

Worcester LGBTQ+ Community Archive Collection (1941-2019)

Accession Number: 2021.08

Worcester Historical Museum

## **Worcester LGBTQ+ Community Archive Collection (1941-2019)**

### **Accession number:**

2021.08

### **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  
Audet, Gloria  
Bishop, Elizabeth  
Boisseau, Vickie  
Brown, Lamar  
Cheney, Jerry  
Cormier, Nicole  
Cruz, Leo Negron  
Doughton, Thomas  
Ellstrom, Deborah  
Guinette, Mark  
Guskey, Rick  
Hogan, James  
Jackman, Michael  
Joslyn, Patrick

Kirk, Judi  
Kohin, Barbara  
LePage, Dale  
Mangione, Heather  
Manna, Nathan  
Molina, Kendall  
O'Hara, Chris  
Quercio, Michael  
Rushford, David J.  
Sagerian, Jean  
Sanders, Tony  
Toney, Albert M.  
Toney, Keith  
Voltz, James  
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: Community Member Papers Dates: 1975-2018, undated.  
Extent: 8 subseries. 1,140 items.  
Description: This series is organized into subseries, each focusing on a local community member that was a part of the LGBTQ+ community. Each subseries contains papers collected by figures in the LGBTQ+ community.

Subseries 2.1: David Rushford Papers Dates: 1987-2004 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.

Subseries 2.2: Dennis Troy Dates: 1991-1993, undated.  
Extent: 16 items.

Description: Contains correspondence between Dennis Troy and various people, membership card, and LGBTQ+ cards.

Subseries 2.3: Al Toney Dates: undated.  
Extent: 101 items.

Description: Contains letters and various correspondence, AK Consulting Services materials, newspaper clippings, photographs, and cake toppers belonging to Al Toney.

Subseries 2.4: Deb Ellstrom Dates: undated.  
Extent: 94 items.

Description: Contains buttons, letters, news clippings, Women's Issue Book Club materials, posters signs, t-shirts, and various GLCCCM and AIDS Project Worcester materials collected by Deb Ellstrom.

Subseries 2.5: Greg Pomphret Dates: undated.  
Extent: 12 items.

Description: Contains T-shirts, photographs, membership card for Isaiah's Lounge, and matchbooks belonging to Greg Pomphret.

Subseries 2.6: Peter Bacciocchi Dates: undated.  
Extent: 33 items.

Description: Contains T-shirts and banners belonging to Peter Bacciocchi from Pride and other LGBTQ+ events.

Subseries 2.7: Richard "Rick" Guskey Dates: undated.  
Extent: 19 items.

Description: Contains photographs and other materials relating to the Broadway Babes collected by Rick Guskey.

Subseries 2.8: Charlie LaBonte Dates: undated.  
Extent: 16 items.

Description: Contains documents and marketing materials belonging to Elder Services, collected by Charlie LaBonte.

Series 3: Community Photographs Dates: 1950-2018, undated.

Extent: 368 items.

Description: The Community Photographs series highlights every day live 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.

Names:

Gloria Audet

Alford Green

Nathan Manna

Vicki Boisseau

Rick Guskey

Kendall Molina

Lamar Brown

Judith (Judy) Hanlon

Judi Kirk

Nicole Cormier

Patrick Joslyn

Erin Russell Ovitt

Thomas Doughton

Barbara Kohin

David Rushford

Anonymous

Leopoldo Negrón Cruz

Tony Sanders

Marc Guinette

Albert and Keith Toney

Dale Lepvage

Deb Ellstrom

Heather Mangione

Jim Voltz

Dot Woodcock

Alison Smith

Jean Sagerian