

EQUALITY WILL NEVER BE SILENT

Movements for social, racial, and economic justice have touched every facet of American life, but perhaps none are so diverse as the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement. The promise was simple, but acceptance was not. While freedom from personal and political oppression, the right to live one's own truth and identity, and the opportunity to choose one's own theoretically fundamental, they continue to be hard work for those in the LGBTQ+ community.

Being LGBTQ+ was not only socially unacceptable 20 years ago, it was punishable. New Yorkers could be arrested just for dancing with the same sex, or engaging in private consensual same-sex activity. The American Psychiatric Association considered "homosexuality" a form of mental illness until 1973, and being "gay" might jeopardize one's employment, housing, reputation, and relationships.

When New York acts, the rest of the nation follows. That was true of the Stonewall uprising in 1969. It was true when New York became the first large state to pass marriage equality in 2011, and it is true today as we work together to achieve true equality for all.

This exhibit honors the meaningful political, cultural, and artistic impacts of just a few LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. It is inspired by a quote by Harvey Milk, an incomparable leader featured within it who declared, "Hope will never be silent." We pay homage to the remarkable individuals whose persistence and influence have not only laid the message to those within the LGBTQ+ community but beyond those borders to those who care. Let their voices rise above the silence and continue to show the light for equality forward.



JUNE 28, 1969: THE STONEWALL UPRISING

On June 28, 1969, a political riot occurred at the Stonewall Inn that is widely considered to be the spark that ignited modern LGBTQ+ rights movements. During this period, New York City police raided the LGBTQ+ friendly establishments - many of which were operated by organized crime groups - but because racism, police arrested bar employees for serving bootlegged alcohol and patrons for breaking the state law against so-called "cross-dressing." The uprisements and angry Governor Rockefeller's crackdown on these subjects at police to stop the arrests. What began as another discriminatory and harassing raid culminated in six days of protests. The community fought back.

Supporters marked the first anniversary of the riot with the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, which inspired calls for Pride parades we celebrate across the world each year.

The Stonewall Inn was first recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 and has since been named a National Historic Landmark (2008). In 2011, President Obama signed the first executive order since 1953, a national requirement, that all honoring LGBTQ+ rights the same way. Governor Cuomo named the Stonewall Inn a New York State Historic Site. This location is also a New York State Park Through History area.



THE RAINBOW FLAG

The original rainbow flag for a diverse coalition with the LGBTQ+ community was created by Gilbert Baker and the designer Keith Haring. Original rainbow flag design incorporated red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple stripes. Red was removed because of its association with blood and AIDS. Purple was added to honor the memory of the late Marsha P. Johnson, a prominent transgender rights activist. The flag is a symbol of pride and hope, representing the diversity and unity of the LGBTQ+ community.



ALICE AUSLON

1921-1997

Alice Auslon was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. She was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN

1929-2014

Harvey Fierstein was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

JOHN WILSON

1924-2005

John Wilson was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

WILDELUCKE

1928-2014

WildeLUCKE was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

THE BILLY ROSS

1923-2014

The Billy Ross was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

ALFONSO R. BARRI

1928-2014

Alfonso R. Barri was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

BERNARD

1928-2014

Bernard was a prominent LGBTQ+ rights activist and a member of the Stonewall Inn community. He was a vocal advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and played a significant role in the development of the rainbow flag.

TOM DUANE

1928-2014

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EQUALITY WILL NEVER BE SILENT

Moments for social, racial, and economic justice have touched every facet of American life, but progress comes at a price in the shadow of LGBTQ rights movements. The promise was simple, but acceptance was not. While freedom from personal and political oppression, the right to live one's truth and identity and the opportunity to choose how one's identity is acknowledged, they continue to be hard won for those in the LGBTQ community.

Being LGBTQ was not only socially unacceptable 50 years ago, it was punishable. New York's courts arrested just for dancing with the same sex, or engaging in private, consensual same sex activity. The historical Psychiatric Association considered "homosexuality" a mental disorder until 1973, and being "outed" could jeopardize one's employment, housing, reputation, and relationships.

When laws first acted, the rest of the nation followed. That was true of the Stonewall uprisings in 1969. It was true when New York became the first large state to pass marriage equality in 2011, and it is true today, as we must regularly re-achieve that equality for all.

The exhibit honors the meaningful political, cultural, and artistic impact of just a few LGBTQ New Yorkers. It is made possible in a spirit by Harvey Milk, who brought visibility to the community and whose defiant "I hope will never be silent" has become a rallying cry for the community. It is made possible by the many others who have seen a road and have paved the way for the LGBTQ community, and beyond. There is power in being who you are. Let their voices live above the silence and continue to move the fight for equality forward.



JUNE 28, 1969: THE STONEWALL UPRISING

On June 28, 1969, a police raid occurred at the Stonewall Inn, a gay-friendly neighborhood in Manhattan. During this period, New York City police raids on LGBTQ-friendly establishments - many of which were operated by organized crime groups - had become routine. Police arrested bar employees for serving bootlegged alcohol and patrons for breaking the state law against so-called "cross-dressing." Fed-up customers and angry Greenwich Village demonstrators threw objects at police to stop the arrests. What began as another community fight back.

Supporters marked the first anniversary of the rebellion with the Christopher Street Liberation Day March, which evolved into the Pride parades we celebrate across the world each year.

The Stonewall Inn was first recognized on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999, and has since been named a National Historic Landmark in 2000. In 2016, President Obama named the area surrounding Stonewall a national monument, the first honoring LGBTQ rights; the same year, Governor Cuomo named the Stonewall Inn a New York State Historic Site. The location is also a New York State Path Through History attraction.



THE RAINBOW FLAG

The six-colored rainbow flag that is ubiquitous worldwide with the LGBTQ movement was created by Gilbert Baker in 1978 as the signature of Harvey Milk, a gay liberationist and politician in San Francisco. Originally eight colors, the flag was designed with a white stripe in the center to represent the rainbow and the colors of the rainbow flag. The flag was believed to be the obligatory symbol of the movement. It replaced the rainbow flag that had been used by the San Francisco Gay Community Center in the 1970s.

Baker worked with artists of various backgrounds, and produced the first flag that debuted in San Francisco. Since then, the rainbow flag has inspired groups within the community to create flags and flag individuals across the LGBTQ spectrum.

"I hoped it would be a great symbol but I am disappointed all of that - and public art - because it has become so much bigger than me, than where I am producing it. The beauty of it is the way that it has continued on."



ALICE BAILEY

1911 - 1982



Alice Bailey was a prominent figure in the LGBTQ community, known for her activism and leadership. She was a member of the Mattachine Society and played a significant role in the early days of the gay rights movement. Her work focused on education and advocacy for the community.



HARVEY MILK

1930 - 1978



Harvey Milk was a pioneering figure in the LGBTQ rights movement. He served as the first openly gay member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. His leadership and advocacy were instrumental in the passage of the San Francisco Fair Employment and Housing Act, which prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation.



DAVID GREENGLASS

1934 - 2017



David GreenGLASS was a prominent figure in the LGBTQ community, known for his activism and leadership. He was a member of the Mattachine Society and played a significant role in the early days of the gay rights movement. His work focused on education and advocacy for the community.

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EQUALITY WILL **NEVER** BE SILENT

Movements for social, racial, and economic justice have touched every facet of American life, but perhaps none are so diverse as the modern LGBTQ rights movement. The premise was simple, but acceptance was not. While freedom from personal and political oppression, the right to live one's own truth and identity, and the opportunity to choose love are theoretically fundamental, they continue to be hard won for those in the LGBTQ community.

Being LGBTQ was not only socially unacceptable 50 years ago, it was prosecutable. New Yorkers could be arrested just for dancing with the same sex, or engaging in private, consensual same-sex activity. The American Psychiatric Association considered "homosexuality" a mental disorder in 1973, and being "outed" could result in loss of employment, housing, reputation, and relationships.



A Pride flag waves outside the Capitol in celebration of legalizing same-sex marriage, June 2011.
Photo by Mike Grell AP Photo

That was true of the first

HON. PAUL G. FEDMAN
1910 -



Paul G. Fedman was a prominent labor leader and politician. He served as the 10th Mayor of New York City from 1954 to 1961. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Fedman was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

ALPHONSO B. DAVID
1900 -



Alphonso B. David was a labor leader and politician. He served as the 11th Mayor of New York City from 1961 to 1965. David was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. He was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. David was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

DEBORAH GLICK
1950 -



Deborah Glick is a labor leader and politician. She served as the 12th Mayor of New York City from 1994 to 2002. Glick was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. She was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Glick was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

TOM DUANE
1955 -



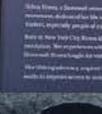
Tom Duane is a labor leader and politician. He served as the 13th Mayor of New York City from 2002 to 2010. Duane was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. He was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Duane was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

MARSHA P. JOHNSON
1945 - 1992



Marsha P. Johnson was a labor leader and politician. She served as the 14th Mayor of New York City from 1992 to 1995. Johnson was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. She was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Johnson was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

SYLVIA RIVERA
1951 - 2002



Sylvia Rivera was a labor leader and politician. She served as the 15th Mayor of New York City from 2002 to 2005. Rivera was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. She was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Rivera was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

LARRY KRAMER
1935 -



Larry Kramer is a labor leader and politician. He served as the 16th Mayor of New York City from 2005 to 2010. Kramer was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. He was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Kramer was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

VITO RUSSO
1946 - 1990



Vito Russo is a labor leader and politician. He served as the 17th Mayor of New York City from 1990 to 1995. Russo was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. He was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Russo was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

EDIE WINDSOR
1929 - 2017



Edie Windsor is a labor leader and politician. She served as the 18th Mayor of New York City from 1995 to 2002. Windsor was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. She was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. Windsor was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.

ALPHONSO B. DAVID
1900 -



Alphonso B. David is a labor leader and politician. He served as the 11th Mayor of New York City from 1961 to 1965. David was a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice. He was instrumental in the passage of the Labor Law Enforcement Act of 1960, which established the Public Employees Federation (PEF) as the official union for city employees. David was also a strong advocate for labor rights and social justice.



ALICE AUSTEN

1866 - 1952

Photographer Alice Austen highlighted the extraordinary nature of everyday life in New York and across the world, and refused to conform to traditional societal and gender norms typical of her time.

Photography came naturally to Austen, who was born into social prominence in Staten Island. She met her lifelong partner Gertrude Tate in the late 1890s.

In 1929, they lost nearly everything in the stock market crash, including Austen's cherished family home, Clear Comfort. Soon, the pair could not afford rent for their apartment. Austen declared herself a pauper and handed over much of her work to the Staten Island Historical Society.

Years later, the group realized the value of her photographs and helped Austen create Clear Comfort. Today, Clear Comfort is the Alice Austen House Museum, an attraction in New York State's Path Through History heritage tourism program. In 2019, Governor Cuomo expanded the board's National Register listing to recognize Austen's significance in LGBTQ history.



Alice Austen and her friends in the 1890s. The group consisted of her two sisters, her mother, and her partner Gertrude Tate. Photo by the Staten Island Historical Society.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN

1954 -

A performer, playwright, and voice actor whose career has spanned nearly five decades, Harvey Fierstein has helped to bring mainstream acceptance and visibility to the LGBTQ community.

Born in Brooklyn, Fierstein began his career writing and performing in New York's theater scene even before finishing his five acts degree from the Pratt Institute. Bringing drag and LGBTQ themes center stage, his hits *Shog* (1980), and *The Tempest* made him a household name, and his supporting role on *Cherry 2012* earned him an Emmy Award nomination.

Fierstein is the playwright of *How Sincerely* (social and mother of the books, *They Are Not in Heaven* (2003) and *Kingston* (2003). He received Tony Awards for *Book of David* (1984), *La Cage aux Femmes* (1984), and *Passions* (2003).



Photo by Ken Cedeno for Getty Images



JAMES BALDWIN

1924 - 1987

A novelist, essayist, poet, and playwright, Harlem native James Baldwin was an iconic, articulate literary voice and a civil rights activist who wrote candidly about race and homosexuality in America.

Baldwin, the grandson of a slave, grew up in a large, religious family, and took odd jobs after his high school graduation. He became a full-time writer when he moved to France in 1948.

Baldwin embraced his sexual identity as an individual and without labels. He brought LGBTQ themes to the forefront in 1956 when he released *Giovanni's Room*, a novel about the narrator's internal conflict regarding his relationships with other men. It was a finalist for the National Book Award in fiction in 1957.

Baldwin is remembered as a voice for equality, and is remembered for such works as *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953), *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), and *The Fire Next Time* (1963).

AUDRE LORDE

1924 - 1987

Audre Lorde was a poet and scholar whose impact reached far beyond her inspirational works reflecting upon her experiences as a black lesbian. Named the New York State Poet Laureate in 1991 by Governor Mario M. Cuomo, Lorde lent a powerful voice to social movements that emphasized the unique struggles of women of color.

Born in Harlem, Lorde attended Hunter College and Columbia University, and worked as a librarian in New York public schools before teaching at the college level. She published her first work in 1968 and went on to release more than a dozen poetry and prose collections that politicized all parts of her life.

Lorde spoke out against all forms of injustice, and her activism is honored today by the Audre Lorde Project, a New York City community organizing center that works toward social and economic justice for LGBTQ people of color.



Photo by Jack Wassick for Getty Images

“ I see it as historic ... I do not hide who I am. I am a black lesbian feminist warrior mother and if I were not those things, I might be wealthy and famous from my writing today. ”

AUDRE LORDE ON BEING NAMED NEW YORK STATE POET, 1991

BAYARD RUSTIN

1912 - 1987

Activist Bayard Rustin is remembered for his contributions to the civil rights movement and for organizing the March on Washington in 1963. Despite being a brilliant behind-the-scenes strategist and integral force behind the nonviolent protests, marches, and boycotts that propelled the movement forward, he was often overlooked because he was openly gay.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Rustin attended City College of New York in the 1930s. He dedicated himself to fighting inequality and demonstrating peacefully at a young age. A conscientious objector to war, Rustin was arrested in 1943 for refusing to report to his local draft board, a crime for which he spent 28 months in federal prison.

Upon his release, Rustin traveled to India and studied Gandhi's nonviolent movement. He participated in Freedom Rides across the South and protested segregation as early as the 1940s, gaining the attention of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to whom Rustin would become a key advisor.

Rustin founded the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) in 1965 and devoted his life to human rights issues across the globe. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.



“ For decades, this great leader, often at Dr. King's side, was denied his rightful place in history because he was openly gay. No medal can change that. But today, we honor Bayard Rustin's memory by taking our place in his march towards true equality, no matter who we are or who we love. ”

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA DURING RUSTIN'S MEDAL OF FREEDOM CEREMONY, 2013

Bayard Rustin, with support of the March on Washington, August 28, 1963. Photo by AP/Wide World

NEW YORK STATE REPORTS 'POSE' IN THE FIGHT TOWARD EQUALITY

Advances in LGBTQ+ rights research revealed that LGBTQ+ individuals are at a higher risk for substance abuse, HIV, and other health issues. The report also highlights the need for more comprehensive anti-discrimination laws and the importance of community support and mental health services. The report calls for a more holistic approach to public health, one that recognizes the role of social and structural factors in determining health outcomes.



ALICE AUSTIN 1906 - 1990



Alice Austin was a pioneering African American journalist and author. She was the first African American woman to work for the New York Times. Her work focused on the lives of African Americans and the struggle for civil rights. She was a member of the NAACP and the National Urban League. Her book, "The Negro in America," was a landmark work of African American history.



HARVEY FIERSTEIN 1954



Harvey Fierstein is an American actor, playwright, and singer. He is best known for his role as "The Transcendental Man" in the Broadway musical "Hairspray." He has also written and performed in several other plays, including "The Book of David" and "The Book of Mormon."

JAMES BALDWIN 1924 - 1987



James Baldwin was an African American novelist, playwright, and social critic. He is best known for his books "Notes of a Native Son" and "The Fire Next Time." His work explored the complexities of race, class, and identity in America. He was a member of the NAACP and the National Urban League. His book, "The Fire Next Time," was a landmark work of African American history.

AUDRE LORDE 1952 - 1992



Audre Lorde was an African American poet, writer, and activist. She is best known for her book "Zami: A New Language of Love." Her work explored the complexities of race, class, and identity in America. She was a member of the NAACP and the National Urban League. Her book, "Zami: A New Language of Love," was a landmark work of African American history.

BAYARD RUSTIN 1912 - 1987



Bayard Rustin was an African American civil rights leader and pacifist. He was a member of the NAACP and the National Urban League. He was a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement and played a major role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. He was also a member of the SCLC and the NAACP. His book, "From Sinner to Saint," was a landmark work of African American history.

MARSHA P. JOHNSON 1946 - 2007



Marsha P. Johnson was an African American transgender rights activist and drag queen. She was a member of the SCLC and the NAACP. She was a key figure in the Stonewall riots and played a major role in the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Her book, "The Book of David," was a landmark work of African American history.

STELLA RIVERA 1907 - 2002



Stella Rivera was a Puerto Rican writer and activist. She was a member of the SCLC and the NAACP. She was a key figure in the Puerto Rican rights movement and played a major role in the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Her book, "The Book of David," was a landmark work of African American history.

EDIE WINDSOR 1929 - 2017



Edie Windsor was a Canadian-born American lesbian rights activist. She was a member of the SCLC and the NAACP. She was a key figure in the LGBTQ+ rights movement and played a major role in the Stonewall riots. Her book, "The Book of David," was a landmark work of African American history.

“The United States v. Windsor was a landmark ruling and the case’s architect, Roberta Kaplan, emerged as a true American hero.”

— PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

ROBERTA KAPLAN 1966 -



Roberta “Bobbie” Kaplan is a New York City lawyer specializing in commercial and civil rights litigation who successfully represented Edie Windsor in the landmark Supreme Court case that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

A Cleveland native, Kaplan graduated from Harvard and earned her law degree at Columbia University, where she is an adjunct professor. As a law clerk for Judge Aulani Kaye, she worked on *Matter of Joseph* in 2001, which recognized the adoption rights of LGBTQ+ couples.

Kaplan is the founding partner of Kaplan Hecker & Fink and continues to fight for LGBTQ+ rights across the country. In Mississippi alone, she successfully won a case seeking marriage equality, overturned the LGBTQ+ adoption ban, was appointed for the first Pride parade in Starkville after the parade was initially denied, and continued the fight against HB 1523, an anti-LGBTQ+ “religious freedom” law.

Kaplan also co-founded the *Time’s* Up Legal Defense Fund to assist survivors of sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. Outside of the courtroom, Kaplan is a host of the podcast *the Gay Men’s Health Crisis*, the national HIV/AIDS service organization.

“United States v. Windsor was a landmark ruling and the case’s architect, Roberta Kaplan, emerged as a true American hero.”

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