Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project Minutes   The Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives of Western New York

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Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project
Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2017

Dramatis Personae: Ana, Nissa, Adrienne, Brigitte, Mabel

In This Issue:
1. Updates on our trans documentary project.
2. Speaking of documentaries, we're going to screen *Screaming Queens*.
3. Fundraising: Next steps?
4. Building a better webpage.

<u>Trans Documentary Project</u>:

New Participants: Earlier in the summer, Adrienne and Ana attended a meeting of Spectrum, Buffalo's trans support group, in order to talk to members about the documentary project, and to entice people to get involved--either as interviewers, interviewees, researchers, crew members, or in any other role where they felt comfortable. We drummed up a lot of interest, and several people gave us their contact info. The question is: how do we plug them into the project?

After much debate, we decided to do the following: First, we will set up an orientation meeting, to introduce interested new people to the film project. Then, once we have a date, time, and place set, Ana and Adrienne will host a phone bank at their house, inviting each new interested person to the orientation meeting. (Yes, a social media invite would be faster, but experience with organizing dictates that calling people on an individual basis and inviting them personally is a more effective way to bring people in.) We tentatively plan on holding the phone bank about two weeks prior to the actual meeting. Finally, once we hold the meeting and have a slightly better idea of who is on board with the project, we should start holding one-on-one meetings with attendees, to get them started on specific pieces of the project.

As we see it, here are the next steps to getting this done:
● It is super important that Isabel be present at this meeting, as she's the artistic director of the project. **Ana** said she would talk with her about possible meeting dates.
● Once a date for the meeting is set, we need to set the date and time for the phone bank, and get a few volunteers on board. (**Nissa** said she would be willing to phone bank. Everyone present at this meeting will work on getting a few more volunteers. The list is short, though, so we don't need a whole lot of people.)
● We need to figure out who is willing to do one-on-ones with new participants. **Adrienne, Ana**, and **Brigitte** have already volunteered to do one-on-ones, and we will each try to recruit at least one other person.

Editing workshop. Adrienne advertised the workshop on our Facebook page, but the two students have not yet been selected, nor has a workshop been set up. During the meeting, Adrienne expressed the concern that a large number of the people who expressed interest in the workshop have never been to a History Project meeting--and thus, would participate in the workshop without giving back to the project. Nissa took a different perspective on this point, suggesting that perhaps editing is the only way some people *can* participate in the project, and/or that the workshop could be a doorway into greater participation for some people. Ana also reminded the group that part of the deal of the editing workshop is that participants have to teach their skills to another interested group member. As a compromise for all these points, the group decided that when we draw the names of the two participating students, one of them will be selected from among just those people who have attended History Project meetings, and the other will be selected from the larger list of interested people.

Screaming Queens Screening:

 Ana reports that we are getting ever closer to planning our screening of *Screaming Queens*, the documentary about the 1965 riot in Compton's Cafeteria. Megan Stewart has graciously allowed us to use Grindhaus as our venue. She doesn't even want a cut of the admission; all she asks of us is that we encourage people to buy food and drinks. Right now, our tentative date for the screening is Sept. 30.

Our current difficulty is finding people to participate in the panel we want to hold after the screening, about race, class, and gentrification in the LGBTQ community. So far, here is the list of people we are interested in asking to participate, and their status.

- Sherrill Cooper, former owner of MC Compton's. Has expressed interest.
- Denise Sweet and Tinamarie McDade-Sweet, co-owners of Sweet's Lounge and founding members of the Black Intelligent Ladies Association. So far, due to some personal emergencies, we've had difficulties contacting them.
- Emily Terrana, organizer at PUSH. Marielle asked her to participate, and she's said yes, but we need to reach out to her again and make sure the day/time is okay.
- Bridge Rauch, co-founder of the History Project and co-owner of No Labels. We have asked them to moderate. They have agreed, but like Emily, we need to make sure they're able to commit to a specific day.
- Reginald Griggs, founder of All About Us, one of the first organizations in Buffalo for black gay men. Ari Moore talked to him about the project; he seemed interested, but we need to reach out to him.
- John Morrison, who filed a complaint against Mean Alice's bar in 1979 for racist policies at the door. Lives in Texas now; would have to Skype in.
- Seth Girod, member of Dreamland. We need to reach out to them.

In order to make this event happen by the end of the month, we need to do the following:
- SPEAKERS NEED TO BE CONFIRMED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK.
  - **Adrienne** will talk to John Morrison.

- ○ **Ana** will talk to Reggie Griggs.
- **Chris** has agreed to make posters promoting the event. **Ana** will check in on them this week.
- **Adrienne** will do press for the event, once speakers are confirmed.
- Figure out whether speakers need any help for the event--rides, compensation, etc.

Fundraising:

Earlier in the month, Nissa and Adrienne met with Carol Speser to get advice on how best to raise funds for the History Project. The conversation was wide-ranging--it included advice about the necessity of capturing people's contact info at all of our events, how to cultivate relationships with donors at all levels, and different types of fundraisers. One of the big takeaways from the conversation, however, was this: even if we don't get a 501c3 yet or ever, we should look into becoming incorporated in the State of New York. That way, we can get a bank account, and that will increase the numbers of forms in which we can accept donations.

Our next steps on this account are:
- Nissa, Adrienne, and Brigitte will make a plan this week to meet and look into incorporation.
- Nissa will talk to other History Project members about joining and helping us (in particular, Liz and Phoenix come to mind), and will talk to Phoenix specifically about helping us shorten our Points of Unity into a very short Mission Statement for paperwork purposes.

Building a Better Webpage:

Ana, Brigitte, and Phoenix will be meeting on Sunday, Sept. 3 to figure out how to reconfigure our webpage. Although Phoenix is the main web designer, Brigitte will be using her archiving expertise to help us figure out how to create an accessible and navigable digital archive.