



Call for Curators - WeHo 40th Anniversary Exhibition

Position Type: Fixed Term Contract

Application Deadline: Monday, January 20, 2025

Contract Timeline: February - June 2025

Location: Los Angeles, CA and West Hollywood, CA

About the Role:

One Institute seeks an experienced curator for an exhibition on Drag History in West Hollywood, funded by the City of West Hollywood's 40th Anniversary Cultural History Grant. Previous curatorial experience and up to three years of relevant experience with art, archival materials, and LGBTQ+ history is required.

The curator will help shape the narrative and bring their vision of the exhibition alive. One Institute encourages proposals that combine Drag History in West Hollywood with relevant contemporary needs.

About the Project:

Taking place as part of the City of West Hollywood's 40th Anniversary celebration, One Institute will present an exhibition exploring West Hollywood's colorful history of drag entertainment, from the mid-twentieth century to present day. From civil rights to media representation, the LGBTQ+ community of West Hollywood has played a definitive role in elevating drag culture throughout Los Angeles and onto an international stage. Before establishing cityhood in 1986, the unincorporated community of West Hollywood provided unique opportunities for queer initiatives, including gender-expansive stage performance in nightclubs. In 1972, when nine drag performers were arrested in Los Angeles on charges of lewd conduct, community members organized in West Hollywood to support the queens and challenge the discriminatory law. In 1996, Steven Seitz joined forces with RuPaul and/or other drag queens, riding down Santa Monica Boulevard atop a Pride float and proclaiming to the world, "I will survive!" Nearly three decades later, in the face of anti-drag and anti-trans policies across the nation, hundreds of West Hollywood residents took to the strip to assert, "Drag is not a crime!" From after-hours cabaret performances to activism in the streets, the culture of drag in West Hollywood has expanded the possibility to reimagine ourselves and the world around us.

Incorporating materials from the ONE Archives at the USC Libraries and possibly other collections, this exhibition will highlight the vibrant contributions of West Hollywood's drag performers and supporters of LGBTQ+ arts, culture, and civil rights. The exhibition will be presented at the One Gallery (626 N Robertson Blvd, West Hollywood) from late May through June with at least two interactive programs organized by the One Institute staff around the themes of the exhibition.