ONE Archives Annual Report

THE LARGEST LGBTQ ARCHIVE IN THE WORLD

2015
What is the future of our queer past?

Did you know the first lesbian magazine was produced by the young secretary Lisa Ben at RKO studios in 1947? Did you know that Lisa Ben and Jim Kepner were members of a science fiction underground that served as a cover for early LGBTQ activism? Did you know that Nancy Valverde, an East L.A. barber, was repeatedly arrested for “masquerading” or crossdressing? Or that José Sarria, aka Empress I of San Francisco, ran for supervisor in 1961, twelve years before Harvey Milk? Or that, if it weren't for the financial support of transgender philanthropist Reed Erickson, ONE might not exist today?

Despite the incredible achievements in LGBTQ rights over the past decade, much about the history of our movement’s struggles and heroism remains unknown or unacknowledged. The mission of ONE Archives is to ensure that this history is not lost, but more significantly, that it is accessible to everyone.

ONE is not just an archive or a library; it is a living cultural institution whose mission is to preserve, disseminate, and activate queer history and culture. We are not just a place to store historical materials; ONE is a space where scholarly research intersects and informs cultural production and exchange through a range of public programs and exhibitions.

ONE has relationships with queer groups and archives across the globe and we seek to inform the world of our community’s achievements and our aspirations. Each year we add new collections to the archives, making vital resources available to scholars, students, artists, filmmakers, and the general public. The work of these researchers influence trends in education, public policy, politics, popular culture, the arts, and the humanities.

The future of our queer past depends not only on the ONE Archives Foundation and ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, but also on your support and involvement. Donate historical materials, volunteer, let folks know about us, or contribute financially so ONE can continue to grow and thrive as the world’s largest and most accessible LGBTQ archive for years to come.

Joseph Hawkins
Director, ONE Archives at the USC Libraries
Board Member, ONE Archives Foundation
This year ONE’s archival staff made numerous LGBTQ historical materials accessible to the public for the first time. ONE completed a project funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) that allowed ONE and the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco to catalog 111 archival collections and digitize over 400 images now searchable online. In addition, ONE partnered with the Alexander Street Press academic database to digitize 20,000 pages of content, which is now available on ASP’s LGBT Thought and Culture series. Through this database, one can search the papers of Jeanne Córdova and Pat Rocco, the first 15 years of the *Bob Damron’s Address Book*, and flyers from hundreds of gay and lesbian bars dating back to the 1960s.

The Bob Damron guides were also featured in a research project by GIS scholar Andy Rutkowski. Through a year-long fellowship at USC, he began a project to map gay-friendly bar locations in 1960s and 1970s Los Angeles. Supplemented by periodicals, gay bar ephemera, and other early directories in the ONE Archives collections, Rutkowski constructed location-based narratives of early gay life in L.A.

We have added 75 archival collections to our holdings this year, in addition to the numerous books, magazines, artworks, videos, and ephemera that are donated on a regular basis. Highlights include ACT UP video interviews from Scott Robbe; photographs and papers from Harold Fairbanks, including his editorial files for the newspaper *Update*; and papers from African-American actor and teacher Leonard Simon. ONE is particularly excited to be the home for the papers and photographs of Edythe Edye, aka Lisa Ben, a legendary LGBTQ trailblazer.

As our collections continue to grow, ONE’s visibility also continues its upward swing. This year ONE’s collections were featured in numerous media outlets, including KPCC shows AirTalk and Take Two, KTLA Morning News, Buzzfeed, *Time Magazine*, KCET, and the *Los Angeles Times*. In 2015 ONE has been host to scholars, artists, filmmakers, and visitors who came from all over the U.S., as well as Canada, Denmark, Germany, New Zealand, Japan, China, Sweden, Australia, United Kingdom, Poland, and Kosovo. As the world’s foremost resource for LGBTQ history, the materials at ONE continue to influence researchers locally, nationally, and internationally.
This year ONE continued to ensure LGBTQ history is accessible to researchers of all levels and interests. The ONE Archives Foundation produced seven new Traveling LGBTQ History Exhibitions. These panel displays feature informative text and hundreds of rare images, many from the collections at ONE that provide an in-depth exploration of the LGBTQ movement and its pioneers. Most recently, ONE partnered with History UnErased (HUE) to utilize these panels in student, educator, and staff training programs and services nationwide.

Working to ensure California schools implement the FAIR Education Act, ONE and the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Project SPIN completed the first comprehensive LGBTQ-inclusive high school history curriculum. ONE will continue to collaborate with the Center to integrate this content into history textbooks, giving students and educators access to the vital historical contributions of the LGBTQ community.

This semester at USC ONE’s Director, Joseph Hawkins, taught the Senior Seminar in Gender Studies on the relationship between early science fiction clubs in L.A. and the emergence of gay and lesbian publications. The course examined how, by imagining an alternate present or a better future, science fiction provided a platform for the early homosexual rights movement.

With support from the California Humanities’ Community Stories Grant, It Gets Better Project, MSNBC, KLCS, and the Los Angeles LGBT Center, ONE completed the web series Fearless: How 10 LGBT Activists Made It Better. The videos document the empowering stories of LGBTQ pioneers who played a significant role in shaping the community and the movement on the west coast. The interview series is available to view online.

Ending the year on a wonderful note, ONE was awarded the Miriam Matthews Award from the Los Angeles City Historical Society for its “important contributions to knowledge of Los Angeles’ racial and ethnic past.”
In 2015, ONE worked with over 150 artists, performers, writers, scholars, and cultural producers. Our distinct schedule of cultural programming included exhibitions, screenings, discussions, lectures, and performances examining a range of queer histories.

ONE presented five new exhibitions in 2015. This included a collaboration with the Museum of Transgender Hirstory and Art (MOTHA), a fictional museum founded by artist Chris Vargas, presenting works by contemporary transgender artists alongside materials from the archives. Additionally, with support from the City of West Hollywood, ONE hosted a preview of the exhibition Art AIDS America organized by the Tacoma Art Museum.

The archives collaborated with two international performers to explore the collections at ONE. In February, ONE presented a performance by London-based artist Martin O'Brien in collaboration with performance legend Sheree Rose on the legacy of Rose’s late partner, Bob Flanagan. In April, Tokyo-based choreographer Takao Kawaguchi and Los Angeles-based artist Deanna Erdmann presented Touch of the Other, a performance inspired by the papers of sociologist Laud Humphreys that will travel in January to Tokyo.

This year’s programming closed at West Hollywood’s Plummer Park with KillJoy’s Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House by Toronto-based artists Allyson Mitchell and Deirdre Logue. The installation included a host of terrifying apparitions of lesbian feminist past and present including paranormal consciousness raisers, polyamorous vampiric grannies, a straw feminist hall of shame, and a crew of demented women’s studies professors. KillJoy’s Kastle attracted over 5000 visitors during its ten night run in October.

In the coming year, ONE will continue to present adventurous and critically engaged programming, including a performance and installation by New York-based artist M. Lamar and an exhibition on collage practices using erotic material.

Exhibitions & Select Programs

Leon Mostovoy: Market Street Cinema
January 23 – March 21, 2015
ONE Archives

Dust to Dust: Martin O’Brien & Sheree Rose
February 7, 2015
A site-specific performance at ONE Archives

Transgender Hristory in 99 Objects: Legends & Mythologies
March 21 – August 1, 2015
ONE Archives

Linda Simpson’s The Drag Explosion
April 3, 2015
West Hollywood Council Chambers

Touch of the Other: Performing the Laud Humphreys Papers
April 8, 2015
A site-specific performance at ONE Archives by Takao Kawaguchi and Deanna Erdmann

Watchqueen
April 8 – August 1, 2015
ONE Archives

Dress Code: Chuck Arnett & Sheree Rose
April 18 – May 17, 2015
ONE Archives Gallery & Museum

Art AIDS America
June 6 – September 6, 2015
ONE Archives Gallery & Museum

KillJoy’s Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House
October 16 – 30, 2015
An installation by Deirdre Logue and Allyson Mitchell in West Hollywood’s Plummer Park

New Archival Collections

AIDS Service Center Records
Alan Bell Collection
Avatar Club Los Angeles Records
Barney Frank Briefcase
David Wentworth Journals
Fox Studios Production Records
Gino Colbert Papers
Harold Fairbanks Papers
James Clatfelter and Grant Lloyd Photographs
James Hamilton McLean Photographs
Jeff Schultz AIDS Collection
Jeffery Beam Collection
Jesse Thomas Collages, Drawings, and Paintings
John Darcy Noble Papers and Sketchbooks
Leon Katz Papers
Leonard Simon Papers
Limited Partnership Documentary Records
Lisa Ben Papers
Long Beach LGBTQ Film Festival Records
Los Angeles Boys of Leather Collection
Mary Pickert Papers
Max Pierce Papers
Millie Wilson Artworks
OUTSpoken Photographs of LGBT Interviewees
Scott Robbe Collection on ACT UP and Queer Nation
Shepard Fairey Equality Project Posters Collection
Steven F. Dansky Papers
Tolerance Records
Tom Villard and Wayne Hudgins Papers

Grants

Newly awarded and continuing grants in 2015.

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
Council on Library and Information Resources
The Getty Foundation
USC Visions and Voices

ONE Archives Foundation
Cal Humanities
City of West Hollywood
Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
Los Angeles County Arts Commission
Pasadena Art Alliance
Collaborators

Alexander Street Press
Arts Council England
The British Council
California LGBT Arts Alliance
Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives
Center for Political Graphics
Center for Sex and Culture
City of Los Angeles
City of West Hollywood
Dirty Looks L.A.
GLBT Historical Society
Grand Park L.A
History UnErased
It Gets Better Project
Kennesaw State University
KLCS
Lambda Literary
Les Fugues Press
Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art
L.A. A Queer History Documentary
L.A. as Subject
L.A. Pride/Christopher Street West
Los Angeles Conservancy
Los Angeles Leather Pride
Los Angeles LGBT Center
MAK Center for Art and Architecture
MASSIVE
MSNBC
Museum of Transgender History & Art (MOTHA)
National Association of Black and White Men Together
Nepantla
Occidental College
Outfest
Project SPIN
Southeastern High School
The Saison Foundation
Tacoma Art Museum
Trans Pride L.A.
Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura
University of La Verne
University of Utah
USC Libraries
USC Heritage Conservation Program
USC LGBT Resource Center
USC Visions and Voices
United States Department of State
Visual AIDS
Washington, D.C. Mattachine Society
Yahoo News

Board

ONE Foundation Board of Directors
Greg Williams
Chris Freeman
Jeffrey Erdman
Joseph Hawkins
Tracy Moore

Staff

ONE Archives at the USC Libraries Staff
Joseph Hawkins, Director
David Frantz, Curator
Kyle Morgan, Archivist
Michael C. Oliveira, Archivist
Loni Shibuya, Archivist
Bud Thomas, Library Supervisor & Operations Manager

ONE Archives Foundation Staff
Toro Castaño, Curatorial & Gallery Assistant

Special thanks to all the volunteers, interns, and donors who helped ONE thrive in 2015!

(Above) Artist Allyson Mitchell (center) with two Demented Women’s Studies Professor Tour Guides, Moe Angelos (left) and Savannah Wood (right), at KillJoy’s Kastle: A Lesbian Feminist Haunted House in Plummer Park, West Hollywood, October 16, 2015. Photo by Tony Coelho