

## ABOUT HOUSTON ARCH

**Mission:** The Houston Area Rainbow Collective History (ARCH) promotes the digital preservation, collection, and communication of the culture and history of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities in the greater Houston area.



**Structure:** Founded in 2009, Houston ARCH is a consortium that draws together the strengths of existing non-profit organizations, universities, and local collections.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Houston ARCH works toward three main goals:

- Building strong and diverse community support for preserving our histories,
- Insuring representation of all members of our communities, and
- Developing an accessible, sustainable, digital archive.

To meet these goals, Houston ARCH needs your help in the following areas:

**Oral History** ~ gather and distribute resources and training for collecting oral histories, to help all community members tell their own stories  
*Contact: Andrée Bourgeois 225.978.0051*

**Technology** ~ explore the information management systems currently in use, and disseminate best practices for building and maintaining digital collections

*Contact: Jennifer Greer 225.892.6446*

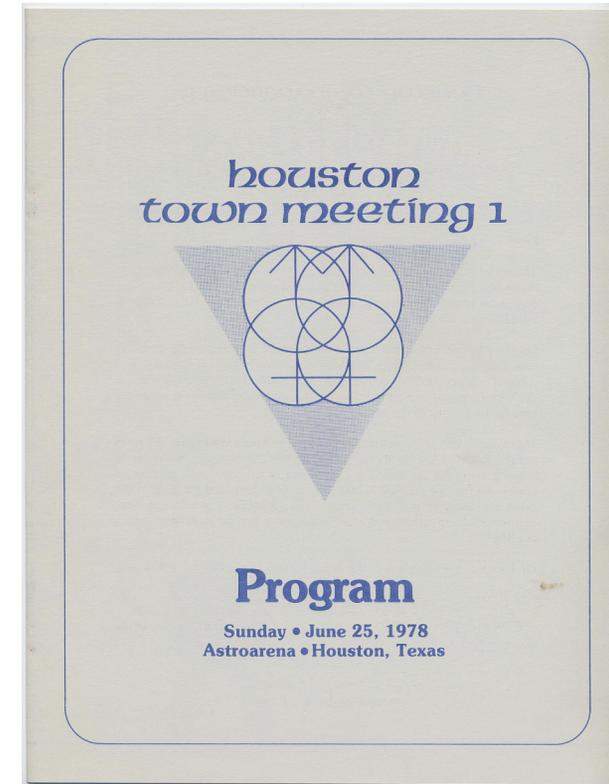
**Outreach** ~ connect to under-represented groups by bringing history collection events to community venues  
*Contact: Brian Riedel 713.348.2162*

**Grant Writing** ~ generate funds to support the work of existing Houston-area archives, including but not limited to needs assessments, cataloguing, digitizing, and oral history collection

*Contact: Brian Riedel 713.348.2162*

**Coordinating** ~ facilitate ongoing and direct communication between the various constituencies working to preserve community history

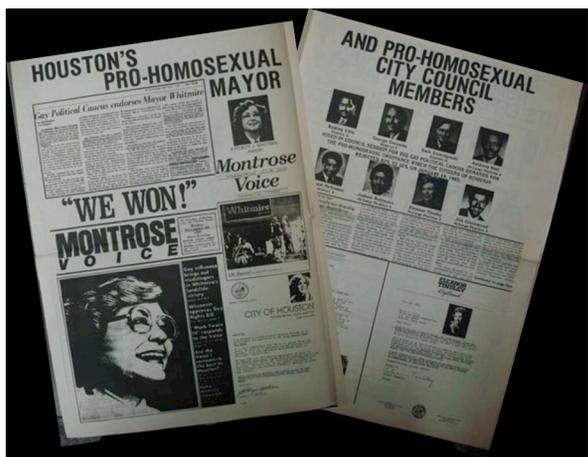
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Frontispiece: 1970s(?) activist meeting. Inside front flap: 1980 pride parade. Outside back flap: 1985 Montrose Voice. Inside back flap: 1978 Town Meeting I program cover. All images provided courtesy of Brandon Wolf and Jo Collier.

## COMMUNITY HISTORY?

Where is our history? Some is archived, preserved through the efforts of volunteers and community organizations. Some of it has found a home in various community publications. Maybe it's in your attic or garage, your filing cabinet, or a shoebox under your bed.



Still, most of Houston's LGBT history is not archived. While some of it is alive in the memories of both young and old, much of it is hidden away. With every passing year, we risk losing more.

What happens to our history as people pass on, or when the next hurricane comes? How will we preserve it so that future generations will be able to access it easily?

## GET INVOLVED!

### Houston ARCH

<http://houstonarch.pbworks.com/>  
713.348.2162

Administrator: Brian Riedel

You can also volunteer directly with the community archives! Get in touch and find out what you can do!

### Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History, Inc.

<http://www.gcam.org/>  
713.692.8735

President: Craig Farrell  
Curator: Judy Reeves

### The Charles Botts Memorial Archives & Library

(Housed at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church)

<http://www.resurrectionmcc.org/>  
713.861.9149

Curator: Larry Criscione  
713.256.7392

### Transgender Foundation of America Archive

<http://tgctr.org/archive.shtml>  
713.520.8586

Chair: Jo Collier

# Houston Area Rainbow Collective History



A Community-Based  
Collaboration to  
Preserve Houston's  
LGBT Past