Why working with communities can be



Through including LGBT+ people in conversations about their heritage, one National Lottery-funded project has helped improve representation in Glasgow's museums.

The *queer times school prints exhibition* was held at Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) from 1 December 2018 to 10 March 2019.

It was a big success, attracting more than 29,000 visitors over three months, and much of this was due to conversations held with the LGBT+ community before it even began.



A drawing from the *queer times school prints exhibition*

Led by charity Glasgow Life for its *Queer Times* project, this dialogue has opened up a new way of improving representation in GoMA's exhibitions and collection. We found out more.

After Dark and *queer times school*

The first part of the project took place during the After Dark and *queer times school* series of events, held in museums, libraries and archives across Glasgow in July and August 2018.

Speakers from a diversity of backgrounds and professions gave talks and led conversations on key LGBT+ issues in Scotland from 1967 (the year when homosexuality was partially decriminalised in England and Wales) to the present day.

These included:

- the decriminalisation of homosexuality in Scotland in 1980, 13 years after England and Wales
- opposition to Section 28 (Clause 2A in Scotland), the law which prohibited local authorities and schools from "promoting" homosexuality
- the AIDS epidemic
- the experiences of LGBT+ people in ethnic minority communities

- recent changes to the Scottish curriculum to include LGBT+ topics

Many speakers and participants had not been involved in a heritage project before and their perspectives shone new light on these histories.

queer times school prints exhibition



queer times school

The outcomes of the *queer times school* events inspired GoMA's *queer times school prints exhibition*, which was commissioned by artist and *queer times school* participant, Jason E Bowman.

It centred on a commissioned set of prints from ten LGBT+ artists that responded to themes identified in the *queer times school*. These prints were later acquired by Glasgow Museums for its collection.

The exhibition also included a changing display of LGBT+ heritage items, a reading resource space, a wall painting and a programme of films – all developed by *queer times school* participants.

> "Queer history must be documented and remembered, for it illuminates the struggles which still take place today for queers in their family, community and workplaces."
>
> *queer times school* participant

It attracted 29,294 visitors, and a further 546 attended readings, tours, screenings, workshops and discussions.

Going forwards


• GAY LEGISLATION • SOON KNOWN IN LAW AS SECTION 28 • QUEER TRAINS •
• 1988 20TH FEBRUARY • THOUSANDS TRAVEL TO MANCHESTER TO MARCH AGAINST PROPOSED TORY ANTI
• WERE CHARTERED • MINE FROM LONDON • MY FUTURE PARTNER'S FROM GLASGOW • NEVER KNOWINGLY
Maggie Maggie Maggie Out Out Out!
SUNDERLAND POLY L&G SOC
SHRG SCOTTISH HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS GROUP
BRADFORD GAY
LEICESTER CLAWS OUT
LESBIAN MOTHERS ARE NOT PRETENDING
LOVE ABOVE GOVERNMENT
BLACK LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE 01 • 830
N·O·R·T·H·W·E·S·T CAMPAIGN FOR LESBIAN & GAY EQUALITY
NEVER UNDERGROUND GOING
LESBIANS & GAY MEN OUT AND PROUD
SAY STAY GAY
FIGHT BACK YEAH!
DUTCH DYKES SUPPORT DYKES IN U.K.
DEFEND LESBIANS DEFEND GAYS
LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS -HUMAN RIGHTS
KC 2018
• 2000 SCOTLAND REPEALS 28 • 2003 ENGLAND FOLLOWS • 2006 WE MEET •

Never Going Underground, 2018, by Kate Charlesworth. Credit: Ruth Clark

Queer Times project manager Katie Bruce said: “It was wonderful to see how popular the exhibition was after everyone’s hard work and belief.

"The planning process has been transformational for GoMA; in how it acquires works, interprets collections and curates exhibitions.

"We’re keen to work with other communities in a similar way in future.”



Sir Ian McKellen at the opening People's History Museum



Historic Pride badges Islington Local History Centre

Islington’s Pride archive will tell the story of borough’s LGBT+ history