

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project  
Second Anniversary Party / Year-Three Visioning Workshop  
@ the CoLab  
September 20, 2017**

15 people in attendance.

**AGENDA**

6pm: Potluck, birthday cake, socializing, networking

7pm: Presentation: what the History Project accomplished in its first two years

7:10pm: Small Groups --- we broke into three cross-generational groups to brainstorm both “Content” and “Methods” for Year Three of our project

7:30pm: Small Groups --- sharing

8pm: Departure

**YEAR THREE GOALS**

***Content:***

- Religion & LGBTQ people over time
- Relations between gay men and lesbians over time
- History of Queer People of Color (QPOC)
- Gay parenting
  - o Stories of fostering / adopting
  - o Changing legal / political history
- History of gay organizations
- HIV/AIDS history
  - o History of medical response
  - o History of local AIDS response & organizations
- History of substance abuse/drugs within the LGBTQ community
- Medical treatment of the trans community locally
  - o DSM
  - o Access to care
  - o Access to hormones
  - o Changing norms of names, pronouns, etc.
- Dance history
- Fashion history

***Methods:***

- Rebuilding community through re-enactments
- Interviews/oral histories
  - o Especially with survivors of the AIDS crisis, focus on impact of AIDS on community
- Local archives (newspapers)
- Experiential learning – art?
- A meet-up for people interested in local queer history
- Archives Open House event

- Decal for business doors/windows: “This place was queer” (w/ QR code)
- “Dance, Dance, Evolution” – hands-on dance history event (at The Park?)
- Fashion history event (w/ Garland?)
- Bar Crawl again!
- Old Southwest Christmas Caroling
- Gay Christmas (in February – around Valentine’s Day?)
- Animatronic / Robotic gay puppets
- Outreach to
  - o Local GSAs
  - o College organizations
  - o Joint programming with youth groups
- Literature/pamphlet/handouts/short flyers highlighting historical information
- Hybrid social/working events, rather than just meetings vs. social events
- Black community outreach – partner with Black organizations and activists
  - o Co-host events

### **NEXT STEPS**

We decided to prioritize working on the following seven initiatives, as summarized from the “Year Three Goals”:

- 1) QPOC HISTORY: We will prioritize researching and interpreting the histories of queer people of color in the region
- 2) HIV/AIDS HISTORY: We will prioritize researching and interpreting the histories of people living with HIV and the history of the AIDS crisis in the region
- 3) GAY ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY: We will prioritize researching and interpreting the histories of LGBTQ+ organizations in our region.
- 4) SOCIAL/FUN EVENTS: We will focus on hosting more social and fun educational events and attempt to plan hybrid social/working events and spaces
- 5) COLLABORATION: We will focus on outreaching to, collaborating with, and co-hosting projects and events with already-existent organizations, LGBTQ and otherwise, in the region
- 6) VISIBILITY: We will focus on making our project more well-known to a broader audience, through outreach, merchandise, and other means
- 7) MEMBERSHIP: We will explore what it means to be a “member” of the History Project, towards the end of recognizing people’s contributions and clarifying the ways that people can get and stay involved with the project

### **OUR NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 23, 5:30pm-7:30pm, in the Parrott Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Roanoke Public Library