

Sacramento LGBTQ+



Historic Experience Project

HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT • DECEMBER 2024



PROJECT
WEBSITE

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City of
SACRAMENTO

Disclaimer: Available historic sources favor a gay white male and lesbian perspective. The Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project team has made every effort to broaden the historical narrative to include information about the BIPOC, AAPI, Latinx, trans, bisexual, and other communities wherever possible based on available information and public input, particularly by collecting oral histories.

The cover page graphics and all chapter divider graphics were designed by Sacramento-based LGBTQ+ owned and operated graphic design and video production firm:



Cover images (from left to right):

1. Marchers walk to the Sacramento during the 1971 March for Sexual Freedom. Source: Skip Shulman for *The Sacramento Bee*.
2. CGNIE Empress IV Pat Montclair at the Parking Lot (1979). Source: Fifty Gay Years In The Greater Sacramento Area.
3. Tom Bach (right) and Patrick Elkins-Zeglarski (left) in a Lambda Players' production (ca. 1990). Source: Center for Sacramento History.
4. GALA co-president Lavinia Cooper. Courtesy of Asa Salley.
5. Billie Jean Jones (1998). Source: ETVC Archives.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The story of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community is one of countless individuals who put themselves at risk to express their true identities and build a vibrant, rich, and supportive community. Members of the LGBTQ+ community have always been an integral part of the fabric of Sacramento, though for much of the city's history their existence was hidden and misunderstood. To date, the contributions of this community to Sacramento's history have been significantly underrecognized. In 2023, the City of Sacramento received a Certified Local Government grant from the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), part of California's Historic Preservation Fund allocation by the federal government, to develop a historic context statement (HCS) and survey focused on LGBTQ+ history and associated historical resources in Sacramento.

This HCS highlights Sacramento's LGBTQ+ history and begins to rectify historical disparities through the identification of sites, persons, and events that are of historic importance to this community. It is not intended as a comprehensive history of the community, which has been and continues to be documented by community members and scholars. Instead, this context statement draws upon new and existing research, including oral histories with members of the community, and provides a general discussion of the overarching forces that shaped LGBTQ+ life in Sacramento over time to understand the community's contributions to history and the places that are most important to this history.

This context begins with two chapters that provide a broad chronological overview of early gender transgressive expression in the Sacramento area, first from its initial settlement by Native Americans to 1940, and then from World War II to 1968. Due to widespread discrimination and the real risk of arrest, imprisonment, or institutionalization that gender and/or sexually nonconforming people faced throughout these periods, most were forced to hide their true selves from their family, friends, and general society, as well as themselves. As such, very little verified research or information exists about their existence in Sacramento prior to the gay liberation movement of the late 1960s. As such, these first two overview chapters include brief summaries of how gender non-conformity was generally understood and treated in the United States and California prior to 1968 to provide useful background information that helps explain what life was likely like for LGBTQ+ people in Sacramento during these early periods. This general national and statewide context is interspersed with relevant known examples of gender nonconformity in Sacramento.

These first two chronological overview chapters provide a broad foundation for three thematic chapters about LGBTQ+ history in Sacramento that follow, which include Out and Proud: Development of A Visible Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community (1969-2000); AIDS and the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Community's Response (1981-1996); and Political Activism and the Fight for LGBTQ+ Rights

in California's State Capital (1969-2000). A list of potentially eligible properties related to each chapter, as well as guidelines for assessing the eligibility of properties for historic designation, are included in the Appendices. Due to limited available research, particularly about the period prior to the 1960s, and time constraints tied to the project's grant funding, not all possible themes associated with Sacramento's LGBTQ+ history were examined. Suggestions for future research to expand this HCS are included in the "Preservation Goals and Policies" section of the Appendices.

People with non-normative gender identities and sexual orientations have always existed in Sacramento. Many Native American tribes—including the Nisenan, Miwok, and Patwin who called the Sacramento region home—embraced an expansive and fluid understanding of gender and sexuality. Spanish missionaries and European and American settlers who colonized California in the 18th and early 19th centuries brought with them more restrictive views that demonized gender transgressive personal expression. Although the flood of men into California during the Gold Rush in the mid-19th century created a stark gender imbalance that upended many of these gendered and racialized structures, gender nonconformity was still not generally accepted by American society and was often met by arrest or imprisonment. In Sacramento, accounts of the arrest of individuals who engaged in gender non-conforming relationships or actions contrast with stories of male and female impersonators who were celebrated for their portrayals of members of the opposite gender on theatrical stages across Downtown Sacramento from the late 19th the early 20th centuries.

Pioneering medical studies in the late 1940s and 1950s increased societal awareness and understanding of non-normative gender and sexuality and contributed to the formation of the first gender nonconforming communities in the United States. However, this greater visibility was met with a period of increased paranoia toward and criminalization of any personal expression that differed from society norms during the Cold War. Amidst this period of intense scrutiny, the first homophile groups organizations – including the Association for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) in Sacramento in the 1960s – formed to provide support for gay men and women. Discrimination and criminalization of non-normative sexuality and gender expression within the boundaries of the City of Sacramento led to the coalescence of the first LGBTQ+ bars, businesses, and community gathering places across the Sacramento River in the separate and, at the time, unincorporated city of West Sacramento. The epicenter of the local LGBTQ+ community began to shift from West Sacramento to the City of Sacramento following the Stonewall Inn riots in New York City in 1969 and the repeal of California's anti-sodomy laws in 1975. Although gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses and services opened throughout the city, the largest and most visible concentration developed in a neighborhood of Midtown near the intersection of 20th and K streets that became known as Lavender Heights. A rich social and cultural scene emerged that reflected the diversity of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, including bars, restaurants, bookstores, medical and legal offices, sports leagues, theater troupes, social clubs, media publications, professional business associations,

and religious and spiritual institutions that catered specifically to the LGBTQ+ community. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community was recognized as a visible and vibrant part of the city's general population.

The AIDS outbreak in the 1980s was a watershed moment in history and exacted an unfathomable toll on Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, as many of its leaders and brightest members were lost. However, more than any other event prior to the 1980s and 1990s, the AIDS epidemic united Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, who rallied to form organizations, clinics, charities, and other services to support its sick and dying members. AIDS also mobilized the LGBTQ+ community to fight for equal rights to protect itself from discrimination and provide essential support, care, and services to its loved ones. Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community was well placed to have an outsized impact on policy and legislation because of its proximity to the seat of state government at the California State Capitol. The Capitol became the marquee destination for numerous statewide gay rights marches, protests, and rallies. Local LGBTQ+ residents lobbied for anti-discrimination legislation both from within the political establishment and through grassroots efforts as private citizens through advocacy groups, letter writing campaigns, and personal lawsuits. The experiences and policy wins garnered through the efforts of the statewide LGBTQ+ community laid the foundation for monumental legislative, social, and cultural changes in the 2000s, which culminated in the legalization of same-sex marriage in California in 2013 and across the United States in 2015. With greater acceptance and a decreasing need to cling tightly together for survival, the tight-knit quality of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community dissipated around 2000 as the LGBTQ+ community became an integrated part of Sacramento's broad and diverse population.

Throughout this document, properties associated with local LGBTQ+ history that are known to survive are labeled as "extant." Properties that do not include this label have either been demolished or require more research to determine their status. Members of the public, the academic community, and City staff will continue to research the history of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community, leading to future discoveries, new observations, and more detailed analyses of this history. Historic context statements can be living documents, and with time and as more information is revealed, this document may be amended and expanded to add more themes, time periods, and details to recognize the continued contributions of the LGBTQ+ community to Sacramento's development.

Introduction

Project Background + Goals



Images on previous page (from left to right):

1. Jolanne Tierney (1989). Source: Courtesy of Jolanne Tierney.
2. Stan Hadden (1991). Source: *Sacramento Bee*.
3. Reverend Freda Smith of the Sacramento MCC (1987). Source: *Sacramento Bee*.

INTRODUCTION

PROJECT BACKGROUND & GOALS

What is a Historic Context Statement?

As part of the effort to accomplish these goals and outcomes, the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project provides a historic context statement (HCS) as a foundation for the identification of significant individuals, key events, buildings, and sites associated with Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community. An HCS is a specialized historic study. As defined by the National Park Service, it is an organizational structure for the interpretation of history that groups information about historic properties sharing a common theme, a common geographical area, and a common time period. That is, it is the history of the physical development of a place during a certain time and organized by themes and patterns. In this case, the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project HCS focuses on the history of the LGBTQ+ community (theme) in Sacramento (geographic area) from the 19th century through 2000 (time period). While the LGBTQ+ community extended across the greater Sacramento area, the primary focus of this context is within the current boundaries of the City of Sacramento, though important locations and events in West Sacramento and the surrounding area are discussed as they played an important role in local LGBTQ+ history. The end date, approximately 2000, was selected to capture the LGBTQ+ community's response to the AIDS epidemic and important events in efforts to gain equal rights in the 1990s, as well as to allow for sufficient time and distance between the present and the events described to adequately understand their impact in the context of the past. It is important to note that the HCS is not a comprehensive history of Sacramento or the LGBTQ+ community's contributions to the city. It does not include all themes, potentially significant built resources, or individuals related to the city's LGBTQ+ history. Instead, it provides a general overview of the community's presence in Sacramento and the forces that shaped its lived experiences, development, and activities over a specific period of time.

Project Team

This HCS was prepared by Page & Turnbull, a California-based architecture and planning firm that has been dedicated to historic preservation since 1973. With its headquarters in San Francisco, the firm has had an office in Sacramento since 2006. Page & Turnbull staff responsible for this project includes Principal-in-Charge Christina Dikas, Project Manager/Senior Associate Cultural Resources Planner Clare Flynn, and Cultural Resources Planner Samantha Purnell, all of whom meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards in Historic Architecture, Architectural History, and/or History.

Coordination of the project and public outreach was undertaken by City of Sacramento Preservation Director Sean deCourcy and Preservation Planner Henry Feuss. Considerable day-to-day assistance on the project was provided by City of Sacramento interns.

METHODOLOGY & OUTREACH

The HCS is organized thematically, beginning with two chapters that provide a broad chronological overview of LGBTQ+ history through 1968 and connects important international, national, and statewide events to local LGBTQ+ history in Sacramento. The overview is intended to provide the necessary background information for the more focused thematic chapters that follow. The organization and content of this HCS are consistent with federal, state, and local guidelines for developing historic contexts and registering historic properties. These include the guidelines found in the following publications:

- National Park Service: National Register Bulletin No. 15 *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*
- National Register Bulletin No. 16A *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*
- National Register Bulletin No. 16B *How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form*
- National Register Bulletin No. 24 *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*
- State of California, Office of Historic Preservation "Instructions for Recording Historical Resources"
- California Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, 2006-2010
- Marie Nelson, State of California, Office of Historic Preservation, "Writing Historic Contexts"
- State of California, Office of Historic Preservation, "OHP Preferred Format for Historic Context Statements"

Numerous and varied sources of information were reviewed to create this report. Primary source documents that originated within the historical period include personal narratives and oral histories, newspaper articles published in *Mom...Guess What...!*, *the Sacramento Bee*, and other media publications; business listings in the Damron Guides; photographs; maps; official reports and records; and records of building construction. Of particular importance are oral histories gathered by community members and scholars that are archived at the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange (LLACE); Center for Sacramento History; California State University, Sacramento; and Sierra College, or which were conducted purposely for this project. These oral histories and biographies provide a first-hand account of the lives and experiences of individual members of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community and are an invaluable resource for continued research.

Literature Review

A broad review of existing written academic research and popular histories related to the history of the LGBTQ+ community in Sacramento, as well as the state of California and United States, formed the basis of the HCS. Principal literary sources that informed this study include William Burg's books, *Sacramento Renaissance: Art, Music & Activism in California's Capital City* (2013) and *Midtown Sacramento: Creative Soul of the City* (2014). Research term papers completed by students at local and regional universities were also referenced, including Michael Andrew Claussen's master's thesis, "Lavender Heights: The Emerging Gay Community in Downtown Sacramento, California," (California State University, Chico, 1998); Stan F. Carlsen's master's thesis, "Out on the Inside: A Case Study of the Political Transformation of the LGBTQ Community in California" (California State University, Sacramento, 2006); and Amber Elena Pion's master's thesis, "How To Create Policy in an Epidemic: AIDS in Sacramento, 1981-1989" (California State University, Sacramento, 2010).

Recent historic context statements for LGBTQ+ communities in other California cities were also referenced to provide general background information. These include the City of Los Angeles' *SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement* (2014), prepared by GPA Consulting, as well as the City and County of San Francisco's *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco*, written by Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson (2016).

Archival Research

The following is a summary of the archival research that informed the HCS:

- Personal documents, photographs, and other materials provided by community members, including George Raya, Denny Mangers, Nurk Franklin, and others.
- Archival materials held by the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange (LLACE); GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco; ONE Archives at the University of Southern California; and other state LGBTQ+ repositories.
- Oral histories recorded in the Center for Sacramento History's *Legends of Courage* LGBTQ+ history video documentary and interview series, directed by Dawn Deason.
- Newspaper articles published in *Mom...Guess What...!*, *ARC News*, *PATLAR Gazette*, *TV Guise/Genderflex*, *The Latest Issue*, *Outword Magazine*, and other local LGBTQ+ newspapers and publications that are held by LLACE, Center for Sacramento History, California State University, Sacramento Library, and Digital Transgender Archive
- Online historic newspaper articles in the *Sacramento Bee*, *Sacramento Union*, and others at Newspapers.com
- Online maps, aerial photographs, and historic photographs from the Sacramento Public Library, Calisphere.org, and UC Santa Barbara's FrameFinder website

- City directories, United States federal census records, and other records held by the Sacramento Public Library and Ancestry.com

City of Sacramento interns collected and mapped the addresses of LGBTQ+ businesses listed in Damron's Men's Travel Guide (the Damron Guides) in Sacramento from 1965 to 1989 and scoured Jail Register records and Mug Books at the Center for Sacramento History to document arrests of gender non-conforming individuals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Community Outreach & Stipend Program

The history of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community has been underrecognized and under-researched until the present and the vast majority of information about this history remains in the memories of the people who witnessed it. Community involvement was, thus, essential to the completion of the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience project. City of Sacramento Historic Preservation staff and their consultant, Page & Turnbull, engaged members of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community through numerous avenues over the course of the year-long project.

To spread word about the project and share opportunities to participate, City of Sacramento Historic Preservation staff presented and handed out flyers at various LGBTQ+ events and spaces throughout Sacramento. Some of the events they attended included, but are not limited to, the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Gala in 2023 and 2024, Drag Queen Bingo events at Mango's, the LGBT Community Center Career Fair, the CGNIE Coronation Gala, Sacramento Pride and the annual Pride flag raising ceremony, Jammin' Jo's annual 21st Birthday Party, meetings of the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group and Center for Spiritual Awareness, a walking tour of Lavender Heights presented by Preservation Sacramento, and a CityConnect Mixer event at Roscoe's.

An initial public meeting was held at the First United Methodist Church in the Lavender Heights neighborhood on April 18, 2024. A second public meeting was held at the Hart Senior Center in Midtown approximately one month later on May 23, 2024. During these meetings, City of Sacramento Historic Preservation staff and Page and Turnbull introduced the purpose, scope, and approach of the LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project and gathered initial input from community members. Following the release of the First Public Draft of the historic context statement, two additional public meetings took place in October 2024 at Eskaton Land Park and the Hagginwood Community Center, respectively, during which the project team summarized progress on the project progress, provided an update on the project schedule, and gathered additional feedback on the draft historic context statement.

City of Sacramento Historic Preservation staff supplemented these larger public meetings with seven additional small group sessions in August and September 2024. The meetings took place at the LGBT Community Center, LLACE, and Marsha P. Johnson Center South. Community members—especially members of the BIPOC, trans, and lesbian communities—were invited to share their stories in small listening sessions.

To gather detailed information about prominent individuals and specific topics, Henry Feuss, Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Sacramento, and Clare Flynn, historic consultant from Page & Turnbull, met with individual community members for one-on-one conversations about their experiences and memories about the LGBTQ+ community. The following individuals participated in these individual meetings and provided invaluable information about the history of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community (listed in alphabetical order by last name):

- Liz Almendarez
- John Bennett
- Matt Bunch
- Jonathan Cameron/Taryn Thru-U
- Theresa Corrigan
- Pat Drouet
- Nurk Franklin
- Maureen Gaynor
- Cherie Gordon
- Jude Grden
- Jeanette Hess
- Charlene Jones
- Denny Mangers
- Rita Maningo
- Kimberly Miller
- George Raya
- Tina Reynolds
- Asa Salley
- Clarmundo Sullivan
- Jolanne Tierney (Jammin' Jo)
- Bob Vizzard
- Judy Walls

Preservation Sacramento provided matching funds to set up a stipend program to compensate individual community members who volunteered their time to actively contribute to the project. The stipend program was facilitated and promoted by LLACE and administered by City of Sacramento staff.

Stipend recipients directly contributed to the project in several specific categories, including collecting oral histories, conducting in-depth scholarly research, documenting individual properties with historic connections to LGBTQ+ history, producing multimedia graphic content for the historic context statement, and assisting with public meetings.

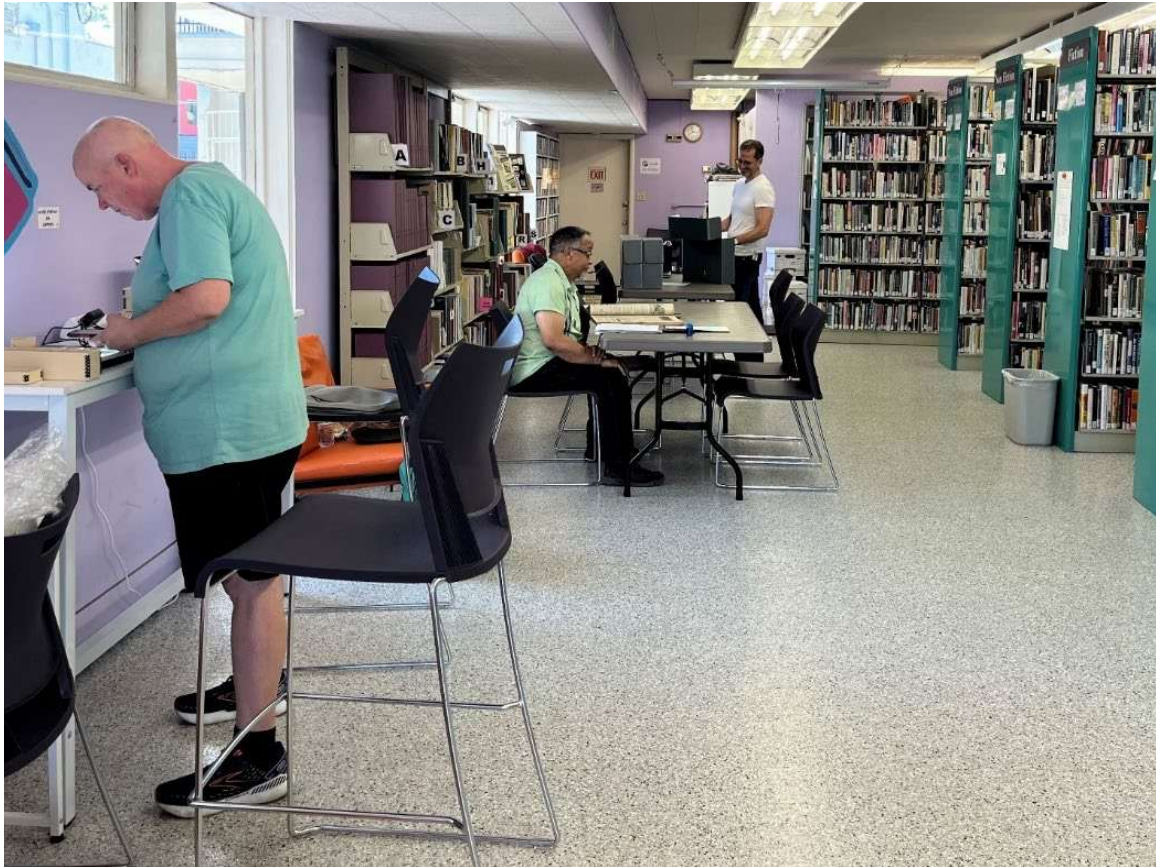


Figure 1. Stipend recipients (from left to right) Kerry Parsons, Carson Anderson, and PJ Carlino reviewed archival collections at the Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange (LLACE).

Stipend recipients who contributed to the project included retired City of Sacramento Preservation Director Carson Anderson, Sacramento State University assistant professor PJ Carlino, and LLACE volunteer Kerry Parsons, who served as community researchers for the project, combing through archival collections materials at LLACE, California State Library, GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco, and ONE Archives in Los Angeles.

Sacramento State University student Samuel Williams assisted with the intensive survey of the Lavender Heights neighborhood to evaluate it as a potential historic district, photographing contributing properties and researching their association with the LGBTQ+ community by searching city directories available online at Ancestry.com and the Sacramento Public Library.



Figure 2. Stipend recipient Samuel Williams photographed and helped research many of the contributing properties in Lavender Heights.

of historic cruising locations, using the Damron Guide listings for Sacramento.

Local LGBTQ+ multimedia graphic design and marketing company Uptown Studios, founded by community member Tina Reynolds, created the graphics for the historic context statement cover and chapter dividers. The graphics were designed by creative director and senior graphic designer Noel Michienzi and design project assistant and graphic designer Jill Bruschera.

Community member Alan LoFaso received a stipend to complete an in-depth review of the public drafts. Nick Kobel researched and created a map

Oral Interviews

Oral histories that record the stories of local LGBTQ+ community members in their own voice were essential to compiling this history. Dawn Deason’s documentary and interview series *Legends of Courage*, which featured filmed interviews with several prominent members of Sacramento’s LGBTQ+ community and included a feature-length documentary about the life of pioneering lesbian attorney and activist Rosemary Metrailler, served as a key source. The series, released in 2017, was funded in part by a California Humanities grant and private donations. In 2023, the Center for Sacramento History released a series of oral history interviews with *Mom...Guess What ...!* publisher Linda Birner and other community members—including Denny Mangers, Elizabeth Harrison, Frank Lawler, and Del Richards. These oral histories were a vital resource for the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project.

In addition to these previously filmed oral histories, the City of Sacramento awarded stipends to community members to record additional oral histories as part of the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project. These oral histories will be archived at the Center for Sacramento History for the public to view.

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APPENDICES

Preservation Goals & Policies

Based on the work to date, the following recommendations are offered to continue preservation efforts:

Recommendation: Complete Site-Specific Survey and Research on the Properties for Further Research

From the research conducted, addresses related to the themes and which appear to remain extant were collected in a spreadsheet as properties for further research. They may be candidates for designation as landmarks or historic districts in the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources. City staff or members of the public can conduct additional research to confirm their association with the LGBTQ+ community, the dates of association, and appearance during that association or alterations since then. Field surveys should also be conducted to determine if the properties retain integrity per the considerations in this context. As this HCS is not comprehensive, additional properties associated with Sacramento's LGBTQ+ community are likely to be discovered over time. They should also be researched and surveyed following the same methods.

Recommendation: Designate Eligible Resources at Local and National Levels

For properties that meet the eligibility standards and retain integrity, nominations for Sacramento Register designation should be prepared. The City of Sacramento may also consider preparing a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Submission for Sacramento's LGBTQ+ Community. The historic overview and themes in the historic context statement may be used as the content of the Multiple Property Documentation nomination form. At least one property with property-specific site history and significance under one of the themes will need to be submitted along with the form. Once the Multiple Property Submission is approved, future nomination of individual properties to the National Register under this topic will need to provide only property-specific information and a statement identifying the criteria and theme(s) the property is significant under and why.

Recommendation: Amend Existing Designations to Include Association with Sacramento's LGBTQ+ Community

Existing designations of individual landmarks and historic districts that are listed on the Sacramento Register should be amended to reflect the stories and contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. As opportunities arise to update other designations or the Sacramento Register, the City should consider researching the properties to see if they are also associated with the LGBTQ+ community.

Recommendation: Continue to Update and Expand the Historic Context Statement

Historic context statements are living documents that can and should be updated regularly. The end period will extend as time passes and later decades become historic. Additional research materials may become available, such as digital scans of local LGBTQ+ newspapers and publications. Potential areas of expansion include, but are not limited to:

- History and contributions of the local transgender, bisexual, and other parts and subcultures of the LGBTQ+ community, which are not covered in detail in this Historic Context Statement due to the recency of many of the most significant events in the history and visibility of these communities.
- History and contributions of AAPI, Latinx, Native American, and LGBTQ+ people of other racial or ethnic groups, which are not covered in detail in this Historic Context Statement, due to limited available resources and public feedback to date.
- Document the evolution of the LGBTQ+ community after the early 2000s in light of important legal and policy achievements after this period, including (but not limited to) the repeal of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” in 2011 and the legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015.

The schedule imposed by the grant for this historic context statement limited the amount of research that could be conducted. Not all important themes could be adequately studied, and for some themes, not enough associated important individuals, events, or properties were addressed. As is typical with historic context statements, additional themes can be added as resources become available or more information is discovered.

Recommendation: Documentation and Recognition of Sacramento’s LGBTQ+ Community

Much more remains to be documented and shared about Sacramento’s LGBTQ+ community, including in the greater Sacramento region beyond the city. This may include publishing books and articles or creating exhibits from the research already conducted. Additional stories of long-term residents and significant individuals can be recorded as interviews and oral histories. The artifacts, photographs, and papers of significant individuals and organizations can be collected and donated to existing archives for public use, such as the Center for Sacramento History. The research and findings compiled by the Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project may be used to support future grant and other funding opportunities to support efforts to recognize and celebrate important historic sites in local LGBTQ+ history, particularly those that have been lost over time. Support from the City and the Sacramento community as a whole for these and other efforts to preserve the area’s LGBTQ+ legacy is encouraged.

Recommendation: Collaboration Between the City of Sacramento and City of West Sacramento to Recognize Local LGBTQ+ History

Due to discrimination and strict policing of the LGBTQ+ community within the boundaries of the City of Sacramento through the 1970s and beyond, much of the earliest recorded history of the Sacramento area's LGBTQ+ community took place in the separate City of West Sacramento. The Sacramento LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Historic Context Statement contains an overview of the history of the community's presence and early establishment in West Sacramento. This research should be shared with relevant City officials, organizations, groups, and members of the public in West Sacramento to encourage expanded efforts to preserve and recognize local LGBTQ+ history.