THE LEGACY WALL
TRAVELING INTERACTIVE LGBT HISTORY EXHIBIT
EDUCATION HOSTING PRIMER
BACKGROUND

The Legacy Project is an award-winning (American History Association, 2014) Chicago-based 501(c)3 non-profit committed to researching and celebrating the contributions Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people have made to world history and culture. The central tool of the organization’s mission is “The Legacy Walk” – a growing half-mile outdoor installation featuring forty (40) bronze memorial markers affixed to the “Rainbow Pylons” on North Halsted Street which define the area as the cultural and business center of Chicago’s large, diverse LGBT community. In cooperation with our partners at Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, the Legacy Project works to share the contributions of historically significant LGBT role models with our children, whose social isolation and cultural marginalization have left them vulnerable to bullying and loss of self-esteem. Raising awareness of the roles LGBT people have played in shared human history has been proven to lessen the incidence of all forms of bullying in our schools by encouraging a culture of mutual respect and tolerance.

THE LEGACY WALL

In October 2015 the Legacy Project launched a one-of-a-kind traveling exhibit called “The Legacy Wall”. After touring the State of Illinois for two years, it began a national tour in 2017. The Legacy Wall features the stories of LGBT people from all walks of life throughout history who have contributed in over 20 distinct fields. The content is international and multicultural, and has been substantially vetted and sourced. This wonderfully positive and inspiring exhibit tells the stories behind such figures as social justice pioneer Jane Addams, civil rights organizer Bayard Rustin, British mathematician Alan Turing, U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, astronaut Sally Ride, iconic artist Michelangelo, Fr. Mychal Judge (the “Saint of 9/11”), and acclaimed composers Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Leonard Bernstein – over 125 digitally interactive “mini-biographies” in all. This age-appropriate content is immensely enlightening for all audiences and produces powerful – often cathartic – responses in people.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITIES

The Legacy Project offers high schools, colleges, universities, libraries, and cultural institutions an opportunity to have this professional display installed in public areas for patrons and employees to casually peruse while students avail themselves of its content and digital resources for educational exercises during the school year. This is an ideal way to engage multiple departments, LGBT Campus Pride groups, GSAs, and local community groups in a shared, one-of-a-kind experience that celebrates LGBT contributions during this critical time in our history when the hard-fought gains we have achieved are now threatened by an unimaginable retreat from all that has been accomplished. For a tax-deductible hosting fee (plus transport-related expenses) the Legacy Wall can be set-up for negotiable periods from two weeks to one month. The host institution is encouraged to consider a “preview” gathering for dignitaries and donors to “launch” the public viewing of the installation – possibly to even partner with a local business underwriter or private donor to cover the fees in exchange for promotion during the display. We will help drive attendance through our website and the Legacy Project’s considerable social media following.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Legacy Wall is 24’ long x 8’ tall x 6’ deep (see attached graphics)... nearly 400 square-feet of biographical content in a 360° doubled-sided island. In addition to a broad spectrum of historical content, the installation also highlights the challenges faced by LGBT youth with data culled from the GLSEN National School Climate Survey about the effectiveness of including LGBT-related content in general education for substantially lowering the incidence of bullying in our schools. The goal of the Legacy Wall is to use the powerful lessons of history to spark conversations about this information’s ability to promote a feeling of safety and belonging in the classroom, to give our children hope by improving their outlook on life, and to raise cultural awareness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call 312-608-1198 or email info@legacyprojectchicago.org
A CELEBRATION OF LGBT ACHIEVEMENT

International

Multicultural

125 Biographical Elements

4000 Years of History

Life-Affirming

Eye-Opening

Jaw-Dropping

THE LEGACY WALL
LEGACY WALL PLAN VIEW – NO SCALE
20' - 0" (Curved Face)

23' - 6" (Flattened Face)
### Film and Television
1. Nestor Almendros
2. Dorothy Arzner
3. Werner Fassbinder
4. Greta Garbo
5. Ismail Merchant
6. Alla Nazimova
7. Marlon Riggs
8. Vito Russo
9. John Schlesinger
10. Luchino Visconti
11. James Whale
12. Ramón Novarro

### Dance/Music/Theatre
1. Alvin Ailey
2. Rudolf Nureyev
3. Lorraine Hansberry
4. Leonard Bernstein
5. Freddie Mercury
6. Laura Nyro
7. Cole Porter
8. Dusty Springfield
9. Billy Strayhorn
10. Tchaikovsky

### Literature and Journalism
1. Reinaldo Arenas
2. James Baldwin
3. Katherine L. Bates
4. Essex Hemphill
5. Jean Genet
6. Allen Ginsberg
7. Radclyffe Hall
8. E. Lynn Harris
9. Christopher Isherwood
10. Audre Lorde
11. Federico García Lorca
12. Carson McCullers
13. Yukio Mishima

### Humanities and Religion
1. Fr. Marsilio Ficino
2. Michel Foucault
3. Sor Juana Inés
4. Fr. Mychal Judge
5. Kukai
7. Jeanne Deckers
8. Sts. Sergius and Bacchus
9. The Royal Manicurists
10. Jean Cocteau
11. Marcel Proust

### Science and Medicine
1. Dr. Alan L. Hart
2. Dr. Alfred Kinsey
3. Ruth Benedict
4. George Washington Carver
5. Leonardo Da Vinci
6. Margaret Mead
7. Dr. Sally Ride
8. Alan Turing
9. John Maynard Keynes
10. Dr. Michel Dillon

### Politics/Diplomacy/Military
1. Sgt. Leonard Matlovich
2. Frances Perkins
3. Harvey Milk
4. Barbara Jordan
5. Baron Friederich Von Steuben
6. Alexander the Great
7. Dr. Margaret Chung
8. Dag Hammarskjöld
9. Benjamin Sumner Wells
10. Willem Arondeus

### Social Justice
1. Bayard Rustin
2. Sylvia Rivera
3. Jane Addams

### Artists
1. Frida Kahlo
2. Michelangelo
3. Keith Haring
4. J. C. Leyendecker
5. Grant Wood
6. Beauford Delaney

### Social Justice (Cont'd)
4. David Kato
5. Two Spirit People
6. Frank Kameny
7. Kiyoshi Kuromiya
8. Pauli Murray
9. Josephine Baker
10. FannyAnn Eddy

### Literature and Journalism (Cont'd)
14. Stein/Toklas
15. Walt Whitman
16. Oscar Wilde
17. Virginia Woolf
18. Lorena Hickok
19. Dorothy Thompson
20. Octavia Butler
21. Manuel Ramos Otero
22. Wallace Thurman

### Science and Medicine (Cont'd)
4. Dr. Alan L. Hart
5. Dr. Alfred Kinsey
3. Ruth Benedict
4. George Washington Carver
5. Leonardo Da Vinci
6. Margaret Mead
7. Dr. Sally Ride
8. Alan Turing
9. John Maynard Keynes
10. Dr. Michel Dillon
THE LEGACY WALL – Breakdown of Included Biographies and Images (Cont’d)

[I] ARTISTS (Cont’d)

7) Leigh Bowery
8) Romaine Brooks
9) Greer Lankton
10) Rosa Bonheur [P]

[J] TRANSGENDER (Not Included Elsewhere)

1) Christine Jorgensen (I)
2) Lili Elbe
3) Candy Darling
4) Marsha P. Johnson
5) Charlie Parkhurst
6) Albert D.J. Cashier
7) Angela Morley
8) Billy Tipton
9) Antonio De Erauso
10) Amelio Robles Avila
11) Coccinelle [P]

[K] MILESTONES

1) Stonewall (I) Revolution
2) Pink Triangle (C) Homosexual Victims of the Holocaust
3) The Harlem Renaissance (First Urban LGBT Community)
4) DADT/Repeal (Gays in the Military)
5) SHC/SHR (Earliest Rights/Advocacy)
6) Olesen (LGBT Information through the Mail)
7) APA (Mental Illness Diagnosis Struck Down)
8) Hardwick/Lawrence (Sodomy Laws Struck Down)
9) Romer (LGBT Civil Rights Laws Upheld)
10) MARRIAGE: Prop 8/Windsor/Obergefell [P]
GLSEN NATIONAL SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

This highly reduced panel (1/8 scale) is the core component of The Legacy Wall’s exploration of the relationship between the type of content housed on the installation, and the impact of bringing it into the classroom. The actual panel on the installation is 30” x 36”. Viewers are able to download the entire GLSEN School Climate Survey via an embedded link.
LEGACY WALL PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS (IN FORMATION)

- What does it mean to you personally to have an installation like “The Legacy Wall” visit your community? How would you describe it to someone? Do you know people who will want to see it? Who would be opposed to seeing it?

- The information contained on “The Legacy Wall” has been almost entirely redacted from conventional historical narratives. Why do you think that has been the case? What have the consequences been for society? For individuals?

- In what way do you think sharing the information represented on “The Legacy Wall” might affect your own community? Could anyone in your community benefit from it? Why or why not?

- Would you oppose or support bringing the content represented on “The Legacy Wall” more directly into schools? Would you consider integrating age-appropriate lesson plans and study resources into general education about various times in history and fields of contributions in different areas of study? Why or why not? Would it matter to you? To anyone you know?

- Being “In” or “Out” of “The Closet” has most often been used to describe the status of persons in the LGBTQ community. Do you understand this concept? Please explain. Why do think it came to be? How would you describe the impact of “The Closet” on people’s lives? On society?

- “The Legacy Wall” reveals some information discovered about people after their deaths, based on newly available historical research. Do you feel it is appropriate to examine the impact of life details such as hidden medical conditions, secret relationships, covert political alliances, variant sexuality, and/or undisclosed business dealings on the legacy of persons who have passed if they did not reveal that information prior to their deaths?

- Would you agree or disagree that sometimes viewing a life through different lenses can reveal greater understanding of an historic figure’s motivations?

- The GLSEN School Climate data that has been incorporated into “The Legacy Wall” juxtaposes statistics about the impact of LGBT content inclusion on school environments with examples of the kind of content that might be shared. How do you feel about seeing this information in this setting?

- What would be the “upside” of having this content become part of shared public knowledge? What might be the “downside”? 