



# LancasterHistory

## For Immediate Release

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## LancasterHistory to Host "The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania" Exhibit

*Traveling History Exhibit Chronicles Half a Century of LGBTQ+ Activism in Pennsylvania*

**LANCASTER, Pa.** – LancasterHistory is pleased to announce that the traveling exhibit, *The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania*, will open to the public on Monday, July 24. The exhibit will be on display at LancasterHistory through September 2, 2023.

*The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania* chronicles the continuous fight for LGBTQ+ civil rights in Pennsylvania through photographs, video of oral history interviews, and other materials. Pennsylvania does not yet have statewide legislation that protects LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment, education, and public accommodations. For more than five decades, activists have been working to obtain these protections one battle at a time, one municipality at a time, and the work continues. Enhanced with photographs and artifacts from the LancasterHistory collections, this special, traveling exhibition highlights not just the political struggles for civil rights, but the personal stories as well.

*The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania* was curated by the **LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania**, and LancasterHistory has supplemented the traveling exhibit with extra photographs and artifacts during its stay in Lancaster. The exhibit draws from the LGBT Center's comprehensive History Project, an initiative that has gathered oral histories, documents, and artifacts. The collection is now housed in the special collections at Dickinson College. A further source of insight into the local LGBTQ+ history is the book *Out in Central Pennsylvania*, written by William Burton and the exhibit's curator, Barry Loveland. Copies of *Out in Central Pennsylvania* are available for purchase in LancasterHistory's [online](#) and brick & mortar Museum Store or through [Penn State University Press](#).

"This exhibit is a powerful testament to the persistent struggle for equality and belonging, reminding us that history shapes our present and future," **Dr. Mabel Rosenheck**, Director of Education and Exhibit Planning at LancasterHistory, said. "The exhibit showcases an integral part of Pennsylvania's social and political history and helps tell a fuller story of our community. LGBTQ history is Lancaster's history, and represents the diverse experiences and contributions shaping our society."

LancasterHistory will host an opening event to celebrate the launch of the exhibition, which includes extended visiting hours for guests to explore the exhibit and partake in an informal pop-up, outdoor beer garden. Tickets for the event are priced at \$18 for LancasterHistory members and \$20 for non-members. The ticket includes admission to the event and exhibition, light refreshments, and one complimentary alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage. Please note attendees must be 21 years or older to consume alcoholic beverages.

The event will take place at LancasterHistory, located at 230 N. President Avenue, Lancaster, with ample on-site parking available. Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or by calling (717) 392-4633.

*The Long Road to LGBTQ+ Equality in Pennsylvania* is co-sponsored by the PA LGBT History Network, a cooperative group of organizations, institutions, and individuals that have collections and/or an interest in LGBTQ+ history. Administrative support provided by the LGBT Center of

Central PA on behalf of the Network. The exhibit is made possible through the generous contributions of the Schlegel-Deibler Charitable Foundation, the Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld Fund, the Montgomery County LGBT Business Council, and individual contributors, as well as in-kind services from several organizations and individuals.

### **About LancasterHistory**

*LancasterHistory is a community-based, not-for-profit organization established to educate the public on the history of Lancaster County and its place in the history of Pennsylvania and the United States, to advance the missions of regional historical organizations, and to promote the acquisition, preservation, and interpretation of resources representing the history of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania within the broader context of state and national history, including the life and legacy of Congressman Thaddeus Stevens, his house manager, Lydia Hamilton Smith, and America's 15th President, James Buchanan.*

### **About The PA LGBTQ History Network**

*The PA LGBTQ History Network engages people in discovering Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ history, historic sites, history projects, artifacts and archival collections. The Network also facilitates collaboration between the organizations, institutions and individuals that provide stewardship of this heritage.*

### **About The LGBT Center of Central PA**

*The LGBT Center of Central PA fosters inclusive communities and holistic well-being for LGBTQ+ people through social, educational, and cultural engagement. Established in 2006, it serves over 2,000 people each year with a wide range of programs and services for all ages and identities across Dauphin, Cumberland, York, and Lancaster counties.*

*The LGBT Center of Central PA History Project engages people to discover, document, collect, preserve and present the history of the LGBTQ+ community of central Pennsylvania through oral history and material culture. It works in partnership with the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections. For more information, please email [history@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto:history@centralpalgbtcenter.org) or visit their website at [www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project](http://www.centralpalgbtcenter.org/lgbt-history-project) and digital museum at*

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Exhibition Logo

*Logo credit to The LGBT Center of Central PA.*