

Houston ARCH - Minutes

May 26, 2010 6:30pm – 8:30pm
GLBT Cultural Center
Montrose Counseling Center
401 Branard, Houston, TX 77006

Greetings, Agenda, Introductions, Review of March 24 meeting

Updates

Botts Collection – Larry – magazines and newspapers are in great shape;
continued progress on cataloguing

GCAM – Judy

- through help of UT grad student, finished an NEH grant application
- collaborating with the Smithsonian in Washington, DC

Transgender Foundation of America – Jo

- TFA re-established at 604 Pacific Street

University of Houston – Dick – they've acquired some significant new
collections

- John Goins has an article in the May 2010 Houston History Magazine,
covering the queer political scene of the 1970's

Rice University – Brian

- Brown Grant successful: Louis Marchiafava will train Rice faculty in
oral history collection; recording equipment purchased
- 2010 Houston ARCH Summer Intern Avery Twitchell-Heyne will
collect Jack Valinski's oral history

Grant Meeting on April 13 – Brian

- NEH – due July 15
- CLIR – submitted April 23; we'll hear June 30, if ok, due July 30

Andy Mills Video Update – Andy got to see his video at a private showing on
May 19

KPFT – Queer Voices gave ARCH a joint radio spot w/ Pride Houston May 24

Pride Houston – June 26th History Tent – Eric Skains, Exec. Director, Pride Houston

- **layout** – two 20'x30' soft wall tents, positioned on main through-fare of Lovett
behind Lighting store and hair salon; History section will have four 10'x10' areas,
two with power, two without; there will be three tables on each side, with linens;
no chairs are provided; the tent will have A/C; depending on funding, the tent
may have doors; if you have banners to be hung, please give to Pride beforehand

- **timing / scheduling** – tents will be up by 2am on Friday; load in through Mt.
Vernon Street; please be ready by 11am; Festival open noon through 7pm; parade
starts 8:45pm

- **program** – Pride will print program materials for us if we provide the final files
to them by June 12

Exploring Houston ARCH's Need for a Board – The feedback from the NEH grant spurs this conversation: they were surprised that Houston ARCH did not have an established Advisory Board. The grant writing committee deemed it worth pursuing with input from the community.

Concrete Houston ARCH Needs

- Houston ARCH wiki annual fee \$300
- Houston ARCH wiki maintenance – Caroline Castillo volunteered
- Maintain a record of in-kind donations
- Meeting space rental fees (MCC has been donating the space for free; Houston GLBT Community Center has also offered to do the same)
- training in Oral History collection for community members
- digitization equipment
- archival preservation materials

Board Skills /Qualities Serving These Needs

- fundraising, credibility, prestige, advice, labor, outreach, diversity

Types of Boards:

- Governing – sets policy: considerable group sentiment against
- Executive – executes policy: considerable group sentiment against
- Advisory – gives advice as requested: consensus was open to this option

Result: A Working Group was empowered to develop specific proposals for a strategic or temporary Advisory Board for the purposes of grant applications. The Working Group will meet on June 3, 2010 from 7pm to 9pm at the Houston GLBT Community Center (3400 Montrose, 2nd floor). Working Group volunteers include:
John Goins, Maria Gonzales, Caroline Castillo, Judy Reeves, Marvin Prevost, Janis Hutchinson, Jan Rinehart, Craig Farrell, Andrée Bourgeois, Brian Riedel

Additional Concerns for the Working Group to consider:

- 1) Examples of good boards that work as we would want?
- 2) Such a board might interface well with community organizations, but what about universities?
- 3) Is there a plan for a paid staff dedicated to Houston ARCH?
- 4) What structure will the board have? (It's important to retain the flat, non-hierarchical structure of ARCH)
- 5) Is this board an ad hoc creation? Tactical? Long term? Permanent?
- 6) Could specific committees form among Houston ARCH members to do the needed work, rather than forming an advisory board?
- 7) What should be the balance of local versus non-local representation?
- 8) Who has legal responsibility for the work of Houston ARCH?
- 9) Who has legal liability for the work of Houston ARCH?
- 10) How and by whom is historical notability determined?

Wrap Up – date and time of next meeting not set; note that the grant cycle and Pride make the summer scheduling tight.