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**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES THE RETURN OF
CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL**

**Festival Will Take Place Across LA County During
LGBTQ+ History Month, October 2024**

Call for Proposals Now Open

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Los Angeles, CA (March 7, 2024) — One Institute announced today the return of **Circa**, **the first and only queer histories festival in the United States**. The 2024 festival will take place during LGBTQ+ History Month October 1-31 at venues across Los Angeles County. Submissions to this year's call for program proposals are open now through April 14.

The theme for this year's call for proposals is **LOVE and (R)EVOLUTION**, bringing renewed focus to landmark moments in the history of LGBTQ+ political organizing, as well as the behind-the-scenes stories of community care that have sustained movements for queer and trans liberation over decades. Taking place weeks ahead of this year's national election, Circa will provide Los Angeles' diverse LGBTQ+ and allied social justice, arts, and cultural communities a critical opportunity to voice their concerns and hopes for the future.

"The spirit of this year's Circa theme—LOVE and (R)EVOLUTION—runs through our veins as queer and trans people," said Tony Valenzuela, Executive Director of One Institute. "The festival mobilizes LGBTQ+ creatives to tell our histories through dynamic arts and humanities programs. Our communities are hungry for experiences that affirm the transformative impact of queer and trans people on our culture and politics at a moment in history when the bigots want to deny we even exist."

Submissions to Circa 2024 are open to LGBTQ+ and allied artists, activists, scholars, youth, educators, cultural institutions, and community groups. Participating individuals and organizations benefit from One's robust marketing and publicity support, need-based stipend funds, and access to free or low-cost venue space at one of many partner locations, including One Gallery in West Hollywood, the LA LGBT Center's Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center and ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, among others.

Additional information regarding submission guidelines, deadlines, and eligibility for Circa 2024 can be found at circafestival.org.

The groundbreaking **Circa: Queer Histories Festival** debuted in 2023 with an unprecedented lineup of 73 programs presented at venues across Los Angeles County to thousands of attendees. The list of programming partners featured leading actors, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations such as TransLatin@ Coalition founder Bamby Salcedo, photographer and body artist Sheree Rose, actor Michael Kearns, the ACLU of Southern California, Celebration Theatre, Lambda Literary and the William Grant Still Arts Center. With the help of sixteen new and returning Steering Committee members made up of notables from LA's arts community, One Institute hopes to curate a lineup of programs even more engaging than the last.

"I watched Circa come to life last year, as LGBTQ+ groups and causes came together to celebrate our shared histories," said Samantha Eisenberg, Director of Development at JQ International and returning member of the Circa Steering Committee. "There was a magical synergy all month long. Our communities deserve a platform to tell their own stories in their own voices, and that's what Circa is creating for all of us."

The full list of Circa Steering Committee members can be found below. Learn more about Circa and submit a program proposal by April 14, 2024 at circafestival.org.

2024 Steering Committee Members

Erik Adamian, Board Chair, GALAS LGBTQ+ Armenian Society; **Jerri Allyn**, activist and artist; **Lynn Harris Ballen**, activist, writer, and radio producer; **Orin Calcagne**, performer and theater creator; **Felicia Carbajal**, Executive Director, The Social Impact Center; **Holly M. Crawford**, artist, Director of Adult Public Programs, LACMA; **Austin de Lugo**, artist, teacher, and podcaster; **Samantha Eisenberg**, Director of Development, JQ International and Board Member, Beth Chayim Chadashim; **Rubén Esparza**, multidisciplinary artist and curator; **Jamison Rockmore**, director and producer; **Ray Lopez-Chang**, education equity organizer; **Amitis Motevalli**, artist and Director of William Grant Still Arts Center; **Janet Nicholson**, activist; **Rasheed Newson**, author, executive producer, and showrunner; **Cole Santiago**, director; **C. Jerome Woods**, poet, curator, and collector.

About One Institute

Founded in 1952, One Institute (formerly ONE Archives Foundation) is the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States. One Institute produces one-of-a-kind exhibitions and public programs that elevate queer and trans history and embrace emerging stories. Through K-12 teacher trainings, lesson plans, and youth mentorship programs, One empowers the next generation of teachers and students bringing queer and trans history into classrooms and communities. Additionally, the Institute assists in promoting the materials within ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, which houses the largest collection of LGBTQ+ materials in the world.

The curatorial and educational choices made by One Institute are guided by our commitment to social equity and justice. We engage with the complexity of LGBTQ+ history and representation through highlighting the intersectional and authentic narratives of Black, Indigenous, people of color (BIPOC), women, gender-nonconforming and transgender people, people of various abilities, youth, and elders across all socio-economic classes. Learn more at oneinstitute.org, and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @oneinstitutela.

SELECTED PRESS IMAGES









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