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April 2018; Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project Minutes

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Buffalo -Niagara LGBTQ History Project

April 10, 2018

Meeting Agenda

Dramatis Personae: Melissa, Dani, Ana, Collin, Bridget, Adrienne, Tanja, Molly, Nissa, Denise, Brigitte, Gina, Nadine, Amanda, Tina, Jasmina

The bulk of this meeting focused on last-minute plans for our Black in Time event, which will happen this Saturday.

The Exhibition:

Ana and Dani began the meeting by explaining the setup for the exhibition, which will be displayed in the back room of Sweets. For the exhibition, we have around 50 photos that people, primarily Ari Moore and Ebony Talon, have donated, stretching from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Through Jasmina's assistance, and the assistance of the Visual Studies department at UB, these will be professionally printed and available for pickup by April 11. We will be building a net with silver wire, which will allow us to hang the photos from the ceiling, and will allow people who come to the event to walk around and interact with them. We've also procured some clamp-on spotlights with which to light the pictures.

We don't have much in the way of memorabilia—although Escada Sanders has agreed to lend us the trophies her house has won in balls. What memorabilia we do have will go on the pool table. Amanda has suggested that, in order to counteract the big square of green on the pool table, we light the table with pink lights, which she will supply.

Jasmina will also bring her TV to the event, and set it up in the back room. We have 3 media players to use for the event, and on Jasmina's TV, we will play the footage Dani made of the most recent ball on a continuous loop. In fact, we will play that on all 3 TVs in the venue until it is time to show the interview footage.

Finally, the plan for Sweets itself is to find some silver wrapping paper and to drape it on the walls—to essentially make the place look like the inside of a disco ball.

In order to make this happen, we need to build the net for the photos well before Saturday. The photos will be ready on Wednesday, April 11; Ana will pick them up from UB, and Collin will help her cut them. That same evening, at 6 p.m., members of the History Project and BILA will meet at Ana and Adrienne's house (PM them if you need the address) to construct the net that the photos will hang from. Nissa will come by Adrienne and Ana's apartment in the morning to drop off some necessary materials, and Gina will check the craft store for some silver wrapping paper.

Prepping for the Exhibition:

After much discussion, the group decided that we would be meeting at **1pm on Saturday at Sweets** to set up the exhibition. That way, we'd have lots of time to set things up, and (as Nadine suggested) do something like a technical dry run for the storytelling portions of the evening, before hopefully having a couple hours to come home and rest/prepare for the evening. Check the Big Fat ToDo List below; if you have volunteered to help set up, that is on your personal list of assignments. If you haven't volunteered to help us set up, we'd still love your help if you can give it. Let the History Project know if you can come.

Also: if you have **power strips, extension cords, or those things that convert 3-pronged plugs into 2-pronged ones**, please, PLEASE, PLEEEEEEEEEEEASE bring them at 1 p.m.

On the Night of the Event

Most of the meeting was dedicated to figuring out how the actual night would look. To begin with, we decided that we'd have two people working the door at all times-collecting fees, stamping people who are of age (Amanda will bring the paraphernalia for this), putting an X in permanent marker on those who are not. The shifts for the door are as follows:

8-9pm: Melissa and Tanja
9-10pm: Brigitte and Bridget
10-11pm: Nissa and Molly
11-12pm: Adrienne and Ana

Per Amanda's suggestion, the people at the door will only be stamping people and taking fees. Although both the History Project and BILA would like this to be an event where they can recruit potential new members, we decided to place the sign-up sheet in the back room with the exhibition, where people might have some more quiet, reflective time to sign in. We will place it on the pool table with the memorabilia. Amanda will make the sign-in sheet.

Much time was spent trying to hash out the schedule of the evening, and to try and give some direction to poor Tina who, despite agreeing to be the MC, has been waiting for weeks for us to get our act together enough to provide some helpful direction. This is what we decided:

- After going back and forth many times about how we want the music played, we decided to play the music in roughly chronological order, starting from the earliest music we've collected and working our way up to the present. Ana will communicate this wish with DJ Remmz.
- Although the event starts at 8, we won't start showing clips or telling stories until 9. Tina will just start the night with a blurb about what the event means, who the History Project and BILA are, etc. Adrienne will help by turning her press release into a blurb

and sending it to Tina.

- Starting at 9, we will start sharing footage and stories. Dani is still working on the footage and won't have it done until Thursday, but generally, each interlude will go like this: a few minutes of interview footage, a story from one of our legendary storytellers, and then allowing other people who want to tell short, 2-3 minute stories. In order to keep the momentum going, we don't want to have the storytelling take up more than 15 minutes of any hour. Ana will ask DJ Remmz to help Tina keep time for this purpose.
- Per Dani's suggestion: when the 15 minutes of storytelling are up, the music will come in—quietly, at first, so that people have a little bit of time to reflect on what they've heard, and to see if they have any stories they want to share. The volume of the music will gradually rise, until it's up to full volume again, and the dance floor is busy once again.
- We are not going to make the storytelling happen in chronological order—people can come and go as they please. The sole exception to this is that we want Nadine to be our first storyteller, because she's going to talk about bars in the 30s, 40s, and 50s, and give us some important historical context. (She also may have some pictures that she wants to show and coordinate with her stories. Part of the plan on Saturday afternoon is to do a dry run for this.)
- Ana will pull together a rough agenda for the evening and send it to all of us.

After the Event:

We would like to help clean Sweets up after the event, so as not to leave a big mess to Tina and Denise. So far, Tanja, Nissa, Collin, Amanda, Adrienne, Ana, and Dani have offered to do post-party clean-up, but we could definitely use more help (and more brooms) if you're available.

One of the questions that came up at the meeting is, are we de-installing the exhibition the same night, or are we keeping it up for a bit? We don't want to separate people from their personal items longer than we said we would, so keeping the memorabilia out is not feasible, but it might be nice to have the photos out for another week or two, for the viewing pleasure of people who couldn't make it the night of the event. We asked Denise what she wanted, and she replied that as long as the photos weren't in the way of the kitchen, she wouldn't mind having them up for a bit. So, we will likely keep the photos up for another week or two after the event, pending Denise and Tina's approval.

Additional Concerns:

- When we discussed showing the interview footage at the event, Nadine asked why we couldn't just play the interview footage on a continuous loop. Dani replied that they didn't have enough time to add subtitles to the footage before the event. But this is another impetus for us to get our YouTube channel going: so that people who miss parts of the interview footage can watch it on their own time after the event. Brigitte and Melissa agreed to fast-track the creation of a YouTube channel for the History Project, for this very purpose.
- Nissa will print out History Project brochures to be handed out at the event.
- Gina has agreed to pick up Ebony and transport her to the event.
- Although no one was really interested in talking about the next event in the middle of plans for the current event, there was still a general interest in making the *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold* book club our next event. Adrienne, Molly, and Tanja agreed to read the book between now and the next meeting to start figuring out what kinds of events we might want to plan around the book club. Tanja also agreed to look into possible funding for the event.
- Gina is interested in hosting a *Paris is Burning* film screening. We didn't get a chance to really get into the specs at this meeting, but it is a possible idea for a future event.

THE BIG FAT TODO LIST:

EVERYBODY:

- Let us borrow your power strips, extension cords, and plug converters!
- Bring a spare broom for post-party cleanup, if you have it.

Ana:

- Pick up professionally printed photos from UB on April 11.
- Construct net for photos on evening of April 11.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 11 to 12pm.
- Talk to DJ Remmz about music and scheduling.
- Make agenda for evening and send it to the group.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.

Collin:

- Meet Ana at UB on April 11; help her cut photos.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.

Molly:

- Come to Adrienne and Ana's house on evening of April 11 to help construct net for photos.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 10 to 11pm.
- Read *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*

Gina:

- Come to Adrienne and Ana's house on evening of April 11 to help construct net for photos.
- Check craft stores for silver wrapping paper.
- Drive Ebony to event.

Melissa:

- Come to Adrienne and Ana's house on evening of April 11 to help construct net for photos.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 8 to 9pm.
- Create a YouTube channel for the History Project.

Nissa:

- Drop tools off at Adrienne and Ana's house on morning of April 11.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 10 to 11pm.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.
- Print out History Project brochures.

Denise:

- Invite BILA members to come to Adrienne and Ana's house on evening of April 11, to help construct net for photos.

Ben:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.

Jocelyn:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.

Adrienne:

- Construct net for photos on evening of April 11.
- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 11 to 12pm.
- Turn press release into a blurb and send to Tina.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.
- Read *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*

Brigitte:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.

- Staff the door from 9 to 10 pm.
- Create a YouTube channel for the History Project.

Jasmina:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.

Tanja:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 8 to 9pm.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.
- Read *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*
- Look into funding for book club.

Bridget:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Staff the door from 9 to 10pm.

Andrew:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.

Amanda:

- Come to Sweets at 1pm on Saturday to help set up the exhibition.
- Bring ink pad, stamp, and permanent marker to event.
- Design sign-in sheet.
- Help clean up Sweets after the event.

Dani:

- Help clean up Sweets after the event.