



Queens Memory Program

LGBTQ History in Queens Project Info Sheet

The Queens Memory Program empowers residents from diverse backgrounds to collect personal histories that together tell the complex story of life in our borough. Queens Memory is an ongoing program supported by Queens Library and Queens College, CUNY. With the help of hundreds of volunteers, we have collected over 300 oral histories and thousands of images from over 50 neighborhoods. These digital materials get a permanent home in the library's archives and are featured in curated galleries on QueensMemory.org. Queens Memory provides training and materials for anyone wishing to contribute interviews, photographs, or other records of their neighborhoods, families and communities.

In conjunction with the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives at LaGuardia Community College, the Queens Memory Program is documenting the history of activism in LGBTQ communities in Queens. This project began with an exhibit commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Queens Pride Parade and seeks to preserve and document this rich civil rights movement. The project is made possible with funding from the Council of the City of New York City. Volunteers interview participants in their homes, at libraries, and at local LGBTQ community service organizations across the borough. All interviews and images gathered by volunteers will become part of the permanent digital archives collections at Queens Library and the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives. Queens Memory will coordinate with student groups to conduct more interviews for the collections.

If you are interested in taking part in this initiative, please sign up to **be interviewed**, to **volunteer**, or to **nominate someone** whose story we should add to the collections.

For those who wish to volunteer as interviewers, Queens Memory invites you to our free oral history workshops to learn effective interview techniques. Participants gain experience performing mock interviews and learn how to submit their interviews to the archives once complete. These sessions are fun and helpful for beginners as well as the experienced. See our events listing at www.QueensMemory.org for upcoming workshop sessions.

For more information, please contact Queens Memory Program Coordinator, Richard Lee.

Mobile: 347-922-6752 or e-Mail: Richard.J.Lee@queenslibrary.org

Here are some of the questions our volunteer interviewers are asking:

- Relationship to / personal impacts of Queens LGBTQ community and activism
- Participation in / memories of Queens Pride Parade
- A moment or incident that spurred personal engagement with activism
- Recollections of the murder of Julio Rivera
- How the LGBT movement in Queens compares to that of Greenwich Village (has differed or complemented)
- Reflections on relationship between religious faith and sexual identity
- Experiences of bullying, threats, or brutality in public spaces related to sexual orientation or sexual identity
- Impact of / relationship to local leaders
- Perceptions of contemporary young LGBTQ people in Queens in comparison to previous generations
- Hopes and challenges for the community going forward, changes on the horizon?

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