

CONTACT: Jennifer Gregg, jgregg@ONEArchives.org Executive Director, ONE Archives Foundation



ONE ARCHIVES FOUNDATION APPOINTS CHIEDU EGBUNIWE AS NEW BOARD CHAIR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (June 2, 2022) — ONE Archives Foundation announced that Chiedu Egbuniwe (he/him), previously the Board Secretary and a member of its Board of Directors since October 2018, has been appointed as the new Board Chair, succeeding David Farneth who will remain on the Board of Directors as an Executive Committee member at-large.

"Over the last several years, Chiedu has been instrumental in shaping the vision and programming of ONE Archives Foundation," said Jennifer C. Gregg, Executive Director. "Chiedu's deep experience in the LGBTQ+ and social justice movements is invaluable in continuing to guide ONE Archives Foundation into the future."

"It is an honor to be appointed as Chair of the ONE Archives Foundation Board of Directors," said Egbuniwe. "In these challenging times for the LGBTQ+ community, it is more vital than ever that we all tell our stories, particularly stories that have been silenced or discounted – women's voices, trans voices, and BIPOC voices. The rich, diverse history of LGBTQ+ people is an inspiration to social justice activists, as well as a roadmap to victory over our current obstacles. I look forward to working with the Board of Directors to tell authentic stories of our community and protect our history from erasure."

Among the ONE Archives Foundation programs in which Egbuniwe's leadership has been influential is a groundbreaking virtual presentation of Larry Kramer's Tony-award winning play THE NORMAL HEART, for which he served as Executive Producer. The reading marked the first time the play featured a cast that is predominately BIPOC and LGBTQ+. Honored for the Virtual & Remote – Best Performance category in the 26th Annual Webby Awards, ONE Archives Foundation's highly acclaimed virtual presentation of THE NORMAL HEART reached audiences nationwide and in 19 countries across the globe. Egbuniwe has also been involved in helping to establish the ONE Archives Foundation's new corporate program <u>Queer History at Work</u>, an initiative where the Foundation provides trainings on LGBTQ+ history to companies and organizations that support diversity and equity, and foster inclusive work environments. Visit <u>onearchives.org/queer-history-at-work</u> to learn more about this initiative.

Egbuniwe has been influential in developing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access policies and practices for ONE Archives Foundation, including the Board-adopted Value Statement: "Out of our commitment to social equity and justice, we tell the stories of the LGBTQ+ community and its history. We engage with the complexity of queer history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. We work in partnership both within our community and outside it in ways that foster trust and long-term relationships among groups. We seek to encourage understanding and empathy among our constituents in order to build coalitions and create social change."

Egbuniwe has served on the boards of Outfest and The Industry LA. At Outfest, he worked as a mentor for Outfest's Outset program, executive producing short films directed by young, diverse filmmakers. He was heavily involved with Fusion, the People of Color LGBTQ Film Festival, and the Outfest UCLA Legacy Project, helping to preserve LGBTQ films. At The Industry LA, Egbuniwe helped publicize productions of new operas, including *Galileo* and *War of the Worlds* at Walt Disney Hall. Egbuniwe currently lives in West Hollywood with a large collection of classical music LPs.

About ONE Archives Foundation

Founded in 1952, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States, and is dedicated to telling the accurate stories and history of all LGBTQ people and their culture. As an independent nonprofit, ONE Archives Foundation promotes ONE Archives at the USC Libraries — the largest repository of LGBTQ materials in the world — and

provides innovative educational initiatives, public exhibitions, and community programs. The curatorial and educational choices made by ONE Archives Foundation are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice.

Learn more, donate and become a member at <u>onearchives.org</u>, and connect with ONE on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @onearchives.

PRESS IMAGES



CHIEDU EGBUNIWE Board Chair

Image credit: Photo courtesy of Chiedu Egbuniwe.