



CONTACT:

Tony Valenzuela (he/him), tvalenzuela@oneinstitute.org
Executive Director, One Institute

**ONE INSTITUTE LAUNCHES
THE PAUL D. LERNER AND STEPHEN REIS LECTURES
ON LGBTQ+ HISTORY**

**Historian, Author, and Activist Dr. Lydia Otero Named as Guest
Speaker for Inaugural Event on Aug. 16 at One Gallery
in West Hollywood**

Tickets Now Available

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (July 8, 2026) — One Institute announced today the launch of The Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis Lectures on LGBTQ+ History, a new public speaker series celebrating the enduring impact of LGBTQ+ historians, activists, and authors. The quarterly series will provide audiences with opportunities to learn from and engage with experts in the field and consider how historical knowledge can inform current struggles for equity, visibility, and social justice.

The inaugural event, “1987: Reflections on a Brown and Queer Life in Los Angeles,” taking place at One Gallery in West Hollywood on August 16 at 2:00 p.m. will feature guest speaker Dr. Lydia Otero, whose work illuminates the intersections of Mexican American history, queer activism, and urban renewal in the Southwest. Tickets are donation-based with a sliding scale, including a free option. Additional information can be found [here](#).

“For far too long, LGBTQ+ history has been silenced, covered up, or completely erased. And there are resurgent forces which are still trying to remove us from the history books,” said Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis. “So now more than ever, it is important to support rigorous historical research into LGBTQ+ people, places, and communities – and to recognize the extraordinary stories that are revealed.”

In addition to serving the public, the series will provide valuable learning opportunities for students and educators alike. The lectures will complement One Institute's existing educational programs, which equip teachers with resources and lesson plans to bring LGBTQ+ history into classrooms and foster more inclusive learning environments throughout California.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous gift from Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis, which has made this lecture series possible," said Jude Schoenfeld, Director of Public Programs at One Institute. "This series connects One Institute to our longstanding mission of preserving LGBTQ+ histories and sharing these stories with the greater community. We are honored to welcome Dr. Lydia Otero as the inaugural speaker this August, launching a lecture series that will bring some of the most influential voices in LGBTQ+ history to spaces around Los Angeles."

Dr. Lydia Otero, historian, author, and activist, was president of Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos and one of the original and founding members of Lesbianas Unidas in 1983. They have a PhD in History from the University of Arizona, and from 2003 to 2020, they were a professor in the Department of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona. Their latest book is *L.A. Interchanges: A Brown & Queer Archival Memoir*, published in 2023.

Event Details:

The Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis Lectures on LGBTQ+ History

"1987: Reflections on a Brown and Queer Life in Los Angeles" with Dr. Lydia Otero

One Gallery (626 N. Robertson Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069)

Sunday, August 16, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

RSVP required. Donation-based tickets available [here](#).

Additional lecture dates and guest speakers to be announced soon.

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/.

ABOUT ONE INSTITUTE:

Founded in 1952, One Institute is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute elevates queer, trans, and HIV/AIDS histories and embraces emerging stories through collaborative education, arts, and cultural programs. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One Institute empowers teachers and students to bring queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. As the independent community partner of ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, we promote the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world. In 2026, One Institute became stewards of STORIES: The AIDS Monument, in partnership with the City of West Hollywood.

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 and Instagram [@oneinstitutela](https://www.facebook.com/oneinstitutela) and [@theaidsmonument](https://www.instagram.com/theaidsmonument).

Press Contact

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SELECTED PRESS IMAGE:

**The Paul D. Lerner and Stephen Reis
Lectures on LGBTQ+ History**

Join us for our lecture series
highlighting distinguished LGBTQ+
scholars, historians, and thinkers!

Upcoming Speakers
Sunday, August 16, 2 p.m.
Dr. Lydia Otero, "1987:
Reflections on a Brown and
Queer Life in Los Angeles"
October
Lecturer TBD
December
Lecturer TBD

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Image Credit:

Archival image 1: Kent Garvey, "Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos 4th anniversary dinner," Nov. 1985. Kent Garvey photographs, ONE Archives at the USC Libraries.

Archival image 2: Unknown, "Antony Grey at ONE," 1967. ONE Archives at the USC Libraries

Archival image 3: Unknown, "Classroom at ONE," ONE Archives at the USC Libraries

Archival image 4: Kent Garvey, "Project 10 founder Virginia Uribe and students," Dec. 1987.

Kent Garvey photographs, ONE Archives at the USC Libraries.

All press images are available for download [here](#).