Out of the Closet and Into the Archives: The LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana

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Newcomb Archives
Louisiana’s LGBT+ History
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The LGBT+ Archives Project

Origins and Early History
To promote and encourage the protection and preservation of materials that chronicle the culture and history of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community of Louisiana
What We Do

**Education**
Reach out to LGBT+ Community on the importance of preserving our historical record, and give information on how to donate records to archives.

**Access**
Provide a directory of archival resources for scholars and donors.

**Funding**
Provide funding to aid in preserving and making accessible LGBT+ archival collections.
What We Don’t Do

Accept Archival Collections
We are not an archive or a museum and do not accept or hold any archival materials.

Decide Where Collections Should Go
We can provide information to donors about repositories that might take their collections, but we leave the final call up to the donor.
Documentation
Strategy

Theory and Practice
A documentation strategy is a plan formulated to assure the documentation of an ongoing issue, activity, or geographic area... The documentation strategy is carried out through the mutual efforts of many institutions and individuals influencing both the creation of records and the archival retention of a portion of them.
Issue, subculture, region, idea or identity
Documentation Strategy in Reality

- Archival institutions compete for funding
- Limited staffing
- Finite resources
LGBT+ Archives Project’s Strategy

- Not affiliated with any one institution
- Includes representatives from the LGBT+ Community as well as archivists and curators from several repositories on our board
- 501(c)3 Non-profit status
Community Partners

- Ambush Magazine
- Southern Decadence
- New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders
- Grand Pre’s Bar
- Cafe Lafitte’s In Exile
- Krewe of Armeinius
Institutional Partners

- Louisiana State Museum
- Louisiana Research Collection
- Newcomb Archives
- Amistad Research Center
- Historic New Orleans Collection
The LGBT+ Archives Project

Events, Milestones, and Goals
Community Outreach

- Fundraisers and Potlucks
- Mixers
- Information Tables
- Website and Social Media
- General Membership Meetings
Parades

Gay Easter Parade

New Orleans Pride Parade
First Year Milestones
The Oracle Gala

- **Annual fundraising event**
  - First annual Oracle Gala held November 11, 2015

- **Highlights 1–3 Archival Collections**
  - 2015 Gala: the Alan Robinson papers
  - 2016 Gala: Mike Moreau’s collection of gay carnival memorabilia

- Archivist officially accepts collection and funds
The Oracle Gala
$2,500+
In Silent Auction Sales

$8,000
Sponsorships and Ticket Sales

$8,000+
Net Gain
Official Charity of Southern Decadence for 2015

$13,000+
For the preservation of the history of Southern Decadence
Goals for the Future
Goals for the Future

- Establish chapters in other Louisiana cities
- Southern Decadence 50th Anniversary
- 2016 Oracle Gala
Thanks!

Contact Information
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LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana
www.lgbtarchivesla.org
https://www.facebook.com/lgbtarchivesla/