

Houston ARCH Minutes
March 30, 2011 6:30pm – 8:30pm
GLBT Cultural Center, 1st Floor, Room 112/113
401 Branard, Houston, TX 77006

Greetings, Agenda, and Introductions

Pride Houston History Tent

Frankie Quijano joined us from Pride Houston to discuss the details of the Festival for 2011. The idea is for there to be a 20' by 40' tent, with tables and chairs provided. There will be electrical drop boxes, but we have no guarantee of air conditioning of any kind at this point. There was some discussion of a survey to History Tent users to document what sorts of things they valued and wanted out of the Tent. It was agreed that Pride would construct the survey. In terms of participation, GCAM determined that it would not be participating this year.

Reports –

GCAM – Craig Farrell reported on the continued activities of GCAM, again focusing on the preservation of Mary's. GCAM will also be hosting a fundraiser on April 10th at Brazos River Bottom.

Botts – Larry Criscione reports that processing of collections continues: Mike Kelley is working on the magazine inventory; Leif Hatlen is working on the vertical files (newspaper clippings).

TFA – Jo Collier reports that not much has been happening at the collection recently.

UH – Catherine Essinger and Dick Dickerson had no updates to share.

NEH – We have not yet received word on the NEH grant. Given the timing and the announced date for the release of results, we assume that we will not receive it.

CLIR – We collectively chose to reapply, no action has yet been taken.

CSWGS Houston ARCH Summer Internship update – CSWGS was happy to report that a call for applications went out for the 2011 internship. Applications are due April 11, 2011.

Review of Directions for the year

Continued Grant Writing – Given the kinds of success we have had with the national level grants, the group sense was to focus to more local grants where the level of competition might be more beneficial to the work of Houston ARCH participants. The Kellett Foundation and the Hollyfield Foundation were specifically mentioned.

Community Outreach -

Queer Voices invited Houston ARCH to appear on the April 4 show; Larry Criscione volunteered to go on the radio show as well.

Caroline Castillo updated us on UNT's listing GCAM and Botts as practicum sites – the process has been initiated and she'll keep us posted.

It Gets Better event – Brazos Bookstore hosted a book launch party on

March 26th at which several LGBT community organizations were present. There was an opportunity to mention the work that Houston ARCH is doing in that context, especially around the importance of oral histories.

The GLBT Interest Group of TLA is looking at ideas for programs for the **April 2012 TLA** conference, and Victor Schill thought ARCH might be interested in collaborating with GLBT Interest Group to present a program on GLBT archives and related issues. He thinks it would be of interest for librarians from around the state to learn how ARCH has been active in this area. He needs to submit a proposal for the event in June. The collective decision is that we are interested.

Research Digital Data Preservation Standards – Brian is still following up with select Advisory Board

Website revamps – Caroline Castillo reports that significant work has been done on the Botts pages, with special thanks to Billy. There has been not much motion on the revamp of the Houston ARCH wiki. One topic of consideration is who will pay for the Houston ARCH wiki. Jennifer Greer did so the first year. CSWGS did so for the second year. It would be helpful to have the wiki be supported by a grant.

Jennifer Tyburczy – Jennifer updated the group on the Exhibiting Sexualities projects with students at Rice. Two students, Alex Barksdale and Haley Lightcap, explained the projects they would like to present. Alex described a book on trans-inclusive queer history before Stonewall; Haley described a project about remembering those who had passed due to HIV.

New Topics

A significant development for the Houston historical preservation community, Arden Eversmeyer has officially given her Old Lesbian Oral Herstory Project to Smith College. This is a great loss for us locally, but an indicator that there is not yet a sufficient infrastructure here to properly preserve and display collections like that which Arden created. For more information, see:

<http://www.smith.edu/library/libs/ssc/ohlist.html>

Fundraising Committee – Given the perennial need for funding, the group discussed whether there was a need to establish a fundraising committee to address the collective needs of the archives. Rather than doing so, the group chose instead to co-promote the fundraisers that each organization might put on, but to keep the focus to the work of making Houston's LGBTQ history digitally available.

Additional discussion extended the thought of the directions that had been identified for the year, and established three standing committees: Grant Writing, Website Work, and Strategic Planning.

THE NEXT MEETING WAS SET FOR MAY 25, 2011 AND WE ADJOURNED.