Celebrating as we age: Rainbow Memories Workshop tips

Why do our histories matter? Why should we collect objects, images, stories, related to our lives?

- memory is integral to who we are; to how we understand our pasts, our presents and our futures
- our lives matter, our contributions matter, the inequalities we face matter (not least because they need to be challenged)
- facts don't tell us anything about feelings, about the personal, the subjective
- lives (both individual and communal) are complex and changing and if we don't record and understand those complexities, those changes, our presents and futures will be diminished
- being represented, having our lives recognised contributes to individual and community well-being
- the personal is political
- for a whole range of reasons, future generations need our voices, experiences, lives to be included in the historical record.

How/where can we preserve our histories?

- Archives, libraries, museums, galleries, publications, photographs
- Storytelling, oral histories, exhibitions, social media, websites.

The History Trust of South Australia is actively collecting objects that will help us to tell stories about LGBTIQ+ lives, experiences, issues, histories. We began collecting five years ago and now have approximately 50 items. If you are interested in donating an object or collection of objects please contact https://www.history.sa.gov.au/

Here are just a few of the awesome things we've collected so far:

1. Boot trophy made by members of the lesbian soccer team, The Armpits
2. Courtney Act crocheted doll made by Richard Doyle aka The Gay Hooker
3. Badge from the campaign in support of same sex marriage

Queering the Museum online

Social history museums use objects to tell stories but sometimes they don't have any objects relating to particular communities – for example LGBTIQ+ communities. This is a reason they often give for not telling our stories. But objects don't have a single meaning and so is it possible to use any object to explore LGBTIQ+ issues, lives, histories. **Queering the Museum online** is a project that invites users to upload responses to one or more of the objects on the site. As the responses uploaded so far show, and object doesn't have to have been made by or belonged to an LGBTIQ+-identified person for someone to engage with it in a queer way. If you want to know more about this project and/or to contribute a response go to https://queeringthemuseum.history.sa.gov.au/

Archiving

Paper When writing on paper use a fine pencil.

Photos Keep negatives. Scan at high resolution. Label photos on the back in soft pencil, at least including: when, where, who, description. Archival quality photo storage albums etc from https://www.albox.com.au/

Storing for the future: preferably in cool, dry, dark place with low humidity. Keep a back-up copy of hard drives in an alternate location (in case of fire etc).

Storytelling ECH project recording gay and lesbian oral history - contact pamprice56@hotmail.com

Writing Tips **Getting started** It's useful to work out the answers to the following questions as together they will determine your general tone, how much you can assume about what the reader knows already, what you need to explain and how personal/intimate you can be.

- **Who is your audience?** eg Yourself? Close friends? Anyone in the LGBTIQ community? General public? …
- **What is your purpose?** eg: To help yourself sort out your feelings? To explain something to another person? To bring the reader with you to understand your experience? To recount an anecdote so that the general public will learn something from your experience? …

Write→ Change what you've written→ Write some more→ Make some more changes

Copyright Can be complex if using photos to publish. Note the photographer holds copyright in photos, even the copyright of photos of objects. Factsheets + https://www.copyright.org.au/

Resources

- Adelaidia – contribute to, including Adelaide Queer nightlife https://adelaidia.history.sa.gov.au/
- AIDS quilts – watch this space https://samesh.org.au/
- Australian Queer Archives [was Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives] https://queerarchives.org.au
- Australia's Homosexual Histories Conferences – see Australian Queer Archives
- Artlab – open days, conservation issues + https://www.artlabaustralia.com.au/
- Diverse-City LGBTI Library, 116 Grote St, Adelaide over 1,000 books, DVDs + available to borrow, may accept donations. https://www.facebook.com/DiverseCityAdelaide/
- LGBTI resources to borrow state-wide https://www.libraries.sa.gov.au/client/en_AU/digital/
- Queering the map – submit your queer experiences https://www.queeringthemap.com/
- Settlement Square – buy a brick in the name of migrants to South Australia, associated website https://migration.history.sa.gov.au/get-involved/migration-museum-foundation/
- Social media – eg Lost Gay Adelaide https://www.facebook.com/groups/LostGA/
- State Library South Australia https://digital.collections.slsa.gov.au/

General

- Find someone/s in the next generation/s to pass on information and resources
- Note valuable items and location/s in your will
- Note websites probably won't last so think about digitising content.

This was created for the **Rainbow Memories Workshop** Saturday 20 March 2021, Memorial Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, Kaurna country. Co-presented by COTA SA Rainbow Hub and the History Trust of South Australia's Centre of Democracy with SAMESH and Feast Festival. For more information on ageing well contact the Rainbow Hub visit www.cotasa.org.au. (updated 3 November 2022)