

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project
One-Year Anniversary Party / Year-Two Visioning Workshop at the CoLab
September 20, 2016**

22 people in attendance.

AGENDA

6pm: Potluck, birthday cake, socializing, networking

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

7:10pm: Small Groups --- we broke into five cross-generational groups to brainstorm both "Content" and "Methods" for Year Two of our project

7:30pm: Small Groups --- sharing

8pm: Departure

BRAINSTORMING

GROUP 1:

Content:

- Expanding our Reach
 - o Not just Roanoke
 - o Floyd, NRV
- Developing an initiative to reach people of color, more diverse groups

Methods:

- Marketing / Publicity / PR
- Social Event (Party)
 - o Central location
 - o Accessible location

GROUP 2:

Content:

- Reaching out to Churches
- Research on activists / activist groups
- Studying the relationships between trans, lesbian, gay groups

Methods:

- Support system for spreading information
 - o Trans clinic @ Carillion
- Interfaith outreach (letter to churches)
 - o Resources available / support
- Speakers Bureau
 - o Churches
 - o Schools
 - o Community centers
 - o Military
 - o Libraries

GROUP 3:

Content:

- Expanding our scope geographically
 - o With colleges
- Expanding our scope demographically

Methods:

- Theater
- Moving exhibition / smaller, trunk show

GROUP 4:

Content:

- History of AIDS/HIV in SWVA
- Transgender lives/stories
- Lesbian lives/stories
- LGBTQ clergy
- Religious history
 - o The movement of different denominations towards acceptance
- Enhanced map of Roanoke sites
 - o Interactive version for folks to annotate

Methods:

- Continue oral histories; available online
- Online exhibits – Yeah!
- Pop-up exhibits
 - o Saturdays at the Market
 - o Center in the Square
 - o Public Library
 - o University libraries / centers
- “Story exchange night”
 - o invite folks to swap stories
 - o Lynchburg, Lexington, other localities in SWVA
- Stream content on Facebook live
- Podcast
- Webinar

GROUP 5:

Content:

- OSW Walking Tour
- LGBTQ people in rest homes
 - o Narratives of “coming out”
- “Coming out” – how the experience has changed over time
- Modern (1990-present) queer history

Methods:

- Gay/Straight Alliances
- Social Media Outreach – people who have moved away from the region
- Creating an App

- More graphics; user-friendly
- Zine!
- Hollins Literary Magazine Cargos
- Art installations at torn-down sites (plaques, etc.)

YEAR TWO GOALS

Content:

- Geographic expansion
- Demographic expansion
- Activism / Activist groups
- Relationships between L-G-B-T overtime
- HIV/AIDS
- Trans*
- Lesbians
- Clergy
 - Relationships between LGBTQ community and local churches
- OSW
- Elderly LGBTQ experiences
- How “coming out” has changed over time
- Modern/millennial history (1990-present)
- Local literary magazines

Methods:

- Theater (oral histories)
- Moving exhibit / trunk show
- Publicity / marketing (of archives, etc.)
- Social event / Party
- Interfaith outreach / churches
- Speakers Bureau
- Online exhibit
- Outreach to high schools, military, libraries, community centers
- Interactive map of local sites
- Podcasting (oral histories)
- Pop-up exhibits (farmers markets, etc.)
- Story exchange nights
- Stream events live online
- Outreach to GSAs
- App
- Literary magazines / zines
- Installations on torn-down sites
- Bridging generation gap
- Inner circle / outer circle exercise

NEXT STEPS

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

- 1) GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION: We will prioritize researching LGBTQ+ experiences beyond Roanoke, throughout Southwest Virginia.
- 2) DEMOGRAPHIC EXPANSION: We will prioritize researching LGBTQ+ experiences among people of color, women, transgender and gender non-conforming folks, people of various generations, and other marginalized groups within the LGBTQ+ spectrum.
- 3) ARTS INITIATIVE: We will prioritize exploring artistic, theatrical, literary, and performative methods for sharing LGBTQ+ history with broader audiences and including diverse peoples in the participatory process of researching and interpreting our shared histories
 - a. This may include participatory/interactive theater; site-specific installations and performances; the production of zines and other publications; etc.
- 4) STORYCIRCLES: We will prioritize utilizing storycircles, or story exchanges, as a way of bringing diverse peoples together to tell their own stories and share their stories in a safe and celebratory environment
 - a. This may be an especially useful methodology for our work focused on geographic expansion and demographic expansion
- 5) EXHIBITS: We will continue to work on developing exhibits, including both online and physical, traveling, portable, and pop-up exhibits

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Friday, October 14, 6pm-8pm, at the CoLab co-working space on the mezzanine floor inside the Patrick Henry Hotel, 611 S. Jefferson Street, Roanoke: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1780835742130735/>