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**ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES
CIRCA: THE FIRST QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL IN THE U.S.**

**Inaugural Festival Launches
in Los Angeles this October during
LGBTQ+ History Month**

Call for Program Proposals Now Open

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (April 5, 2023) — Celebrating 70 years of impact as the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the country, ONE Archives Foundation (ONE) announced today the launch of **Circa, the first queer histories festival in the United States**, featuring programs and events held across Los Angeles County during **LGBTQ+ History Month** this **October 2023**. During its inaugural festival, **Circa** aims to showcase the trailblazing history and vibrant cultural contributions of the LGBTQ+ community through the lens of present-day challenges and triumphs. A call for program proposals is now open and submissions will be accepted via onearchives.org/circa **through Monday, May 8, 2023**.

“During these challenging times when states have advanced a record number of bills against LGBTQ+ rights, especially targeting trans youth and drag performers, Circa: Queer Histories Festival will convene our communities for dialogue, reflection, celebration, and mobilization,” said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of ONE Archives Foundation. “Our LGBTQ+ social movements of the past inform our present-day battles. And like the past, when people see our humanity, we win.”

Circa is a multidisciplinary festival spanning the arts, humanities, politics, and community, and will feature queer, trans, and allied thinkers and doers leading the movements for LGBTQ+ liberation and progress toward equality. The festival’s programming will include exhibitions, panel conversations, readings, performance, screenings, and more.

The Circa 2023 call for proposals invites queer, trans, and allied artists, activists, scholars, youth, educators, cultural institutions, and community organizations to submit thought-provoking program proposals from across the arts, cultural, and humanities disciplines. In exchange for hosting and producing a program event, participating individuals and organizations will benefit from ONE’s robust marketing and publicity support, need-based stipend funds, and access to free venue space at one of our many partner locations, including ONE Gallery in West Hollywood, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the University of Southern California.

Additional information about deadlines, submission guidelines, and eligibility for Circa 2023 can be found here: onearchives.org/circa

“Circa will give us an opportunity to reflect and celebrate histories and the possibilities of our futures,” said Amitis Motevalli, artist and Director of The William Grant Still Art Center, and a member of Circa’s Steering Committee. “Through this festival, we realize that what we are living, what we create now, is vital history in the making.”

Circa: Queer Histories Festival is helmed by ONE Archives Foundation with the meaningful support of a community-based Steering Committee consisting of sixteen of Los Angeles’ foremost activists, scholars, and cultural producers. See below for a full list of members.

Circa Steering Committee Members

Erik Adamian, Board Chair, GALAS LGBTQ+ Armenian Society; **Jerri Allyn**, activist and artist; **Lynn Harris Ballen**, activist, writer, and radio producer; **Andy Campbell**, critic, educator, and art historian; **Holly M. Crawford**, artist, Director of Adult Public Programs, LACMA; **Samantha Eisenberg**, queer activist; **Rubén Esparza**, multidisciplinary artist and curator; **Tracy Fenix**, curator and cultural producer; **Chanelle Gallant**, writer and feminist rights activist; **Eric Kugler**, writer and comedian; **Ray Lopez-Chang**, education equity organizer; **Hugh McHarg**, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, USC Libraries; **Amitis Motevalli**, Artist/Director of William Grant Still Arts Center; **Rasheed Newson**, author, executive producer, and showrunner; **Marval A Rex**, transmasculine actor, curator, and cultural producer; **C. Jerome Woods**, poet, curator, and collector.

Submit a program proposal for Circa 2023 by Monday, May 8, 2023:
onearchives.org/circa

About ONE Archives Foundation

Founded in 1952, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the country, dedicated to telling LGBTQ+ history and stories through education, arts, and social justice programs.

ONE Archives Foundation believes that a people without a history is a people without a future. Our one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs connect LGBTQ+ history and contemporary culture to effect social change. Through unique K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, we empower the next generation of teachers and students to bring queer history into classrooms and communities. As the independent community partner of ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, we promote the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by ONE Archives Foundation are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. Learn more at onearchives.org, and connect with ONE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @onearchives.

SELECTED PRESS IMAGES



PRESENTED BY ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER 2023

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