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**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES THE THIRD ANNUAL
CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL**

**Festival To Take Place Across LA County During
LGBTQ+ History Month, October 2025**

Open Call for Proposals: February 20-March 28

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (February 19, 2025) — One InSTITUTE announced today the third annual **Circa: Queer Histories Festival, the first and only LGBTQ+ History Month festival in the United States.** The 2025 festival will take place October 1–31 at venues across Los Angeles County. Submissions to this year’s call for program proposals will be open February 20–March 28.

The theme for this year’s Circa Festival is “Reclaiming Freedom,” highlighting how the LGBTQ+ community has relentlessly fought for liberation despite historical and ongoing threats to their rights. With the Trump administration’s constant attacks on queer and

trans communities, immigrants, HIV/AIDS funding, LGBTQ+ inclusion in public schools, women's reproductive rights, and more, the notion of reclaiming our freedom — even when we are not completely free — remains relevant and urgent.

“Circa: Queer Histories Festival returns for a third year with a focus on how, historically, the LGBTQ+ community has fought against hostile and dangerous governments — much like what we are facing today,” said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of the One Institute. “This year’s theme, ‘Reclaiming Freedom,’ will explore the complexities of freedom when many of us still lack basic rights. With history as our guide, we are reminded that we can — and will — persevere.”

Submissions to Circa 2025 are open to LGBTQ+ and allied artists, activists, scholars, youth, educators, cultural institutions, and community groups. Participating individuals and organizations benefit from One’s robust marketing and publicity support, need-based stipend funds, and access to free or low-cost venue space at one of many partner locations, including One Gallery in West Hollywood, the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center, and ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, among others.

Additional information regarding submission guidelines, deadlines, and eligibility for Circa 2025 can be found at circafestival.org.

The groundbreaking **Circa: Queer Histories Festival** debuted in 2023 in celebration of LGBTQ+ History Month, featuring an unprecedented lineup of 73 programs presented at venues across Los Angeles County to thousands of attendees. Since then, the list of programming partners has featured leading actors, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations such as *New York Times* bestselling author **Roxane Gay**, Lambda Legal CEO and GLSEN founder **Kevin Jennings**, Black AIDS Institute founder **Phill Wilson**, Catch One owner **Jewel Thais-Williams**, trailblazing photographer body artist **Sheree Rose**, TransLatin@ Coalition Founder **Bamby Salcedo**, art scholar **Ignacio Darnaude**, Academy Award-nominated filmmaker **Dee Mosbacher**, the **Los Angeles Times**, **Celebration Theatre**, **ACLU of Southern California**, **Getty Research Institute**, **The Outwords Archive**, and **Tom of Finland Foundation**. As in prior years, One Institute continues the tradition of enlisting the help of celebrated artists, scholars, activists, and community leaders from across Los Angeles’ arts community to curate festival programs.

“Working with our community is paramount to the success of these programs,” said One Institute Public Programs Manager Rory Hayes. “Our socially engaged process allows us to learn from diverse perspectives, revisit our history, and move towards liberation and connection. Anyone from anywhere can apply.”

Learn more about Circa and submit a program proposal by March 28, 2025 at circafestival.org.

About One Institute

Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute produces one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs that elevate queer and trans history and embrace emerging stories. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One empowers the next generation of teachers and students bringing queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. Additionally, the Institute assists in promoting the materials within ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, which houses the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by One Institute are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ 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. Learn more at oneinstitute.org, and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @oneinstitutela.

About Circa

Debuting in 2023, Circa: Queer Histories Festival is the first-ever LGBTQ+ History Month festival in the United States. This month-long celebration showcases an array of programs from hundreds of queer artists, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations throughout October. With sections including conversations, screenings, exhibits, and more, the festival offers a unique and enriching experience for attendees across Los Angeles County and beyond.

SELECTED PRESS IMAGES









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