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A Message From Publisher Rip Naquin

Thank you for all your well wishes! I am out of the hospital and working on the next issue. We did not publish 6/20 due to my health crisis.


In 2012, Stewart Butler, Otis Fennell, and Mark Gonzales founded the Legacy Project with the goal of compiling oral histories. Completing one interview, the group realized that the time, logistics, and money involved were overwhelming and the Legacy Project slowly dissipated. The need and desire to preserve local gay history was still strong and from the ashes of the Legacy Project, the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana was born.

In June 2013, a handful of dedicated and interested people began meeting to discuss the necessary action of preserving all parts of our local LGBT+ history and how this endeavor might be undertaken. One of the organization’s first steps was to survey libraries and archives to determine what LGBT-related holdings already existed. Questionnaires were sent to librarians and archivists at several local institutions, and several on-site visits were made to local repositories.

In October of that same year, the Society of American Archivists held their national conference in New Orleans and a few members of the LGBT Roundtable met with members of the LGBT+ Archive Project of Louisiana. Holding a community meeting in November, the group set out to gather input from the public. After numerous months of information gathering, the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana adopted its mission statement.

In June 2014, the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana was officially born at a public meeting where bylaws were adopted and officers elected. Aiming to educate the public about the importance of historical preservation, the Archives Project also aims to share how individuals can safely entrust local archives with the care of the historical treasures they possess.

The mission of the Archives Project is to promote and encouraging the protection and preservation of materials that chronicle the culture and history of Louisiana’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community in Louisiana. To that end, the Project’s main purpose is educating the community on the importance of archiving LGBT+ historical materials and making them available for future generations to access, research, and study. By developing financial resources to assist in the preservation and availability of certain LGBT+ collections, the Project hopes to help promote the proper maintenance and preservation of historical LGBT+ materials and then index, publish, and maintain a current list of these materials and where they are located.

Since its founding, the Archives Project has facilitated the donation and processing of several private and organizational collections to the Louisiana LGBT+ Archives Project Enter its Fourth Year

On June 8, the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana held its annual membership meeting and thus entered its fourth year of existence.

The meeting was held at the Marigny Opera House and highlighted the importance of oral history. Keynote speakers included Bonnie Gabel and índie Marsha Delain, New Orleans Senior Curator and Oral Historian at the Historic New Orleans Collection.

In addition to hearing about current oral history projects, members of the Archives Project also elected officers and board members. The results are as follows:

President—Frank Perez
Vice President—Tiffany Charles
Secretary—

The official charities are NOAGE (New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders), and the Dodwell House (which will supply a permanent home for programs that will help reduce poverty and inequality, provide outreach to at-risk children, offer educational resources, and maintain a cultural crossroads for the diverse population served by St. Anna’s Episcopal Church).

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"A playful relationship can make routine tasks fun. From doing laundry to testing for HIV, we do it together."

— Ben and Andrew

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Testing for HIV

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