

## Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis

Printable information as displayed on **Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis: Political Actions and Organizing, 1945 - 1992**

Timeline Number	Date	Heading	Description	Location	Image Displayed	Image Credit
		Political actions and organizing 1945 - 1992	This timeline highlights various political and organizing activities of LGBTQ people in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Just as with all history, historian Susan Ferenitos notes in <i>Interpreting LGBT History</i> , "the past is not an unflinching march of progress." While all broadly related to ensuring a free and authentic life, the specific goals and actions taken by different people vary -- from highly visible marches, to organizing consciousness raising discussion groups.	[map home view]	[map of St. Louis colored purple]	
1	1945 - 1954	Little to no visible activism occurred in the post-World War II era.	The federal government's active efforts to fire civil servants identified as homosexuals is noted in local newspapers. In 1950 <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> (1111 Olive Street) prints a letter to the editor complaining about the federal persecution of "effeminate men and masculine women."	Post-Dispatch Offices, 1111 Olive Street	newspaper clipping	Post-Dispatch, May 18, 1950
2	1954 - 1961	Join national organizations, ONE and Mattachine	Will Wegener, later a St. Louis gay activist, becomes a member of national homophile groups: ONE, Inc. in 1954, and the Mattachine Society (Chicago branch) in 1957. Wegener receives mailing from the groups via a post office box in East St. Louis, Illinois (750 Missouri Ave). Obtaining information by mail was made more reliable after 1958 when the US Supreme Court overturned lower court rulings which put any information about "homosexuality" in the same category as pornography.	Post Office, 750 Missouri Ave, East St Louis, IL 62201	Mattachine membership card	Wegener's membership card, MHS.
3	1957 - 1960	Join national organizations, Daughters of Bilitis (DOB)	Membership files indicate a few women and men from St. Louis and East St. Louis donated to the national lesbian group, Daughters of Bilitis, and receive their publications, including issues of <i>The Ladder</i> , by mail (main post office, 19th St & Market).	Main Post Office, 19th Street and Market, St. Louis MO	Cover images of <i>The Ladder</i> , October 1957 and February 1958.	Courtesy of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

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4	1961	State of Illinois decriminalizes same-sex sexual activity	In 1954 the Joint Committee to Revise the Illinois Criminal Code began drafting new laws following national model code recommendations. Influenced by the research of Alfred Kinsey, the Committee determined that sodomy or any private sexual behavior between consenting adults, regardless of gender, was not something the state should criminalize. Legislators approved nearly unanimously, and Governor Otto Keener signed it into law July 28, 1961.	Springfield, Illinois	state seal of Illinois	
5	1964 - 1966	"The Exit" Coffee Shop opens	A non-denominational volunteer-run coffee that hosted open discussions on homosexuality and socially sensitive topics 1964-1966. Located at 444 N. Boyle.	444 N. Boyle, St. Louis	Photograph of building	Exterior, St. Louis Post-Dispatch
6	1967	First Midwest Regional Homophile Conference meets	organized by Kansas City, Missouri, Chicago, and Rock Island, Illinois activists, St. Louis is picked as a geographical midpoint. The meeting is also an effort to boost local organizing efforts. Held at Christ Church Cathedral (1210 Locust St.), April 1, 1967.	Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust St. 63103	Cover of The Phoenix, March/April 1967 featuring names of all participating groups.	Cover of The Phoenix, courtesy of Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA)
7	1969	First St. Louis-area homosexual advocacy group organized	The Mandrake Society is founded April 1969 with a mission to advocate and work for equal rights. After first meeting in member's homes, then met regularly at Trinity Episcopal Church (600 N. Euclid). Used a phone-tree to gather members at police station and assist people arrested Halloween night for violating city of St. Louis' masquerading ordinance; November 1, 1969. Published a newsletter by the same name.	Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 N. Euclid 63108	<i>Mandrake</i> from circa 1970	cover from early Mandrake news, ONE Archive
8	late 1960s	Male cross-dresser support group meets	In the late 1960s a group of male cross-dressers begin holding meetings in private homes to provide mutual support. By 1984, participation grew, they took the name St. Louis Gateway Femmes. SLGF organizes educational meetings, support groups, and publishes a newsletter. Early meetings held at Stratford House Hotel (800 S. Highway Dr). Later re-named the St. Louis Gender Foundation.	800 S. Highway Dr. Fenton, MO	business card that reads: St. Louis Gateway Femmes. "An organization for TV's & TS's"	business card, SHSMO collections

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9	1970	Gay Liberation Front (GLF) group organized in St. Louis	A more radical leaning organization, including numerous student members, began fall 1970. Meetings held at Washington University (Women's Building), Public Works Coffee House (Euclid & McPherson) and Trinity Episcopal Church.	Washington University, Women's Building	Photograph of building exterior	Women's Building, WUSTL Archives.
10	1971	ACLU of Eastern Missouri seeks to challenge St. Louis city's ordinance against cross-dressing	After 1970 the local civil liberties organization transitioned from a passive advocacy group, to an active program of providing legal representation in cases of rights violations. In 1971 they began looking for a test case to challenge St. Louis' masquerading law. Office 8011 Clayton Road.	8011 Clayton Road, Clayton MO 63117	Civil Liberties logo with Statue of Liberty graphic	Logo, ACLU-EM Records, WUSTL Archives
11	1972	Lesbian Alliance founded	First meeting in a rented apartment in Soulard (1908 S 12th St.). In 1974 the group opens "A Woman's Place," at Miami & Louisiana, the first local women-only community space. Building was destroyed January 30, 1975 when firebombed. Published newsletter, <i>Moonstorm</i> .	1908 South 12th St.	Moonstorm cover with drawing of PK's bar, sign that reads: Private Party	Cover of early <i>Moonstorm</i> issue, 1972
12	1973	St. Louis Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) founded	Becomes first homosexual group in Missouri to own their own building at 5108 Waterman Blvd. Serves as both religious center and community center, hosting discussion groups (rap groups), AA, and youth programs.	5108 Waterman Blvd	seal with red cross and words: The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.	Logo from certificate, MCC archive, SHSMO
13	1973	Automobile "parade" of drag queens and their friends	An informal pride parade that traveled from well-know queer spaces in the Metro-East to Forest Park in St. Louis. Started near Missouri & 5th Ave., East St. Louis	Missouri & 5th Ave., East St. Louis	photograph of cannon in Forest Park	Forest Park, circa 1974, Ciao! magazine
14	1975	Protest for abortion rights	Members of Lesbian Alliance and Tomatoe Productions join street marchers outside St. Louis City Hall, on the north side of 1200 Market Street. Other protesters in favor of a ban marked on the south side of the street.	St. Louis City Hall, 1200 Market Street	Photograph of building exterior	City Hall exterior, MHM.
15	1975	Mid-Continent Life Services Corporation (MCLS) founded	Operated a community center for gays and lesbians at the MCC. In 1976 moved from this location (5108 Waterman Ave.) to 4940 McPherson. Originally the Metropolitan Life Services Corporation.	5108 Waterman	seal with letters MLSC	Logo from flyer, MCC archive, SHSMO

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16	1976	Women's Eye Bookstore opens	De Facto community center hosting organizations, rap groups, and feminist press; Opened May 14, 1976 at 905 S. Yale Ave	905 S. Yale Ave, 63117	newspaper clipping that reads: The Woman's Eye, Feminist Bookstore	Advertisement, TGNT
17	1977	St. Louis Friends of Lesbians and Gays (FLAG) founded	Advocacy group would later become St. Louis Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). By 1990s regular meetings held at Eliot Unitarian Church (216 Argonne).	216 Argonne, Kirkwood, MO	Group of people with sign that reads: We Love Our Gay Children, Parents Of Gays.	PFLAG at Pride, TGNT July 1982
18	1977	Protests against Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children campaign"	Local events include MCC Mass Rally; fundraiser screening of "A Very Natural Thing" May 18 at Maplewood Theater (7180 Manchester), with 1000 estimated in attendance; and more than 100 St. Louisans travel to Joplin MO for a protest, September 24.	7180 Manchester, Maplewood	flyer that reads: gay rights are human rights, come out and fight back!!	Flyer organizing trip to Joplin protest, SHSMO
19	1977	National Conference on Men and Masculinity	Meets in St. Louis for first time (4th national conference) at Washington University, Women's Building	Washington University campus, Women's Building	flyer that reads: Creating A Movement For Change, The 4th National Conference on Men & Masculinity.	Program cover, WUSTL Archives
20	1978	St. Louis Organization for Changing Men founded	By mid-1980s had offices in Look Arcade Building (6665 Delmar). For more about this group, see article by J. Andris <a href="http://jandris.ipage.com/history/h80.28.html">http://jandris.ipage.com/history/h80.28.html</a>	6665 Delmar	Lambda symbol and words: St. Louis Organization for Changing Men Supports Gay Pride	Advertisement in Pride Guide, 1987
21	1978	Gay Academic Union (GAU) founded	Ran gay (phone) hotline for several years. Met at Washington University and MCC (5108 Waterman).	5108 Waterman	Owl graphic with words: The Gay Academic Union	Advertisement in GayLife, 1979
22	1978	Missouri Coalition formed	A short lived association of campus groups from Washington University in St. Louis, University of Missouri - Columbia ("Mizzou") and University of Missouri - Kansas City. Agree to plan three celebrations of "lesbian and gay pride" in the represented cities. Met at Washington University.	Washington University Campus	Aerial photograph	View of Brookings Hall and campus, WUSTL Archives
23	1979	Growing American Youth founded	Social group but politically significant as an early effort to serve needs of gay and lesbian youth. Met at MCC (5108 Waterman).	MCC, 5108 Waterman Blvd, 63108	line drawing of people with words: Growing American Youth	Image courtesy of the St. Louis LGBT History Project
24	1979	St. Louis Organizing Committee (SLOC) formed	Organizing transportation and support for St. Louisans to attend 1979 March on Washington. Met at MCC (5108 Waterman).	MCC, 5108 Waterman Blvd, 63108	people marching with batter of their heads that reads: St. Louis	Some St. Louis participants in the March on Washington, 1979. Photo by Jim Pfaff, courtesy of the St. Louis LGBT History Project

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25	1979	"Celebration of Rights," first organized pride event	A Celebration of Rights, held on campus of Washington University in conjunction with spring student carnival. No march or parade. April 1979.	Washington University QUADRANGLE	Flyer reads: CGS, Concerned Gay Students of Washington University S.L. present Gay Pride Weekend April 20, 21, 22, '79.	Advertisement in <i>GayLife</i>
26	1979	Magnolia Committee formed	Local men and women gather in late 1979 to organize a 1980 pride event (Walk for Charity), meeting at the residence of Glanda Dilley (3949 Magnolia).	3949 Magnolia	Photograph of building exterior	Site of the first meetings. Image courtesy of Jym Andris.
27	1980	National Coalition of Black Gays - St. Louis chapter formed	Organized in late 1980 and met through about 1982. Met at 1904 Tower Grove	1904 Tower Grove, 63110	Photograph of building exterior	Exterior of building. Image courtesy of Ian Darnell.
28	1980	First organized and pre-planned pride march in St. Louis	The Magnolia Committee secures a parade permit from the city of St. Louis, and holds a Walk for Charity and Rally, April 20, 1980 starting at Maryland Plaza	Maryland Plaza	Photograph of fountain	Maryland Plaza in the Central West End, SHSM image 718-7474
29	1980	Iris formed	St. Louis Organizing Committee (SLOC) becomes the activist group Iris: within months becomes solely lesbian-feminist group. Met at MCC (5108 Waterman).	5108 Waterman	Photograph of women wearing IRIS shirts	Image courtesy of the St. Louis LGBT History Project
30	1980	Black and White Men Together - St. Louis chapter formed	Known as BWMT, the group focused on understanding and acceptance across racial lines, especially in social settings. Met at 1927 Jefferson Ave.	1927 Jefferson Ave.	Photograph of white woman and black man holding sign that reads: Fight Racism in the Lesbian and Gay Community, WAR, BWMT	participating at the 1982 pride events, TGNT, July 1982
31	1981	Women Against Racism (W.A.R.) formed	Organized by 1981, the group raised awareness about racial discrimination faced by people of color. Programs and meetings held at various locations, including the Sunshine Inn (8 1/2 S Euclid).	8 1/2 South Euclid	Photograph of white woman and black man holding sign that reads: Fight Racism in the Lesbian and Gay Community, WAR, BWMT	participating at the 1982 pride events, TGNT, July 1982
32	1981	Pride events held in month of June	Community picnic and march moved to June, coinciding with national commemoration of events at Stonewall in June 1969. Located in Forest Park after permission to meet on Washington University's campus was rescinded.	Forest Park	flyer with map that reads: Forest Park March and Rally, Schedule, Celebration June 19 thru 28 '81.	Celebration flyer, WUSTL archives

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33	1983	First local meeting to face AIDS epidemic	Metropolitan St. Louis Task Force on AIDS Organization included doctors, social workers, homosexuals, and other interested persons. First meets May 25, 1983 at Barnes Hospital.	1 Barnes Jewish Hospital Plaza	graphic of multi-headed monster with words that read: Metro St. Louis Task Force on AIDS, If you have a special talent and want to help others please contact us.	advertisement in TGNT, June 1985
34	1983	Wired Women Productions organized	Founded by three women who met at the Heartbreak Hotel bar (700 S. Broadway). Wired Women Dances were held in various locations across St. Louis. Weekly gatherings served as both social and community building events.	700 S. Broadway	graphic that reads: WIRED WOMEN	logo from 1992 Pride Guide article
35	1985	St Louis Effort for AIDS (EFA) founded	Early programs were volunteer run, and included an information hotline, patient advocacy, home health care, and counseling services. Office at 4050 Lindell	4050 Lindell, 63108	graphic of white candle on black background with words that read: AIDS together, we can stop it.	Advertisement in 1986 Pride Guide. Graphic designed by Bob Hansman
36	1986	Protest organized by St. Louis Women Rising in Resistance	In protest of the US Supreme Court Bowers v Hardwick decision on June 30, Women Rising in Resistance organizer Margaret "Flowing" Johnson organized a mass protest near the Old Courthouse building (11 North 4th St.) on July 1, 1986. Read more about the event from Johnson: <a href="http://www.stlouislgbthistory.com/topics/activism/1986-protests.html">http://www.stlouislgbthistory.com/topics/activism/1986-protests.html</a>	11 N. 4th St.	Photograph of building exterior	Old Court House exterior, SHSMO
37	1986	P.A.C.E. (People Allied for Change and Equity) formed	PACE held an organizing meeting at the University City Library (6701 Delmar) in 1986. By 1987 the group was renamed P.R.E.P. (Privacy Rights Education Project). The group's aim was to overturn Missouri's Sexual Misconduct Law which criminalizes sexual activity between consenting adults of the same-gender.	6701 Delmar, University City, MO	image of magnifying glass and words that read: PREP, we're public about privacy.	PREP advertisement in 1991 Pride Guide
38	1986	St. Louis's masquerading law ruled unconstitutional	U.S.8th Circuit Court rules on "D.C. and M.S. v City of St. Louis" that the city's masquerading law is unconstitutional. U.S. Court House (1114 Market St.)	U.S. Court House (1114 Market St.)	Eighth Circuit logo	image source <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">https://en.wikipedia.org</a>

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39	1987	REACT (Resources to End the AIDS Crisis Today) founded locally	"One of REACT's principal goals is to reach out to the larger St. Louis community for support in fighting AIDS." Office in Gateway One Building (701 Market St.)	701 Market Street, Gateway One Building	Photograph of building exterior	image source <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org">https://en.wikipedia.org</a>
40	1987	first St. Louis Gay and Lesbian Archive	Community Liaison for Education and Research (CLEAR), and Bill Cords of the Our World Too Bookstore (11 S. Vandeventer), creates the first local history archive documenting lesbian and gay history of the St. Louis region. In 1991 the collection is donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri at UMSL.	11 S. Vandeventer	Graphic of person at desk with words that read: OUR WORLD TOO, Your community book & gift store	Advertisement, TGNT
41	1988	Lesbian Acts founded	A lesbian separatist movement. Focused on issue intersectional topics such as labor and racism. Met at the home of organizer Laura Moore and at the World Community Center 438 N. Skinker.	438 N. Skinker, 63112	[purple background]	
42	1988	NAMES project brings AIDS Quilt to St. Louis	As part of the Quilt's first national tour of 20 cities, the display was in St. Louis April 29 - May 1, 1988 at the St. Louis Community College - Forest Park. <a href="http://www.aidsquilt.org/about/the-aids-memorial-quilt">http://www.aidsquilt.org/about/the-aids-memorial-quilt</a>	St. Louis Community College - Forest Park	Photograph of people walking around quilt display	TGNT, 1988
43	1990	First openly gay candidate runs for state office in Missouri	St. Louisan Tim Cusick launches his election campaign for Missouri legislature. Campaign Headquarters located at 4065 West Pine, Suite 203.	Campaign Headquarters, 4065 West Pine, Suite 203	newspaper clipping	TGNT, March 1990
44	1990	ACT UP St. Louis founded	Organized protests include demonstrations against St. Louis Mayor Schoemehl for lack of attention to HIV/AIDS. Met at Sunshine Inn (8 1/2 S Euclid).	8 1/2 South Euclid, 63108	drawing of man with SILENCE=DEATH on shirt	TGNT, September 1990
45	1991	Queer Nation St. Louis founded	A direct action "grassroots organization of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people" working for human rights and equality. Early visibility actions included wearing pink ribbons to shop at the Galleria Mall (St. Louis) and a coffee sit-in at the Caseyville, IL Cracker Barrel restaurant. Office at 438 N. Skinker.	438 N. Skinker, 63130	Queer Nation logo	Pride Guide, 1992
46	1991	Lesbian and Gay Alliance for Peace and Justice meets	Organized meetings and forums in opposition to the Gulf War; March 1991. Met at Trinity Episcopal Church (600 N. Euclid)	600 N. Euclid 63108	Photograph of building exterior	Image of church. Courtesy of St. Louis LGBT History Project

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47	1992	Community Meeting with Police	Debbie Law, of ACTION, and Brad Smith, of PREP, gather interested people to meet with police representatives at the World Community Center (438 N. Skinker), April 9. The meeting was initiated by Maryland Heights chief of police, as part of a local police efforts to improve community relations with minority groups after the police violence against Rodney King in L.A. Meetings continued through the spring, marking the first open dialog with local police and LGBTQ people.	438 N. Skinker	Drawing of building exterior	Image courtesy of James Meinert and World Community Center.
48	1992	Men of All Colors chapter founded	Formation meeting October 10 at Loading Zone bar (16 S. Euclid). Group was previously known as BWMT, but had been inactive for several years.	16 S. Euclid Ave	Card that reads: Loading Zone The Video Bar	Business card. Courtesy of St. Louis LGBT History Project
49	1992	St. Louis city anti-discrimination law	Board of Alderman passes an anti-discrimination law that includes protections based on sexual orientation. St. Louis City Hall, (1200 Market St.)	St. Louis City Hall, 1200 Market Street	newspaper clipping	Extra edition of The Lesbian and Gay News-Telegraph, 1992

**Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis [LINK <http://library.wustl.edu/map-lgbtq-stl>] is an interdisciplinary humanities project examining the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class and society in the metropolitan area of St. Louis, Missouri.**

**It was built in Esri Story Maps [LINK <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/>] using the Tour app template, and published online October 2017.**

**Further details regarding methods and sources are available on the About Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis page [LINK <http://arcg.is/1OLSKX>].**

**We welcome questions, comments, and feedback. Please contact the project team using this online form [LINK <https://goo.gl/forms/NZRBovKoQ07zYvSw1>].**

**View Political Actions and Organizing Timeline online at:**

**<http://wustl.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=1a3bb142caa140018df5dc432a88bc80#>**