

invisible Histories Project



2022 Annual Report

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Greetings Supporters of Southern LGBTQ History!

The last few years have been quite difficult for many of us. The isolation and loss from the pandemic, the attacks on Trans youth in many of our Southern states, and the rising tides of anti-intellectualism that seeks to restrict education and research around marginalized histories. However, in this darkness we still see light. Recent events have only heightened our awareness of the importance of saving our rich and diverse histories here in the Deep South. We have been here before. We have fought. And we have won. We can do it again.

Despite the issues mentioned above, the work of the Invisible Histories Project never stopped. Our staff have worked tirelessly to connect with individuals and organizations across Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia to ensure that our most at-risk narratives are prioritized and saved. IHP began collecting archival materials in February 2019 and since then have preserved over 100 unique and new collections across our three-state territory. We have hosted numerous talks and events to educate intergenerational audiences about our once lost Queer and Trans histories. IHP has produced two exhibits, one a virtual exhibit on the history of AIDS organizations in Alabama and the other a physical timeline of Birmingham's LGBTQ history as told by The Alabama Forum.

Not only is IHP honoring the legacies of our elders through our archival and research efforts, but we are providing hands-on learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students across the globe. IHP has hosted over 50 student interns or researchers and helped create coursework for over a dozen universities. Further, IHP has successfully held two Queer History South conference (2019 & 2022) that brought together hundreds of people to discuss issues and best practices in Southern LGBTQ history, archiving, and education around those topics.

Saving Southern Queer & Trans history remains an urgent need for our region. LGBTQ collections are vastly under-represented in our historical record. Yet, through your continued support and the willingness of so many of to work to preserve our stories, we will continue to right the narrative, to tell the story, and to show the resiliency, creativity, activism, and joy that we all know defines the Queer South.

Sincerely,
Soapy Jones
Board President



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Saving Deep South LGBTQ History



The Invisible Histories Project locates, preserves, researches, and creates for local communities an accessible collection of the rich and diverse history of LGBTQ life in the US South. Currently, IHP collects in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia. IHP acts as an intermediary between the Queer community and various institutions like universities, museums, archives, and libraries in order to preserve Southern LGBTQ histories.

IHP focuses on four key elements related to advancing LGBTQ Southern History:

- Community Engagement
- Archiving, Preservation, Research & Scholarship
- Education
- Professional Development & Best Practices

IHP acts as an intermediary between institutions, organizations, and everyday folks.

IHP is invested in providing scholars with direct access to materials as well as creating a network of people conducting LGBTQ Southern archiving, preservation, education and research to make scholarship more accessible.

We focus on providing education around the Queer South to those within and outside the region through speaking, exhibiting, online materials, and publications.

Finally, IHP seeks to help develop a new generation of scholars working in the Queer South.



Co-Founders
Josh Burford &
Maigen Sullivan, PhD

FOLLOW US

Facebook: Invisible Histories Project

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YouTube: Invisible Histories Project



Invisible Histories Project

122

Total Collections

96

AL

18

MS

8

GA

51

Total Student Internships

13

Total College Courses

11

Repository Partners

- Birmingham Public Library Archives
- Alabama Department of Archives and History
- University of South Alabama
- University of Mississippi
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History & Three Rivers Museum
- Biloxi Public Library
- University of West Georgia
- University of South Georgia
- Georgia State University
- Atlanta History Center
- Savannah Public Library Archives





50+

Talks, Trainings & Presentations

4

Exhibits

Alabama AIDS Organizations (virtual)
Magic City Memories, Birmingham, AL
LGBTQ T-Shirt Exhibit, University of Alabama
Our Invisible Histories, Mobile, AL

67

News Articles, Publications, & Podcast Recordings

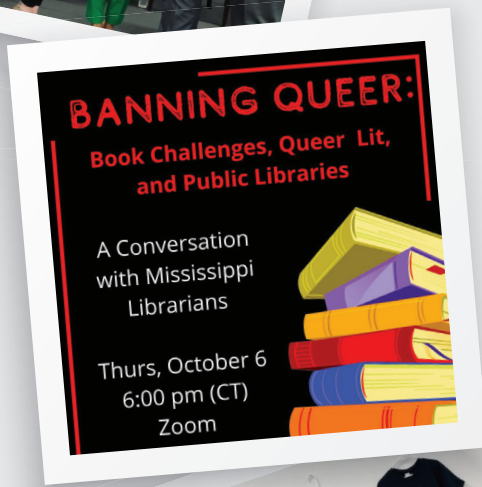


30+

Virtual & In-Person Events

7

Digitization Projects



6

Awards & Recognition



2019 NBC Out 50-Josh Burford
2020 Society of American Archivists Innovator Award
2020 National Association of Multicultural Education Emerging Scholar-Maigen Sullivan
2021 Society of Alabama Archivists Marvin Yoeman Whiting Award
2022 Webby Awards Honoree
2022 UAB Inclusive Research & Initiative Award-Maigen Sullivan



Queer History South



174

**Attendees 2022
Dallas, TX**

115

**Attendees 2019
Birmingham, AL**

578

**People in
the Network**

14

**Student
Sponsorships**

26

**Community
Sponsorships**

13

**States
Represented**

Queer History South 2022 was held Sept 30-Oct 2 in Dallas, TX. 26 Sessions and 3 plenaries were held over the three days. 10 session and 3 plenaries were recorded for those who could not attend at a reduced price.

Thank you to our partners The Dallas Way, Dallas College, and The University of North Texas.

Thoughts from our archival donors...

"History is constantly unfolding around us. As we study the past, we have a more informed picture of how people lived, loved, and worked toward a better future. Donating my items to the Invisible Histories Project was important, as I am just one link in the chain that connects us all. By showing future generations our struggles and triumphs we can help them make better decisions and live a more authentic life."

-Rebecca Haack
Former President Mystic Krewe of Caritas



"I applaud Josh and IHP for their intentionality in the inclusion of the contributions of queer Black people in the south. We are consistently left of the queer narrative. Josh has gone out of his way to cement our narrative and contributions in the important project."

-Tony Christon-Walker
Co-Founder Birmingham Black Pride



"After many years of participation in a number of non-profits and squirreling away mementos, constantly saying that we needed to form a historical society to preserve our history but never having the time... I was THRILLED to be introduced to IHP! After my first meeting with Josh I knew this would be the proper place for all my treasures!"

-Don Mills
Magic City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence



RANDOM QUEER THINGS

A virtual overview of interesting Southern LGBTQ history facts and tidbits we've discovered over the past three years.

December 9, 2021

6:00 pm Central

<https://bit.ly/RQTDDec21>



Join IHP and the BPL Archives for **Afternoon at the Archives**

Learn how IHP works with archives, what we do with collections, and how you can access them!

Sat., Sept. 10 (TODAY)

1-3 pm

Arrington Auditorium

IHP TALKS



JD Doyle
Founder
JD Doyle Archives



Thank you for your continued support of the efforts to save Southern LGBTQ histories. While much of the work to research and preserve our histories is funded through grants and sponsorships, we could not do this work without the community's direct support. Every dollar you give goes directly to securing that our rich and diverse history lives on for future generations.

Humanities projects have found our funding options cut over the last two years. However, the humanities are the core of who we are. Help us save, celebrate, and educate around Southern LGBTQ history today, tomorrow, and for decades to come.

Online Donation: invisiblehistory.org/donate

Venmo: @IHPDonate

Paypal: @invisiblehistories

Mail: PO Box 101672 Birmingham, AL 35210

Donate Today! & Save Deep South LGBTQ History



Venmo: @IHPDonate
invisiblehistory.org/donate

DOING YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT AMAZON?

Choose Invisible Histories Project of Alabama at [smile.amazon.com!](https://smile.amazon.com)

IHP will get .5% of your purchase with no extra cost to you!

Want to help save Deep South LGBTQ history?



You can now donate through our venmo:

@IHPDonate