

Worcester LGBTQ+ Community Archive Collection (1941-2019)

Accession Number: 2021.08

Worcester Historical Museum

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Related Materials

Collection includes 720 newspaper clippings that are relevant to the LGBTQ collection that can be found in the general newspaper clippings collection at WHM.

Size

2,198 digital items.

3 boxes (1999.233).

1 box (David Rushford Papers).

Forms of Material

Audio files, documents, ephemera, newspaper clippings, periodicals, photographs, physical objects (buttons, trophies, music albums), videos.

Language

English

Processed by

Molly Brown-Heidemann, April-July 2019.

Nikki Tantum, September 2020-February 2021.

Both with the assistance of Librarian Wendy Essery.

Scope and Content

The Worcester LGBTQ+ Community Archive is a collection of items and memorabilia from across the queer community in Worcester, MA. It spans from 1940 to 2019 and includes an oral history project conducted in 2018-2019 with local members of the LGBTQ+ community. Material spans from organizational documents to photographs to album and trophy collections.

Provenance

Most of these items were collected and organized as part of the Worcester County LGBTQ+ History Project, an effort to build a sustainable physical and digital archive of Worcester's LGBTQIA+ history. It builds upon materials deposited at the Worcester Historical Museum (WHM) by the now defunct Gay & Lesbian Community Coalition of Central Massachusetts (GLCCCM). The project also resulted in a catalog, *LGBTQ+ Worcester FOR THE RECORD*, and corresponding exhibits across the Worcester area.

For further provenance information, refer to individual series listings below.

Arrangement

This is a digital collection and is organized into digital folders by format and file name. The series listed below are intellectual groupings meant to convey the contents in the collection, not the digital organization.

Names

Anderson, Greg	Kirk, Judi
Audet, Gloria	Kohin, Barbara
Bishop, Elizabeth	LePage, Dale
Boisseau, Vickie	Mangione, Heather
Brown, Lamar	Manna, Nathan
Cheney, Jerry	Molina, Kendall
Cormier, Nicole	O'Hara, Chris
Cruz, Leo Negron	Quercio, Michael
Doughton, Thomas	Rushford, David J.
Ellstrom, Deborah	Sagerian, Jean
Guinette, Mark	Sanders, Tony
Guskey, Rick	Toney, Albert M.
Hogan, James	Toney, Keith
Jackman, Michael	Voltz, James
Joslyn, Patrick	Woodcock, Dot

Subjects

AIDS (Disease).
AIDS (Disease)--Prevention.
Community Organization.
Gay Liberation Movement.
Gay Youth.
Hispanic Americans.
Lesbian Culture.
LGBT Pride Parades.
LGBTQ People.
Queer Community.
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Series List and Descriptions

Series 1: Organizational Records Dates: 1975-2018, undated.
Extent: 8 subseries. 1,140 items.
Description: This series is organized into seven subseries, each focusing on a local community group that served the LGBTQ+ community. These subseries contain mainly organizational and event-related documents or ephemera.

Subseries 1.1: AIDS Project Worcester Dates: 1987-1996, undated.
Extent: 175 items.

Description: AIDS Project Worcester aimed to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS and provide education around safe sex practices. This series includes images from AIDS Quilt presentations.

Subseries 1.2: GALLO Dates: 1991-1993, undated.
Extent: 205 items.

Description: Items highlighting the work of the Gay and Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO). Includes photographs from group trips.

Subseries 1.3: GLCCCM Dates: 1988-1999, undated.
Extent: 62 items.

Description: The Gay and Lesbian Community Coalition of Central Massachusetts (GLCCCM) worked create community events in the region and fight for the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Subseries 1.4: Floating Dance Floor Dates: 1983-2003, undated.
Extent: 169 items.

Description: The Floating Dance Floor put on regular events for queer people, specifically those identifying as women, to dance together. Included in this subseries are scans of FDF's album collection.

Subseries 1.5: Safe Homes Dates: 1993-2018, undated.
Extent: 167 items.

Description: Safe Homes, also known as Safe Homes of Massachusetts or The Bridge, works specifically to provide a safe environment for LGBTQIA+ youth.

Subseries 1.6: Worcester Pride Committee Dates: 1975-2018, undated.
Extent: 304 items.

Description: All items related to the Worcester Pride Committee and Worcester Pride Parades. This subseries includes flyers, organizational documents, and all photographs at Pride parades throughout the years.

Subseries 1.7: WCLAGA Dates: 1987-1993, undated.
Extent: 58 items.

Description: The Worcester County Lesbian and Gay Alliance fought for LGBTQ rights, specifically in the Worcester area.

Series 2: David Rushford Papers Dates: 1987, 1999, 2004, undated.
Extent: 179 items.
Description: Contains photographs, e-mails, letters, and news articles concerning the first same-sex marriage licenses in Worcester, issues by David Rushford. Most letters express thanks to the City Clerk's role in issuing these licenses, despite major pushback.

Series 3: Community Photographs Dates: 1950-2018, undated.
Extent: 368 items.
Description: The Community Photographs series highlights every day life for queer people living in Worcester. Photographs feature events at bars, parties, weddings, and more.
Organization- or Parade- specific items can be found in the respective subseries in Series 1.

Series 4: Periodicals Dates: 1978-2001, undated.
Extent: 62 items.
Description: This series includes periodicals or newsletters that were created or disseminated in the Worcester area.

Series 5: Ephemera/Memorabilia Dates: 1951-2018, undated.
Extent: 248 items.
Description: The Ephemera/Memorabilia collection includes all event flyers, legislative papers, buttons, and 3-D objects that are not associated with a specific organization. This series also includes personal papers from various figures in the LGBTQ community.

Series 6: Oral History Project Dates: 2018-2019
Extent: 91 items.
Description: This collection focuses on an Oral History Project conducted in 2018-2019 to collect histories from members of the local LGBTQ collection. Files include transcripts, audio recordings, and some photographs.