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**ONE NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN ARCHIVES PRESENTS A HISTORICAL EXHIBITION
OF QUEER ORGANIZATIONS IN LOS ANGELES AS A PART OF LGBT HERITAGE MONTH**



DEFIANT SPACES:

60 Years of Queer Organizations in L.A.

June 7 – July 5, 2012

Los Angeles City Hall
Bridge Gallery, 3rd Floor
201 North Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles — May 21, 2012 — ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives presents *Defiant Spaces: 60 Years of Queer Organizations in L.A.* at the Los Angeles City Hall, an exhibition exploring the history of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) organizations in the Los Angeles region. The exhibition consists of a timeline spread across numerous printed panels, accompanied by a selection of reproduced archival documents and historical banners and signs from the collections at ONE Archives. *Defiant Spaces* is presented in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles' LGBT Heritage Month.

Presented as a 60-year chronology, the exhibition includes information on over 40 organizations, both well known and obscure, founded in Los Angeles. Beginning with the foundational organizing of homophile groups such as the Mattachine and ONE Inc. in the 1950s and 60s, the exhibition chronicles organizations that arose from the Gay Liberation and Women's movements in the 1970s, and the collective response to AIDS in the 1980s and 90s.

The organizations profiled in this exhibition carved out spaces for queer individuals to come together around shared conditions of oppression. Whether their mission was to combat the isolation of the closet, advocate for the recognition of queer individuals in the public sphere, fight homophobia and/or transphobia in social institutions, create safe spaces for religious observation, or provide much needed services, these organizations reshaped the cultural landscape of Los Angeles and contributed to the city's vibrant queer community. While some of the organizations are well known today, such as the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center or AIDS Project Los Angeles, *Defiant Spaces* highlights the grassroots beginning of these major institutions.

Organizations featured in the exhibition include: the Mattachine Society (founded in 1951), ONE Inc. (1952), the Daughters of Bilitis (L.A. chapter, 1958), Personal Rights in Defense and Education (1966), the Metropolitan Community Church (1968), Christopher Street West (1970), the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center (1971), The Woman's Building (1973), the Los Angeles Stonewall Democrats Club (1975), the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter Los Angeles (1976), the Gay Men's Chorus (1979), Asian/Pacific Gays and Friends (1980), AIDS Project Los Angeles (1982), Project 10 (1984), ACT UP/LA (1987), Bienestar (1989), and the Los Angeles Gender Center (1992), among others. Many of the materials in this exhibition have been culled from the collections at ONE Archives, the largest repository of LGBTQ material in the world, while other materials have been provided by the profiled organizations.

To celebrate the opening of this exhibition, the Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa will host a VIP reception at City Hall attended by representatives from the organizations highlighted in the exhibition, as well as important LGBTQ and civic leaders.

Defiant Spaces kicks off a year of programming to celebrate the 60th anniversary of ONE Archives, the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States. Over the next year, ONE Archives will present a series of programs and exhibitions intended to explore the history of ONE while also more widely examining the impact of significant LGBTQ organizations in Los Angeles. With the generous support of Wells Fargo, ONE Archives will acquire and process the archival records of numerous local organizations, preserving their legacy as well as the collective history of LGBTQ organizations in Los Angeles.

LGBT Heritage Month was created by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Christopher Street West/LA Pride in 2011 to promote and celebrate the diversity, history and culture of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community in the City of Los Angeles. LGBT Heritage Month is the newest Heritage Month celebration, presented each June by Toyota Motor Services-Toyota/Lexus Financial Services, Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Christopher Street West/LA Pride, the Department of Cultural Affairs and the City of Los Angeles. Other Heritage Months include African American Heritage Month, Latino Heritage Month, American Indian Heritage Month and Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Defiant Spaces: 60 Years of Queer Organizations in L.A. is organized by ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles' LGBT Heritage Month. Generous support for this exhibition has been provided by Wells Fargo.



Exhibition Location

Los Angeles City Hall
Bridge Gallery, 3rd Floor
[201 North Main Street](#)
[Los Angeles, CA 90012](#)

The Bridge Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm.

This exhibition is free and open to the public.

Enter City Hall through the entrance on Main Street. Proceed through security and check in at the front desk. Let them know you are going to Bridge Gallery on the 3rd floor to see the exhibition.

For additional information, the public may call (323) 644-6269.

About ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is the oldest active Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning (LGBTQ) organization in the United States and the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world. Founded in 1952, ONE Archives currently houses over two million archival items including periodicals, books, film, video and audio recordings, photographs, artworks, organizational records and personal papers. The collections at ONE Archives are a part of University of Southern California Libraries.

For more information, please visit onearchives.org.

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Image: Photograph of protest after a police raid of the Black Cat Tavern, February 1967. The Advocate Records.
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