

### What we are trying to achieve

The Aim is to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community is well represented across the University's heritage collections and has clear channels through which LGBTQ+ stories can and will be told. Public spaces, both physical and digital, should be inclusive and welcoming and should address inequalities and prejudices that still exist across the world today. We should not shy away from the history of the University and its collections but recognise past injustices and give new prominence to stories of those who paved the way for a more diversified and inclusive world.

The University, its buildings and its collections have been an important part of Glasgow's physical and social history since the founding of the University in 1451, when the University Archives and rare book and manuscript collections began. The Scottish Business Archives and the Hunterian Collections were added to the University's care in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the opening of the first public museum in Scotland (1807) set the precedent of sharing these treasures with the people of the city. Naturally all these collections have expanded since these early beginnings. However, as with many other heritage collections, the stories told would not always have been the choice of the city's wider communities or been fully representative. The LGBTQ+ community is currently not well represented and stories that exist are often hidden from view.

This Working Group will drive project outcomes (e.g. digital content; display interpretation; event programming) to address these discrepancies and to offer an outlet for LGBTQ+ perspectives. A series of community led initiatives, leading to wider inclusion and representation of the LGBTQ+ community across the collections, will allow previously untold stories to be told and shared widely, through cataloguing and in physical and online public spaces, making them welcoming to all.

### Our goals

In the short term (within 6 months) we aim to establish an active Working Group, with a diverse and representative membership, agree our guiding principles and achieve the first co-curated output.

In the medium term (to summer 2022) we aim to extend our reach more widely across the University community, beginning to develop interventions across other aspects of university life through teaching, student well-being and public engagement. We hope to continue increasing the numbers of community members contributing to and engaging with our activities.

In the longer term (Autumn 2022 and beyond) we will further extend the reach of the programme to include Working Group membership beyond UofG, explore initiatives to engage with schools and influence curricular development and review any relevant collections policies.

These goals will be further broken down into specific outcomes to be agreed by the Working Group and kept under review.

### Project Team and Working Group Membership

Project Team Members can take on one or more of these roles:

**Working Group** - project planning, policies & protocols; regular meetings; content and programming decisions

**Collections Practitioners Sub-Group**: dealing with collections related issues and reporting back to working group

**Contributor** - select objects; research stories; write narratives; create content

**Ambassador** - interested observer; share and promote; comment and interact

**The Working Group will include**: staff & students from the UofG LGBTQ+ community, ideally providing diversity representative of society; those whose research or taught subjects address LGBTQ+ themes; and representation from each UofG Collection (Hunterian & ASC).

Working Group, (Potential) Contributor and Ambassador Team members will all be invited to join the Project MS Team for ease of communication and resource sharing. While there will be a separate Working Group Channel in that Team, it will be open to all members to view.

### **Ethical Considerations**

All project outputs will:

- observe all copyright requirements on any materials used
- be sensitive to the impact on all communities of language used, including historical terminology. Where necessary, use content notes use pronouns as per the wishes of the individual in question when known and avoid dead naming
- be aware of an artist's wishes as potentially distinct from their Estate's wishes and apply sensitivity in dealing with this.
- Be aware of intersectionality and strive for balance and inclusivity

### **Collaboration and Sharing Experience**

Using different methods, such as event programming and interpretation of the collections online and in public spaces, we aim to ensure the LGBTQ+ community is seen, heard and represented across UofG collections. Such work has been done elsewhere in the museum sector, notably the V&A and the Queer Heritage Collections Network. We hope to learn from their experiences and encourage partnership working with colleagues in the Scottish Heritage sector as well as draw on the extensive expertise of our UofG colleagues in teaching and research to ensure a welcoming and diverse space for all.