



**New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations**

**Oversight Hearing: Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50
Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 1:00PM**

**Testimony Presented by NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl**

Good afternoon, Chair Van Bramer and members of the committee. I am Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs. I am here today to testify in regards to today's topic: Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50.

This year marks a momentous occasion for all New Yorkers and especially for our LGBTQ community. Equal rights and free self-expression are core values for New York. They're what make our city a beacon for people across the world, and what give our neighborhoods and streets the sense of vibrancy and energy that you can't find anywhere else. And no small part of this part of our identity comes from our City's hard-won willingness to embrace our LGBTQ neighbors. I say "hard won" because the event we're here to speak about today – Stonewall – was a stunning and inspiring display of courage by those who took part in it. That's something we should not forget as we mark its 50th year. Americans have a habit of viewing events from the past through rose colored glasses. But we are committed to remember that the Stonewall uprisings took place in response to oppression. This year, we celebrate how far we've come thanks to the people who started on this path. And with our partners in the cultural sector, we'll also recognize how far we have to go.

Appropriately, these celebrations will not be limited to a week or a month. NYC & Company is making 2019 the "Year of Pride." They are working to position NYC as the most LGBTQ-friendly destination year-round and to increase awareness of Stonewall 50th anniversary and its importance to New York's DNA.

We share this commitment to both recognize the importance of the Stonewall anniversary, and to celebrate and support our LGBTQ community year round. Earlier this month, we joined the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs in announcing new cultural partners offering IDNYC card holders free memberships. In part to honor the anniversary of Stonewall, we are thrilled to welcome the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art to our list of partners. We also announced as part of these new benefits a third gender category for IDNYC cards, giving New Yorkers another way to more fully and accurately reflect their identity.

Whether as protest, activism, commemoration, or reflection, art has always been important for the LGBTQ community. As part of the CreateNYC public engagement process, we hosted a public conversation at MoMA PS1 focusing on the LGBTQ community and the arts. We were honored to have Chair Van Bramer join us for this event. That conversation revealed an interest in archiving and preserving artifacts and material related to LGBTQ culture and advocacy.

In part due to these conversations, the CreateNYC cultural plan embraces supporting LGBTQ communities through culture. Some programs we've started or expanded include engaging homeless LGBTQ youth through a Public Artist in Residence program with the Administration for Children Services. Our work with the cultural sector to ensure a diverse and inclusive workforce is also investigating LGBTQ representation in the staffs and leadership of cultural organizations. We plan on hosting a follow up CreateNYC Office Hours ahead of Stonewall 50, in part to provide a space to share resources, coordinate planning, air concerns about how the commemorations are shaping up. At this meeting, we would also like to learn more how we collectively can help make these events meaningful, successful, and impactful for groups that continue to face unique barriers, harassment, and discrimination, most notably LGBTQ communities of color and trans New Yorkers.

DCLA is now a member the Stonewall 50 Consortium, and the agency's LGBTQ community liaison (Anthony Meyers, who is here today) has been participating in Consortium's meetings and programs for more than a year. The consortium is a group of nonprofit organizations collaborating on and coordinating programming, exhibitions, and materials for the Stonewall uprising and broader history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement in New York City. Many of the consortium's members are DCLA-funded cultural nonprofits, such as Poets House, The Whitney, and Dance/NYC. I will describe some of the activities DCLA-funded groups have planned in a moment.

The Mayor's Community Affairs Unit and Citywide Events Coordination and Management Office are supporting a number of the planned events by connecting organizers to relevant City agencies. This includes both regular, annual celebrations as well as commemorations being planned specifically for the anniversary of Stonewall. The last thing we want is for the excitement and momentum to be interrupted by a hiccup with permitting. So we are thankful for the Mayor's Office's commitment to making sure the individuals and organizations planning these events have the support they need with respect to safety, security, crowd control, public transportation, sanitation and other services our City can provide.

The City's new Office of Nightlife is establishing a sub-committee of its interagency working group (of which DCLA is a member) to address social justice in the nightlife community, which includes LGBTQ issues. In its listening tour held throughout fall 2018, which DCLA representatives also attended, the Office of Nightlife heard that protecting spaces supporting the LGBTQ community is a top priority. In a few recent instances, the Office of Nightlife has been contacted by LGBTQ establishments that were facing

threats and harassment, to help ensure that the City's response was handled sensitively and effectively.

As you know, DCLA's primary function is as a funder of cultural organizations and programming. More than 100 Cultural Development Fund grantees offer LGTBQ programming and/or serve LGTBQ New Yorkers. These include:

- Arthur Aviles Typical Theater, also known as the Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance, hosts the annual Out Like That Festival. This event celebrates performance work by and for LGTBQ artists and audiences. Also, their TRANSVISIONARIES program is a performance series featuring cabaret singers, poets, comics, musicians, dancers, and performers who identify as Transgender and/or Gender Non-conforming. It brings these performances to restaurants and cafes around the borough.
- Brooklyn's Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center has a historic focus on LGTBQ dance artists of color. The group's PEEKS - Works in Progress is a year-round program that presents works by NYC-based LGTBQ and women of color choreographers as well as dance companies of color.
- In Queens, the New York Lesbian and Gay Experimental Film Festival's 31st New York Queer Experimental Film Festival is happening at Dreamhouse Community Arts Center in Ridgewood, Queens next month. It will feature an immersive environment with films, videos, digital media installations, and performances by LGTBQ artists from all over the world, selected by guest curators and a panel of local artists.
- The Tank in Manhattan has an annual PRIDE FEST that offers programming by LGTBQ artists exploring queer identities and sexuality. Programming has included a dance show featuring choreography by Marc Nunez and a screening of The Trans Literacy Project by Maybe Burke and Honest Accomplice Theater, a web series about trans issues.
- The Alice Austen House on Staten Island was designated as an LGBT Historic Site in 2017 by the National Register of Historic Places.

Members of the Cultural Institutions Group also host a range of programs, both honoring this specific anniversary and recognizing LGTBQ culture year round:

- Two years ago, Brooklyn Children's Museum launched a partnership with Drag Queen Story Hour to highlight gender differences and fluidity, as well as advocacy and activism, for young audiences. For anyone with young ones that may be interested, this unique partnership happens on the second Saturday of every month.
- Queens Theatre, in partnership with The One-Minute Play Festival, will produce a community action reading and town hall dialogue of 50 theatrical moments (one inspired by each year) generated by 50 LGTBQ playwrights in collaboration with wider Queens community. The work will explore topics of intersectionality, racial/cultural/non-English language narratives specific to the Queens community, and locating contemporary queer issues within the shifting cultural landscape at this moment.

- At the Museum of the City of New York, a new case study on Trans Activism will open in April as part of the ongoing exhibition *Activist New York*. Trans Activism will focus on the central role that trans New Yorkers such as Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, and many others played during the Stonewall uprising and through the formation of activist groups and direct service organizations in the 1970s and beyond. On June 27, the Museum will also host its 3rd Annual LGBTQ Teen Summit, a free, full-day prideful experience for teens and youth.
- In July, El Museo del Barrio, in partnership with MCNY, will celebrate Stonewall 50 at the annual Uptown Bounce – a free community celebration featuring music, dance, gallery tours, kids activities and more.
- The Bronx Museum, a member of the Stonewall 50 consortium, will host the exhibition *The Life and Times of Alvin Baltrop*, opening in August. Bronx-born Baltrop, who died in 2004, was a self-taught photographer whose work focused on the dilapidated Hudson River piers, other cruising spots, and gay men and their subcultures during the 1970s and 1980s, prior to the AIDS pandemic. This exhibition will feature Baltrop's photographs and his personal archives which are preserved at the Bronx Museum.
- On May 12, the Pride Center of Staten Island will have their annual 5k fun run on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden. The Island-wide events culminate on Saturday May 18th, when Snug harbor will be the host site for the annual Pride Center of Staten Island LGBTQ Pride Festival.

We have been thrilled to hear how widely embraced this opportunity will be, and how appropriately diverse the planned events are, from somber reflections on struggle and loss to jubilant celebrations of our vibrant LGBTQ community. I thank the Chair and members of the committee for this opportunity to highlight the important work being done to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings, as well as other initiatives to support this important community. I welcome any questions you may have.



La Guardia and Wagner Archives

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**Testimony of Dr. Richard K. Lieberman
Director of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives and Professor of History at LaGuardia Community
College**

**New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations**

**Public Hearing
“Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50”**

Good afternoon Chairman Van Bramer, members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations, and distinguished guests. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Richard Lieberman, Director of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives and Professor of History at LaGuardia Community College. LaGuardia, located in Long Island City, Queens, is one of the seven community colleges in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. We educate over 50,000 New Yorkers annually through degree, certificate, and continuing education programs. Half of our student population is foreign born and come from more than 150 countries. Our guiding principle Dare to Do More reflects our belief in the transformative power of education to create pathways for achievement and safeguard the middle class.

I'm delighted to discuss the major initiatives of LaGuardia and Wagner Archives in the context of Stonewall 50. Since 2016, when we accessioned the Papers of New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm, co-founder of the Queens Pride Parade in 1993, we have embraced a robust agenda with LaGuardia faculty, students, and staff and colleagues from the other CUNY colleges in Queens to increase awareness about the history and culture of the borough's LGBT population. While we understand the historical importance of the Stonewall Rebellion in Manhattan as a catalyst in the battle for LGBT rights in the nation, we decidedly shifted the focus to Queens to illuminate the pride and



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protests of a community unknown to most New Yorkers. Indeed, until the early 1990s, most New Yorkers associated the city's LGBT population with Greenwich Village.

Our initial program was the exhibition *The Lavender Line: Coming Out in Queens* in 2017 at the Queens Museum to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queens Pride Parade. *The Lavender Line* used photographs, flyers, video footage, and audio recollections to illustrate the fight of LGBT activists for equality and dignity in Queens since the 1990s. The historical portion of the exhibition drew largely from the Daniel Dromm Collection. Additional artifacts came from the personal archive of Queens City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. Dromm, a public school teacher in Queens from 1984 to 2009, was a founder of the Queens Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee and an organizer of the Queens LGBT Pride Parade and Festival, inaugurated in Jackson Heights in 1993. Van Bramer became a gay rights activist as a student at St. John's University in the early 1990s. The exhibition illustrated the evolution of the Queens Pride Parade from a community event in 1993, with some 1,000 marchers and thousands of spectators, to a festival that attracts crowds of more than 40,000 and gains the support of major politicians and corporate sponsors. The parade, a reflection of the diversity of Queens, remains an opportunity to come out and celebrate amid cheering neighbors, festive music, and colorful floats.

The exhibition was modified and transferred to all five CUNY campuses in Queens in 2017-18. These include not only LaGuardia but also Queens College, York College, Queensborough Community College, and the CUNY School of Law. Faculty, students, and staff from each college worked to incorporate additional material to reflect LGBT history and culture on their own campuses.



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La Guardia faculty, staff, and students published a book to accompany the exhibition. The volume of essays shed further light on a topic often overlooked in the scholarly literature on sexual orientation and gender identity. I am especially proud of the work of our students. Among other topics, they wrote about the gay bashing murder of Julio Rivera in 1990 in Jackson Heights and the controversy surrounding the citywide Children of the Rainbow Curriculum in 1992. Both events sparked activism and led to demands for justice and equality for the LGBT community in New York. Both also provided inspiration to start the Queens Pride Parade in 1993. The research of our students at LaGuardia and Wagner Archives enriches our understanding of a subject that is of particular importance at this moment when LGBT rights are increasingly under assault in our national political culture.

During Pride Month in 2018, we at the Archives organized faculty, students, and staff from the five Queens CUNY campuses to march together for the first time in the Queens Pride Parade. It was a joyous and empowering experience. Students in particular reflected about feelings of solidarity and pride. Faculty and students choreographed a dance for the event. Their efforts were impressive, recognized by the parade's performance judges. The CUNY group won the Rainbow Award for the best use of color. The parade marked the culmination of a yearlong consortium of faculty, students, and staff from the five Queens CUNY schools in a series of public programs, panel discussions, and other intellectual and creative activities.

In 2018, the Archives produced an LGBT historical calendar for 2019 not only to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall but also to illustrate the everyday activities of New York's LGBT population. It shows glimpses of friends relaxing on vacation and couples getting married. It



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illuminates the efforts of brave men and women serving in the military and creative individuals performing in theatrical productions. It remembers ACT UP members protesting for greater access to experimental AIDS drugs in the 1980s and transgender people demanding equal rights in the 2010s.

During Pride Month this year on campus we will open an exhibition that chronicles the experiences of our LGBT student population in their families and communities. Our students, mostly people of color, seldom see affirming imagery in the media and in popular culture. Through film, photography, and oral history, the exhibition aims to capture their stories and remedy the lack of positive representation. It asks simple but powerful questions about the intersections of gender identity and race, ethnicity, and religion: What is it like to be Latino and gay? Black and lesbian? Asian and queer? The answers reveal the joys and struggles of coming out in different families. The exhibition will show students from an array of neighborhoods in New York City enduring hardships but also finding love and support from friends, partners, and family members and, in particular, from the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) club at LaGuardia Community College.

I would like to thank the New York City Council for your commitment in supporting the LGBT Public History Project at LaGuardia and Wagner Archives at LaGuardia Community College. I urge you to continue to support our programs so we can increase awareness about the history and culture of our city's vibrant LGBT community. In short, our programs are a reminder that visibility matters. It makes a difference in how people understand and accept themselves and how the broader population perceives the LGBT community.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

**CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES & INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS
COMMITTEE**

OVERSIGHT—ARTS, CULTURE, AND STONEWALL

Tuesday, January 22, 2019

Good afternoon, I am Jason Baumann, Assistant Director of Collection Development and the coordinator of LGBTQ Initiatives at The New York Public Library (NYPL). I would like to thank Chair Jimmy Van Bramer and the Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee for holding this hearing. I would also like to thank the entire City Council for their sustained support of libraries. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on NYPL's world-renowned LGBTQ collections.

The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots this year is an essential opportunity for the LGBTQ community to reflect on their accomplishments and the many new challenges we currently face. Libraries and museums play an essential role in preserving and transmitting cultural memory, which are what make that reflection possible. The New York Public Library has one of the most important collections of LGBTQ history in New York History and in the United States. The Library has the archives of pivotal activist organizations, including the Mattachine Society of New York, Gay Activists Alliance, Gay Men of African Descent, Gay Men's Health Crisis, and ACT UP, as well as the papers of LGBTQ activists and artists such as Barbara Gittings, James Baldwin, William Burroughs, Alberta Hunter, and Virginia Woolf. In order to provide the LGBTQ and larger communities deeper access to this cultural heritage during the anniversary of Stonewall, the Library will be holding an exhibition Love & Resistance: Stonewall 50, opening February 14th and running through July 14th. The exhibition will illustrate the cultural impact of

Stonewall in LGBTQ protest, nightlife, publishing, and relationships. The exhibition will feature the photographs of pioneering photojournalists Kay Tobin Lahusen and Diana Davies, who will also be featured in a companion volume that we are publishing with W. W. Norton. We will also be publishing an anthology from our archives, *The Stonewall Reader*, with Penguin Classics. In addition, we will be holding public programs across Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island relating to the LGBTQ history of New York City neighborhoods, building on the success of our partnership with the New York City Trans Oral History Archives. The 50th anniversary of Stonewall is a pivotal opportunity for LGBTQ communities to reflect on our past and imagine our future; libraries and museums are essential to that process.

Thank you, Chair Van Bramer and the entire Council for your unwavering support of libraries and the opportunity to testify today about such an important upcoming moment in New York City.

**Testimony of Olivia M. Casareno
President of LaGuardia Community College's Straight and Gay Alliance**

**New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries,
and International Intergroup Relations**

**Public Hearing
"Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50"**

Good afternoon Chairman Van Bramer, members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations, and distinguished guests. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am Olivia Maravilla Casareno, a student at LaGuardia Community College, and the president of the college's Straight and Gay Alliance. I'm here to speak briefly about my experience with the Archives, and the impact their work has had, and will continue to have, for our school's LGBT population.

As previously mentioned by Dr. Lieberman, During Pride Month in 2018, the Archives brought together faculty, students, and staff from each of the Queens CUNY campuses to march together for the first time in the Queens Pride Parade. Not only was this collaboration a first for CUNY, it was first for me; Although I'd been out for some time, I had never been to a Pride Parade before. I was fortunate enough to not only participate in this event, but to be one of the choreographed dancers for this parade. The fondest memory I have of this event is certainly one moment in particular: As the dance troupe was getting ready to rise for our number, I looked up and felt an overwhelming surge of support and solidarity from each person in the crowd watching us. It made tears well up in my eyes, as I had never felt that kind of support for my identity before.

As is the case for many other LGBT youth, I have had significant experiences with marginalization because of how I choose to identify. My experience, coming from a devoutly

religious immigrant family, contributed greatly to my personal challenges with accepting myself. As the President of LaGuardia's Straight and Gay Alliance, I have been able to foster community with many other students who have faced similar experiences. Each LGBT identifying individual I've met at LaGuardia has a unique story, which incorporates many challenges they strive to overcome. Each story is important, which is why the Archives' Lavender Line Project is so significant to our community.

Until only recently, the representation of LGBT individuals in pop culture and history has been unfortunately slim. This has made the acceptance of LGBT individuals difficult for those who do not identify within the community, and even those who do. I remember hardly seeing LGBT people in the media while I was growing up, and every celebrity coming out story being treated as controversial and shocking. I went to public schools up until high school, and I cannot recall any mention of LGBT individuals taught in the History curriculum. The rise of social media gave a platform for young LGBT individuals to impact others. Even though the validity of social media's positive impact on the world is often questioned, it has undeniably contributed to the newer generation's acceptance of the LGBT community. However, it is so important for the stories of LGBT individuals to be considered and recorded in the more formal settings. The Archives' Lavender Line project has made it possible for the intersectional stories of several LGBT students at LaGuardia to be documented and saved for historical and academic purposes. It is an awesome opportunity for one's own narrative to be acknowledged.

I would like to thank the New York City council for your support with the LGBT Public History Project at the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives at LaGuardia Community College. It is so important to raise awareness about the history and culture of our city's LGBT population. Although the LGBT community still has significant challenges to overcome, progress continues.

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM & LIBRARY

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

Requesting the Council Members' support for New-York Historical's

STONEWALL 50 AT NEW-YORK HISTORICAL

New exhibition on the legacy of Stonewall at the New-York Historical Society

I would like to thank Chair Van Bramer and the members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations for your time this afternoon. The New-York Historical Society is grateful for the Committee's support as we pursue our mission to bring diverse voices and perspectives to the nearly half million residents of our city and the tourists who visit us each year.

At a time of great urgency for public understanding of the LGBTQ community's long struggle for equal rights, New-York Historical is planning an exhibition titled *Stonewall 50 at New-York Historical* that will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary and legacy of the Stonewall Uprising. With recent victories for mainstream LGBTQ acceptance, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015, it would be easy to conclude that the fight for rights is over. However, the persistence of violence against queer women and the problem of homelessness among LGBTQ teens, among other issues, reveals the need for greater public understanding.

From May 24 to September 22, 2019, *Stonewall 50 at New-York Historical* will help to portray the robust, continued efforts of the LGBTQ community towards the reclamation of their own history, and will contemplate different facets of life both pre- and post-Stonewall in order to highlight the community's ongoing activism and commitment to social change. New-York Historical's initiative to honor this history began in June 2018, with an exhibition in LaGuardia Airport's Marine Air rotunda, featuring artifacts from the Museum's Billie Jean Archives, to highlight Billie Jean King's life and accomplishments in advocating for gender equality and social justice, and continues with *BJK at 75*, a multimedia installation at New-York Historical Society.

SUPPORT REQUEST

Thanks to generous funding from the Keith Haring Fund for Youth Audiences, we will be able to partner with community-based organizations to provide free museum visits for disadvantaged city teens. New-York Historical respectfully requests the active support of members of the Committee and the New York City Council to recommend groups who might take advantage of this free visit opportunity.

CONNECTING AUDIENCES TO LGBTQ HISTORY IN NEW YORK CITY

Stonewall 50 will consist of two new exhibitions and a special installation. The first exhibition, *Letting Loose and Fighting Back: LGBTQ Nightlife Before and After Stonewall*, will explore the history of LGBTQ bars, clubs, and nightlife in New York City during the second half of the twentieth century. At times compared to sanctuaries or described as the fabric of the community, these spaces have served as oases of expression and political resistance amid a hostile mainstream that offered few other options. Through a dynamic installation of artifacts, ephemera, photographs, and multimedia, the exhibition will highlight the ways in which nightlife has been critical to finding identity, building community, developing political awareness, and fostering genres of music, dance, and performance that have influenced popular culture worldwide. It will also explore the ways in which LGBTQ bars and clubs have been constrained by external forces—policing, legislation, public policy, Mafia control, and targeted violence—and critiqued by groups within the umbrella identity. As a lens onto LGBTQ history, and by extension American history, nightlife cuts across race, sexuality, gender, and economic class to include those who are often neglected in conventional narratives.

The second exhibition, *By the Force of Our Presence: Highlights from the Lesbian Herstory Archives*, will feature a rich selection of objects highlighting lesbian experiences before and after Stonewall; the central role of queer women in LGBTQ activism; and the ongoing significance of the Lesbian Herstory Archives. The exhibition will focus on four themes: lesbian experiences prior to Stonewall; the blossoming of lesbian culture and politics in the 1970s and 1980s; the founding and history of the Lesbian Herstory Archives; and lesbian culture from the 1990s to the present day.

A special graphic installation, *Say it Loud, Out and Proud: Fifty Years of Pride*, will use imagery from five decades of New York City Pride marches to animate a timeline of significant moments in national and New York LGBTQ history, illustrating the ways in which the fight for equal rights for LGBTQ citizens is constant and ongoing.

In addition to objects from the New-York Historical Society's collections, items in the exhibition will consist of loans from individuals and institutions including the New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library, Fales Library and Special Collections at New York University, Museum of the City of New York, Keith Haring Foundation, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, and the archives of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center.

EXPECTED RESULTS

New-York Historical anticipates over 100,000 visitors will explore this vibrant exhibition, including camp visits from across New York and its surrounding area. Family and public programs will include walking tours of walking tours of LGBTQ history on the Upper West Side; panel discussions on subjects ranging from Club 82's historic role on the night club circuit, to androgynous dressing throughout American history; New-York Historical's first-ever Annual Pride Day family celebration; and more. The New-York Historical Society is an active member of the Stonewall 50 Consortium, and this exhibition will take advantage of WorldPride 2019 in New York City to reach an even larger number of constituents with this exhibition's important message.

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Brooklyn Museum

Statement to the New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations

By Allie Rickard and Catherine Almonte

January 22, 2019 at 1:00PM

Thank you Speaker Corey Johnson; Chair Jimmy Van Bramer; members of the Council's Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Committee; and all other members of the City Council present for the opportunity to testify about the Brooklyn Museum's programming and exhibitions in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising.

My name is Allie Rickard, Curatorial Assistant for the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art and I am joined by my colleague Catherine Almonte, Government and Community Affairs Liaison. We are here on behalf of the Brooklyn Museum and as members of the Cultural Institution Group. I am one of five curators working collectively on a special exhibition.

On May 3rd, the Brooklyn Museum will open the ONLY exhibition dedicated to the work of LGBTQ+ artists born since 1969 and working in the legacy of the Stonewall Uprising. The artists included in *"Nobody Promised You Tomorrow": Art 50 Years After Stonewall* at once look to history and face the future to pay tribute to activist foreparents and ask how we will care for tomorrow's generations. The exhibition also centers attention on the everyday acts of care that undergird public activism and sustain communities.

Through painting, sculpture, installation, performance, and video, the artists engage interconnected themes of revolt, commemoration, care, and desire. *"Nobody Promised You Tomorrow"* draws its title from the rallying words of transgender artist and activist Marsha P. Johnson, underscoring both the precariousness and vitality of LGBTQ+ communities. At its broadest, the exhibition questions how moments become monuments, and challenges us to tell history from the perspectives of those surviving at its margins, while exploring how contemporary artists grapple with the unique conditions and questions of our political moment.

The exhibition includes work by Mark Aguhar, Felipe Baeza, Morgan Bassichis, David Antonio Cruz, Amaryllis DeJesus Moleski, John Edmonds, Mohammed Fayaz, Jeffrey Gibson, Camilo Godoy, Juliana Huxtable, Rindon Johnson, Elektra KB, Linda LaBeija, Park McArthur, Elle Pérez, LJ Roberts, Tuesday Smillie, Tourmaline, Kiyan Williams, Sasha Wortzel, You Go Girl!, and Constantina Zavitsanos.

Nobody Promised You Tomorrow is supplemented by an interactive resource room for visitors to engage LGBTQ+ histories and organizing, and to connect with community organizations, drawing on the existing work and a new curatorial mentee from InterseXtions: Gender & Sexuality, Brooklyn Museum's annual paid LGBTQ+ teen internship in LGBTQ+ community programming.

As a Stonewall 50 Consortium member, we will be working closely with community partners to expand conversations around art, and LGBTQ+ organizing and history. We will present performances and public programs that center intergenerational dialogue.

The Brooklyn Museum is continuously committed to welcoming and serving the LGBTQ+ community. Every year LGBTQ+ teens join us for a paid internship that explores gender and sexuality in art, and plans events for other LGBTQ+ youth. *Nobody Promised You Tomorrow* also expands our commitment beyond annual programs such as our dapperQ fashion show and Pride First Saturday, and deepens our dedication to providing inclusive programming year-round.

Furthermore, we will be improving accessibility in our restrooms. This permanent change to our bathroom facilities will offer visitors multi-stall all-gender restrooms for the first time at the Museum. We are excited to offer all of our visitors safe and inclusive options not only for the run of this exhibition, but into the future as well.

Thank you. We are happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.



Coming Out and Queer Visibility

5 minute speech by VideoOut Founder, Jordan Reeves

I would like to do something potentially unconventional, and I ask that everyone participate. With all due respect, those in these chambers with honored rank, those who are important, and those who come humbly, like me, I ask that you all shed those conventions and consider yourself simply human for one moment.

Now, if you are queer, please stand. If you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual, gender non-conforming, non-binary, gender variant, or any other denomination on the queer spectrum, please stand.

Everyone look around the room. Notice the faces of the people who are standing. Each one of them is a real person with experiences much like yourself. They have joys and sorrows, tragedies and triumphs. They are business professionals, vocational workers, medical doctors, teachers, postal workers, parents, siblings, elected officials, voters. And, they are queer.

Thank you! You can be seated. And if you wish, you can end the temporary removal of title and position. Or, better yet, just let it go for the next 5 minutes. It's fun to just be a human for a bit isn't it?

I asked us to do that exercise because it's slightly uncomfortable. It's a weird request and one that in an alternate universe – a universe that feels too close these days – could be used against us. Even in a seemingly safe space, we feel safer not coming out.

But, the opposite is actually true. In the 1960's, Gordon Allport, one of the founding figures of personality psychology, showed us that if a person in group A shares a story with a person in group B, it can positively change the perceptions of the person in group B about everyone in group A. More specifically, if a queer person shares their story, it has the power to change the way people feel about all queer people. Fast forward a few years, and Jeremiah Garretson's research shows that it's not just about these individual moments of story sharing. But when grouped together, our stories create a movement that shifts the public's view of us to a warmer more accepting place. As a matter of fact, when queers are well represented in media, we can actually trace how people vote in favor of LGBTQ protections. Our stories can actually change the outcome of specific legislation. Last year, Daniel DellaPosta authored a study at Penn State that showed even tangential relationships with lesbians and gays can shift the way people feel about the queer community. So, if you're out, you are affecting people that you aren't even close to. As Harvey Milk said, "You must come out!"

VideoOut bases its work on these three psychological studies. Our mission is to amplify the voices of LGBTQIA+ people. We do that by traveling around the country to record stories told by queer people. So far, we've recorded hundreds of stories, produced dozens of events, and reached about 5 million people around the world. In May, we're partnering with The Center to host two days of story collection in NYC. Those stories become part of the international digital



archive of coming-out stories on VideoOut's website. We're also hosting two evenings of LGBTQ storytelling where 6 speakers share in front of a live audience. Those are happening on June 8th at The Center and June 27th at Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg.

I'll end with a quick story. I'm from Hueytown, Alabama – you've heard of it, I'm sure. It's a bustling metropolis of hundreds of people. It's the kind of place where there's a church on every corner. The kind of place where every car that passes, you throw your hand up to wave because you probably know them. It's also a place where queer people aren't accepted. According to most people in Hueytown, at least when I lived there, queers are an abomination, hell-bound, and dangerous to the American family. I grew up crying myself to sleep at night. And during the day, I constantly looked over my shoulder worried that somebody might be figuring out that I am gay. Then, when I was 23, I heard Cliff Simon – one of my college professors – share his story. He talked about his partner, Julian. And he talked about how when he came out, life started for him. "It was a waterfall of everything, and not just the gay stuff," he said. Cliff's story saved my life. It showed me that it was okay to be gay. As Frank Kameny said, "Gay is good!" Cliff gave me the courage to share my own story and start living my life fully.

If there is power in one story to save my life, what is the power of hundreds and thousands of stories? At VideoOut, we say, "One story is important, several stories are powerful, but all of our stories together are an unstoppable collective that demand equality, equity, and liberation." Join us! Share your story. Come out for yourself, for your community, and for your future.

If you'd like to know how to get involved, email me at jordan@videoout.org or follow us on Instagram at VideoOut.

Thank you!

"Gay brothers and sisters... You must come out. Come out to your relatives... come out to your friends... Come out to your neighbors... to your fellow workers... to the people who work where you eat and shop... break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions. For your sake. For their sake. For the sake of the youngsters who are becoming scared..." Harvey Milk

Below is more information about VideoOut, the organization. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please email us if you have any questions.



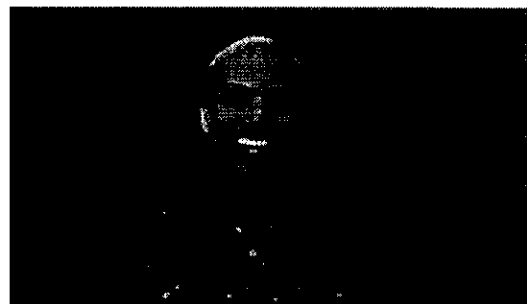
VideoOut's mission is to amplify the voices of LGBTQIA+ people. Since our founding in 2016, we have recorded hundreds of stories, produced dozens of events, and reached millions of people with our message of hope and solidarity thanks to a growing community of individual and corporate supporters. For instance, last year, VideoOut was named a "Barrier Breaker" as a part of Marriott International's #LoveTravels Beyond Barriers program – providing both financial support and new platforms to magnify VideoOut's reach and impact.

It is a critical time for LGBTQIA+ equality, reflected by significant policy and safety developments in the last two years. Since the 2016 presidential election, language referencing LGBTQIA+ rights has been removed from White House, State Department, and Labor Department websites. Furthermore, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services have all implemented explicit efforts to limit equality and equity for the queer community. For example, they have penned memos stating that trans identity is not valid, removed equal access for queer students and reinterpreted the definition of Title IX, provided leeway for discrimination by religious institutions and stated that LGBTQIA+ people aren't protected against such discrimination, and petitioned multiple times for the exclusion of trans people from the military. These policies will damage the LGBTQIA+ community for years to come, but the scariest trend is already well underway – after years of progress, each of the last three years has surpassed the former to be the deadliest year on record because of hate crimes against LGBTQIA+ individuals.

VideoOut's programs are designed to counter these trends. By the end of 2019, our goal is to add 1,000 voices to VideoOut's platform and produce 36 events, with a focus on communities in the nine states with the worst LGBTQIA+ civil rights laws. If we're successful, VideoOut will not only become the largest library of video coming-out stories in the world, but also engage directly with communities which need it most.

VIDEOOUT OVERVIEW

Coming out is the seminal experience of an LGBTQIA+ person's life. First, coming out to yourself, then coming out to others. Research shows that people know they are LGBTQIA+ when they are around 12 years old, but they don't typically come out until they are 20. That's eight years of being alone. During that formidable time of a queer person's life, too many suffer from depression, rely on drugs, are forced into homelessness, or contemplate suicide – often driven by feelings of otherness and fears of rejection. Despite all of the social and political progress made for LGBTQIA+ equality, coming out is only one of many challenges individuals still have to overcome, particularly for those who live in marginalized and rural communities. VideoOut proves that queer individuals are not alone. Rather, there is a large, strong, and vibrant community of diverse LGBTQIA+ individuals who are proud to be who they are and who have all shared in the same seminal experience of coming out. VideoOut provides the platforms to celebrate each individual story, globally via our digital story library and locally via community-focused events like SpeakOut.



"I remember a big load off my back, I felt at ease for just a second, and then the next words out of my mouth were, 'Please don't tell my mom!'"

Naysha Lopez (RuPaul's Drag Race)



We are inspired by the words of Harvey Milk who said that queer individuals need to come out to “once and for all break down the myths, destroy the lies and distortions -- for your sake, for their sake.” We believe that each story builds empathy and community; together, their power is multiplied as an unstoppable chorus of the strength, diversity, and equality of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Digital Library

VideoOut's digital library enables individuals to share their coming out story with the world and browse hundreds of others' stories from across the LGBTQIA+ community.

In 2019, we will launch a significantly upgraded digital platform on VideoOut.org. Working with design agency OrangeYouGlad, VideoOut's new website will enable a user to seamlessly capture and submit their story to the VideoOut Library. While anyone can currently submit their story, the process requires considerable user initiative and technical familiarity; we believe that simplifying the technical process will dramatically increase and diversify story submissions.



Stills from VideoOut's Digital Library

Our 2019 goal is to expand the VideoOut Library to over 1,000 stories – the majority of which will be captured via the new web platform. This will make the Library the largest collection of coming out stories ever. The Library will also increase in functionality, simplifying and strengthening a user's ability to browse and search the library.

In addition to the technological upgrade, OrangeYouGlad is leading a cross-cutting branding and website redesign. The design is intended to not only improve VideoOut's style, but also ensure our communications and website drive users towards action.

Community Events

VideoOut produces community events around the United States, curating LGBTQIA+ speakers and bringing together local partners and community members to share coming out stories. We also document and archive each event to share back with local partners for their use and enter them into the VideoOut Library to be shared across our communication channels.

To date, we have hosted events in Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New York, South Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming and have amplified the voices of over 250 storytellers. Events to date include two SpeakOut events with Brooklyn Brewery, Story Sharing Days with Walgreens and Grey Group, and a Kindness Party with Whole Foods and Shake Shack.



SpeakOut featuring Michelle Lopez at Brooklyn Brewery in 2017

We strongly believe in the value of engagement in local communities, particularly those which are less



accepting of LGBTQIA+ rights as well as individuals and groups within the LGBTQIA+ community which are not at the forefront of discourse (e.g. elders, intersex). Our strategy is to work closely with community organizations and local influencers to rally individuals and the community around storytelling.

In 2019, our goal is to produce 36 events around the United States, focusing on the nine states with the most anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation and/or the least protections for LGBTQIA+ people (i.e. Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas). We want to individuals that feel isolated and forgotten to reassure them that they matter, their story matters, and that they are an important part of a large and welcoming LGBTQIA+ community.

ABOUT VIDEOOUT

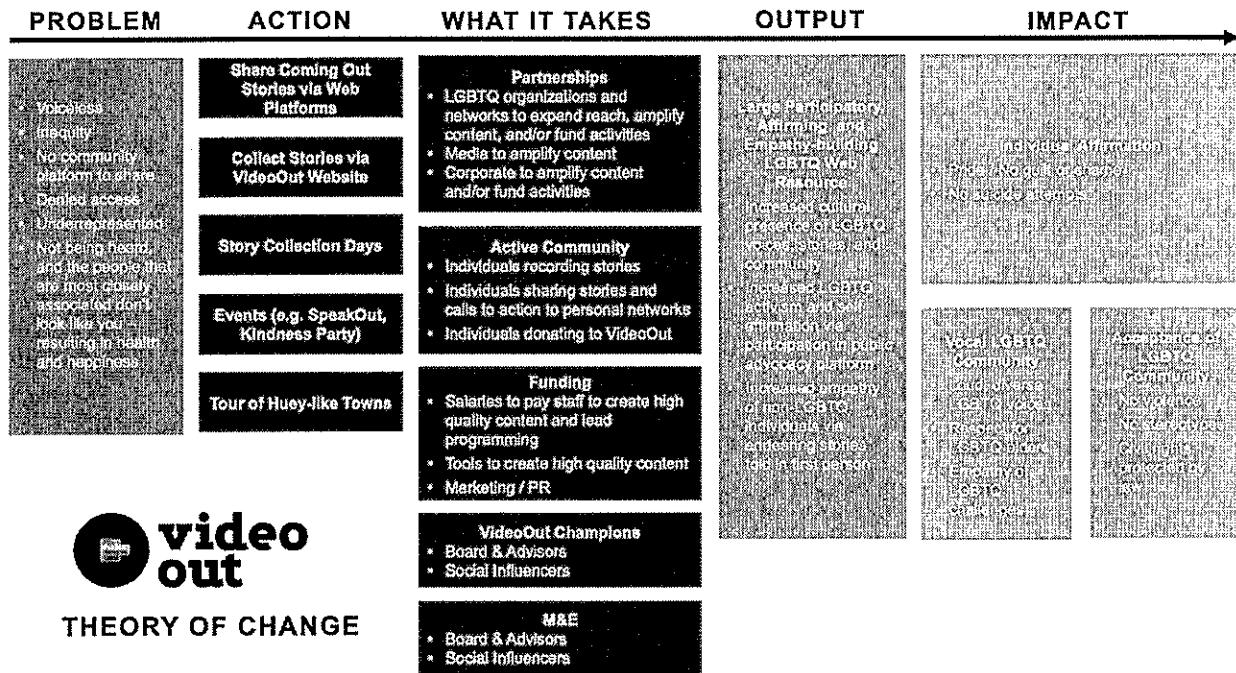
VideoOut was founded in 2016 by Jordan Reeves. Jordan grew up in Hueytown, Alabama and came out to his community at the age of 23, only to have his fears of rejection realized – his family told him he was hell-bound and effectively disowned him – he was lost and alone. A coming out story saved his life and Jordan founded VideoOut to serve as a platform to help save others, ensuring LGBTQIA+ individuals never have to feel alone in their struggles, and when they are ready, can share their own beautiful story with the world.

Key accomplishments to date include:

- Unlocked over \$250,000 in donations and in-kind support, enabling VideoOut to grow into an organization that serves communities all over the United States.
- Media coverage on NBC News, The Huffington Post, Out Magazine, The Advocate, Into, Medium, and more.
- Selected as a “Barrier Breaker” in Marriott International’s #LoveTravels Beyond Barriers program, including the award of \$50,000, entry into a multidimensional accelerator program, and selection as a 2018/19 Summit Series Fellow, exposing VideoOut to a network of global social innovators and influencers.
- Received pro bono brand and web design services from OrangeYouGlad, a Brooklyn-based agency. Thanks to OrangeYouGlad, VideoOut will launch its new digital platform in early 2019, enabling the ability for people to record and share their stories with a click of a button.
- Built partnerships with dozens of community organizations around the United States, enabling VideoOut to host events to record and share stories. To date, Center on Halsted (Chicago) and Brooklyn Brewery (New York) have each hosted three VideoOut events and have committed to more events in 2019.
- Led panels on the importance of coming out and queer visibility with LGBT Life Center in Hampton Roads, Virginia, and True Colors Foundation in Atlanta, Georgia.



THEORY OF CHANGE



LGBTQIA+ Community

We offer solidarity via a platform to be proud of who you are. Inherent in that offering is community. The shared narrative highlighted on VideoOut's platform binds us together, and forges a connection that will not soon be broken. We are all in this together.

Visibility Begets Change

VideoOut's approach is to highlight the voices of LGBTQIA+ individuals – to confront opponents with the faces and stories that come out of our community. That intimate connection ends hatred, breaks barriers, builds empathy, and achieves equality.

This approach works, but there aren't many organizations doing it. Psychologist Gordon Allport developed the intergroup contact theory that shows that exposure to an outgroup (like LGBTQIA+ people) is an effective way to change attitudes about and behaviors towards that outgroup. Jeremiah Garretson's research shows that the success of LGBTQIA+ social movements is just as much about media exposure and endorsements from political leaders as it is about an increase in the number of LGBTQIA+ people who come out and live their lives openly. Most recently, Daniel DellaPosta's research is the first to provide an empirical examination of how straight people are affected by tangential relationships with gay and lesbian people. Having at least one gay or lesbian acquaintance not only makes straight people more likely to support gay rights, but also makes them more accepting of gay people in general. These three studies help show that VideoOut's strategies are critical in the fight for LGBTQIA+ liberation.

Testimony to the
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Group Relations
OVERSIGHT: Arts, Culture, and Stonewall50
January 22, 2019

“This project is amazing and I’m so excited to continue using it in my classroom” – NYC educator

Good Afternoon Chair Van Bramer and members of the Committee. My name is Suzanne Rose, Senior Producer in the Kids’ Media and Education Department at WNET. As you know WNET is the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, and brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to over 5 million viewers each week. In recognition of the historical significance Stonewall has played in the fight for equality for the LGBTQ community in New York and our nation, and WNET’s role and mission as a multimedia public service non-profit delivering lifelong learning and meaningful experiences to our communities, we are planning and developing a variety of programming to air in the coming months to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall.

WNET also has a strong partnership with the New York City Council, and through the Council’s support, WNET has created *LGBTQ+ Identity: A Toolkit for Educators Collection*, a suite of professional development and curriculum-based digital media resources. A key component of the collection is a video program and accompanying curriculum resources on the history of Stonewall and its pivotal role in sparking in the LGBTQ+ rights movement.

Funding for the WNET project has been used for content development of the professional development and classroom ready curriculum-based resources, as well as in-person professional development workshops. The professional development-based resources are designed to help administrators, guidance counselors, and educators understand the complex and difficult issues faced by LGBTQ students. They feature video segments from a groundbreaking public television series, background essays, conversation guides, and teaching tips to facilitate their use in educational settings. The materials help promote understanding, awareness, and self-esteem. The curriculum-based resources include video programs, discussion questions, and support materials to help educators seamlessly integrate LGBTQ narratives and history into core curriculum subjects like English Language Arts (ELA) and social studies. All resources support NYC DOE curriculum goals and align to the NYC DOE Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Student Guidelines.

Feedback from educators has been very positive:

- *“I learned how to be more aware of the vocabulary to use with LGBTQ students.”*
- *“I loved the training and want to do more!”*
- *“Wonderful, useful and sensitive information imparted with dignity and respect, yet completely down to earth and practical.”*

WNET | EDUCATION

- *“Students in my school would like teachers to know more about the concepts of spectrums relating to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation. Perhaps most importantly, they want their teachers to be adept at dealing quickly and effectively with homophobic, transphobic and any anti-LGBTQ+ behavior.”*
- *“The workshop was excellent. The presenters were terrific and the info was very valuable. Also it was well orchestrated and organized.”*
- *“Excellent day. One of the best PDs I have been to. I cannot wait to attend more.”*

Leading up to Stonewall’s 50th anniversary, WNET will promote our LGBTQ resources for educators—with a focus on the Stonewall content—on-air, online, and through social media.

Additionally, WNET, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education for New York City teachers, will provide three full-day face-to-face professional development workshops at WNET headquarters to introduce guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators from across the city to the LGBTQ+ collection. WNET expects to train over 100 educators in how to utilize the *LGBTQ+ Identity Collection* in their schools. Further, WNET will promote the opportunity for the participating educators to join additional WNET and New York City Department of Education professional development workshops during June/Pride month.

The *LGBTQ+ Identity Collection* is available for free on PBS LearningMedia, a website that reaches 1.8 million educators nationally and 69,000 educators in New York State. To date, the collection has over 20,000 page views and has been used in classrooms throughout New York City and nationally, as well. WNET will continue to promote the collection throughout the 2019 school year online and on-air.

We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with the New York City Council and working with each Council Member to expand the reach of *LGBTQ+ Identity: A Toolkit for Educators* Collection, so that we can reach even more educators.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. WNET looks forward to being part of the many events scheduled to honor the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall. I am happy to answer any questions.

New York City Council

January 22, 2019

Hearing: Oversight -Arts, Culture and Stonewall 50

Good afternoon, Chairman Van Bramer and members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss LGBTQ Arts, Culture, and the Stonewall 50.

We look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising on June 28, 2019 that signifies a crucial and historic milestone for the LGBTQ community, the City of New York, and our organization, the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art. Our Museum is already a key LGBTQ destination and we have planned a blockbuster exhibition that supports the I LOVE NY LGBT initiative. Timed for the 50th anniversary year of Stonewall, *Art after Stonewall* is the first major exhibition to examine the impact of the LGBTQ civil-rights movement on the art world. Comprising some 200 artworks and documents, the exhibition focuses on openly LGBTQ artists such as Nan Goldin, Holly Hughes, Robert Mapplethorpe, Tim Miller, Catherine Opie, and will draw upon private collectors and several institutions to lend work for the exhibition. We are partnering with New York University Grey Art Gallery to display this exhibition, and it will be on view from April 24, 2019 through July 21, 2019.

We welcome the hundreds of mainstream cultural organizations that are joining this celebration, however it is important to celebrate LGBTQ culture everyday. LGBTQ arts and cultural history are an important part of New York City History. We, as a LGBTQ focused cultural institution, play an important role in preserving and telling the story of the LGBTQ community and its fight for civil rights.

The origins of the Leslie-Lohman Museum can be traced back to the civil rights movement of the late 1960s. In the context of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair and the Stonewall Inn Uprising, gay art collectors Charles Leslie and Fritz Lohman presented their first exhibition of gay artists in their Soho loft in the summer of 1969. The weekend show featuring downtown artists was a complete success attracting over 300 visitors, and becoming a seminal moment in the history of Leslie-Lohman Museum and LGBTQ arts and culture.

In the midst of the '70s gay liberation movement, our founders, continued to exhibit the work of gay artists in various storefronts in Soho, finally settling in a basement gallery at 127-B Prince Street, it became host to art exhibitions and cultural programs (readings, plays, films, lectures, etc). During those years, Leslie and Lohman also were active advocates for the preservation of the SoHo neighborhood, its unique architecture, and the nascent community of artists living and working in its spacious lofts.

During the AIDS pandemic, Charles and Fritz created a refuge for artists and their work. Along with providing care and lodging to ailing artists, they rescued the work of dying artists from families that out of shame,

ignorance, or inability to properly preserve the work, wanted to destroy it. This led to a great expansion of their art collection and the creation of the Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation in 1987. Through perseverance against the federal government, who was adverse to the word “gay” in the foundation’s title, it was finally granted tax-exempt status in 1990. In May 2011, in recognition of Leslie-Lohman’s work on preserving, collecting and exhibiting LGBTQ work, the New York State Board of Regents awarded a provisional charter of official museum status.

On August 23, 2017 Holland Cotter in his review for *The New York Times* wrote ***“The museum has a history it can be proud of, a radical one. From the start, it championed an outcast art and stood boldly, unfashionably, by it. Now it is complicating its earlier aesthetic direction without compromising its social mission, which is a tough act to pull off. It’s a museum that both stretches ‘gay’ and resists ‘normal,’ and for that it’s invaluable.”***

As the number of LGBTQ-focused museum and art-engaged visitors grows, so too does the need for there to be a venue at which they can explore, learn, and celebrate our communities’ artistic heritage and talents through a robust range of educational programming that compliments the art that patrons experience -- this venue is the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art. City funding supports Leslie-Lohman’s goal to develop and produce recurring, educational programming that provides opportunities for visitors to:

- Think, reflect and gain new insights and perspectives through LGBTQ art that is educating, informing, inspiring, entertaining and challenging.
- Engage in social interactions with the Museum that are intergenerational, all-ability, experientially, racially and ethnically diverse.
- Experience guided art interpretation
- Connect with the Museum as a cultural and educational resource.

Today, thanks to the hard work of generations of activists and artists, our community has gained greater visibility, however the fight for our rights is not over. The foundation has transitioned into a museum that aims to preserve LGBTQ cultural identity and build community, reclaim scholarship from a queer perspective and providing a training ground for queer artists and cultural workers. As we continue to stand at the intersection of art and social justice we acts as a cultural hub for LGBTQ individuals and their communities.

Gonzalo Casals, Executive Director, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art.

Gonzalo Casals explores cultural production as a vehicle to foster empowerment, social capital, civic participation and community development. He held positions at El Museo del Barrio, Friends of The High Line, and The Naturally Occurring Cultural Districts New York and he joined the leadership of a generation of cultural workers redefining the civic role of cultural organizations and their relationship with communities and cities.

Jerry Kajpust, Director of External Affairs, Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art

LA MAMA

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

We represent La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, a premier Off Broadway venue celebrating works that push the boundaries of language and culture. From its beginnings in the 1960s, La MaMa emerged from a community of queer artists who were excluded from both mainstream theatre and the existing avant-garde movement. We have existed in the East Village for over 55 years and were honored to receive the Regional Theatre Tony Award just last year. It is our pleasure to address the NYC Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations to discuss "Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50."

We are thrilled to participate in the Stonewall 50 Celebration as a member of the Stonewall 50 Consortium. La MaMa has always been an international institution recognized as the seedbed of new work by artists of all nations and cultures. In 57 years, La MaMa has presented more than 150,000 artists from more than 70 nations. We welcome all World Pride participants to New York City and share their vision of a world where there is full cultural, social and legal equality for all.

Our theater pre-dates Stonewall. Our archive remains an enlightening resource of pre-Stonewall queer performance. The gay scene in New York in the 1960s was an underground whose gathering places included La MaMa. Some members of our La MaMa Family who remember the Stonewall Riots are still alive today.

The work of these artists often spoke frankly about and even celebrated marginalized sexualities and gender identities in a way that shocked even the existing avant-garde movement. Today, La MaMa continues to be an important venue for queer expression as a host to queer audiences and artists alike.

Our association with queer theatre began in 1962 with its very first staged performance, an adaptation of Tennessee Williams' "One Arm," about a one-armed street hustler of ambiguous sexuality. Many more important queer productions followed including Jean Genet's "The Maids" directed by Tom O'Horgan, "Trockadero Gloxinia Ballet Company" and "Medea in the Laundromat," an early camp performance by Harry M Koutoukas. Charles Ludlam and his Ridiculous Theatre Company and John Vaccaro's Playhouse of the Ridiculous both did productions at La MaMa including Tom Murrin's "Cock Strong" starring Jackie Curtis.

The legendary Jackie Curtis was one of many Warhol Superstars at La MaMa. In 1971, Holly Woodlawn replaced Candy Darling in 'Vain Victory' directed by Jackie Curtis. Jackie also performed in Miss Nefertiti Regrets with Bette Midler at La MaMa in 1965 directed by Tom Eyen who went on to write the book for "Dreamgirls." Tom Eyen also wrote "Three Drag Queens from Daytona" that starred James Wigfall about three aging drag queens residing in trash cans near Coney Island. Warhol Superstar Candy Darling starred in Tom Eyen's "The White Whore and the Bit Player".

LA MAMA

EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

More queer artists included Tony Award winner Harvey Fierstein and his Torch Song Trilogy, recently revived on Broadway. Harvey made his acting debut in Andy Warhol's play "Pork" at La MaMa. Playwright Maria Irene Fornes was at La MaMa. Activist Marsha P Johnson performed at a fundraiser held by International Chrysis in the early days of the AIDS crisis. Activist Harvey Milk performed at La MaMa in 1965. Many lesbian feminists involved in the WOW Cafe including Split Britches, Holly Hughes, Dancenoise, Carmelita Tropicana, and the Five Lesbian Brothers performed here. Robert Patrick who wrote "Kennedy's Children." Bloodlips, Agosto Machado, John Kelly, SNL's Danitra Vance, Fun Home's Lisa Kron, MacArthur Genius Grant recipient Taylor Mac and more.

More recent performances prove that La MaMa to be a hub for the next generation of queer performers including Cole Escola, M Lamar, Dane Terry, Jasmine Hearn, Kia Labelija and Aja and Monet X Change of RuPaul's Drag Race fame. This whole season performances with queer performers including Kink Haus by Gunnar Montana, Vagina Town by Mur, now my hand is ready for my heart by Nicky Paraiso, Messiah by Nia Witherspoon, 55 Shades of Gay from Italy and our Stonewall 50 celebration and festival.

Stonewall 50 will include four different productions from May 30th to June 30th at La MaMa. La MaMa's Squirts continues an incredible line up of inter-generational queer performance. Past performers have included Justin Vivian Bond, Kate Bornstein, Stephen Winter, Sarah Schulman, Pamela Sneed, Charlene, Theda Hammel, Shea Diamond, Jes Tom, Patti Harrison and the House of Labelija in partnership with Helix Queer Performance Network. This performance also serves to fundraise for charities that advocate for queer people including Sylvia Rivera Law Project, New Alternatives, Audre Lorde Project and Trans Women of Color Collective.

Stonewall 50 at La MaMa celebrates World Pride with exciting voices from around the globe with multiple generations of queer performers as they pose questions, honor legacies and ignite the present. Italy's Raco Salvino brings "Global Gay," Korea's Byungkoo Ahn & Gihieh Lee brings "13 Fruitcakes," and The Bearded Ladies Cabaret from Philadelphia will perform "Contradict This! A Birthday Funeral for Heroes," all included in our brochure.

All of our programming is affordable and accessible with tickets never more than \$30. We would appreciate your help in spreading the word to your constituents, especially young people who can engage with this important work. Let them know that they can find a rich history of queer performance and connect with performers who will redefine this history.

WHITNEY

with community-based organizations and senior centers across the city. Community programs with organizations such as The Center, The Door, Visual AIDS, SAGE, Hudson Guild, and the American Indian Community House go beyond a single museum visit, and rather bring educators and artists into an organization for extended programming, and promote the Museum as an essential resource for numerous communities. I also convene an advisory network of community stakeholders, which is comprised of staff from community partners, community organizers, school teachers, and long-term residents in our surrounding neighborhoods of the Meatpacking District, Greenwich Village, and Chelsea.

In the coming months, the Whitney will organize a number of programs that relate to Stonewall 50 for audiences of different ages. Most of the following dates are tentative and subject to change based on artist availability.

- **Fri March 8 - Queer Teen Night in collaboration with The LGBT Center:** Queer youth and allies are invited to a celebration inspired by the life and work of Andy Warhol at the Whitney Museum. Youth from The Center and Whitney Youth Insights (YI) Leaders will welcome in teens for free art-making, performances, snacks, and tours of *Andy Warhol—From A to B and Back Again*.
- **Wed April 17 – After Stonewall Public Program:** A panel of artists will explore art and the Hudson River piers in conjunction with the exhibition *After Stonewall* at Leslie-Lohman Museum that is curated by art historian Jonathan Weinberg.
- **Thu June 13 - Stonewall 50 Celebration:** Event that includes performances by LGBTQ+ artists in the Whitney Biennial 2019.
- **Select Fridays, May-September - Queer History Walks:** Initiated in summer 2018, these free sunset walking tours explore the rich queer history of the Whitney's surrounding neighborhood and make connections to the Museum's collection and special exhibitions.
- **Ongoing thematic gallery tours surfacing queer themes:** One example of this ongoing tour series is, "No One Exists Alone: Queer Belonging" (2018) which explores gender, sexuality, and LGBTQ perspectives in the exhibition *Where We Are: Selections from the Whitney's Collection, 1900-1960*. New tours will continue to be developed responding to works on view.

The Whitney Museum remains grateful for the ongoing support from Speaker Johnson, Chair Van Bramer, and their colleagues in the City Council, as well as to the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, that has enabled us to continue our work celebrating American Arts.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share the Whitney Museum of American Art's engagement with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

January 22, 2019

Testimony to the NYC Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations Regarding Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50

Delivered by Sasha Wortzel, Director of Access and Community Programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Good afternoon and thank you Chairman Van Bramer and the NYC Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations for the opportunity to speak about the Whitney's work as part of the Stonewall 50 Consortium.

My name is Sasha Wortzel. I am the Director of Access and Community Programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and I have been pleased to participate in the Stonewall 50 Consortium.

The Whitney Museum is a contemporary art museum located in lower Manhattan. As the preeminent institution devoted to the art of the United States, the Whitney presents the full range of twentieth-century and contemporary American art, with a special focus on works by living artists. The Whitney was founded in Greenwich Village in 1930 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, herself an artist. From its inception through today, many of the artists with whom we work live in New York City. Since moving to a new home back in lower Manhattan, we serve over a million visitors per year of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, connecting them with American art and artists.

Additionally, since 2011, in preparation for moving back downtown and opening a new building to the public in 2015, the Whitney has placed an even stronger focus on building relationships with area organizations, understanding local history, and serving our community. The Museum's location near the Hudson River piers and at the intersection of the Meatpacking District, Chelsea, and Greenwich Village – a short distance from where the Stonewall Riots took place - has provided a critical lens for us to engage with queer history, art and artists. However queer art and artists have long been part of the Whitney from collecting artworks by Charles Demuth, Paul Cadmus, and other trailblazers from the early 20th century to Andy Warhol, who also now has a major retrospective on view. Recent exhibitions featured the works of artists such as Sharon Hayes (2012), Hélio Oiticica (2017), and David Wojnarowicz (2018). Our best-known exhibition, the Biennial, often features artists addressing complex issues, historical and contemporary. The Whitney Biennial 2019, which will open in May, will do the same.

The Whitney is committed to the idea that access to art and culture should be a right, not a privilege, and embraces this attitude across all of its programs. The education department offers a wide range of programs for children through seniors, including artmaking activities, gallery tours, classroom visits, and partnerships with community organizations, among other offerings. Access to the Museum and guided visits are also free to community organizations, title 1 schools, and youths age 18 and under.

As Director of Access and Community Programs, I oversee a robust suite of on-site access programs for people with disabilities, as well as community partnerships that build sustained connections

ERIC MARCUS TESTIMONY

Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
International Intergroup Relations

Chair: Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer

Oversight Hearing, Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 1:00 P.M.

Eric Marcus

- Chair, Stonewall 50 Consortium, www.stonewall50consortium.org
- Creator and Host, Making Gay History, www.makinggayhistory.org
- Board Member, The American LGBTQ+ Museum

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I'm Eric Marcus, creator and host of the Making Gay History podcast and board member on the planning committee for the American LGBTQ+ Museum. But I'm here today principally in my role as chair of the Stonewall 50 Consortium.

Thank you Council Member Van Bramer for your leadership, for organizing this oversight hearing, and for inviting me to testify today. And thank you to the Council Member's staff, including Jack Bernatovicz, Cristy Dwyer, and Brenda McKinney.

My first time in this chamber was in the early 1980s for the gay rights bill hearings and I remember sitting up in the balcony and getting into an argument with religious fundamentalists sitting behind me who tried shouting down anyone testifying in favor of the gay rights bill's passage. Back then I could never have imagined that I'd be sitting here today in my current role representing nearly 200 cultural and educational institutions planning programming, exhibitions, and educational materials for the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. And having been invited here to testify by an out and proud City Council Member. I'd say it was a dream come true, but back in the early 1980s, my imagination wasn't nearly that good.

Down to business. I'm the founder and volunteer chair of the Stonewall 50 Consortium, a nonprofit organization that brings together scores of nonprofit institutions and organizations committed to producing programming, exhibitions, and educational materials related to the Stonewall uprising and/or the history of the LGBTQ civil rights

movement in the context of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. I've included a complete list of our members as part of my written testimony.

The mission of the Consortium includes helping participating institutions and organizations share ideas and best practices, facilitate potential collaborations, coordinate outreach efforts, and avoid scheduling conflicts and duplication of programming.

We're funded by grants from the New York Community Trust and the Calamus Foundation. The grants made it possible to hire our part-time vice chair, Inge De Taeye, who oversees much of the work we do. We also have support from the National Parks Conservation Association, which generously offered us office space, and the New York Public Library, which hosts our every-other-month meetings.

One of the most joyous aspects of this work has been watching representatives of our members at those meetings get to know each other, share ideas, support one another, and collaborate. Many of those who attend are members of the LGBTQ communities and many are allies—and all are committed to creating work that highlights, celebrates, and commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising and/or some aspect of the history of the LGBTQ civil rights movement.

The founding of the Consortium was something of an accident. It started out two years ago as a conference call in the fall of 2016 that I organized between my colleagues at the National Park Service and Council Member Danny Dromm, who was then chair of the Council's Education Committee. My colleagues at the National Park Service were in the early stages of working on materials for the new Stonewall National Monument, and I was in discussions with Council Member Dromm about creating LGBTQ-inclusive American history curricula anchored by archival audio from my three-decade-old oral history archive from which the Making Gay History podcast is drawn. I thought Council Member Dromm and my colleagues at NPS would be interested in having a conversation. That five-way conference call led to a first public meeting hosted by Dr. Jason Baumann at the New York Public Library. We had about twenty people at that first meeting and we've grown from there.

As volunteer chair of the Stonewall 50 Consortium, my focus has been on providing support to our members. We do this in a number of ways. First, through our every-other-month meetings where members get to briefly present information about their upcoming programs. And at every meeting we have a special guest who helps inform our members about some aspect of the Stonewall uprising, the history of the LGBTQ

civil rights movement, or Stonewall 50 plans. For example, at next week's meeting I'll be leading a conversation with Stacy Lentz, LGBTQ activist, co-owner of the Stonewall Inn, and CEO and co-founder of the Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative.

Second, on our website's member-only pages we provide a list of resources, including services and information that members are offering to provide one another, ideas for how to characterize the Stonewall uprising, and a calendar of member events.

Until now, the calendar of member events has been on a hidden page of the website. But as I've come to discover in the past couple of weeks, the Stonewall 50 Consortium has the most comprehensive listing of Stonewall 50 events. Some of those events have already taken place and the number of events will dramatically increase in number in the coming months. Just as an example, New York University alone has 40 different programs and events in the works.

The original purpose of the calendar was to help our members avoid stepping on each other's toes as they scheduled their events. For example, the New York City Opera, which is premiering a new opera called Stonewall, coordinated with the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, which has commissioned a new work with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, to avoid having their premiere on the same night.

When we first created the calendar we had no plans to make it publicly available. But now we find we're getting press inquiries and inquiries from the public about what's being planned for Stonewall 50 throughout New York City and we have found that the best resource for that information is the Stonewall 50 Consortium calendar. So as of February 1 we'll be making our calendar public, so anyone visiting the Stonewall 50 Consortium website can access it.

Here's where I'd welcome your advice and support. While our calendar is functional and relatively comprehensive, it was never meant for general public use, so it's not the prettiest thing. While I'm very proud of what we've created—and that's principally thanks to our vice chair Inge De Taeye—we'd welcome both the advice and support of the Council on what we can do to transform our functional website calendar into something that presents the best face possible for the City of New York as we prepare to welcome the world for Stonewall 50 and World Pride.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify today.

STONEWALL 50 CONSORTIUM MEMBERS — As of January 22, 2019

AARP New York
Academy of American Poets
American Folk Art Museum
African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change (AALUSC)
Alice Austen House
The American LGBTQ+ Museum (in formation)
Asian American Writers' Workshop
BAAD! (The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance)
Ballet Hispánico
BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music)
Bi Writers Association
Boston Pride
Bronx Community College LGBTQIA Resource Room
Bronx Council on the Arts
Bronx Museum of the Arts
Brooklyn Community Pride Center
Brooklyn Historical Society
Brooklyn Museum
Brooklyn Pride
Brooklyn Public Library
Bureau of General Services—Queer Division
The Calamus Foundation
The Center: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
Center for Puerto Rican Studies Library and Archives
Center Lane
Circle of Voices Inc.
City Parks Foundation
Clark University
Coalition to Save Walt Whitman's House
College of Staten Island LGBTQ Resource Center
Columbia University
Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum
Dance/NYC
Destination Tomorrow: The Bronx LGBT Center
East Midtown Partnership
El Museo del Barrio
Equality California
Equality Long Island
Estate of Fred W. McDarrah
Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities at Brooklyn College
Friends of the High Line
Front Runners New York
The Gay & Lesbian Review

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles
The Generations Project
GALA Choruses
GAMES (Brazil)
Gilbert Baker Estate
GLAAD
GLSEN
Global Action Project
GMHC
God's Love We Deliver
Goethe-Institut
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
Green-Wood Cemetery
The Grolier Club
Guggenheim Museum
Harlem Pride
HERE
Heritage of Pride
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Historic House Trust
History UnErased
Honest Accomplice Theatre
Housing Works
How! Happening: An Arturo Vega Project
Humanities New York
Human Rights Campaign
Hunter College History Department
Hunter College LGBTQ Social Science and Public Policy Center
I'm From Driftwood
International Center of Photography
Iris House
JCC Manhattan
The Jewish Museum
Labyrinth Dance Theater
La Guardia & Wagner Archives at La Guardia Community College
La MaMa
Lambda Legal
Lambda Literary
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo
Lesbian & Gay Big Apple Corps
Lesbian Herstory Archives
Leslie-Lohman Museum
LGBT_History on Instagram
LGBT Network

LGBTQ+ Collection, University of Southern Maine
LGBTQ+ Historical Button Project
Library of Congress
Live Out Loud
Long Island LGBT Community Center
Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY)
Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)
Made in NY Media Center by IFP
Making Gay History
MCC Theater
Metropolitan Community Church of New York
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Metropolitan Opera
MoCADA (Museum of Contemporary African Diaspora Arts)
MoMA
The Morgan Library & Museum
Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
Museum of the City of New York
Musical Theatre Factory
National Archives & Records Administration
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce New York (NGLCCNY)
National Parks Conservation Association
National Park Service
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
National Queer Theater
NEAT
NewFest: New York's LGBT Film & Media Arts Organization
New Museum
Newseum
New York City Anti-Violence Project
New York City Council Finance Committee
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York City Department of Records and Information Services
New York City Gay Men's Chorus
New York City Opera
New York City Trans Oral History Project
New-York Historical Society
New York Live Arts
New York Public Library
New York University
Norte Maar for Collaborative Projects in the Arts
Nuyorican Poets Cafe
NYC AIDS Memorial
NYC & Company

NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project
The Off-Broadway League
ONE Archives Foundation
OutHistory
OUTMedia
OutRight Action International
OUTWORDS
The Paley Center for Media
PFLAG NYC
Poets House
The Poetry Project
Point Foundation
Pride Center of Staten Island
Pride Outside
The Publishing Triangle
Queens Center for Gay Seniors
Queens College CUNY
Queens LGBT Community Center
Queens Library
Queens Museum
Queer!Art
Queer CUNY
Queer Urban Orchestra
Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre
Reclaim Pride
Red Hot
Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College
Rutgers School of Public Health
SAGE
SAGE-Long Island
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
Soho20 Gallery
Soho Photo Gallery
Staten Island Museum
Stonewall Chorale
Stonewall Community Foundation
Stonewall Inn Gives Back Initiative
Stonewall National Museum & Archives
Stonewall Project
StoryCorps
Symphony Space
Swish/Swish Ally Fund
Tenement Museum
Theatre Forward

Theatre of the Oppressed NYC
TOSOS
The Town Hall
Translatinx Network
Treatment Action Group
The Trevor Project
True Colors Fund
Twenty Summers
VideoOut
Visual AIDS
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art
Walt Whitman Initiative
Whitney Museum of American Art
The Wilderness Society
World Monuments Fund

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1854 7th Avenue #7B
New York, NY 10026
510-813-0396
Nationalqueertheater.org

January 22, 2019

The Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries,
and International Intergroup Relations
New York City Hall
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Committee Members,

Below, please see our testimony to the committee on the 22nd of January, 2019 regarding National Queer Theater's Criminal Queerness Festival for the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

ADAM ODSSESS-RUBIN: Good afternoon. My name is Adam Odsess-Rubin, the Founder and Artistic Director of National Queer Theater. Thank you for having us here to talk about our plans for this Summer.

For World Pride and Stonewall 50 next year, we're producing the Criminal Queerness Festival throughout June, showcasing four plays from international LGBTQ writers whose gender and sexuality are criminalized in their home countries.

We're already working with playwrights from Pakistan, Tanzania, China, and Egypt to build the festival, which will involve over 80 artists and 1000 audience members from throughout the city and around the world.

IRT Theater on Christopher Street is hosting us for a four week residency to support this work, which will include special advocacy panels to help take these stories outside the walls of the theater.

We are in talks with the UN and Outright International, as well as LGBTQ organizations abroad, to magnify the impact of these plays. And we will be presenting on using theater for global advocacy at WorldPride's Human Rights Conference.

ADAM ASHRAF ELSAYIGH: Good afternoon, my name is Adam Ashraf Elsayigh and I am one of the playwrights and producers part of the Criminal Queerness festival. In 2019 it is illegal



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Nationalqueertheater.org

to be gay in 71 countries, and 6 countries still carry the death penalty for queer people. We can't produce our art in our own countries because of censorship and fear of arrest. And yet there is hope: India decriminalized homosexuality last year which freed millions of queer Indian people from persecution. We are using our skills as artists to empower our communities worldwide.

Throughout LGBT history, there has been a connection between progressive social movements and gay performance that questioned the status quo and pushed for change such as *Angels in America*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The Normal Heart*.

Both in theater and activist circles, however, queer issues are seldom addressed outside of a U.S. and Western context.

Being an Egyptian playwright who spent the majority of my life in the Middle East, I am an artist who has had extreme difficulty sharing my work. Similarly, I have encountered many queer artists in Egypt, Abu Dhabi, India and Lebanon who have either had their work, and their and their collaborator's livelihood threatened. This ranges from performance groups participating in Beirut Pride 2018 being taken over by the Lebanese Police, to the Pakistani censorship bureau monitoring one of our artists Fatima Maan's play before being performed in Lahore, Pakistan.

After meeting National Queer Theatre and learning of their work and mission and collaborating with Adam on projects, we created the Criminal Queerness Festival to showcase these stories from regions where queerness is criminalized. This first year of the festival will tell stories from Pakistan, Egypt, Kenya and China.

This festival is unique in that it majorly benefits artists like myself who are typically disenfranchised and not given opportunities to share their craft and stories.

Here in the U.S., I am able to do my work in a way that I would not be able to do in Egypt. This should have a ripple effect and open up avenues for more queer artists looking to share queer stories in the region in years to come.

More importantly, the festival will be incredibly meaningful for queer and straight audiences alike who can learn about the queer communities from across the world and learn how they can make positive changes in these communities. The same way plays like *Angels in America*



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changed the way we understand particular moments in queer history, the Criminal Queerness Festival launching these plays could incite many opportunities to come for U.S. audiences to engage with a new understanding of how queer issues emerge in different communities and how we can begin to have that conversation internationally.

ADAM ODSSESS-RUBIN: We at National Queer Theater believe that storytelling has the power to create real social change- in the streets, and in the hearts and minds of those willing to listen. Today, I want to invite you to help bring our artists' work to New York City for WorldPride and Stonewall 50. National Queer Theater is a new nonprofit organization based here in New York with a mission to foster and support LGBTQ communities through social justice in the performing arts. In our first six months, we've raised \$30,000 with the help of Broadway Cares/ Equity Fights AIDS to build our community through the arts.

For the Criminal Queerness Festival, we are seeking an additional \$50,000 in funding, and we're actively looking for producers and sponsors to help us share these stories of global queer pride and resistance. We're not yet eligible for DCLA funding, but if there are any avenues through which the council can support the Criminal Queerness Festival and our artists, such as discretionary funding, we welcome your support.

You may contact me at adam@nationalqueertheater.org or call (510) 813-0396 to discuss this program further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam', written in a cursive style.

Adam Odsess-Rubin
Artistic Director
National Queer Theater

Testimony of Jack Ferver
Performance Artist
Committee on Cultural Affairs & Libraries
January 22nd, 2019
Oversight: Arts, Culture and Stonewall 50

The queer is not only told they are unnatural but that they have chosen to be so. It is a particular kind of hatred and annihilation that the queer receives with this one-two punch. The result of this shattering trauma creates a slipperiness of self. This fragmentation, this relentless brokenness that continuously seeks stability and fails, is very much inside my work. My performers and I drop and shift into various roles, or at times are holding numerous roles all at once. Selves and psyches shift, collapse, and return as something else inside my performances. I find this state of ever changing performativity more truthful to life than characters that remain a blunt object of their creator.

In our current cultural climate, I feel it is ever more important to expose the shattered qualities of the psyche resulting from violence, along with a wildness and abandon found in play. Play becomes a political act when performed in an environment of hatred and disdain. Certainly *Pride* is iconic in this act.

I also want to say that every day I recognize my existence as an artist and a queer person in the long shadow of the AIDS crisis. That during the AIDS crisis we were also hit with the NEA 4, the resulting restructuring of the NEA, and that funding and support ripple effect on both the right and left side, is not lost on me. Many artists in my generation regard themselves as parentless children. The children of murdered parents. There is a canyon, an emptiness. Nothing can fill it. To be a parentless child can mean many things. For myself, it means trying to be something I didn't have, which is a foundational base of my teaching practice. It also means to live with and to make from that haunted loneliness.



Tuesday, January 22nd Council Hearing

NYC Pride (Heritage of Pride) is committed to putting LGBTQIA+ artists in the forefront in 2019. We are happy to announce that we have secured funding to execute a massive mural project for WorldPride. The WorldPride Mural Project will consist of a minimum of 50 murals in all 5 boroughs. The project will consist of murals, sculptures, pop up art, beautification projects and more.

NYC Pride can not do this alone! The first step to executing a project of this magnitude is securing a project manager. We have been in talks with a local art collective to take on this responsibility and we are happy to report that the contract is 90% signed. The art collective will be working with other art based organizations, city agencies and community leaders to execute this project in full by June 17th 2019.

The production process will consist of the following:

- Securing the artists both local + international
- Securing insurance
- Securing walls (permitting, building agreements, communicating with local community bids & leaders, etc)
- Art mockups/approvals
- Securing supplies
- Production on walls
- Video/Photo content during the process
- NYC Pride announcements
- Walking map production
- Launch party event

NYC Pride will work closely with the art collective (project manager) to ensure the success of all artwork. All artists, walls, mock ups, etc will be approved by NYC Pride. We will ensure that all artists are LGBTQIA+ and/or allies of the community. The project will ultimately give these artists a larger platform during one of the most important years for the community and provide an artistic point of view that will touch on numerous relevant topics.

We are confident that the WorldPride Mural Project will be an amazing addition to our core events such as the March, Pridefest and Pride Island. NYC Pride is currently producing 25+ events and initiatives to commemorate WorldPride & Stonewall 50 in June. Learn more about the official events via www.stonewall50.org.

Blueprints to Freedom: an ode to Bayard Rustin

by Michael Benjamin Washington

Movement Two, Section One.

Bayard Rustin, cast to the shadows by the leaders of civil rights movement and his star protege, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has two months to plan the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and “paint a portrait that will age gracefully over time” for the 75th birthday of his mentor, A. Philip Randolph. Can Rustin and King repair their fractured bond in time?

BAYARD Last night after I finished my calendar, I went to witness the million-dollar paycheck Ms. Elizabeth Taylor has tucked in her pocketbook. The chronicles of the young Queen of Egypt as she resists the imperialist ambitions of Rome. Whilst banished from our movement here at home, I went to Rome. Then to Egypt, which is in Africa. Then to protest nuclear testing in the Sahara Desert, also in Africa. You know what amazes me, Minister? It amazes me that in Africa— with OUR people— same hue, same hair, same noses and the like, OUR people— seem to concern themselves with only one characteristic concerning me. My ability. My ability to speak the truth and speak it to the highest power. Speak Truth To Power, we’d chant. My ability to organize. To live my birthright as a Quaker. To live and teach the true meaning of Jesus Christ, not just preach it from a pulpit. When I was passed over as the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which I set up so you could speak as the head and not the tail, I played it humbly. Wasn’t my time. When it was time to excuse myself from the movement because of the threat I’d be exposed..., I did so gracefully. Eventually I fell back into the good graces, or at least the tolerance, of Leadership. But when you dismissed me from the movement because of A LIE! An intentional falsehood concocted by a rival Negro leader. A Congressman. A minister, who functioned under the direct command of the leaders of the House and the Senate, you never thought for a second to spare me! You let Adam Clayton Powell remove me from the movement because of A LIE!

MARTIN When Adam threatened to expose you and me as homosexual lovers, I had one choice. He did concoct a lie. I did turn against you. We have been derailed. But that was two years ago and God has brought you and me back together— not to agree on the past or even understand it, but to be mature and God fearing enough to overcome our differences. Something happened inside that jail cell in Birmingham, Bayard. Something has shifted in me, shifting in me the wrong way.

RATTLESTICK PLAYWRIGHTS THEATER

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Testimony by Rattlestick Playwrights Theater

Hearing for the Oversight - Arts, Culture and Stonewall 50
Presenters: Daniella Topol, Artistic Director of Rattlestick Playwrights Theater
Doug Nevin, Co-Festival Producer of "Pride Plays"

Daniella Topol

Good afternoon Chairman Van Bramer and Members of the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations.

My name is Daniella Topol, Artistic Director of Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and I will shortly turn this over to Doug Nevin, producer of Pride Plays, a festival of LGBTQAI+ work at Rattlestick in late June.

Rattlestick is located on Waverly Place in the heart of the West Village. We are a 24-year old theater that is dedicated to producing ambitious new works and we are very committed to giving voice to LGBTQAI+ artists and subject matters. To this end, some of our notable past productions include Jonathan Tolins' *Last Sunday in June* and *Buyer and Cellar* starring Michael Urie, *Lewiston/Clarkston* by Samuel D. Hunter, Mashuq Deen's *Draw the Circle*, and *mylingerieplay* by Diana Oh. And we are currently in development for our fall 2019 production of a new play about St. Vincent's Hospital.

We believe in creating an inclusive space for community to gather and engage with ambitious and dynamic theatrical work that inspires conversation and leads to positive social change. It is for these reasons that we are very excited about our partnership with Doug Nevin and Michael Urie, who are the creators and producers of "Pride Plays", a festival that will be happening at Rattlestick from June 21-24 in conjunction with Stonewall50 and World Pride.

And now it is my pleasure to introduce Doug Nevin.

Doug Nevin

Thank you, Daniella, and what a pleasure it is to meet all of you. As Daniella mentioned, my name is Doug Nevin, and I am a theater producer and entertainment lawyer in New York. I counsel Broadway producers and productions and when I am not doing this, I am advocating for artists and working to develop new talent and voices. As Daniella mentioned, Michael Urie and I are co producing directors of Pride Plays. Michael is a renowned, award winning actor who recently starred in the revival of Harvey Fierstein's *TORCH SONG* on Broadway and prior to that, *BUYER & CELLAR* and *UGLY*

BETTY. Michael and I, along with our Festival Director Nick Mayo, are collaborating with Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, on a four-day theater festival celebrating theatrical pride. In particular, we aim to explore the twin legacies of the theater and the gay rights movement, to examine how they've intersected and indeed supported and enhanced one another.

We will shine a spotlight on plays and artists who have left their mark on our community and contributed to our legacy. Our desire is to bring awareness to the artists who have shaped and continue to shape our culture through a prideful celebration of their theatrical work. This will include seminal works worth revisiting, pieces by artists lost too soon, and a showcase for the next generation of LGBTQIA+ voices.

We are in the process of assembling a force of LGBTQIA+ artists -- writers, producers, directors, actors, designers -- who will join us in exploring how pride pulsates through the theater of the last 50 years. We hope to create a uniquely New York City event, where community members of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, orientations and age can come together to be entertained, to learn and to engage. Audience members can expect to hear readings of plays such as William Hoffman's AIDS drama AS IS and Michael Benjamin's new play about the marginalized, gay leader of the Civil Rights movement which you heard an excerpt earlier this afternoon. You can also expect musical moments, symposiums of leading lights and emerging voices, and a variety of reflections on what pride means to you.

We can't wait to celebrate 50 years of Stonewall and of pride by doing what theater does best: bring people together.



NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project

Making an invisible history visible

www.nyclgbtsites.org

New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations
Oversight Hearing: Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – Council Chambers, City Hall

Testimony Presented by the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project
Ken Lustbader, Co-Director, ken@nyclgbtsites.org, 917-848-1776

Good afternoon, Chair Van Bramer and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important topic and the upcoming celebrations. I'm Ken Lustbader, a co-founder and co-director of the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, a cultural heritage initiative and educational resource that is comprehensively identifying, cataloging, and interpreting sites connected to LGBT history and culture in New York City.

Launched in 2015 by preservation professionals, the project seeks to make an invisible history visible by identifying historic LGBT locations that establish a visceral link to the city's past on what has been a largely unknown narrative. Beyond the already recognized Stonewall, we are identifying hundreds of existing sites from the city's early days to 2000 that illustrate the richness of its LGBT history and the community's contributions to American culture.

Our project website features an interactive map with over 150 historic site profiles that interpret places of importance to LGBT history. We also have a robust social media presence at @nyclgbtsites. The project is advocating for the local designation of LGBT sites such as the Walt Whitman Residence in Brooklyn, nominating LGBT sites to the National Register of Historic Places, and developing educational programs. Last year, we completed is an LGBT walking tour of Greenwich Village for the National Park Service distributed at the Stonewall National Monument.

Leading up to and through Stonewall 50, we will be engaging the public on the topic of LGBT heritage through presentations, lectures, events, and tours. These will include traditional talks on LGBT place-based history, events such as LGBT trivia nights, LGBT walking tours of neighborhoods, and LGBT Rainbow Pride flaggings at Green-Wood and Woodlawn cemeteries. Thanks to a grant through the City Council, we will also be conducting up to 20 presentations in the New York City Public School system about the city's LGBT place-based history. We are currently drafting LGBT-related National Register nominations for the James Baldwin Residence on the Upper West Side and the Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea. Lastly, we are working on an LGBT history walking tour app, to be launched in May, which will be used by New Yorkers and tourists to explore LGBT historic locations in all five boroughs.

We look forward to celebrating Stonewall 50 through the physical fabric of New York City's LGBT culture. By making this invisible history visible, tangible place-based LGBT heritage has the power to provide a connection to what is often an unknown and invisible past, and provide intangible benefits of pride, memory, identity, continuity, and community.

Thank you.



STONEWALL 50 MARCH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Ann Northrop, Reclaim Pride Coalition • ReclaimPrideNYC.org • 212-727-8674 • annnorth@earthlink.net

We gather today to discuss our plans to celebrate the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion and the vast progress we have made in the last 50 years. And celebrate we should.

But we gather on a day when the Supreme Court of the United States has told the President of the United States that he can prevent transgender people from serving in the United States military, although tens of thousands have served and continue to serve with distinction. We have a very long way to go.

Millions of LGBTQIATS+ people have fought for centuries to bring us to this place. And let me emphasize the verb. We have FOUGHT. We have demonstrated in the streets, come out to our friends and families and bosses to demand respect in the workplace and in schools. We have fought for our dignity and our rights in the medical system and on the sports field and, yes, in the military. Not to mention fighting to be alive in the onslaught of HIV and AIDS. And, maybe most of all, we have had to fight for our own self-respect in the face of a world telling us we are sick, disgusting, law-breaking human beings. It is a wonder that any of us have survived.

So I think we've won the right to celebrate ourselves. But the fight is far from over. In this city, the NYPD still harasses and illegitimately arrests transgender youth for "walking while trans" and a restaurant in the Meatpacking District hassles and ejects gay patrons. While we've made some progress addressing our issues in the schools, if anyone here thinks that our schools are safe places for most of our young people please stand up. In this country, there is no federal non-discrimination law covering sexual orientation or gender identity or expression and the Trump administration has systematically shredded and repealed the rules and regulations that protected us—while elevating the concept of "religious freedom" to insane heights specifically to hurt us.

Internationally, we see fundamentalists attacking, brutalizing, and killing LGBTQ people in Chechnya, Indonesia, and Kenya—with the complicity of their governments. The new President of Brazil, hailed by Trump, is a "proud homophobe." The government of Egypt has just jailed a TV newscaster for interviewing a gay man. Brexit, if fulfilled, may deprive United Kingdom LGBTQ residents of the protections they currently enjoy under European Union rules. And major faith groups—many of which receive millions of dollars in grants from this Council to perform what are supposed to be public services available to all—teach their followers and their children that homosexuality is evil and disordered.

This is a very brief review. There is, of course, good news, too. But we at Reclaim Pride believe that we are still in the midst of the fight, not at the end. So we believe the appropriate way to mark the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion is not with the corporate floats in Heritage of Pride's Pride Parade. Nor is it with the over-barricading and over-policing of that event by a New York Police Department that has yet to apologize for its assaults on LGBTQ people 50 years ago and beyond—the precipitating act, after all, for the Stonewall Rebellion.

Reclaim Pride will mark this moment with a joyful, angry, creative, political Stonewall 50 March for Human Rights and Social Justice, on Sunday, June 30th. We will march from the Stonewall to Central Park for a Rally on the Great Lawn following the route of the first Christopher Street Liberation Day march in 1970. And every step of the way we will remember and honor our ancestors and recommit ourselves to the FIGHT for liberation and justice.



Testimony of the
Queer Urban Orchestra
before the
New York City Council
Cultural Affairs Committee
on
Stonewall 50!

January 22, 2019
City Hall – Council Chambers New York, NY

The Queer Urban Orchestra (QUO) is a flourishing community-based ensemble with a loyal following. This year, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, marks our 10th anniversary as New York City's only symphony orchestra serving the needs of the LGBTQIA community. These anniversaries have a special resonance, for they come at a historical moment when authoritarian governments around the world are threatening to turn back the clock and undo the steady advances of the gay liberation movement.

For this occasion, **QUO is planning its annual “Gayla” concert** at our home, the Church of the Holy Apostles in Chelsea on June 21 at 8:00pm. **QUO is inviting queer musicians from around the United States and abroad to be part of this concert benefiting our orchestra.** The first combined rehearsal will be on June 19, with another on June 20 followed by a get-acquainted party to welcome the visiting musicians.

The Gayla, which marks the end of our 2018-19 “Queer We Are” season and will feature cabaret star Molly Pope as host and include music from Bernstein's West Side Story and Gershwin's An American in Paris.

We want to underscore the importance of this event for QUO and for the LGBTQIA musical community at large: There is no better vehicle than music to strengthen then bonds among communities that are still fighting for acceptance and the most basic human rights.

Queer Urban Orchestra
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**Testimony of
Richard Wenthon, AARP New York
Graduate Social Work Intern**

**New York City Council
Committee on Cultural Affairs,
Libraries, and International
Intergroup Relations
Oversight – Arts, Culture, and
Stonewall 50**

**Support for LGBT NYC Events
Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**Council Chambers – City Hall
New York, New York**

Contact: Richard Wenthon (212) 407-3745 | rwenthon@aarp.org

Good afternoon. My name is Richard Wenthien and I am a graduate social work intern at AARP New York completing my degree at NYU. On behalf of AARP's nearly 38 million members nationwide, almost 900,000 of whom self-identify as LGBT, as well as our 800,000 members in New York City, I thank you for the opportunity to share our views and intentions for the 50th anniversary of Stonewall and WorldPride 2019.

New York City's population is aging. Nearly one-third of residents is over the age of 50 and that group is expected to grow by nearly 20% between 2010 and 2040. The growth for the 65-plus age group is projected to be even more dramatic, with an expected 40% increase in that same time period of 30 years. Here in Manhattan, the 65-plus population is expected to increase 37% in just the 15 years between 2015 and 2030.

We know from our recent report, *Maintaining Dignity: Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Facing Older LGBT Americans*, that LGBT people age 45 and older have concerns specific to their sexual and gender identities as they live and age. 34% are concerned they may need to hide their identities to have access to suitable housing. About 40% are concerned their LGBT identities will affect the quality of healthcare they receive, compounded with racial discrimination for those with intersectional identities. 50% of older LGBT adults are only "somewhat optimistic" that the problems they face today will be rectified

What we do here can and will affect the national discourse and perception of how to best support the LGBT community. We have tremendous opportunity and responsibility in this historic year to lead by example and elevate the greater social understanding of our community. For AARP, Stonewall 50 and WorldPride NYC mean the development of important partnerships and programs we can potentially bring nationwide by engaging in this city's rich LGBT culture. We are very thankful to the New York City Council for your ongoing support and we look forward to building an age-friendly and successful WorldPride together.

Thank you.



Intergenerational storytelling to
preserve the history of the
LGBTQ Movement

Wes Enos
Executive Director

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**The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule Prepared Statement to the NYC
Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International
Intergroup Relations**

January 22, 2019

By Wes Enos

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon to the members of the New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations and to all of my fellow appreciators of history who are here today to help commemorate the historical 50th Anniversary of Stonewall. My name is Wes Enos and I am the founder and Executive Director of The Generations Project, a fiscally sponsored nonprofit organization based here in New York City. The Generations Project preserves the history of the LGBTQ+ Movement and promotes intergenerational support through storytelling. Our teams facilitate intergenerational workshops and film live storytelling events to document and share the history of the LGBTQ+ Movement to people of all ages. We have made it a priority to not just celebrate Pride during Pride months, but to memorialize the journeys that have led us to where we are today all year long.

THE STONEWALL 50 TIME CAPSULE

Imagine if there were a time capsule from the year 1969 created for the communities of New York City that contained messages, stories, photos, and wishes from those who helped spark the LGBTQ+ Movement. What if up to 1,000 LGBTQ+ groups in this 2019 year each received an envelope created in 1969 from someone who directly experienced the impact of the Stonewall Rebellion? What lessons would we learn? What stories could be inspired to share with others?

For the 50th Anniversary of Stonewall, The Generations Project is utilizing our intergenerational platform and cross-generational programs to build The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule, which will be stored for 50 years until it is opened for the 100th Anniversary of Stonewall in the year 2069. The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule will be a physical manifestation of the LGBTQ+ Movement captured through the perspectives of people of all ages.

From now until June 2020, The Generations Project is engaging groups and individuals to collect, donate, and/or generate primary resources (photos, hand-written memories, diaries, etc.) to be sealed in manilla-sized envelopes through three avenues:

1). Participating in The Generations Project workshops or attending one of our live storytelling events. Portable photo printers and prompts will be available.

2). Prompted Do-It-Yourself Free-writes with Photos:

“In Regard to the LGBTQ+ Movement...”

(A) Write a letter to someone living in 2069 who will be holding your current job position, a position you once held, or about a job position you hope exists or does not exist. (B) Write a letter to your future self, younger self, or anyone in the future (C) Describe a unique experience you had with or as an LGBTQ+ person.

3). Group Projects – that explore the History of (A) Organizations (B) Neighborhoods, and (C) Individuals.”

We will collect community generated content between June 2019 and June 2020. The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule will be sealed in June 2020 to commemorate the first march in 1970 by the Gay Liberation Front.



Intergenerational storytelling to
preserve the history of the
LGBTQ Movement

All participants who contribute to building The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule will receive a Golden Ticket to the 2069 Stonewall 50 Time Capsule Opening Party. Within their lifetimes, Golden Ticket recipients will be encouraged to attend the 2069 Opening Party, or pass their Golden Ticket to someone to attend in their place, creating unique intergenerational opportunities for the LGBTQ+ community .

The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule will contain detailed instructions for a special committee to be formed during or before 2068 under the discretion of (A) The Generations Project, Inc., (B) The Stonewall 50 Consortium or (C) The largest collective group of LGBTQ+ organizations collaborating together to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Stonewall. Unless a more suitable location is secured, The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule will reside at The LGBT Center's Archives.

GETTING INVOLVED

You can visit our website at thegenerationsproject.org to learn more about joining an intergenerational storytelling workshop, attending a live storytelling event, or to state your intention to contribute to The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule. More instructions can be provided after you state your intention to contribute to the Stonewall 50 Time Capsule.

We will have up to six, live storytelling events between Spring 2019 and Summer 2020 with each event inviting up to 350 people to preserve these potential subject matters related to the LGBTQ+ Movement:

“Summer of 1969 Show” - Featuring storytellers exploring the
Summer that sparked the LGBTQ+ Movement

“The 90s Show” - Featuring 90+ year olds mixed with people born in
the 1990s

“The Allies Show” - Featuring allies across the generations

THE GENERATIONS PROJECT

Intergenerational storytelling to
preserve the history of the
LGBTQ Movement

“On 9/11 Show” - Including LGBTQ+ perspectives to the world-wide
historical event on September 11th, 2001

“Things Left Behind” - Featuring stories and photos of important
“things” that have been left behind from passed
LGBTQ+ persons and allies

“Friendships and Love” - Featuring pictures and stories of
friendships and love admired in our communities

“Coming to America” - Featuring LGBTQ+ American Immigrants
ranging from tenth generation LGBTQ+
Americans to first generation LGBTQ+ Americans.

“Pink Triangles” - LGBTQ+ History has a history of being erased

Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson have agreed to write letters to those holding their respective positions in 2069. I'd like to take this moment to invite the New York City Council and all persons in attendance to join The Generations Project in building The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule. Just by being here today, each of your perspectives bring an invaluable addition to understanding the history of the LGBTQ+ Movement.

Personally, I believe the history of the LGBTQ+ Movement will one day be intertwined with the History of Intersectionality. With that said, I call upon our proud lesbians, trans-brothers, trans-sisters, gay or queer people, any gender non-conforming individuals, pansexuals, bisexuals, those of any ethnicity, or any ally whatsoever to the LGBTQ+ Movement, to join The Generations Project in this effort in building The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule. We need your help to ensure The Stonewall 50 Time Capsule holds an authentic collection of perspectives that represent an accurate portrayal of the LGBTQ+ Movement.

Thank you all!



Queens Pride
PO Box 720464
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Statement to the New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations

Introduction

Good Afternoon and Thank you to the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations for the opportunity to testify about the important work of Queens Pride and our up and coming work surrounding World Pride and Stonewall 50. Thank you for organizing this event to highlight the upcoming events surrounding this historic time.

On behalf of the Queens Pride Committee and Board we look forward to your support as we work to promote equality, inclusivity, education, and create safe spaces for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals throughout the borough of Queens.

History overview

Queens Pride promotes awareness and education among and of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community of Queens, New York.

Our founders were provoked to organize the Queens Pride parade and festival by the murder of Julio Rivera and discrimination in our local schools. These events brought the LGBTQ* community of Queens together to achieve respect, and in doing so, identified a need to take advocacy to the streets.

Our first Queens Pride march was held in 1993, and since, our parade and festival have grown tremendously. We now attract more than 40,000 spectators and are the second largest Pride celebration in the New York metropolitan area. Queens Pride continues to promote the visibility and accomplishments of the LGBTQ* community and to foster acceptance by the many cultures and religions represented in our borough.

In addition to the parade and festival, our group works to foster youth, older adult, cultural, and social programming and to engage our elected officials on issues pertinent to the LGBTQ* community. We host various programs, community outreach and our annual Winter Pride Dinner Dance.

Many volunteers and dedicated individuals assist to bring about the annual parade and festival along with the other programs and events throughout the year.

World Pride; Stonewall 50

Queens Pride, the organizer of the 2019 Pride Parade and Festival held in Jackson Heights, Queens, NY, welcomes you to celebrate the 27th parade and festival. First held in 1993, the fight for social justice and the celebration of community continues with this wonderful display of visibility and pride. In 2019, we will be celebrating WORLD PRIDE, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Over the years the parade and festival have grown and evolved to where today, we help to connect people within the community to various equality, social justice, health and educational organizations. With this outreach, the benefits are immeasurable in the many ways people have been helped to be themselves and live better lives. This year is a special year for Queens Pride as we will be rolling out a calendar of events surrounding the month of World Pride. With the collaboration of various LGBTQ* groups and allied partnerships; we look to bring awareness, visibility and inclusive safe spaces for our community members to celebrate who they are across the many intersectionalities within our borough.

Community events

Queens Pride will be headlining three large events along with numerous partnership events throughout the month of June in honor and celebration of World Pride and Stonewall 50.

- **Queer Prom:** For many LGBTQ* young people, the excitement of prom season may be overwhelmed by concerns that they may not feel welcome, or worse, might be actively excluded from their prom due to their identity and/or gender expression. Prom is meant to be a blissful occasion and remains an important rite of passage for many youth across the country. Queer prom will be an affirming space where every young person can make memories that last a lifetime. This unique event will draw hundreds of young people from throughout the borough for an evening of radical acceptance, fun, and creativity.
- **Family Block Party:** Our LGBTQ* Family Block Party looks to celebrate and foster the community of our LGBTQ* families in the borough. Queens Pride and its partners will provide activities that celebrate individuality and family and provide a space that includes music, arts and crafts, bounce house fun, an array of family friendly activities, bubble fun, and Drag Queen Story hour.
- **LGBTQ* Film Fest:** An LGBTQ* film festival gives voice, visibility, inclusiveness, and awareness to a variety of LGBTQ* experiences by supporting films, storytellers, and engaging audiences in order to inspire dialogue, shift bias and empower our diverse community. Queens Pride is currently in dialogue with Queens World Film Festival directors and various smaller film directors in Queens to bring an array of LGBTQ* films and stories to the screens and stages of our community. Queens Pride is looking to further its visibility by supporting and promoting a broad array of cultural representations and artistic expressions in film, video and other media arts.

Conclusion

Our organization looks to do more than just put on the annual LGBTQ* parade and festival in the borough of Queens, we are looking to continue the work with our community partners to provide education, awareness and visibility to the ever growing LGBTQ* community.

During this year our goals are to provide the following:

- **Build on strengths and community:** To create visibility among the marginalized identities within the LGBTQ community, to empower individuals whose voices are often unheard, and to create an opportunity to build community with other members throughout the borough.
- **Invest in intergenerational LGBTQ* development:** Providing the opportunity to recognize shared humanity and the need to be inclusive and welcoming of all people – regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. These efforts will help create new bonds that will dramatically improve the broader community to assist in communicating across generations of the LGBTQ* community. Integrating our intergenerational community is an important step to breaking down barriers across our generations. By joining generations together, and creating an innovative educational service to foster and build community.
- **Create inclusive safe space:** To ensure comfort, safety and inclusivity to all members of the LGBTQ* community and to provide positive and affirming programming, services and resources. Safe and inclusive spaces profoundly preserve and empower our society. These valued spaces are collective efforts, whose recipients own an equal stake in.

As a city who empowers and highlights diversity and equality, we look forward to our work together and your continued support as we get closer to this historic moment in time. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions regarding this testimony.

Sincerely,
Queens Pride Committee and Board



Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations
Oversight: Arts, Culture, and Stonewall 50
January 22, 2019

Testimony of
Chelsea Goldinger, Government Relations Manager
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
New York, NY

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER**
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THE CENTER

My name is Chelsea Goldinger, and I am the Government Relations Manager at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, commonly referred to as The Center, located in the West Village.

New York City's LGBTQ community formed The Center in 1983 in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, ensuring a place for LGBTQ people to access the information, care, and support they were not receiving elsewhere. Today, The Center has become the largest LGBTQ community center on the East Coast, where we host over 400 community group meetings each month and welcome over 6,000 individuals each week. We are proud to offer services to New Yorkers across the 5 boroughs, ensuring that all LGBTQ New Yorkers can call The Center home. The Center has a solid track record of working for and with the community to increase access to a diverse range of high-quality services and resources, including our services for LGBTQ immigrants, substance use recovery programming for adults and youth, economic justice initiatives, and our youth leadership and engagement programs.

I would like to begin by thanking the committee for convening a hearing on this important topic. The 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots is a monumental event not only for New York City's LGBTQ community, but for the LGBTQ community nationwide. As such, we are looking forward to working with LGBTQ organizations and community members throughout the City to ensure a successful series of events, both to honor the memory of Stonewall, as well as to celebrate World Pride.

For The Center, the 50th anniversary of Stonewall is especially meaningful. The Center supported the advocacy effort that led to the creation of The Stonewall National Monument. After the Monument was officially designated, The Center began serving as the lead LGBTQ community organization throughout the process, working with the National Parks Service and the National Parks Foundation to help tell the rich civil rights history of the Stonewall Riots. We are currently working with the National Park Service to become an Official Partner Group for The Monument.

Given our long history of working on The Stonewall National Monument, we are excited to share a special project that will be launched to honor the anniversary of the riots, titled "Stonewall Forever." This project, executed in partnership with Google and the National Park Foundation, will include a fully digital monument online, as well as a digital experience accessible at the physical Monument.

Stonewall Forever aims to honor the memory of Stonewall as a long term community gathering space by recreating a virtual community gathering space online. By doing so, we will highlight how New York City and New York State serve as the cradle of the LGBTQ civil rights movement. Through the project, we will record and harness community stories, both past and present, to propel LGBTQ civil rights forward, amplify the community's voice, and provide a unique educational experience.

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THE CENTER

Stonewall Forever will transform and scale the reach of The Monument from a physical location into a shared experience through the use of digital platforms and technologies, creating community outreach that amplifies forgotten voices, educates generations, and propels LGBTQ civil rights forward on a national and international scale.

Through the project, The Center will:

- Increase awareness of the significance of Stonewall in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights.
- Broaden the story of Stonewall as one that continues through today by chronicling its impact on diverse community members who did not experience Stonewall first-hand and featuring community-generated content.
- Utilize technology in new ways to reach the LGBTQ community world-wide.
- Leverage partnerships, including the talent and employee interest of Google staff, to create an innovative experience centered at The Monument.
- Connect Stonewall to the broader U.S. civil rights struggle.

In addition to Stonewall Forever, The Center will also be hosting “All the Colors of Pride,” a fun and interactive photo booth exhibit. Participants will step inside the photo booth and be able to claim a color that is uniquely their own for the duration of World Pride. Each participant will be given a unique color, demonstrating the diversity and individuality of the LGBTQ community.

Finally, The Center is also in the early planning stages of other community events to honor Stonewall’s 50th anniversary. We will continue to keep community members updated as these plans move forward. We welcome the opportunity to discuss citywide plans regarding Stonewall 50, and we look forward to working with the Administration and City Council to ensure a successful 2019 World Pride.

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LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

Gratitude and Introduction

Good morning Council Member [Van Bramer](#), honored guests, and members of the NYC Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and International Intergroup Relations. My name is Sasha Spielvogel and I am the Artistic Director and Founder of Labyrinth Dance Theater, a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit charitable organization.

Foundations

In 1979 when I came to New York City, I founded my dance company because I wanted to explore the labyrinth of emotions and experiences we encounter throughout life. There are the depths of doubt we experience in the trials we face and the unbearable pain of loss, especially when we can't understand or reason it away. There is also the incredible hope and joy we are capable of knowing and sharing, despite – or sometimes even because of – our greatest sorrows.

Performing with a number of dance companies before and after I witnessed the Yom Kippur War first hand when I was living in Israel, and my grandfather being a Holocaust survivor, I always felt a creative hunger to deeply explore the many strong and conflicting emotions of human existence. And I wanted to explore them through Dance. Over the years I have had the distinction and pleasure of collaborating with a number of incredible composers, dancers, and designers, creating original pieces which received wide acclaim and several awards at international festivals and performances in Helsinki, London, Paris, Edinburgh, India, and of course here at home in New York.

In focusing on themes of social justice and human dignity, exploring desire and addiction, grief and ecstasy, and finally, the redemption of our all-too-human hearts, the purpose of Labyrinth's work is to create theatrical pieces that are both personal, psychological, and spiritual journeys which study the nobility, frailty and intensity of our emotions.

LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

Why we Are Here

By a miracle, my Viennese family was able to get my grandfather out of Dachau and Buchenwald. His experience however of being abused and imprisoned, watching hundreds around him murdered while the world turned a blind eye, has been an unavoidably formative part of my life's journey. His experience, the terrible and awful experience of so many in that time, being treated as "other" and "less than", is one of the darker and more egregious trials I address and wrestle with through my choreography. It is directly relatable to what so many are tragically facing today.

The need to hide one's true identity out of fear, the fear of persecution, fearing for one's safety simply because of a part of one's identity that one has no control over; the lessons of these trials cannot be overstated. The LGBT community has valiantly faced and overcome these trials in the last 50 plus years. The persistence and bravery of the gay rights movement, and the need to remain vigilant in pursuing rights and freedoms is at the heart of why I created **Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye**.

Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye, is an evening-length theatrical dance performance which tells the story of the gay community from 1965-1995 in New York City. The piece takes us from the early Gay Rights Movement with the historic Sip-In at the Julius Bar to the uprising at Stonewall, and through the enduring widespread apathy, abject hysteria, and horrific loss of the AIDS epidemic.

Through the stunning performances of 30 seasoned dancers, singers and musicians, we experience the indomitable resolve of those who tirelessly and defiantly faced society's siege against them with humor, bravery and compassion. I base the piece partly on conversations I've had with friends who themselves, like myself, lost so many in that time. I had the great fortune of getting to know Dick Leitsch, the legendary President of the famed Mattachine Society before he passed away last June. I have also spoken with Tree, the present bartender at Stonewall, who was at the uprising on June 28th, 1969.

It is my hope that for those who lived through this epoch, **Come Back Once More** will be an opportunity to honor and celebrate the memory of loved ones lost.

For younger generations it is an important and timely reminder that being able to live authentically as an LGBTQ person is historically **very** recent. It is not a guaranteed right. It is only thanks to the hard-fought battles of those who came before us that the

LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

community today can speak up and live authentically, publicly, and unafraid. As we face the countless political trials ahead, we can and must remember their relentless commitment and bravery.

Who We Are

The company is composed of dancers and musicians who come from all over the world and have had successful careers in major contemporary dance and international ballet companies, as solo artists, and on Broadway. It is important to me that each dancer be an extraordinary performer, as each role on stage is symbolic of real people who fought real battles, knew great love, and felt great loss.

My principal dancers, board members and board of advisors are amongst the most tremendous people in the business; professors at world-renowned colleges, designers and producers, choreographers of Broadway hits, featured performers in movies and television, and principal dancers known for their work with dance companies like Alvin Ailey and Martha Graham. The quality and level of excellence my company brings together is uniquely positioned in this important and exiting time to bring Stonewall's anniversary to life through this project. We want this moment in the history of our nation's progress to be forever memorialized, cherished, and genuinely felt.

Our Goals

If funding and partnerships allow, we would like to invite NYC's most vulnerable LGBTQ youth to join us for free, to live the history with us, to better understand the legacy of the community's culture, the tears, trials and triumphs that brought us to where we are today. We hope viewing our performance might become part of a course of study for public schools focused on the depth and impact of events in the gay rights movement. We are dedicating proceeds from each of our four performances of **COME BACK ONCE MORE SO I CAN SAY GOODBYE** to an LGBTQ youth or HIV-related service organization or non-profit.

In so many ways we are closer to the cusp of real full national equality for LGBTQ people and stepping away from the ancient and terrible practice of "othering" each other, but there are many battles still ahead. Like our forefathers and mothers of the Stonewall riots and AIDS epidemic did, demanding equality in kick-lines and song, we want to face the trials ahead with bravery and compassion.

LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

Aubrey Lynch said, "To touch, to move, to inspire. This is the true gift of dance."

George Santayana said, "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it."

I believe the lives we enjoy (and yes, still fight for) are the gifts of what began with a guarded purr, became a rally cry at Stonewall, and today is helping to make society slowly but surely a better place for all of us. It's the wave of the future, made of memories good and bad, the persistence of virtue and respect, and dangerous only to those who would oppose the arc of progress, the power of living truthfully, and love itself.

Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye will be performed on June 14th – 17th at the Alvin Ailey Dance Center on West 55th Street, NYC. The theatre seats two hundred audience members and we will be working with charity and media partners in heavily advertising all four performances. We will be hosting a number of fundraising events and starting a crowdfunding campaign to help us gather funds to support our project. We appreciate your taking the time today to conscientiously support the important work of artists contributing to the birthday of the modern LGBTQ rights movement and – like only art can – echo and invigorate all that this special occasion represents for our society's future. We hope to see you at the Alvin Ailey Theater in June and share this incredible journey with you.

LABYRINTH DANCE THEATER

Labyrinth Dance Theater

Formed in 1979, is a New York-based classically trained modern dance company, led by Artistic Director Sasha Spielvogel, which has toured extensively in the United States and internationally. In focusing on themes of social justice and human dignity, exploring desire and addiction, grief and ecstasy, and finally, the redemption of our all-too-human hearts, the purpose of Labyrinth's work is to create theatrical pieces that are both personal, psychological, and spiritual journeys which study the nobility, frailty and intensity of emotions. The company is composed of dancers and musicians that come from all over the world and have had careers in major dance companies, as solo artists and on Broadway.

Sasha Spielvogel, Founder & Artistic Director

As a child Sasha Spielvogel wanted to fly and to have a horse - dancing was, at that time, the most practical compromise between the two.

Ms. Spielvogel comes from New Haven, Connecticut and is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor who became a city planner and a mother who held a PhD in Art History from Yale University. Sasha spent two years in the Dance department of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York, lived in Israel during the Yom Kippur War, and graduated from NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. In NYC, she trained at the schools of Paul Sanasardo, Martha Graham and Jose Limon.

Early on, she danced for other choreographers and began choreographing as a means of exploring her inner universe; for her, it was the only way to satisfy a deep creative hunger.

She studied to be a Gestalt Therapist thinking she should actually earn a living, but realized that making dances was more important to her. She felt that leading an audience choreographically "through the labyrinth" and out to a place of clarity was her best means of helping people. As many of her dances come to her in a dreamlike state, she has coined a term for her method of choreographing: Snoreography!

Ms. Spielvogel is married to composer David Burger and lives in Queens. Their daughter Silkie majors in Theater at Muhlenberg College.

Repertory

Labyrinth's repertory includes: *Waltz for a Shattered World, Goya and The Sleep of Reason, Passing, Auditioning for the Celestial Follies, Entre Nosotros and Les Espaces Du Sommeil*. Ms. Spielvogel's dance film *Dark Angel*, a study of Lucifer's fall from grace which examines the origins of evil, premiered at the Orensanz Synagogue in Manhattan and the Loikka Film Festival, Helsinki, Finland. Sasha also premiered the award winning *Sacred & Blue* in Helsinki, a series of live performances with Felicia Norton and Hannu Hyttinen in 1995. Continuing our collaboration, Ms. Norton and Mr. Hyttinen recently performed *Backstreet* under Ms. Spielvogel's direction returning to Helsinki and performing for the first time in St. Petersburg.

NOOR, a 40 minute solo for Felicia Norton based on the life of Noor Inayat Khan with a score by David Majzlin (Bel Canto) received standing ovations in London, Paris, New York and Edinburgh and packed the house at St. Marks Church in November, 2016 and at Sarah Lawrence College in December, 2017. The following year, Mss. Spielvogel and Norton were invited to be artists-in-residence at the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur, India where they created a site-specific dance called *Chrysalis*. The dance describes a woman's journey from her existence as a veiled concubine in the women's quarters to her freedom of expression in the Fort's garden.

The Promise of Rest was performed at Jacob's Pillow with Michael Leon Thomas (Alvin Ailey, Lar Lubovitch, Complexions). It was created to honor all those bullied for their sexual orientation and is part of an evening length

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work, *Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye* about gay life in New York from 1965 - 1995 which premiered at the Alvin Ailey Theater in New York featuring 30 dancers, singers and musicians. As part of the evening length work, her dances *Fury*, *Quickening* with Sarita Allen (Ailey, Complexions) *Taboo* (also made into an award winning film with Ramon Flowers (Bejart, William Forsythe, *A Chorus Line* on Broadway) and *Not Even If I Try* (*Edinburgh Fringe Festival*) were included. By the end of the evening, there was not a dry eye in the house amidst cheers and a standing ovation. *Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye* will be reprised for four performances at Alvin Ailey Citgroup Theater in June of 2019.

Labyrinth Dance Theater has received grants from the Joyce Mertz Gilmore Foundation, the Harkness Foundation for Dance (three times awarded), Space grants from BAM/651 Partnership and the 92nd Street Y, the American-Scandinavian Foundation (twice awarded), the Finlandia Foundation (twice awarded), Viva Spain! and the Rita Poretzky Foundation.

Principal Dancers

RAMON FLOWERS (*Dancer*) is a full-time assistant professor at Butler University, Jordan College of the Arts. Flowers began his formal dance training on scholarship at the School for the Pennsylvania Ballet, and later attended the School of American Ballet. Four years after joining the Pennsylvania Ballet Company, as the first African-American male dancer, he moved to Europe as a principal ballet dancer with Maurice Béjart, William Forsythe, director of the Frankfurt Ballet, Nacho Duato and the Compañía Nacional de Danza de España. He returned to North America to dance with Montreal's Les Grands Ballets Canadiens. He then left Canada to return to his first love for dance, musical theatre, and was featured in several Broadway shows, including Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, *Cats*, *The Lion King*, *The Green Bird*, *The Boy From Oz*, and *Hot Feet*, as well as National Tours of *A Chorus Line*, and *The Dancer's Life* starring Chita Rivera, commercials, film, and Television.

AVIAD ARIK HERMAN (*Costume Designer, Dancer*) is the official designer for Miss Universe Sweden since 2013 and has been a professional dance artist for over 15 years. Studied Fashion design at the Swedish Art College and participated as a finalist at Sweden's annual fashion contest for promising designers. Featured at the New York Fashion week, Tel Aviv Fashion week, Malta Fashion Week, Vogue Italy and The Swedish TV & Film Awards. Herman's designs for Miss Germany 2014, Israel 2017 & Sweden 2017 were nominated Top 5 Best Costumes at Miss Universe. Designed also for Miss Austria, Denmark and Guam. Previously also designed for the National Dance Company of Spain, Ballet Nacional de Cuba, The Washington Ballet, BalletX, Whim W'him, Dominican National Ballet, Israel Ballet, Royal Swedish Ballet School, Cullberg Ballet, Ballet Mainz, Ballet Chemnitz, West Australian Ballet, Swedish Pop Band "Army of Lovers", Polish TV show "Must be the Music", Eurovision Song Contest 2018 winner NETTA, *Les Miserable* on Guam, and even for the world's most famous fashion icon - Barbie, in Mattel's original all-dance musical - "Barbie Live!".
(over)

Mr. Herman made headlines all around the world with his "Jerusalem of Gold" Dress, designed for Israel Culture Minister, Mrs. Miri Regev, at Cannes Film Festival in 2017.

Mr. Herman is also an accomplished dancer and has performed with Gothenburg Ballet, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo and has appeared in several of Ms. Spielvogel's dances.

LANCE ROBERTS (*Actor, Singer*) has performed on Broadway, television and commercials. His Broadway appearances include: *Sister Act*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *Ghost*, *the Pee Wee Herman Show*, *Finding Neverland* and *Sunset Boulevard*. He performed in *ACT ONE* and *My Fair Lady*, both at the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center. Mr. Roberts' Off-Broadway credits include *March of the Falsettos*, *Forbidden Hollywood*, *The Liquid Plain*, *Shows for Days*, Sondheim's *Saturday Night and the Robber Bridegroom* and *America* at radio City. Mr. Roberts'

L.A. credits include the original LA cast of *CATS*, *The All Night Strut*, *Forbidden Hollywood* and *I Love You...Now Change*. He has toured 44 states, Asia and Africa in *The All Night Strut*, *Forbidden Hollywood* and *I Love You...Now Change* and played Jafar for 8 years in Alan Menken's stage version of *Aladdin* at Disney's California Adventure Park. Mr. Roberts appeared in the movies, *This Is Where I Leave You*, *The Humbling*, *Fan Girl* and *I am Michael*. Mr. Roberts performed in the TV miniseries, *Show Me a Hero*. And on many TV series. He is a two-time Voice Arts Award nominee for his performance on the Western audio drama podcast, *Powder Burns*. He recently appeared in the Roundabout Theater's one-night-only benefit performance of the Gershwin musical *My One and Only* starring Sutton Foster.

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MICHAEL LEON THOMAS (*Dancer*) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance from the North Carolina School of the Arts, where he was a recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence. In 1991, he joined the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, where he gained instant recognition for his passionate performances of Alvin Ailey's *Love Song's*, Billy Wilson's *Winter in Lisbon*, Jawole Zollar's *Shelter* and Dwight Rhoden's *Frames*. He was also featured in Judith Jamison's Emmy Award-winning PBS special, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey*, performing a solo to Mr. Ailey's own words as interpreted by actress/playwright Anna Deavere-Smith. Mr. Thomas performed principal roles with a variety of dance companies, including the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company in the critically acclaimed production of *Men's Stories*, Zvi Gotheiner & Dancers, Dance Brazil, Donald Byrd/The Group's *The Harlem Nutcracker*, and *Complexions*. Program Director for the Complexions Summer Intensives in NYC and Dallas as well as Co-Director for CAS/Ailey Camp New York, Michael teaches Contemporary dance at the Ailey School, as well as dance festivals and schools both in the US and abroad. He also teaches the Horton technique at Marymount Manhattan College and Adelphi University, and Dance Composition and Choreography at LIU Post. Mr. Thomas has worked with acclaimed actress/playwright Anna Deavere Smith as movement coach for her one-woman shows, *Let Me Down Easy*, *On Grace* and *Notes From the Field - Doing Time in Education*. His newest venture, 5 Plus Ensemble will premiere in December, 2018 hosted by Carmen De Lavallade.

Board of Directors

SARITA ALLEN, a classically trained Seattle native was handpicked by Alvin Ailey and became an original member of the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble (Ailey II), and a year later joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. In her first season Ailey created leads roles for Allen in two Ellington premieres *The Mooche* (opposite Ailey veterans Judith Jamison, Estelle Spurlock, and Sara Yarborough) and *Night Creature*. She performed at international galas at The Paris Opera, the Acropolis, Great Pyramids at Giza, Kennedy Center, and the White House. Her career includes motion picture appearances in *Angel Heart*, *The Cotton Club*, the Jackson video *Torture* and choreographer for Elton John's musical *Aida*. She has also performed with Complexions and danced in Paradigm with Carmen de Lavallade, Gus Solomons Jr, Dudley Williams. She will be featured on the upcoming PBS American Masters series about Alvin Ailey.

Allen began teaching *The Revelations* Master Class in 2010 and developed the Ailey Barre. A consultant of the HBO Wellness Team, Allen designed and implemented the HBO Pilates program. Allen's wellness/fitness work has been acknowledged in various fitness publications including *Self Magazine*, *Fit Life*, and *Very Well*, the number one online fitness reference.

ELIZABETH AUCLAIR was a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company, with whom she danced for over 16 years, performing many of Ms. Grahams' seminal roles. She also performed with a number of other companies in NY and overseas, including multiple appearances, on stage and in film, with Labyrinth Dance Theater.

Ms. Auclair has taught technique, repertoire, master classes, and has staged many Graham ballets, for numerous universities, academies, and professional companies, including, Kobe College (Japan), Purchase College, Hofstra University, the Boston Conservatory, Marymount Manhattan College, the Joffrey New School, University of the Arts (Philadelphia), the Dutch National Ballet (Amsterdam), and Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro.

Elizabeth has served as Rehearsal Director for several productions and companies, including the Martha Graham Dance Company. She remains on the faculty of the Martha Graham School and continues to be an annual guest at the School of Toronto Dance Theater.

DAVID BURGER began composing professionally for Richie Havens at age 19 and wrote the charts for *Freedom* from the movie *Woodstock*. He is known for his choral works, most notably for his setting of Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech, entitled *Martin's Dream* and has written many liturgical pieces, such as *Psalms 30 and Psalmsongs*, and was the first person to deduce the pronunciation of the texts of *Psalms 151, 154 and 155* from the Dead Sea Scrolls, which he then set to music. His setting of Christina Rossetti's poem, *When I Am Dead My Dearest* (1848) was included on Northeastern University's album, *The Road Not Taken: American 20th Century Choral Music*. His works have been performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Opera and other major halls in the U.S. and abroad.

Mr. Burger has orchestrated works by David Crosby and the NBC Orchestra and has written scores for the film *Dark Angel* and for *Birthingright*, a modern ballet by choreographer Sasha Spielvogel. He wrote and directed musicals based on

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Macbeth and *Romeo and Juliet*, designed visuals for shows across the country and taught in New York schools for 35 years. His biography is included in *Who's Who in America* and in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

RUBY KORNFELD had been a fan of the Labyrinth Dance Company for decades! She is impressed by the creativity, execution and passion in the choreography as well as the social message expressed through dance and music.

Ruby has a Master's Degree in psychology from U Mass Fitchburg and a BA in psychology from Brandeis University. She has worked at AHRC New York City as director of staff training and development for 25 years and for the last six years has been the Company's policy writer. In this capacity she reviews Federal, State and New York City regulations and designs agency policies and procedures to ensure compliance with them. She works with senior management to explain expectations and to address agency specific needs. She organizes and runs senior leadership meetings.

Ruby lives in Jackson Heights, Queens and enjoys dance performances as well as art and music. She is the president of the coop board in her building and participates in decisions that affect expenditures, budgets and interviews for prospective shareholders.

ZOË MORSETTE completed her BA in Theater & Dance at Skidmore College in 1973. She worked at Michael Lessac's Colonnades Theatre Lab, developed a program of therapeutic voice and movement for Headstart on the South Ute Indian Reservation in Colorado and taught grades K-12 and modern dance for adults on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. Morsette worked as a milliner (at Radio City Music Hall) and as a shop supervisor and fabricator in the display industry.

Ms. Morsette has built props, models, costumes and puppets for fifty Broadway productions, including *Hamilton*, *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Finding Neverland*, and for dozens of commercials and print ads, feature films, television shows (including *Saturday Night Live*, *30 Rock*, *Late Night with Jimmy Fallon*), theme parks, Disney ice shows, ballets, operas and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Her work has been exhibited at Lincoln Center, Kean University, the Dyansen Gallery, Skidmore's Tang Museum, and Art-O-Mat and the Dougherty Galleries in Long Island City. Three of Morsette's sculptures have been featured in print ads that won two Gold awards and one International Best of Show in the Dimensional Illustrators Awards Show. Her best known commercial sculpture is the *Homeless Statue of Liberty in the Snow* which has been used since 1991 on the NY Cares Coat Drive poster. She was the 1997 George A. Miller Visiting Scholar at the Univ. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana and has lectured at many colleges and theatre conventions.

Board of Advisors

HELEN BUFORD is the owner and proprietor of Julius' Bar. In her words, "This is our village, a little bar at the corner of Waverly Place and West 10th Street and its name is Julius'. It's full of history, inclusion, kindness and love." Julius' is featured in the recent movies, *Can You Ever Forgive Me* and *Love is Strange*, as well as *The Normal Heart*, *Boys in the Band* and *Leave the Lights On* and the FX series *Pose*. The structure dates back to 1826 and has since been a grocery store, a speakeasy and today it's the oldest Gay bar in New York. It is now on The National Registry of Historic Places for its significance to LGBTQ history for the Julius' Sip-In, with which the Mattachine Society challenged the New York State Liquor Authority's regulation that shut down bars that were caught serving alcohol to homosexuals.

Helen has been running the bar since her husband's death in 2009. She has made Julius' a wonderful melting pot of all sexual orientations, races and any pronoun you wish to identify with. She is a supporter of the LGBTQ community and of the arts. In a world full of hate and bigotry, Helen feels people should express who they are freely and creatively without persecution or judgment.

LARRY FULLER's choreographic works include *Evita* (Broadway and London), *Sweeney Todd*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *A Doll's Life* and the American premiere of Kurt Weill's *Silverlake* for the New York City Opera. He directed and choreographed the musical *Love*, which won two Outer Critics Awards for Best Book and Best Musical Score, and *Gotta Get Away* at Radio City Music Hall. His non-musical directorial credits include *Oscar Remembered* at the Provincetown Playhouse and *Invitation to the Dance* at American Theater of Actors.

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In Europe, he directed and choreographed the first European productions of *Candide*, *Girl Crazy* and *On the Town* and four German productions of *West Side Story*. He worked on the films *A Little Night Music*, starring Elizabeth Taylor, and *The Boarding School*, starring Nastassja Kinski. At the Theatre An Der Wien, in Vienna, he created the highly successful dance evening, *Jazz and the Dancing Americans*, and *Humors of Man* for the London Festival Ballet. Also, in London he directed and choreographed the West End hits *Marilyn, the Musical* and *Time*.

Mr. Fuller received a Tony Award nomination for outstanding choreography for *Evita*, a Los Angeles Drama Critics Award for Distinguished Choreography, two New York Critics Circle Awards for his work in *Sweeney Todd* and *Evita* and a New York Television Academy Award for choreographing the TV series, *Our American Musical Heritage*. He has twice staged and choreographed the Tony and Emmy Awards, Fuller's credits also include the musical staging for the first national tour of *Jekyll and Hyde*, directing and choreographing three national tours of *Evita*, the world premiere of *JFK - A Musical Drama* and *On Your Toes* with the Stuttgart Ballet.

STUART HODES is an American dancer, choreographer, dance teacher, administrator and author. In addition to being Martha Graham's dance partner, Hodes danced on Broadway, television, film and with his own troupe. His choreography has appeared in the Boston Ballet, Dallas Ballet, Harkness Ballet, Joffrey Ballet, and San Francisco Ballet. He taught at the Martha Graham School, Neighborhood Playhouse in NYC, High School of Performing Arts and headed the Dance Department at NYU School of the Arts. Hodes was Dance Associate for the NY State Council on the Arts, dance panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and president of the National Association of Schools of Dance. (over)

After spending World War II as a fighter pilot, Hodes joined Graham's troupe in 1946 and appeared in the original casts of *Diversion of Angels*, *Errand into the Maze*, *Appalachian Spring*, *Night Journey*, *Deaths and Entrances*, *Canticle for Innocent Comedians*, *Lear* and *Punch and the Judy*. On Broadway, Stuart was in the original casts of *Milk and Honey*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Peer Gynt*, *To Broadway with Love*, the 1956 *Zeigfeld Follies* and the City Center revival of *Annie Get Your Gun*. He appeared in *Kismet*, *By the Beautiful Sea*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *The King and I*, and *The Most Happy Fella*.

DICK LEITSCH (May 11, 1935 – June 22, 2018), was an American LGBTQ rights activist. He was president of gay rights group the Mattachine Society in the 1960s which based its strategies on those of the African-American civil rights movement. He conceptualized and led the "Sip-In" at Julius' Bar, one of the earliest acts of gay civil disobedience in the United States. LGBTQ activists used "sip-ins" to gain the legal right to drink in bars in New York. The National Park Service Register of Historic Places for Julius' Bar states: "Scholars of gay history consider the sip-in at Julius' as a key event leading to the growth of legitimate gay bars and the development of the bar as the central social space for urban gay men and lesbians."¹ The bar now holds a monthly party called "Mattachine" honoring the early gay rights pioneers. Leitsch worked behind the scenes frequently with New York's Mayor John Lindsay on gay issues in the city. He was also known as a gay journalist, in which capacity he was the first person to interview Bette Midler and for being the first gay reporter to publish an account of the Stonewall Riots.

Shortly before he died, Dick gave his last interview with Sasha Spielvogel. He was completely in support of *Come Back Once More So I Can Say Goodbye*.

GEORGE MARCY (September 9, 1930 - May, 2018) studied acting with Sandy Meisner. He played Bernardo to Chita Rivera's Anita in the original Broadway production of *West Side Story* for four years. Mr. Marcy was featured and understudied roles with such Broadway Legends as Richard Kiley in *Man of La Mancha*, opposite Gwen Verdon in *Damn Yankees*, Jerry Orbach in *Carnival* (Marco the Magnificent), with Elaine Stritch in *Wonderful Town*, with Tammy Grimes, Joel Grey and Dody Goodman in Ben Bagley's *Littlest Revue*. He also worked with legendary Director/Choreographers Jack Cole, Jerome Robbins, Bob Fosse, Agnes DeMille, Gower Champion, Danny Daniels, and Joe Layton. Other productions include: El Gallo in *The Fantasticks* with John Davidson, *Drat the Cat!* with Elliot Gould, *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad) with Chita Rivera, *Where's Charley* (Pernambuco Ballet, for Agnes De Mille), *Kiss Me Kate* (Bill Calhoun), *Funny Girl* (Eddie Ryan), George M. (Father), *Irma La Deuce* (mc) and *Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Eunich).

On television, Marcy was principal dancer for Danny Daniels on the Martha Raye Show for 2 years, on Milton Berle's Texaco Theater and the Don Ameche Show. It was at Tamiment Playhouse that Max Liebman spotted him and hired him for his *Spectaculars* for NBC.

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TREE is the beloved bartender at the Stonewall Inn and was present as a patron when the Uprising took place. He loves this project and very much wants to see it performed for the 50th Anniversary of the Uprising and World Pride coming to New York City.

Press

"In a season where content has been consistently confused or nonexistent, Sasha Spielvogel and her caring company of dancers raised the art form to where it should always be: Towering." - Attitude Magazine

"Sasha Spielvogel's work is full of visually striking images...." — Jack Anderson, New York Times

"**The Sleep of Reason**" was most impressive. I'm pleased that the Government of Spain could help launch this wonderful project" — Gerrardo Bugallo, Cultural Attache, Spanish Consulate

"**Through the Cracks**" a work Mahler-like, fused widely disparate events and music into a blazing whole of power and compassion. This was an amazing evening." — Rondo - Finnish newspaper

"**In the Field of Holy Apples**" is a work of passion and clarity, of authentic vision, a revelation of the forces of ritual, myth, memory and dream within us all." — Katherine Janowitz

"Spielvogel's "**Waltz for a Shattered World**" was a powerful achievement, performed superbly. The work was totally mesmerizing. The audience remained completely quiet until exploding into applause. Every facet was worked out impressively, the eye being guided to just where the next action was to be played. Image after image burned the mind. The cast was glorious, each member assumed a character and lived it through dance and acting. Avishay Ya'ars music was at all times sympathetic and supportive, with its own force. May you all have a chance to see it." — Bert Wechsler, Attitude Magazine

STONEWALL 50 MARCH FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Eric Sawyer, Reclaim Pride Coalition. ReclaimPrideNYC.org . 917.951.5758

My name is Eric Sawyer, Founding Member of ACT UP NY, Co-Founder of Housing Works, Inc. After close to a decade, I recently retired from UNAIDS, the HIV/AIDS Program at the United Nations.

After 30 years of speaking truth to power I know the power of political activism.

At ACT UP we fought for changes to how drugs are developed in the US and for medical treatments to save our lives.

At Housing Works we fought for medically appropriate housing, care and support.

At UNAIDS we fought for global access to HIV medications for all people with HIV. But we also fought for LGBTQAI + Rights globally, with many other UN Programs, because homophobia fuels the HIV epidemic around the world.

We have come a long way in our fight for rights, but we have so far yet to go.

In the US the current President erased all mention of LGBTQI+ Rights and all mention of the National Office of AIDS Policy from the White House Website on Inauguration Day.

Many of the Queer rights we have recently gained are being overturned, especially rights for transgendered people.

Funding for domestic and Global HIV/AIDS through PePFAR and the Global Fund have been reduced. Over 20 percent of people living with HIV in the US lack access to treatment. Globally less than 60 percent of people with HIV access treatment.

We heard from a previous speaker that 71 Countries out of over 180 some countries have laws that make it a crime to be LGBTIQ+. Almost 40 percent of the countries in the world criminalize same sex love. Almost 50 of these countries have mandatory prison sentences of 10 to 25 years in jail. Six of these countries have a death penalty.

In the US more states lack legal employment protection for LGBTIQ+ employees than have such protections. This means it is legal to fire someone in more than half of the states in the US simply because the person is LGBTIQ+.

In many African, Caribbean, Middle Eastern, and Central Asian Countries the State sanctions persecution of LGBTIQ+ people. The government of Chechnya operates a LGBTIQ+ concentration camp where many have been tortured and some have been killed.

Because of these facts, because of my belief in speaking truth to power and because of my belief in political activism - I am helping to organize the Reclaim Pride March from Stone Wall to a Political Rally on the Great Lawn in Central Park.

At this rally we plan to provide LGBTQI+ People from around the world an opportunity to draw the world's attention to the lack of Rights for LGBTQI+ People, to issues of criminalization and human rights violations, to provide a venue to allow activists working on these issue an opportunity to promote their activities, to outreach to supportive people, to promote global solidarity and organize collaborative action to address these wrongs.

At Reclaim Pride we believe that no LGBTQI+ People are Free, until All LGBTQI+ People are Free.

We hope you can join us for our important March and Rally!

Good Afternoon, I am Harry Weil, Director of Public Programs and Special Projects at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

I am delighted to provide testimony to this hearing and delighted to let the council members know about the LGBTQ programs at Green-Wood Cemetery. We thank you for this opportunity to share with you the unique programming we present every year for the LGBTQ community. This year, of course, we're doing something special for the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and the galvanizing of the contemporary gay rights movement.

As you may know, Green-Wood Cemetery is not your average cemetery. It is a National Historic Landmark. It is 181 years old. It spans 478 acres. And it is the largest cultural institution in South Brooklyn. At Green-Wood, we welcome the public to connect with art, history, and nature across our extensive grounds. We host over 200 public programs every year. Through art installations, musical performances, public programming, and exhibitions, we engage our fellow New Yorkers in important and timely conversations about how lives are lived.

For most people, visiting a gravesite anywhere in the world is an exceptionally moving experience. It is a catalyst for contemplation and a deeply personal tribute to the struggles, triumphs, and impact of those who have gone before us.

Since 2013, Green-Wood has hosted its annual **Gay Green-Wood trolley tour**, which illuminates our LGBTQ "permanent residents" who have made a lasting impact on American culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These include Leonard Bernstein; Jean-Michel Basquiat; the composer Fred Ebb; Emma Stebbins, the sculptor of the Angel of the Waters at Bethesda Fountain; Paul Jabara, the composer of *Last Dance* and *It's Raining Men* and many more. Modern advocates for the LGBTQ community include Drs. Emery Hetrick and Damien Martin, founders of the Hetrick-Martin Institute, the nation's largest LGBTQ youth services provider and psychiatrist Dr. Richard Isay, who played a crucial role in petitioning his own field to abandon its classification of homosexuality as a disease. The tour has been known to trigger particularly strong emotions for members of today's LGBTQ community and allies who find a personal and historic connection to their predecessors.

For this tour, we are proud to partner with the **NYC LGBT Sites Project**. It usually takes place in October during LGBTQ History Month, but this year we will give the tour in June – Pride Month. We anticipate a substantially larger response this year and will likely increase the number of tours offered. During the week before the tour takes place, Green-Wood and our partners from NYC LGBT Sites Project place rainbow flags on the graves featured in the tour.

Finally, throughout the year Green-Wood Cemetery holds programs, at no charge, in our chapel for anyone seeking answers, guidance and advice about the universal topic of death and dying. To that end, Green-Wood's death educator, Amy Cunningham, holds salon-like sessions called Death Cafés. Our "**Death and Dying in the LGBTQ Community**" program is a component of that series. Teresa Theophano, Assistant Director of Care Management Services at SAGE, the advocacy group for LGBTQ elders, joins Amy to host these important discussions.

A rallying cry – and hashtag – of the modern LGBTQ movement is "Don't Erase Us." As a National Historic Landmark dedicated to remembering, we are exceptionally proud to be a place of eternal commemoration. We honor StoneWall50 and the unique contributions of the LGBTQ "permanent residents" at Green-Wood this year and every year.

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor in opposition

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Name: ERIC SAWYER (PLEASE PRINT)
Address: 229 Edgecombe Ave #1 NY NY 10030
I represent: NYPL - New York Public Library
Address: Stone wall 50 Hearing
445 5th Ave

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Date: _____
(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: ERIC SAWYER
Address: 229 Edgecombe Ave #1 NY NY 10030
I represent: ACT UP NY / Safe Home NYC
Address: 229 Edgecombe Ave #1
NYC 10030

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(PLEASE PRINT)
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Address: 465 W. 23RD ST. - #17B - NYC 10011
I represent: RECLAIM PRIDE
Address: (SAME) RECLAIMPRIDE.NYC.ORG

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Name: ERIC MARCUS

Address: 357 WEST 20TH ST., NYC 10011

I represent: STONEWALL 50 CONSORTIUM

Address: _____

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(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KEN LUSTIGATOR

Address: 37 W 12 ST 25 NYC 10011

I represent: NYC LGBT HISTORIC SITES PROJECT

Address: 40 37 W. 12 ST NYC 10011

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Name: JERRY KASPUST

Address: 411 W 52ND ST #40 NYC 10019

I represent: LESLIE LOHMAN MUSEUM

Address: 26 WOOSTER STREET NYC 10013

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WES ENOS

Address: 374 S. 5th St #33

I represent: THE GENERATIONS PROJECT

Address: 601 W. 26th St. #325-268

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUZANNE ROSE

Address: _____

I represent: WNET

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jordan Reeves

Address: 315 Berry St. # 105 Brooklyn NY 11249

I represent: Video Out

Address: 315 Berry St. # 105 Brooklyn, NY 11249

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Richard Weythart

Address: 105 Edin Clark Place NY NY

I represent: AARP

Address: 750 Third Ave NY NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Inessa Aslanova

Address: _____

I represent: The New York Historical Society

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Tom Finkelpaul

Address: 31 Chambers St

I represent: NYC Dept of Cultural Affairs

Address: "

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Daniella Topol / Doug Nevin

Address: 224 Waverly Place, NY 10014

I represent: Rattlestick Playwrights Theater

Address: 224 Waverly Place, NY 10014

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 01/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALLIE RICKARD

Address: _____

I represent: BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Address: 200 EASTERN PKWY, BROOKLYN, NY
11238

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1-22-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jerry Gallagher / Sean Corcoran

Address: 300 W. 110th St. NY NY

I represent: Museum of the City of NY

Address: 1220 Fifth Ave., NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 11/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adriana D'Amico
Address: 154 Christopher St. Suite 1D NYC, NY 10004
I represent: Assembly of N of B Pride, NYC Pride
Address: 5919 6th St Manhattan, NY 11378

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACK FERVER (PERFORMANCE ARTIST)
Address: _____
I represent: _____
Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1/22/19 Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Todd Porter
Address: 60 Lincoln Center Plz, New York NY 10023
I represent: Queer Urban Orchestra
Address: PO Box 938 Radio City Station New York NY 10101

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/22/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adam Odress - Rubin & Adam Ashraf

Address: 1854 7th Ave. #7B New York, NY 10026

I represent: National Queer Theater

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/23/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: RYAN LEACH

Address: 3566 EAST ST NYC

I represent: LA MAMA ETC

Address: 66 EAST ST NYC 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/23/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: FRANK CARUCCI

Address: 322 W 57 ST NYC 10019

I represent: LA MAMA ETC

Address: 66 E 45 ST NYC 10003

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1-22-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hamza Din

Address: _____

I represent: assemblymen Brian Barnwell

Address: 5519 67th St Maspeth, NY 11378

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1-22-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SASHA WORTZEL

Address: _____

I represent: WHITNEY MUSEUM

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms