

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project  
General Meeting at the Roanoke Public Library  
January 16, 2018**

11 people in attendance

**AGENDA**

6pm: Check-ins

6:05pm: ONGOING INITIATIVES

6:50pm: YEAR-THREE GOALS

7:30pm: Departure

**ONGOING INITIATIVES**

1) ARCHIVES

- a. Physical Archives
  - i. No updates.
  - ii. The point was made that Hollins University has queer history materials in their archives; so do other area colleges/universities. How might we partner/work with them?
- b. Digital Archives
  - i. Spring semester goal: uploading *BRLP* from 1986-1990.

2) WALKING TOURS

- a. Downtown Tour
  - i. No one attended the December tour.
- b. OSW Tour
  - i. January tour cancelled due to lack of guide.
- c. Laminations
  - i. There's a problem with the image files in the standing printshop order. We need to reassemble the images to resend to the printshop.
- d. Schedule Updates
  - i. February – Downtown = JB
  - ii. March – OSW = TK
  - iii. April – Downtown = MM
  - iv. At some point we need to schedule May through August

3) LGBT LIBRARY

- a. Grand Reopening event, Thurs, Jan. 11, 6pm-8pm @ RDC
  - i. Went really well. 22 people attended. The *Roanoke Times* wrote a great piece about the library.
- b. Policies
  - i. They are now posted in print form in the library, and reproduced on our website under the heading "Library FAQ"
- c. Volunteers/Training

- i. GR is training RDC staff this week on policies/procedures
    - ii. Volunteers are still gathering every Sunday, 1pm-4pm, to catalog DVDs
  - d. Future events – we should plan future author readings, book clubs, etc. for the library
- 4) ORAL HISTORIES
  - a. Anonymous sex worker interview
    - i. The Roanoke College IRB is still determining whether, and under what conditions, we can release the interview. All edits/redactions are done. Just waiting on approval for publication.
  - b. Phase IV – QTPOC interviews (see “QTPOC History” below)
- 5) 1980s EXHIBITION
  - a. Report back from Community Curation workshops
    - i. Small attendance at both Roanoke and Lynchburg workshops. GR typed up a cumulative list of feedback from the two workshops that we will use to guide future work on the exhibit.
  - b. Next steps – benchmarks
    - i. GR & BJ write exhibit slide text for 2+ slides/week from January through April
    - ii. February 2018 Archives Research Night focused on POC evidence, 1980-1985 = Thursday, February 15, 5:30pm-close
    - iii. April 2018 deadline
      - 1. Let’s make quarter-sheet flyers to distribute at Pride in April with a QR code linked to the new exhibition!
- 6) VIRGINIA COALITION ON LGBTIQ HISTORY
  - a. Dec. 1 “wish list” deadline... everyone missed the deadline.
  - b. Website
    - i. GR & BJ will work on populating the “Archives,” “Oral Histories,” and “Tours” tabs in advance of the March meeting in Williamsburg
- 7) ARTS INITIATIVE PROJECTS
  - a. Zine – Issue 2
    - i. Released at Library Grand Re-Opening event; several authors read from their work!
    - ii. We need help distributing Zines around the valley
  - b. Historical Marker
    - i. GR will send out application to listserv for last-chance feedback
    - ii. GR needs to solicit a letter of support from the City Manager...
  - c. Franklin Road Bridge Public Art Proposal
    - i. The proposal has made it through the first round and is now one of four finalists. We’ll know more in coming months.
  - d. Theater collaboration with Hollins in January?
    - i. Some of our History Project members met with the professor and students earlier this month. The goal is that they will present a queer/trans-history themed play by the end of

January and we will be a collaborative partner in that event. Stay tuned.

## **YEAR-THREE GOALS**

### 1) QTPOC HISTORY

- a. Southern Equality Fund / QTPOC Internship
  - i. Report back from Dec. 3 informal meeting
    - 1. The role of the Black church
    - 2. Work with local churches – ask leaders why they feel the way they do about homosexuality
    - 3. There is a long-time Black drag performer at The Park we could potentially interview. CL has this contact.
    - 4. We also have a full typed list of ideas from the Dec. 3 meeting that the interns will keep chewing on
  - ii. Schedule – internship schedules distributed

### 2) HIV/AIDS HISTORY / ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

- a. AIDS Awareness Month event, Dec. 13, 6pm-8pm @ The Park – report back
  - i. Low turnout. Instead of a storycircle, we brainstormed on how to move the HIV/AIDS project forward. Ideas are:
    - 1. Targeted outreach w/ Drop-In Center
      - a. Do they have a support group we can work with?
      - b. They have contacts who lived through early local AIDS history: doctors, early clinics, etc.
      - c. OPA grant – do a collaborative history-themed event targeted MSM population?
    - 2. Hoot & Holler – would they be interested in a storytelling night/workshop on memories of the AIDS crisis?
    - 3. MCC church – a workshop on the history of the MCC AIDS ministry? Using 1990s newsletters?
    - 4. Do Archives research from 1986 onward
    - 5. BJ will make a concrete timeline of local AIDS history, 1983-2000, due in April

### 3) SOCIAL/FUN EVENTS

- a. All-Gender Gay Bowling Date Night (a Valentine's Day event for queer/trans cuties), Feb. 12, 9pm-11pm @ Lee-Hi Lanes
  - i. Cute pink handout with excerpts about LGBTQ people finding love through sports
  - ii. In 1985 the Fellowship Bowling League met at Lee-Hi Lanes on Monday nights, 9pm – 11:30pm
  - iii. Start promoting the event!

### 4) COLLABORATION

- a. Outreach to local high school & college GSAs

- i. No updates
    - b. Outreach / collaboration with local organizations
      - i. Drop-In Center
      - ii. The Park – do a History of Drag / Fashion show @ The Park, featuring different decades?
        - 1. GR will reach out to Jason about this
        - 2. There was also the idea of working with Virginia Tech’s drag show group
- 5) VISIBILITY
  - a. “Queer History Lives Here” QR code decals
    - i. EL will take the lead on designing these!
- 6) MEMBERSHIP
  - a. Profile our volunteers on social media
    - i. We have posted two volunteer profiles so far. Well received
  - b. Structure of the organization – no discussion

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thursday, Jan. 18, 7pm = Black LGBTQ Advisory Board @ Mill Mountain Coffeehouse

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7pm = Black LGBTQ Advisory Board @ Mill Mountain Coffeehouse

Monday, February 12, 9pm-11pm = All-Gender Gay Bowling Date Night @ Lee-Hi Lanes

Thursday, February 15, 5:30pm-7:30pm = Archives Research Night (POC history) @ Virginia Room

Sunday, February 18, 2pm-4pm = Downtown Roanoke LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Tuesday, February 20, 6pm-8pm = General Meeting of the History Project @ Roanoke College History Department, 223 E. Main Street, Salem

Thursday, March 1, 7pm = Black LGBTQ Advisory Board @ Mill Mountain Coffeehouse

Sunday, March 18, 2pm-4pm = OSW Gayborhood Walking Tour

Tuesday, March 20, 5:30m-7:30pm = General Meeting of the History Project @ Parrott Room

Saturday, March 24 = Virginia Coalition on LGBTIQ History meets @ Williamsburg

Thursday, April 5, 7pm = Black LGBTQ Advisory Board @ Mill Mountain Coffeehouse

Tuesday, April 17, 5:30pm-7:30pm = General Meeting of the History Project @ TBD

Sunday, April 22, 2pm-4pm = Downtown Roanoke LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Friday, April 27, 7pm-onward = Third Annual #MakeRoanokeQueerAgain Bar Crawl