

## Houston ARCH Minutes

October 27, 2010 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
GLBT Cultural Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 112/113  
401 Branard, Houston, TX 77006

### Greetings, Overview of Agenda, and Introductions

#### Reports –

- Houston ARCH Advisory Board** – Over the summer, we deliberated about and agreed to establish an Advisory Board; many of the AB members were present at the October meeting. See attached list for more details.
- GCAM** – Craig Farrell reports that progress continues to be made on organizing the warehouses, and invites all to see the refreshed exhibit in the halls of the GLBT Cultural Center.
- Botts** – Larry Criscione reports that Botts is adopting a new name and filing for 501c3 status separate from Resurrection MCC. He also brought for us a display he had originally exhibited at the Ripcord with great success.
- TFA** – Jo Collier reports that with the move to the new building, things are still in a state of flux, but they are looking to label all of the books and organize them by Library of Congress number.
- UH** – Dick Dickerson reports that more magazines and holdings are becoming available day by day.
- NEH** – We revised and re-submitted a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant under the National Endowment for the Humanities, special thanks go to Jennifer Greer for her efforts! We will hear in March 2011. This grant would provide basic cataloguing for 103 core collections spread across Botts, GCAM, and TFA.
- CLIR** – We submitted a Basic Processing Grant to the Council on Libraries and Information Resources, special thanks go Lee Pecht and Amanda Focke at Rice's Woodson Research Center. We will hear in December 2010. This grant would re-arrange extra copies from five newspaper collections housed at Botts and GCAM in order to form a third complete set to be housed at Rice, and create catalogue records to be shared among the three entities.
- NHPRC** – Given the resources already under potential demand through the NEH and CLIR grants, no grant was submitted this year
- Brown Teaching Grant Round I** – Louis Marchiafava provided three days of oral history collection training to a wide range of Rice graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, lecturers, and staff. Some monies went to recording equipment purchases. Both aspects reinforce existing capacities within Rice to assist Houston ARCH projects.
- CSWGS Houston ARCH Summer Internship** – Rice's Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality created a paid summer internship to collect oral histories for Houston ARCH. Undergraduates qualify to compete for this internship by taking the Introduction to LGBT Studies.

Avery Twitchell-Heyne was the first intern, and interviewed Jack Valinski. The interview and accompanying materials will go on permanent record in the Woodson Research Center at Rice, including a short movie Avery made during the internship. That movie was shown at the 2010 Houston Pride Festival, and at the August 2010 PFLAG meeting.

**Jack Valinski Movie Showing** – following the movie, Jack and Avery took questions from the audience

**Caroline Castillo**

- Announced that there are projects underway to create better web presence for Botts
- UNT is listing GCAM and Botts as practicum sites for its Graduate School of Library Science, opening up the possibility for more student intern work

**Jennifer Tyburczy**

- Presented to the group her ideas for Exhibiting Sexualities class-projects, through which students would create exhibits using materials in GCAM, Botts, or TFA
- Announced that E. Patrick Johnson, chair of Performance Studies at Northwestern University, will be coming to Houston on January 27<sup>th</sup> to perform “Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales.” For more details, visit <http://cswgs.rice.edu>

**Alex Barksdale**

Announced that he is doing his Anthropology Thesis Project on Houston ARCH, and invited people to volunteer to interview with him for that project.

**Collective Conversation: Directions for this coming year**

An open conversation was held among those present to identify priorities for the coming months. The following four areas emerged from our collective conversation:

- 1) Continued grant writing** – specific projects mentioned were physical plant improvement for TFA and continued funding for CSWGS Houston ARCH Summer Internships.
- 2) Continued community outreach** – visit community organizations and encourage them both to appoint organizational historians and to see their organizational papers as valuable historical materials; deepen relationships with HPL
- 3) Research Digital Data Preservation Standards** – questions were raised about the best formats for long-term preservation of digital data – wiki, cd, external hard drive, websites [NOTE: this may be a good question to refer to our Advisory Board members with expertise in current standards for preserving digital materials
- 4) Concentrate on creating and honing web visibility** – while Houston ARCH and the consortium organizations have some web presence, the Houston ARCH wiki needs better organizing, GCAM wants updating, and Botts needs an independent presence

MEETING ADJOURNED WITH NO SUBSEQUENT MEETING DATE SET