

**Southwest Virginia LGBTQ+ History Project  
General Meeting at the Roanoke Public Library  
October 23, 2017**

8 people in attendance

**AGENDA**

6pm: Check-ins

6:05pm: ONGOING INITIATIVES

6:45pm: YEAR-THREE GOALS

7:30pm: Departure

**ONGOING INITIATIVES**

1) ARCHIVES

a. Physical Archives

- i. Latest additions—from the Ricketson Library; Dan Jones; Richard Ward III—have been accessioned. Updated finding aid is posted on the website.

b. Digital Archives

- i. BJ has started uploading *Blue Ridge Lambda Presses* to the digital archive. The Zine is also up there now. We are going to keep uploading *BRLPs* through 1985.

2) WALKING TOURS

a. Downtown Tour

- i. GR will lead a Downtown tour guide training on Sunday, November 12, 2pm-4:30pm. All are welcome to participate! Just RSVP please so we can get you the script and images.

b. OSW Tour

- i. Launched! And off to a good start.

c. Winter 2018 Tour Schedule

- i. December 17 – Downtown (new guide)
- ii. January 21 – Old Southwest (TK?)
- iii. February 18 – Downtown
- iv. March 18 – OSW
- v. April 22 - Downtown

3) LGBT LIBRARY

a. Grand Reopening event

- i. Food/Drink
- ii. Early January 2018, Thursday night... How about January 11, 6pm?
- iii. Readings from books (highlights from the collection)
- iv. Brief presentation on the history of the library
- v. Slideshow of interesting / risqué book covers?

- b. Insurance? – check with RDC again about insuring the collection
- 4) ORAL HISTORIES
  - a. GR is working on publishing the anonymous sex worker interview
  - b. The Southern Equality Fund (SEF) grant will lead to new African American LGBTQ oral histories in early 2018
- 5) 1980s EXHIBITION
  - a. Community Curation workshops in November:
    - i. Lynchburg @ LDC: maybe Tuesday, November 21, 6pm?
      - 1. Ask Andi to invite key 1980s people to attend
    - ii. Roanoke @ RDC: maybe Monday, November 20, 6pm?
      - 1. We invite key 1980s-era people to attend
- 6) VIRGINIA LGBTIQ HISTORY CONSORTIUM
  - a. Saturday, November 11 gathering in Lynchburg. Anyone who wants to attend, let GR know!
- 7) ARTS INITIATIVE PROJECTS
  - a. Zine
    - i. The call for submissions deadline for Issue Two is December 1. Contact RB for more info.
    - ii. Meanwhile, we are distributing Issues One, plus more flyers, around town.
  - b. Historical Marker
    - i. GR just needs to submit the damn thing!

## **YEAR-THREE GOALS**

- 1) QPOC HISTORY
  - a. Southern Equality Fund – overview and next steps
    - i. Flyering (purple flyer)
    - ii. Update website with application text
    - iii. GR will send mass emails with application text
    - iv. Set up Advisory Board – GR makes phone calls, emails
- 2) HIV/AIDS HISTORY
  - a. World AIDS Day / AIDS Awareness Month event in December
    - i. Do presentation / release pamphlet about local AIDS history
    - ii. RB will investigate spaces for December AIDS event
    - iii. Use Oral Histories Subject Index to research more about local AIDS orgs
    - iv. Schedule Archives Research Night in November to research HIV/AIDS stuff --- How about Tuesday, November 7, 5:30pm – close?
    - v. Make poster of AIDS organization names / logos to bring to event. Ask people, “What do you remember about these organizations?”
- 3) GAY ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES
  - a. Some of this we are already doing in the 1980s exhibition

- b. Otherwise we will focus on HIV/AIDS organizations as part of Goal #2
- 4) SOCIAL/FUN EVENTS
  - a. Pin-the-tail-on-the-timeline at events --- People place a historical event on a timeline
  - b. 1980s Gay Bowling Night --- tied to 1985 founding of the Fellowship Bowling League?
    - i. Tie-in with workshopping the 1980s exhibition, perhaps with the pin-the-tail activity at the bowling alley?
  - c. Encourage people to bring/donate materials for the archives at social events
  - d. Maybe plan to test all this out at a Gay Bowling event in Winter 2018?
- 5) COLLABORATION
  - a. Develop programming with local high school GSAs & college GSAs. RB and EO will make a list of local GSA contacts to do outreach to
  - b. Do outreach to other organizations. Ask them what kind of partnership / collaboration they would like to have with us:
    - i. The Drop-In Center (around HIV/AIDS history?)
    - ii. Roanoke People's Power Network
    - iii. Girls Rock Roanoke
      - 1. Maybe do a 1980s covers music night (tied to our 1980s exhibition research?)
        - a. 1980s dance history
        - b. 1980s fashion history
        - c. Gayties!
- 6) VISIBILITY
  - a. Design decals / stickers with a catchy slogan, our Lambda logo, and a QR code that takes people to [lgbthistory.pages.roanoke.edu](http://lgbthistory.pages.roanoke.edu)
    - i. "This Place was Queer", or
    - ii. "Queer History Lives Here"
    - iii. OM will design a prototype of the decal
  - b. Merchandise
    - i. We decided we should sell merch at events, but not online (no online store)
    - ii. New merch to develop? Buttons, bumper stickers, etc.?
- 7) MEMBERSHIP
  - a. We expressed a reluctance to have paying members
  - b. Reluctance to have elected officers (treasurer, etc.)
  - c. One way that Visibility and Membership intersect is an idea to showcase the visibility (literally, faces) of our volunteers. RB will profile our volunteers on social media

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, Oct. 30, 6:30pm = "Book City Roanoke" event on "Finding History." GR & RB are participating on the panel @ Center in the Square, Roanoke

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 5:30pm – close = Archives Research Night (HIV/AIDS) @ Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library

Saturday, Nov. 11 = next Statewide Queer History Coalition meeting @ Lynchburg

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2pm – 4:30pm = Downtown Tour Guide Training. Meet @ inside City Market building

Tuesday, Nov. 14, 5:30pm – 7:30pm = next General Meeting of the History Project @ Parrott Room, Roanoke Public Library

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2pm-4pm = Downtown LGBTQ History Walking Tour

Monday, Nov. 20, 6pm-8pm = 1980s Community Curation Workshop @ Roanoke Diversity Center?

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 6pm-8pm = 1980s Community Curation Workshop @ Lynchburg Diversity Center?

Friday, Dec. 1 = Zine submissions due!

Sunday, Dec. 17, 2pm-4pm = Downtown LGBTQ History Walking Tour

December = AIDS Awareness Month event?

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6pm-8pm = LGBT Library Grand Re-Opening @ Roanoke Diversity Center?

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2pm-4pm = OSW Gayborhood Walking Tour

January / February = 1980s Gay Bowling Night?

January / February = 1980s Music Concert / Dance / Fashion Night?