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HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LGBTQ+ Historic Experience Project



Project background

A historic context and survey of Sacramento's LGBTQ+ history

The City of Sacramento's LGBTQ Historic Experience Project, which was funded through a grant and the City of Sacramento, was a dedicated effort to produce a thematic historic context statement and survey of LGBTQ history in Sacramento. The project concluded in December 2024 with the adoption of the final historic context statement and historic survey that you can read below.

Historic context statement

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The final draft of the historic context statement, a key outcome of this project, is now available for your reference. This document provides valuable insights into LGBTQ+ History in Sacramento. The public comment period for this document closed on October 27, 2024, after two public comment periods in Summer and Fall 2024. Additionally, read about the potential Lavender Heights Historic District and the many historic properties with historic significance to the LGBTQ+ Community that this project helped to identify.

[Read the historic context](#)



[Historic property
evaluations](#)



[Submit your history here](#)



[Lavender Heights survey](#)



[Lavender Heights HDP Draft](#)



Funding and collaboration

The project was made possible through the support of the State Office of Historic Preservation - Certified Local Government Program through the Historic Preservation Fund, and the City of Sacramento. The project was managed by dedicated city staff, with the assistance of community partners and professional consultants.

In the news

- [Sacramento's LGBTQ Experience Project to preserve historic context, city sites | capradio.org](#)
- [Sacramento seeks public input on LGBTQ history | The Bay Area Reporter](#)
- [Project underway to preserve Sacramento's LGBTQ history, could deem Lavender Heights historic district | cbsnews.com](#)
- [State Capital to officially document LGBTQ community history | spectrumnews1.com](#)
- [Sacramento project embarks on journey to share city's rich LGBTQ History. And you can help | sacbee.com](#)
- [Public chimes in on Sacramento LGBTQ history efforts | The Bay Area Reporter](#)
- [Sacramento officials, organizations work to honor city's LGBTQ+ history | Fox 40](#)
- [The LGBTQ Historic Experience Project is working to solidify a diverse narrative of Sacramento's queer history | Sacramento News & Review](#)
- [City of Sacramento asks for feedback on LGBTQ history project's first draft | CapRadio](#)

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Frequently asked questions

What does LGBTQ mean?



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning

The “plus” (+) is used to signify other sexual orientations and gender identities that are not encompassed in the five-letter LGBTQ acronym.

What’s a historic context statement?

A historic context statement is a thematic overview of history for a particular group, type of architecture, or movement that we use to evaluate and identify potential historic properties. For this project, we researched LGBTQ+ history in Sacramento so we can identify the historic sites important to the community so they can be recognized and preserved. Historic context statements can also facilitate future grant funding, public history placemaking, museum exhibits, and more.

Now that the project is over how can I help?

If you have any documents, photographs, or stories to tell, we have an [online portal](#)  set up where you can submit your items to the City’s archive. . The portal will remain open after the project is complete for those interested in having their items preserved in the City’s official archive, the Center for Sacramento History. If you have multiple items, or non-digital items, please email us at LGBTQ-Experience@cityofsacramento.org .

In partnership with the Lavender Library and Preservation Sacramento, a volunteer stipend program for individuals interested in working with the project was set up during the project period. Tasks included gathering oral history interviews, hosting meetings, scholarly research, and more. While the volunteer program is complete, we encourage you to continue recording oral history interviews with members of your community so these important stories can be heard by future generations.

What area was surveyed... and what is a survey?

A survey is a planning tool that we use to identify potentially significant historic buildings and sites through research and gathering other information. The project surveyed buildings, structures, and other key locations in the Lavender Heights neighborhood for its historic association with the LGBTQ community in Sacramento. Although, the historic context statement also includes research citywide, and individually eligible properties outside of Lavender Heights have been evaluated as well.

Has the City done any similar projects?

Yes! Preservation staff recently completed the African American Experience Project, you can find information about the project here: [African American Experience Project - City of Sacramento](#)

Any other questions? Contact us!

Project Email: LGBTQ-Experience@cityofsacramento.org 

[Sean de Courcy](#) , Preservation Director

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