

City of Raleigh  
Planning and Development

# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

Discovering Important Places





# Phase II Community Kickoff Meeting

July 23, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Halifax Community Center  
(1023 Halifax St)

# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

Discovering Important Places

Initiative of the Raleigh Historic  
Development Commission (RHDC)  
and the City's Historic Preservation  
Planning Unit.

*Phase I completed in partnership  
with the LGBT Center of Raleigh  
and Raleigh Pride.*



# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

## Today's Goals

- Introduce the consultant
- Provide project updates
- Connect with community
- Discuss next steps
- Receive info/Hear ideas
- Answer questions



# Why This? Why Now?

- Local planning efforts should serve all people who live here.
- LGBTQIA+ stories have been overlooked. In 2017, <.1% of sites on the National Register were specifically associated with LGBTQIA+ history).
- Currently no places in Raleigh are designated for LGBTQIA+ history.



AC Restaurants

# Why This? Why Now?

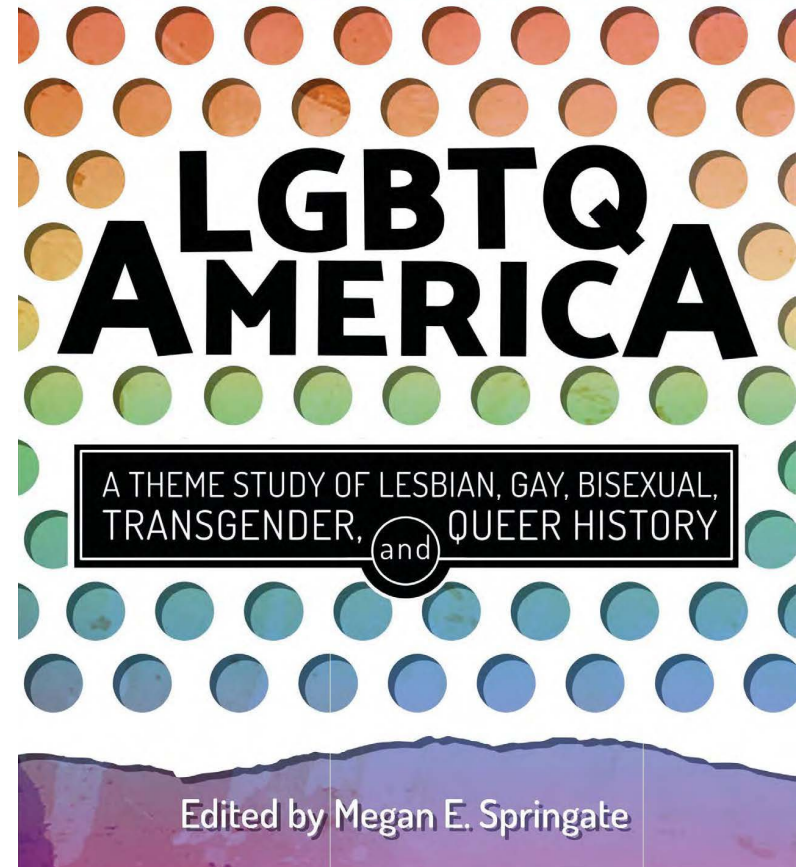
- Began with a citizen inquiry.
- 2021 Gallup poll estimates at least 7% of US adults – over 20 million people – identify as L, G, B, or T.
- Gen Z: 1 in 5 adults born in 1997-2003 currently identify as LGBT.
- Raleigh's known LGBTQIA+ population is growing.

National Park Service

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior

Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science

2016  
National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

## Phase I

# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study: Phase I

From 2019-2023

- 3 public meetings
- Online survey
- Review of primary & secondary resources
- Talk to people in the community

PlanDev Comms





# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study: Phase I

## Deliverables

- 8 interview transcriptions
- Preliminary roster of historic places
- Bibliography of resources
- General LGBTQIA+ history of the Southeast



# LGBTQIA+ Historic Places Roster

- Place Name
- Street Address (Historic and Current)
- Site Type
- LGBTQIA+ Association (Earliest/Active Years, Does Entity Still Exist, Relocation if known)
- Building Info (Build Date, Still Stands?, Demo Date, Historic Designation Status)

JC Raulston Arboretum



# LGBTQIA+ Historic Places Roster

- **Thank you!** The roster we have now is based in part on your feedback during Phase I.
- **This is a living document.** It includes what we know now. As we learn more, the roster will change.
- **Please take our survey.** (More info at end of presentation).

Rank your top 5 historic LGBTQIA+ places for **Allied Business**.  
Drag and drop your top 5 places to order them.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Abracadabra Café & Theatre - Historic Address: 4000 Atlantic Ave. - 1980s                                     | 14% |
| Art Space - Historic Address: 201 E. Davie St. - 1980s  | 29% |
| Brown-Wynne Funeral Home & Crematory - Historic Address: 300 St. Marys St. - 1980s                            | 14% |
| Casa Carbone Ristorante - Historic Address: 6019-A Glenwood Ave. - 1980s                                      | 14% |
| City Gallery of Contemporary Art - Historic Address: 220 S. Blount St. - 1980s                                | 14% |
| Cloud and Fire Coffee House - Historic Address: 2512 Hillsborough St. #200 - 1990s                            | 0%  |
| Crickets - Historic Address: 2824 North Blvd. - 1980s   | 0%  |
| Cup A Joe - Historic Address: 3100 Hillsborough St. - 1990s   | 43% |
| Est Est Restaurant - Historic Address: 19 W. Hargett St. - 1980s  | 14% |
| Fjelsted & Womble Galleries - Historic Address: 205 Wolfe St. - 1990s   | 0%  |
| Flamingos Restaurant - Historic Address: 607 Glenwood Ave. - 1990s  | 0%  |
| Front Page Newspaper / White Rabbit Books & Things (2) - Historic Address: 309 W. Martin St. - 1970s          | 14% |
| Galleria One - Historic Address: 441 Daniels St. - 1980s  | 0%  |
| Gallery C - Historic Address: 432 Daniels St. - 1990s   | 0%  |
| Gary W. Fischer, Hair Waves Studio - Historic Address: 3113 Charles B. Root Wynd - 1990s                      | 0%  |
| Glenwood South Galleries / Glenwood South Antiques and Fine Art - Historic Address: 126 Glenwood Ave. - 1980s | 43% |
| Greg Warren Designs - Historic Address: 518 W. Jones St. - 1990s  | 0%  |
| Hair by Nature's Way - Historic Address: 2524 Hillsborough St. - 1980s  | 0%  |
| IHOP - Historic Address: 1317 Hillsborough St. - 1980s  | 29% |
| Innovations - Historic Address: 517 Hillsborough St. - 1990s  | 0%  |
| Irregardless Café - Historic Address: 901 W. Morgan St. - 1960s   | 43% |

# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

## Phase II

# Meet the Team

We are  
**PROUD!**



PlanDev Comms

# City of Raleigh Historic Preservation Unit



Erin Morton Pugh  
Project Manager



Tania Tully  
Preservation  
Planning Supervisor



Collette Kinane  
Senior Preservation  
Planner

# Consultant: MdM Historical Consultants



**Cynthia de Miranda**  
Architectural Historian

# MdM Historical Consultants Previous Projects



NC State Archives



Images courtesy of  
Capital City Camera Club



Raleigh Little Theatre



Photo by Cup A Joe





# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study: Phase II

July 2024 - Early 2025

- 2 community meetings
- Written report with Raleigh-specific historic context statement
- Roster of historic places
- Initial evaluation of 20 sites (with photos)





# What is a Historic Context Study?

# What is a Historic Context Study?

- **Provides a high-level overview** and historical narrative of a specific theme.
- **Identifies historic places** that are important to that theme. Keep in mind that this work is focused on places – buildings and sites that tell the story of the people.
- **Recommends** buildings and sites that may be eligible for historic designation.
- **Provides a way to evaluate** places identified later.



Photo courtesy of [indyweek.com](http://indyweek.com)

# LGBTQIA+ Historic Context Study

## What it is Not

- This will not be the definitive history of Raleigh's LGBTQIA+ community.
- It is not comprehensive: Not all of Raleigh's important LGBTQIA+ historic spaces will be identified and evaluated.



NC State Archives

# Benefits of a Historic Context Study

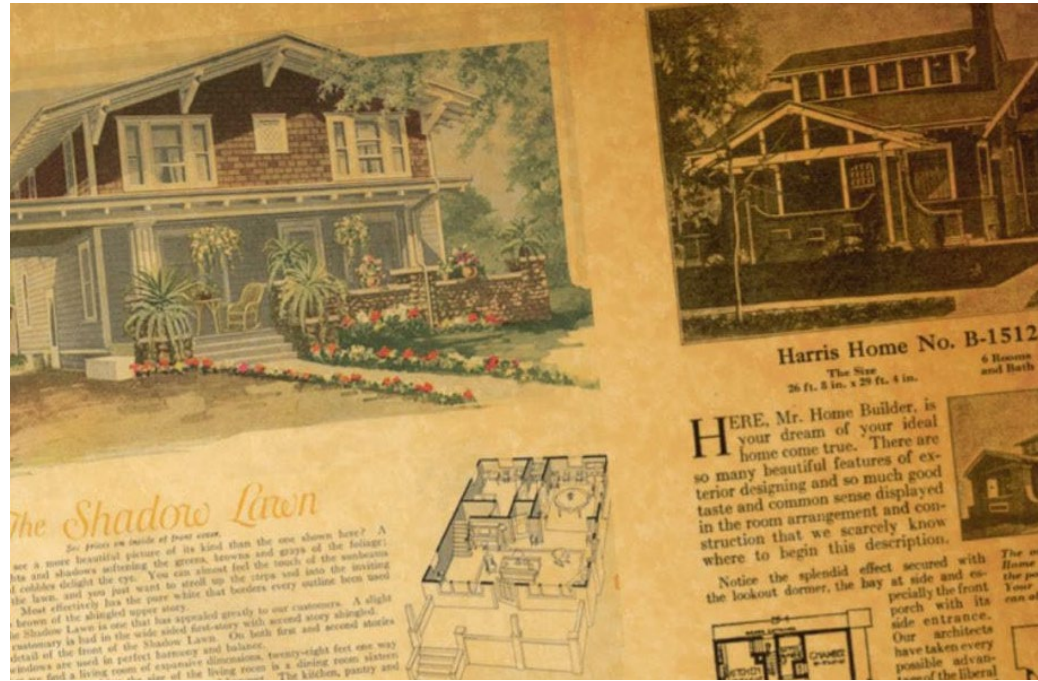
- **Guide** future planning efforts through identification of historic places.
- **Share** collected knowledge with the public and other researchers.
- **Empower** independent community projects.
- **Honor** influential people and places.



Stonewall Sports - Raleigh

# Existing Historic Context Studies

- Work of Architect Leif Valand
- Raleigh's Kit Homes
- Residential Development in the Village of Method
- Stronach's Alley
- Nash Square



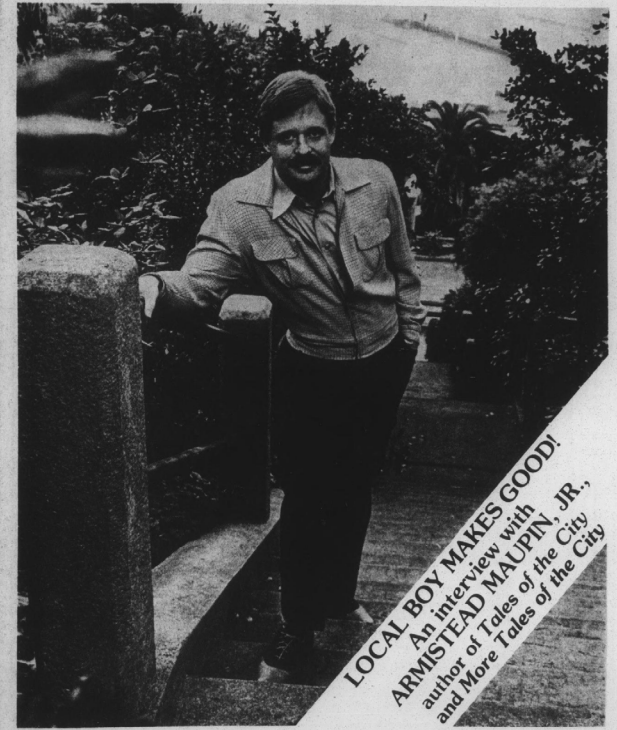
Raleigh's Kit Homes Historic Context

# Research Challenges

- Represent the diverse population that constitutes the LGBTQIA+ community
- Terminology changes over time
- Some may be reluctant to talk about this aspect of their life
- Consultant's access to the local community

DigitalINC

**the Front Page** FREE!  
August 28—September 9, 1980 Vol. 1, No. 21 (only)  
The News & Entertainment Paper for N.C.'s Gay Community



# Site Identification Challenges

- How do you find important places when their history isn't written down or visible?
- Potential sites are in dispersed locations as opposed to a concentrated area.
- If no one is alive to tell us about their early experience, how do we know about that place?

NC State Archives





# What, When, How Should We Designate?

- How old is “H” historic?
- What about the physical space is important to tell this history?
- How do you evaluate/protect a place that is not important because of how it looks?
- How do you celebrate or recognize a space that no longer exists?
- Or no active LGBTQIA+ use?

Pullen Memorial Baptist  
Church Facebook page



# How You Can Help

- If you identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community and have historical information, please participate to help represent all parts of the community.
- If you can, connect us with community elders or experts.
- Remember, our focus is Raleigh-specific research.
- Take the survey.



Alternative Forms of Recognition:  
Beyond Traditional  
Historic Designation

# Traditional Historic Designation

- Federal (National Register) – mostly honorary
- Local (HOD or RHL) – exterior design review

These programs aren't built to recognize places of cultural heritage.

- Focused heavily on building appearance.
- Property owner consent is typically required.
- No process to designate a demolished building.



# Celebrating Without Designating

Consider non-regulatory options to celebrate culturally important places.

**No active non-regulatory programs exist in Raleigh.**



Google Streetview

# Alternative Forms of Recognition

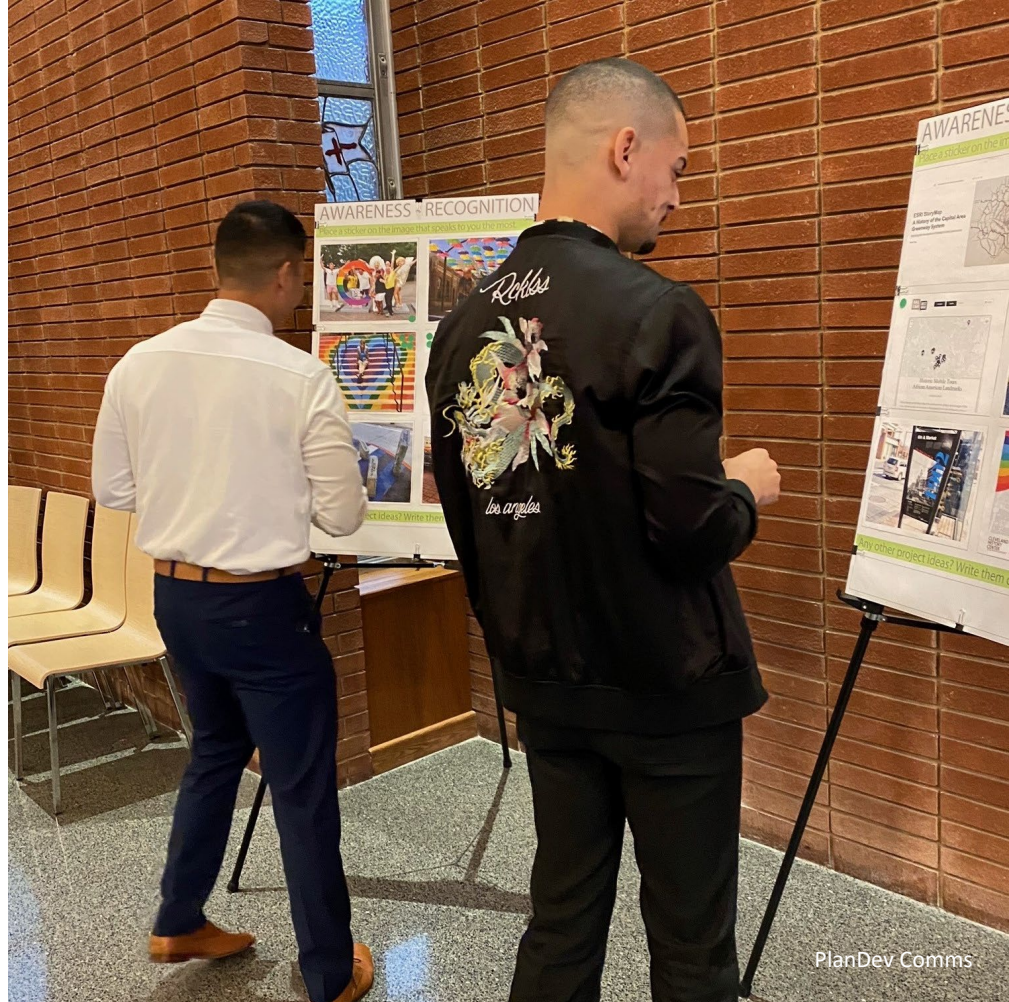
- Digital Mapping
- Historic Markers
- Cultural Districts
- Heritage Communities
- Legacy Business Program
- Printed Guidebook
- Oral Historic Program



Visit Raleigh

# Alternative Forms of Recognition

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# Next Steps

- Public Input survey
- Solicit ideas for place recognition
- Draft report review
- Final report adoption
- Begin implementation



Google Streetview



# For More Information

Take the Survey

LGBTQIA+  
Historic Places: A  
Closer Look  
[engage.raleighnc.  
gov/s5841](https://engage.raleighnc.gov/s5841)

Learn More

Visit project page

Raleighnc.gov

*Search Term:*  
LGBTQIA+

Contact Us

historicpreservation  
@raleighnc.gov

919-996-4478

RALEIGH  
PRIDE

Questions?