarely look through. Please take some time as you start your spring cleaning to check for any items like old newsletters, flyers, photographs, videos, newspaper clippings, t-shirts, buttons and other documents and artifacts that you may have that relate to LGBT organizations, events or other aspects of the life of the LGBT community here in central Pennsylvania. We are also always looking for people who would like to be interviewed for our oral history collection. Contact us to donate these materials or sign up for an oral history interview at history@centralpalgbtcenter.org. Thank you!

Support our friends

The Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and the Central PA Womyn's Chorus have been supportive friends to the History Project, welcoming us to be part of their information tables and providing free ad space in concert programs. Please check out their web sites for upcoming concert information and support them in their events.

<http://www.harrisburgmenschorus.org/>

<http://www.cpwchorus.org/>

And don't forget upcoming events at the LGBT Center: check out the full calendar of events at www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/. The LGBT Center is located at 1306 N. Third Street in Harrisburg.

LGBT Center of Central PA History Project

Founded in 2012, celebrating our 7th anniversary!

Winner of the 2014 J. Franklin Jameson Award from the Society of American Archivists

history@centralpalgbtcenter.org; 717-920-9534

<http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project>

facebook.com/LGBTcentralpa

Working in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/lgbt>