

Collection #
M 1421

A VISUAL JOURNEY: FROM AIDS TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY
VISITOR COMMENT LEDGERS,
10 OCTOBER–14 NOVEMBER 2015

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|------------------------|---|
| Collection Information | 1 |
| Historical Sketch | 2 |
| Scope and Content Note | 3 |
| Contents | 4 |

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 10 October–14 November 2015

PROVENANCE: Exhibition Department of the Indiana Historical Society, November 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Mark A. Lee LGBT Collection M 1157; Indianapolis Men's Chorus/Crossroads Performing Arts, Inc. Records M 1198; Michael Bohr Collection of the Indy Pride Chris Gonzalez Library and Archives M 1242; Indy Pride Bag Ladies Materials P 0564; Gay TV Programs P 0571; Indianapolis Drag Shows Color Photographs P 0691

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0375

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

From 10 October to 14 November 2015, the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) held an exhibit entitled *A Visual Journey: From AIDS to Marriage Equality*. Curated by photographer Mark A. Lee, the show featured approximately sixty images from Lee's personal collection (which he donated to IHS in 2014) that offered a glimpse into the public and private lives of LGBT Hoosiers from the 1980s to 2015. This exhibit occurred a few months after the Supreme Court's decision on *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which legally established same-sex marriage throughout the United States.

...*From AIDS to Marriage Equality* was divided into four sections: (1) the impact of AIDS on Indianapolis' LGBT community, (2) the origins and charity work of the Bag Ladies, (3) the genesis and expansion of Indy Pride, and (4) and the modern struggle for marriage equality. The exhibit also paid tribute to five individuals—Rev. Howard Warren, Carol Trexler, Paul Chase, Steve Johnson, and Milton Lindren Jr.—who made a significant impact on Indianapolis' LGBT community. Throughout the show's duration, black ledgers were available in the exhibit for visitors to leave comments.

A frequent comment from guests was to turn the show into a traveling exhibit so it could reach a wider audience. With funding from Eli Lilly and Cummins, *A Visual Journey: From AIDS to Marriage Equality* made its public debut at Indy Pride Festival on 11 June 2016. It continues to travel the state today under the direction of IHS' Local History Services.

Sources:

"IHS Launches New LGBT Traveling Exhibit [Press Release]." Indiana Historical Society. Accessed August 14, 2018. <https://indianahistory.org/press-release/ihs-launches-new-lgbt-traveling-exhibit/>

"Obergefell v. Hodges." Wikipedia. Accessed August 14, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obergefell_v._Hodges

Dorantes, Jorge. "New exhibit traces history of Indy's LGBT community." *Indianapolis Star* (Indianapolis, IN), October 21, 2015. <https://www.indystar.com/story/entertainment/arts/2015/10/21/indy-lgbt-history-exhibit/74278074/>

Taylor, Emily. "Indy's LGBT History: And the photo exhibit that is documenting it all." *NUVO* (Indianapolis, IN), September 30, 2015. https://www.nuvo.net/arts/visual_arts/indy-s-lgbt-history/article_b7768e2a-27cb-5cb9-b1b1-b8e1c6a33c59.html

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains three ledgers with visitor comments from *A Visual Journey: From AIDS to Marriage Equality*, which was an exhibit held at the Indiana Historical Society from 10 October to 14 November 2015.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Three Visitor Comment Ledgers from *A Visual Journey: From AIDS to Marriage Equality* Exhibit at the Indiana Historical Society, 10 October–14 November 2015

CONTAINER

Box 1 of 1