

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Interpretation Resource Kit

Introduction

As museums and cultural organizations strive to be representative of all voices, more and more are uncovering LGBTQ+ stories connected to their institutions, while others are searching for those stories to incorporate into their narratives, engaging with LGBTQ+ history and inclusion, or looking for where to start. Regardless of where these institutions are in the process of interpreting LGBTQ+ stories, many find navigating LGBTQ+ interpretation challenging because of the nuances of LGBTQ+ history and the personal nature of gender and sexuality. This LGBTQ+ Inclusive Interpretation Resource Kit is meant to help overcome the challenges of, provide an introduction to, and serve as a basic guide for LGBTQ+ interpretation. The kit includes AASLH conference sessions, webinars, books, and technical leaflets on LGBTQ+ interpretation and inclusive interpretation more broadly, as well as award winners whose projects show LGBTQ+ interpretation in practice. Also in this kit are guides, readings, and webinars from other organizations and a list of museums dedicated to or doing LGBTQ+ interpretation, from the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco to the Alice Austen House in Staten Island.

Conference Sessions

2020 Annual Meeting - [Interpreting LGBTQ Stories in Historic House Museums](#)

Adapted annotation: This session explores how Historic New England's Sarah Orne Jewett House Museum and Visitor Center, the Gibson House in Boston, and the Wisconsin Historical Society's Pendarvis Historic Site uncovered queer histories at their site and highlighted these stories through new interpretation and programming. The session addresses creative and nuanced interpretations of LGBTQ+ history and offers guidance and inspiration on how to find and tell LGBTQ+ stories at your institution, addressing issues such as determining appropriate terminology and language, facing resistance amongst staff, and connecting with the LGBTQ+ community.

2020 Annual Meeting - [Hidden in Plain Sight: Finding and Telling Queer History](#)

Adapted annotation: In a presentation of historic house and traces of queer life in communities and case studies, panelists discuss how to identify and incorporate diverse Queer narratives in

local history institutions. This session addresses how to interpret Queer stories at sites with no documented LGBTQ+ history and ways to look beyond your site and its time period to tie your community's past and present LGBTQ+ experience into the narrative. Case studies for interpreting the trans and people of color LGBTQ+ experiences are also included as panelists note that the stories of white, middle-class, gay men and lesbians are usually the focus of Queer interpretation.

Webinars

[Practical Lessons from the LGBTQ Columbia History Initiative \(2021\)](#)

Adapted annotation: The LGBTQ Columbia History Initiative documents the diverse perspectives of Columbia, South Carolina's LGBTQ community, past and present. The initiative, led by Historic Columbia and in consultation with a steering committee of community members, will unveil a 30-interview oral history collection, LGBTQ Periodicals digital collection, and an ArcGIS StoryMaps collection. This webinar shares how Historic Columbia builds relationships with historically marginalized communities and collaborates with other institutions to create permanent and easily accessible resources. The webinar also discusses best practices for planning and conducting oral histories, fostering community honored and focused (not community exploited and erased) relationships, and researching LGBTQ+ history.

History News article adapted from webinar: "The LGBTQ Columbia History Initiative." *History News* 76, no. 3 (Summer 2021): 19–23.

[Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites \(2017\)](#)

Adapted annotation: This webinar, presented by Dr. Susan Ferentinos, is an introduction to interpreting LGBTQ+ history at museums. Dr. Ferentinos discusses first steps in planning LGBTQ+ interpretive efforts, including readying the institution by addressing the institutional mission and culture, working towards consensus, and seeking out expertise; building trust through collaboration, understanding the trauma of oppression, and preparing a sustainability plan; approaching sources with an awareness of changing understandings of sexual identity and the nuances of LGBTQ+ history; and planning your narrative by choosing appropriate terminology, avoiding stereotypes, and considering the broader story of LGBTQ+ history.

Books

Ferentinos, Susan. [*Interpreting LGBT History at Museums and Historic Sites*](#). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014.

Annotation from Rowman and Littlefield: LGBT individuals and families are increasingly visible in popular culture and local communities; their struggles for equality appear regularly in news media. If history museums and historic sites are to be inclusive and relevant, they must begin incorporating this community into their interpretation. *Interpreting LGBT History at Museums*

and Historic Sites is a straightforward, accessible guidebook for museum and history professionals as they embark on such worthy efforts.

This book features:

- An examination of queer history in the United States. The rapid rate at which queer topics have entered the mainstream could conceivably give the impression that LGBT people have only quite recently begun to contribute to United States culture and this misconception ignores a rich history. A brief overview of significant events in LGBT history highlights variant sexuality and gender in U.S. history, from colonization to the first decades of the twenty-first century.
- Case studies on the inclusion and telling of LGBT history. These chapters detail how major institutions, such as the Chicago History Museum, have brought this topic to light in their interpretation.
- An extensive bibliography and reading list. LGBT history is a fascinating story, and the limited space in this volume can hardly do it justice. These features are provided to guide readers to more detailed information about the contributions of LGBT people to U.S. history and culture.

Ferentinos, Susan. “Where the Magic Happened: Historic Homes as Sites of Intimacy.” In [Reimagining Historic House Museums: New Approaches and Proven Solutions](#), edited by Kenneth C. Turino and Max A. Van Balgooy, 183–195. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

Annotation: In this article, Dr. Ferentinos argues that “all museums are sex museums” and already interpret the history of sexuality, with or without realizing it and to various extents. These interpretations can be diversified by introducing stories of race, class, and gender, all of which involve power dynamics intrinsic to the history of sexuality, and introducing LGBTQ+ history. One way of incorporating LGBTQ+ history into museum interpretation is ‘pulling back the curtain.’ This interpretive approach involves presenting visitors with historical context and analytical tools and letting them draw their own conclusions about the content.

Award Winners

2022

Award of Excellence for Publications (honorable mention): [We Will Always Be Here: A Guide to Exploring and Understanding the History of LGBTQ+ Activism in Wisconsin](#) by Jenny Kalvaitis and Kristen Whitson, published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press

Summary from Wisconsin Historical Society: This inspiring and educational book presents examples of LGBTQ+ activism throughout Wisconsin’s history for young people to explore and discuss. Drawing from a rich collection of primary sources—including diary entries, love letters, zines, advertisements, oral histories, and more—the book provides a jumping-off point for

readers who are interested in learning more about LGBTQ+ history and activism, as well as for readers who want to build on the work of earlier activists.

We Will Always Be Here shines a light on powerful and often untold stories from Wisconsin's history, featuring individuals across a wide spectrum of identities and from all corners of the state. The LGBTQ+ people, allies, and activists in this guide changed the world by taking steps that young people can take today—by educating themselves, telling their own stories, being true to themselves, building communities, and getting active. The aim of this celebratory book is not only to engage young people in Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ history, but also to empower them to make positive change in the world.

Award of Excellence: Washington State Historical Society for the exhibition [Crossing Boundaries: Portraits of a Transgender West, 1860-1940](#)

About the exhibition from WSHS: This exhibition shares seldom-spotlighted historical narratives of transgender people in the West. It spans the time period of 1860 to 1940 and explores four central themes, connecting those histories to contemporary aspects of today's LGBTQ+ community. Stories from the lives of specific individuals who did not conform to gender norms will illuminate the themes of visibility, identity, acceptance, and history.

Crossing Boundaries: Portraits of a Transgender West also considers how westward migration provided opportunities for self-expression and fulfillment. As they traversed unfamiliar territory, these individuals crossed both physical boundaries and the perceptual boundaries of their earlier lives.

2021

Award of Excellence: Vashon-Maury Island Heritage Association and Frisky Divinity Productions for the exhibition [In and Out: Being LGBTQ on Vashon Island](#) (Washington)

About the exhibition from Vashon Heritage Museum: Since the 2000 census, Vashon Island has had the largest per capita concentration of gays and lesbians in Washington state. We feel there is a crucial need for this exhibit: despite the importance and prevalence of the LGBTQ+ community on Vashon, no acknowledgement, book or educational piece has yet been created to put the community in context. There is not really a formally or informally organized LGBTQ+ community on Vashon, more a spread of disparate individuals who, while they may know each other, have never witnessed themselves represented publicly as an identified community. This exhibit will tell the history of the LGBTQ+ community on Vashon-Maury Island.

2018

Albert B. Corey Award: Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center for [Inside Out: Memories from Inside the Closet](#)

AASLH description: The Museum of the American Military Family and Learning Center brings together people with shared experiences to showcase and honor those who have served behind the scenes: America's military families. The award-winning project included the exhibit *Inside Out: Memories from Inside the Closet*, a collection of special works painted on military uniforms by LGBT military veterans, and the anthology *SHOUT! Sharing Our Truth*, a collection of first-hand stories by LGBT veterans and family members about their experiences both in the military and in re-integrating into civilian communities before and after "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This project empowered members of the LGBT veteran community to tell their stories and helped acquaint the public with the unique challenges of the LGBT military experience.

Inclusive Interpretation Basics

Technical Leaflets

[Inclusive Interpretation Tips](#)

Annotation from AASLH: Technical Leaflet #282 by Seema Rao tackles a concrete method to develop diverse interpretation. How can you expand and diversify museum visitors? Consider what you are offering. Are you inviting them to find something relevant to what you are offering? Are you offering something that feels relevant? The former question characterizes a museum-centered approach. Visitor-centered interpretation, on the other hand, is about developing ideas that feel relevant to diverse audiences. Seema Rao of Brilliant Idea Studio presents a step-by-step approach to assessing your museum's interpretation with respect to inclusion and provides practical tips for creating experiences and exhibits that amplify diverse voices and invite participation and reflection by all types of visitors.

[Telling Inclusive Stories When Your Collections Are Stuck in the Past](#)

Annotation from AASLH: This leaflet discusses strategies for finding and interpreting inclusive stories at historic sites with limited or missing material evidence. Through techniques like interpreting absence, re-imagining existing collections, open storage, and sharing collections, history organizations can share more accurate and inclusive history by working with collections they already have.

Conference Session

2020 Annual Meeting - [Who Are These Spaces For Anyway: Overcoming Traditional Narrative to Create a Place of Belonging](#)

Adapted annotation: Institutions often try to push the status quo, but fall short, resulting in assumptions of what a community needs without inclusion. How can we become authentic community partners, instead of perpetuating outdated narratives, geared toward a select few?

This session reveals how the San Bernardino County Museum, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes, and the Oakland Museum of California leaned into spaces of vulnerability while dismantling past practices through a discussion of recent projects at these institutions. Panelists also address building meaningful community relationships, connecting content to visitors' lived experiences, and challenges in taking on projects at odds with the field's status quo.

[The Inclusive Historian's Handbook](#)

Annotation from inclusivehistorian.com: This dynamic reference source supports inclusive and equity-focused historical work in public settings by sharing a knowledge base that invites more people to engage in history projects; providing concrete examples of how to make history work more relevant; centering equity, inclusivity, diversity, and public service; and offering accessible windows into the many ways public historians work.

The *Handbook* provides easily accessible information for historians working in multiple contexts. Authored by field experts, the entries combine practical advice with critical reflections and telling examples. Because it is a multi-authored project, it does not speak with a single, authoritative voice. Rather, authors offer their perspectives and share ideas and recommendations drawn from experiences in the field.

The *Handbook* is for individuals and groups engaged in historical work in a wide range of settings—not just paid professionals or academic scholars. It is intended to provide community groups, educators, museum professionals (paid and unpaid), students, scholars, activists, historical societies, preservationists, archivists, and others with easy-to-find information that is directly applicable to inclusive history practice.

Outside Resources

Guides

American Alliance of Museums - [“LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines for Museums”](#)

Annotation from AAM: The “LGBTQ Welcoming Guidelines for Museums” outline preferred practices for museums to use when working with LGBTQ professionals, audiences, and communities. The guidelines reflect our belief that museums are community anchors where visitors and staff should safely encounter and find meaning in various cultures, objects, people, and ideas. Sexual orientation and gender identity are threads in the vibrant tapestry of any community. Museums benefit from interweaving or even highlighting those threads, among many others, in our work.

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) - [GLAAD Media Reference Guide, 11th Edition](#)

Annotation from GLAAD: This Guide is intended to be used by journalists reporting for mainstream media outlets and media creators who want to tell the stories of LGBTQ people fairly and accurately. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive glossary of language used within the LGBTQ community, nor is it a prescriptive guide for LGBTQ people. There is no one way to be LGBTQ, nor is there one way to describe LGBTQ people. In fact, you will see one practice recommended throughout the Guide: Ask people how they describe themselves, ask people their pronouns, and identify them in your coverage as such.

Margaret Middleton, [“The Queer-Inclusive Museum,”](#) *Exhibition (Fall 2017)*, 79–84.

Introductory paragraph: Museums today are demonstrating an increased commitment to LGBTQ communities through exhibitions that center their stories. These queer-focused exhibitions are valuable tools for broadening representation, but the messages they carry are only as strong as the institution’s commitment to queer inclusion. When queer narratives are limited to temporary exhibitions during Pride Month or isolated in queer-themed galleries, it suggests that they are “special interest” and unimportant. However, with the support of comprehensive queer inclusion, exhibitions can be stronger, more powerful tools for inclusion. This article will explore queer inclusion in four tiers: programming, temporary exhibitions, interpretive strategy, and broad institutional commitment.

Webinars

Massachusetts Historical Society, [Hidden in Plain Sight: Remembering Queer Nightlife](#) (2022)

Annotation from MHS: Throughout history rarely have LGBTQ+ clubs, meeting places, and social areas been landmarked or turned into a museum. House museums that were once homes to Queer residents can pose difficult questions about the interpretation if the former residents were not public about their identity in their lifetime. Many important sites in Queer history simply don’t exist anymore. Clubs have closed, publications have shut down, buildings have been razed or radically altered, but these are still spaces that exist in the history and memory of the Queer community. Panelists will discuss their memories of Queer nightlife in Boston, as well as the ways they have used artistic mediums to bring these spaces back to life.

New England Museum Association, [Reopening the Archives: Telling Queer Stories](#) (2021)

Annotation from NEMA: Throughout your time as an interpreter, there have doubtlessly been figures you’ve researched who never married, or who lived with someone of the same gender. On countless tours, visitors ask, “Well, were they gay?” and interpreters have only been able to say that we just don’t know. However, by re-examining material left behind by those we interpret with a fresh eye, we can find so many stories of queer people who have existed for years and years, whose histories can now finally be told in full. Guests are excited to hear these new stories, and local communities can find themselves fitting into pieces of the puzzle at a site they may never have thought to visit before. Revisiting histories and telling queer stories are

not only vital to being accurate as historians, but, more and more, it's clear that these are the stories that are most important to tell right now.

New England Museum Association, [LGBTQ+ Museum Stories Make Us Happy Hour](#) (May 2021)

Annotation from NEMA: In celebration of National Pride Month, the LGBTQ+ Museums Staff & Students Professional Affinity Group is coordinating rapid fire presentations about museums celebrating queer history, elevating LGBTQ+ voices, and supporting their staff and community. In this webinar, you will hear from the following panelists:

*Ken Turino (he/him), Manager of Community Partnerships & Resources, Historic New England, will introduce Historic New England LGBTQ related sites and the advantages of partnering with LGBTQ organizations.

*Brittany Nazario (she/her), Visitor Experience Manager at the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, will share lessons learned from the preparation for opening an exhibition focusing on race, gender, and sexuality, including training on gender, pronouns, and inclusive language.

*Kate Potter (she/her), Ranger, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS, will share how "the Queerest House in Cambridge" went virtual in 2020.

*Chandra Boudreau (she/her), 2019 Trinkett Clark Intern, and Ellen Keiter (she/her), Chief Curator, Eric Carle Museum, will discuss the creation, composition, and reception of The Carle's 2019 exhibition *All: A Look into LGBTQ Representation in Picture Books*.

*Kristyn Scorsone (she/they), PhD Candidate at Rutgers University, Newark and member of the Queer Newark Oral History Project, will address the importance of intersectionality in telling these stories through our various public history projects.

American Alliance of Museums, [Telling Trans Stories Through Collections and Exhibitions](#) (2020)

Annotation from AAM: Join the co-chairs of the AAM LGBTQ+ Alliance's Task Force for Transgender Inclusion for a Transgender Day of Visibility Webinar on Telling Trans Stories through Collections and Exhibitions. Panelists Margaret Middleton and Eric Feingold will share their experiences and answer questions, giving participants starting points from which to tell trans stories in their own museums. Participants will leave the webinar with tips, tricks, and best practices for working with the transgender community in both collections and exhibitions.

MuseumNext, [How Museums Can Expand Narratives with LGBTQ Interpretation](#) (2015)

Adapted annotation from MuseumNext: Susan Ferentinos, public history researcher, writer and consultant spoke at MuseumNext Indianapolis in September 2015 about ways that museums might begin thinking about expanding their interpretation to include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) stories. She addresses issues such as stakeholder buy-in, preparing for

criticism, the importance of capturing the diversity of the LGBTQ+ experience, interpretive choices (such as terminology and providing LGBTQ+ historical context), and staffing and sustainability. Dr. Ferentinos also presents case studies for LGBTQ+ interpretation.

Museums

Museums dedicated to LGBTQ+ history

[GLBT Historical Society, San Francisco, CA](#)

History: Founded in 1985, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of LGBTQ public history. Our operations are centered around two sites: our GLBT Historical Society Museum, located since 2011 in the heart of San Francisco's Castro neighborhood; and our Dr. John P. De Cecco Archives and Research Center, open to researchers in the Mid-Market district.

Mission: The GLBT Historical Society collects, preserves, exhibits and makes accessible to the public materials and knowledge to support and promote understanding of LGBTQ history, culture and arts in all their diversity.

[Lesbian Herstory Archives, Brooklyn, New York](#)

Herstory: The Lesbian Herstory Archives began in the 1970s when a group of women involved in the Gay Academic Union realized that Lesbian herstory was "disappearing as quickly as it was being made." These women formed two consciousness-raising groups, one of which became the founding site of the Archives.

Mission: The Lesbian Herstory Archives exists to gather and preserve records of Lesbian lives and activities. This ensures future generations will have ready access to materials relevant to their lives.

[The American LGBTQ+ Museum](#), beginning at the New-York Historical Society in New York, New York

About: The American LGBTQ+ Museum will tell our evolving histories in our own voices, as we envision a world in which all people work toward and experience the joy of liberation. Beginning with our incubation at the New-York Historical Society, the Museum will be vibrant and welcoming, both visually and cognitively, for the entire LGBTQ+ community.

Mission: The American LGBTQ+ Museum preserves, investigates, and celebrates the dynamic histories and cultures of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people, as well as those of the emergent and adjacent identities among our communities. Using exhibitions and programs, we seek to advance LGBTQ+ equality through the lens of social justice movements, including, but not limited to, race, gender, class, immigration, and disability. We envision a world in which all people work toward and experience the joy of liberation.

[ONE Archives Foundation, Los Angeles, CA](#)

About: ONE Archives Foundation is the independent community partner that supports ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California (USC) Libraries, the largest repository of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) materials in the world. Founded in 1952 as ONE Inc., the publisher of ONE Magazine, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States. In 2010, ONE Archives Foundation deposited its vast collection of LGBTQ historical materials with the USC Libraries. Today, the organization is dedicated to promoting this important resource through diverse activities including educational initiatives, fundraising, and range of public programs.

Mission: Tell stories that connect history and contemporary culture to affect social change today. We cultivate the personal and communal courage found in LGBTQ history to empower the contemporary queer experience, promote social justice and equality for all.

[The Museum of Transgender Hirstory and Art](#)

About: The Museum of Transgender Hirstory & Art (MOTHA) and the ongoing exhibition “Trans Hirstory in 99 Objects” was founded as a conceptual art project by artist Chris E. Vargas who performs as its Executive Director. MOTHA’s physical status is “forever under construction” which allows the project to take multiple forms such as exhibitions, poster graphics, performances, and a virtual artist residency program.

Mission: To ask audiences to think critically about what a visual history of transgender life could and should look like, and if it’s even possible to compile a comprehensive history of an identity category for which the language is fairly new, sometimes contested, and still rapidly evolving.

Case studies: Museums & organizations doing LGBTQ+ interpretation

[The Alice Austen House](#): Staten Island, New York

Selected exhibitions that tell LGBTQ+ stories:

- A. [Stonewall at 50](#)
- B. [Radical Tenderness: Trans for Trans Portraiture](#)
- C. [New Eyes on Alice Austen](#)
- D. [Kelli Connell: Double Life, 20 Years](#)
- E. [Powerful and Dangerous: The Words and Images of Audre Lorde](#)

National Parks Service LGBTQ Heritage Initiative

Learn about the Initiative:

- A. [Publication: LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and](#)

[Queer History](#)

- B. Telling All Americans' Stories: [LGBTQ+ Heritage](#)
- C. Article: Springate, Megan E. "The National Park Service LGBTQ Heritage Initiative: One Year Out." *The George Wright Forum* 34, no. 3 (2017): 394–404.
- D. Series - ["Finding Our Place: LGBTQ Heritage in the United States"](#)
- E. Administrative History: [LGBTQ Heritage Initiative](#)

[LGBTQ+ History in Wisconsin](#), Wisconsin Historical Society

Page includes links to learn about:

- A. We Will Always Be Here: Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ Historymakers
- B. Wisconsin's Gay History Book Series
- C. Queer Art Gallery
- D. LGBTQ+ History essays
- E. LGBTQ+ images of and items from WHS's historical collections
- F. Outside resources

[The History Project](#): Boston, MA

About: The History Project is the only organization focused exclusively on documenting and preserving the history of New England's LGBTQ communities and sharing that history with LGBTQ individuals, organizations, allies, and the public. The roots of The History Project extend back to 1980, when a group of activists, historians, archivists, and writers was awarded a grant of \$300 from the City of Boston to document Boston's gay and lesbian history in conjunction with the city's 350th anniversary. In the ensuing years, the group began to compile a slide show on LGBTQ history that was shown at bars, college campuses, and other venues. In 1996, THP received a major boost in visibility when the organization's exhibition on pre-Stonewall LGBTQ history, *Public Faces/Private Lives*, opened at the Boston Public Library. The exhibition broke attendance records at the library, drawing approximately 55,000 visitors. Ever since, THP has continued to pursue its mission of documenting, preserving and sharing the history of the Boston area's LGBTQ community.

Projects: Achievements include the exhibit *Public Faces/Private Lives*, which became the bestselling book, *Improper Bostonians*, as well as exhibitions focused on LGBTQ photojournalism, Provincetown's White Party, the history of Boston Pride, and the LGBTQ community's response to HIV/AIDS. THP's many outreach activities include *Out of the Archives*, a series of public talks focused on our archival collections; the *HistoryMaker Awards*, which honor established and emerging activists; *Into the Streets*, our walking tours program; and

events such as film screenings and exhibitions developed in partnership with other organizations.

Reading

Bennett, Danielle. "Lessons from Glen Burnie: Queering a Historic House Museum." *Journal of Museum Education* 45, no. 4 (2020): 414–25.

Abstract: In this article I make the case for including queer narratives in historic house museums, both because including queer history in public history settings is important in its own right and as a way to invigorate museum interpretations and appeal to wider audiences. I dispel concerns about "outing" historical actors and describe some language and ways of thinking about historical sexuality to assist educators in their interpretation. I then shift into the case study of Glen Burnie, a historic house museum that completely revised its interpretation to center the house's last residents and its preservationists, a gay male couple. The museum's interpretive shift leverages the efforts of both men to create public and private domestic experiences that create an immersive new house tour experience and can be used to create a critique of the portrayal of gender roles and heteronormativity at many historic houses.

Levin, Amy K., ed. [Gender, Sexuality, and Museums: A Routledge Reader](#). New York: Routledge, 2010.

Annotation from publisher: *Gender, Sexuality and Museums* provides the only repository of key articles, new essays and case studies for the important area of gender and sexuality in museums. It is the first reader to focus on LGBT issues and museums, and the first reader in nearly 15 years to collect articles which focus on women and museums. At last, students of museum studies, women's studies, LGBT studies and museum professionals have a single resource.

The book is organised into three thematic parts, each with its own introduction. Sections focus on women in museum work, applications of feminist and LGBT theories to museum exhibitions, exhibitions and collections pertaining to women and individuals who are LGBT. The Case studies in a fourth part provide different perspectives to key topics, such as memorials and memorializing; modernism and museums; and natural history collections. The collection concludes with a bibliographic essay evaluating scholarship to date on gender and sexuality in museums.

Middleton, Margaret. ["Queer Possibility."](#) *Journal of Museum Education* 45, no. 4 (2020): 426–36.

Abstract: Queer possibility is an interpretive strategy that uplifts the marginalized narratives of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) historical figures and objects of queer significance. This article outlines three unspoken standards that content developers use to determine whether to include queer content in museum exhibits and tours. In a

heteronormative, cisnormative society, choosing not to interpret queerness or potential queerness is not a neutral action. These limiting standards can unwittingly perpetuate a legacy of homophobia and transphobia in museum interpretation. In response to these limiting standards, the article outlines three alternative queerpositive strategies that prioritize the experience of queer visitors and the telling of queer history.