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**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR  
THE 2026 CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL**

**The Fourth Edition of the LGBTQ+ History Month Festival to Take  
Place October 1-31 Across Los Angeles and Online**

**Submissions Now Open for Proposals for Performances, Screenings,  
Readings, Panel Discussions, Workshops, and More**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Los Angeles, CA (February 19, 2026) - One Institute announced today that the 4th annual Circa: Queer Histories Festival will take place October 1-31 at venues across Los Angeles County, as well as online. Submissions are now open at [circafestival.org](https://circafestival.org). Circa: Queer Histories Festival is the first and only LGBTQ+ history festival in the United States and is hosted by One Institute, the oldest active queer organization in the country.

Last year, Circa featured more than 40 programs including “*The Sky is Always Falling: HIV/AIDS Activists Unleashing Power in Los Angeles Then and Now*,” an exhibition about ACT UP/LA political actions, “*Queer Cartoons: A Celebration of LGBTQIA+ Animation and Its Creators*,” and “*Light into Material*” which honored queer histories of photography, craft, and ritual. The festival also hosted a panel for LGBTQ+ Gen Z leaders, a queer comedy night, a herstory of sapphic pop, a zine making workshop, a panel on allyship, and more events inviting audiences to investigate what freedom means to queer and trans communities in America during a time of rising authoritarianism.

“In a time when the government is actively erasing LGBTQ+ histories and identities, Circa is an act of defiance,” said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of One Institute. “For nearly 75 years, One Institute has been dedicated to educating the community about queer and trans history through arts and public programs. It is critical that we continue lifting up the voices of the past, sharing their challenges and triumphs, and honor the vibrant cultural contributions of our queer and trans trailblazers.”

The 2026 Circa: Queer Histories Festival will focus on queer and trans history in action. The programming team welcomes proposals from across the arts, cultural, and humanities disciplines in the form of: performances, screenings, readings, lectures and panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions. New works and works-in-progress as well as virtual programs are also eligible. The deadline to submit is Friday, March 27 at 11:59 P.M. PT.

This year’s festival will also include programming at One Institute’s STORIES: The AIDS Monument, which was unveiled last November in West Hollywood.

“The innovative and thought-provoking proposals submitted by community members are what makes Circa so unique and special,” said One Institute’s Exhibitions and Public Programs Manager Rory Hayes. “We look forward to curating extraordinary programming events that encourage audiences to explore new perspectives, celebrate the past, and unite in creating a better future.”

An in-person proposal information session will be held Thursday, March 5, 2026, 6:00-7:30 p.m., with a virtual session taking place via Zoom on Thursday, March 19, 2026, 6:00-7:00 p.m. PT. The application and more information can be found at [circafestival.org](https://circafestival.org).

One Institute is a non-profit organization that relies on a variety of funding sources to sustain its core programming, including many members and supporters who contribute throughout the

year. To join them and support important LGBTQ+ programming for current and future generations, make a gift today at [oneinstitute.org/donate/](https://oneinstitute.org/donate/).

### **ABOUT ONE INSTITUTE:**

Founded in 1952, One Institute 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](https://oneinstitute.org), and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram [@oneinstitutela](https://www.instagram.com/oneinstitutela).

### **Press Contact**

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