

Houston ARCH Minutes
January 26, 2011 6:30pm – 8:30pm
GLBT Cultural Center, 1st Floor, Room 111
401 Branard, Houston, TX 77006

Greetings, Agenda, and Introductions

Reports –

- GCAM** – Craig Farrell gave an update on GCAM’s activities, including upcoming work around the preservation of Mary’s.
- Botts** – Larry Criscione reports that processing of collections goes on at a good speed: Mike Kelley is working on the magazine inventory; Leif Hatlen is working on the vertical files (newspaper clippings). Larry brought a display of materials similar to what he exhibited at the Ripcord.
- TFA** – Jo Collier shares that TFA has acquired a copy of the first edition Transsexual Empire, a book that caused a furor among TG communities when it first came out in 1979.
- UH** – Dick Dickerson notes nothing substantial to report from UH.
- NEH** – The NEH grant was resubmitted over the summer. Many thanks are due to Jennifer Greer for her significant contributions to making the grant application possible. We should hear results in late March 2011.
- CLIR** – We learned that we did not receive the CLIR grant. See Grant Writing report below.
- Brown Teaching Grant Round II** – There’s money left to do another round of oral history workshops/training at Rice. Updates on that will be forthcoming.
- CSWGS Houston ARCH Summer Internship update** – After the success of the first internship (Avery Twitchell-Heyne interviewing Jack Valinski), CSWGS plans to continue the program; updates will be forthcoming
- UNT listing GCAM and Botts as practicum sites** – There was no new information available on this point at the time of the meeting.

Review of Directions for the year

- Continued Grant Writing** – The formal feedback from the CLIR was conflicting. One reviewer found the proposal to be “solid” and “innovative”, another found it to have “no technical innovations” and to be “unclear”. Substantive suggestions from the reviewers included reconsidering how monies were allocated to the subcontracts, and obtaining letters of recommendation from scholars “of national note.” The collective response was to reapply.
- Community Outreach** – No particular plan has been pursued as yet for any coordinated outreach effort, though there was agreement that networking with other organizations would help on multiple levels, particularly in their preservation of their own records. The Pride History Tent was discussed as the most substantive opportunity we have to reach out into the community.

Research Digital Data Preservation Standards – Advisory Board has yet to be asked about these standards.

Website revamps – No updates at this time.

Queer Music History 101 – JD Doyle shared with us a flipbook version of his online course in Queer Music History. The site collates decades of work JD has done in assembling the stories behind the artists, their work, and the people who consume it. The site can be accessed at: <http://www.qmh101.com/>

New San Francisco Museum Virtual Tour – The GLBT History Museum recently opened, and a slideshow was played featuring several photos of the museum interior: <http://www.glbthistory.org/museum/>

Jennifer Tyburczy –

Exhibiting Sexualities projects – Jennifer is teaching a class this spring semester at Rice in which several students have expressed an interest in working with the LGBT archives to develop specific exhibits around sexuality using materials available in the archives. Several students were present from the class.

E. Patrick Johnson – Jennifer also announced that E Patrick Johnson, a performance artist and professor at Northwestern University, would be visiting Houston to offer two performances from his recent work, “Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales.”

Alex Barksdale – Alex gave us an update of his undergraduate anthropology thesis project about Houston ARCH and announced that he is still recruiting interviewees.

New Topics – Note that the Bay Area Reporter and GLHS in San Francisco have also started an obituary project rather similar to the This Week in Texas project we’ve discussed. We can share that information <http://70.90.168.98/olo/>.

MARCH 30, 2011 WAS SET AS THE NEXT MEETING DATE, AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.