

BROUGHT TO YOU BY ASIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZING PROJECT

DEMYSTIFYING POLITICS:

SMASH THE CIS-TEM!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project aims to highlight moments in the long, painful and rich history of LGBTQ+ existence and resistance in the US and is by no means a comprehensive assessment of history. We encourage you to use this zine as a starting point to investigate and explore these themes further, we have linked several sources we used that are extensive in their dedication to LGBTQ+ history education.

GET TO KNOW THE FACES BEHIND THE ZINES



SUMMER VUE

[she/her]

Communications +
Digital Coordinator



ARUSHI NAIR

[she/they]

Policy + Community
Coordinator

[GLOSSARY]

LGBTQ+: This term is used to encapsulate many of the identities across the spectrum of sexuality and gender. Coined in the late 1980's, members of the queer community decided to create alliances across their identities of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer, and so on. This term has evolved and taken on many forms since its creation and hopes to include all identities, though the acronym itself is not comprehensive.

Debutante (in the context of queer debutante balls): this is where the term “coming out” originated from. It was in reference to debutante balls in France where young women would make their introduction into high society. However, the term was queerified, in which the queer community would host balls where men would “come out” and introduce themselves to the queer community.

“Coming out of the closet”: used extensively since the 60s to describe a queer individual explicitly making their identity and preferences known.

Cisgender: refers to a person whose gender identity matches the sex they were assigned at birth.

Deadname: using a transgender person's legal or former name without their consent, instead of using the name they choose.

Gender Binary: the idea that there are only two genders (male/female or man/woman) and that a person must be strictly gendered as either/or.

Gender Expression: how a person expresses their gender identities. Ways of expressing gender can include clothing, voice, body hair, posture, and more.

Gender Identity: is how a person views and identifies themselves. Gender identity does not always match the sex people are assigned at birth.

Gender Non-conforming: refers to a person who does not follow other people's ideas or stereotypes about how they should look or act based on the sex they were assigned at birth.

Housing Justice: refers to valuing and advocating for affordable housing, rent control, and renter power. Transgender and gender non-conforming APIs can experience transphobia, racism, and xenophobia in housing.

Intersex: a term used for a variety of experiences in which a person is born with anatomy that doesn't match biological definitions of female or male.

Non-binary: a spectrum of gender identities that exist beyond the man/woman gender binary.

Outing: when a partner or a third party shares a closeted person's LGBTQ+ identity without permission.

Queer: encompasses identities such as transgender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, asexual, and other LGBTQIA+ identities. Often used to self-identity.

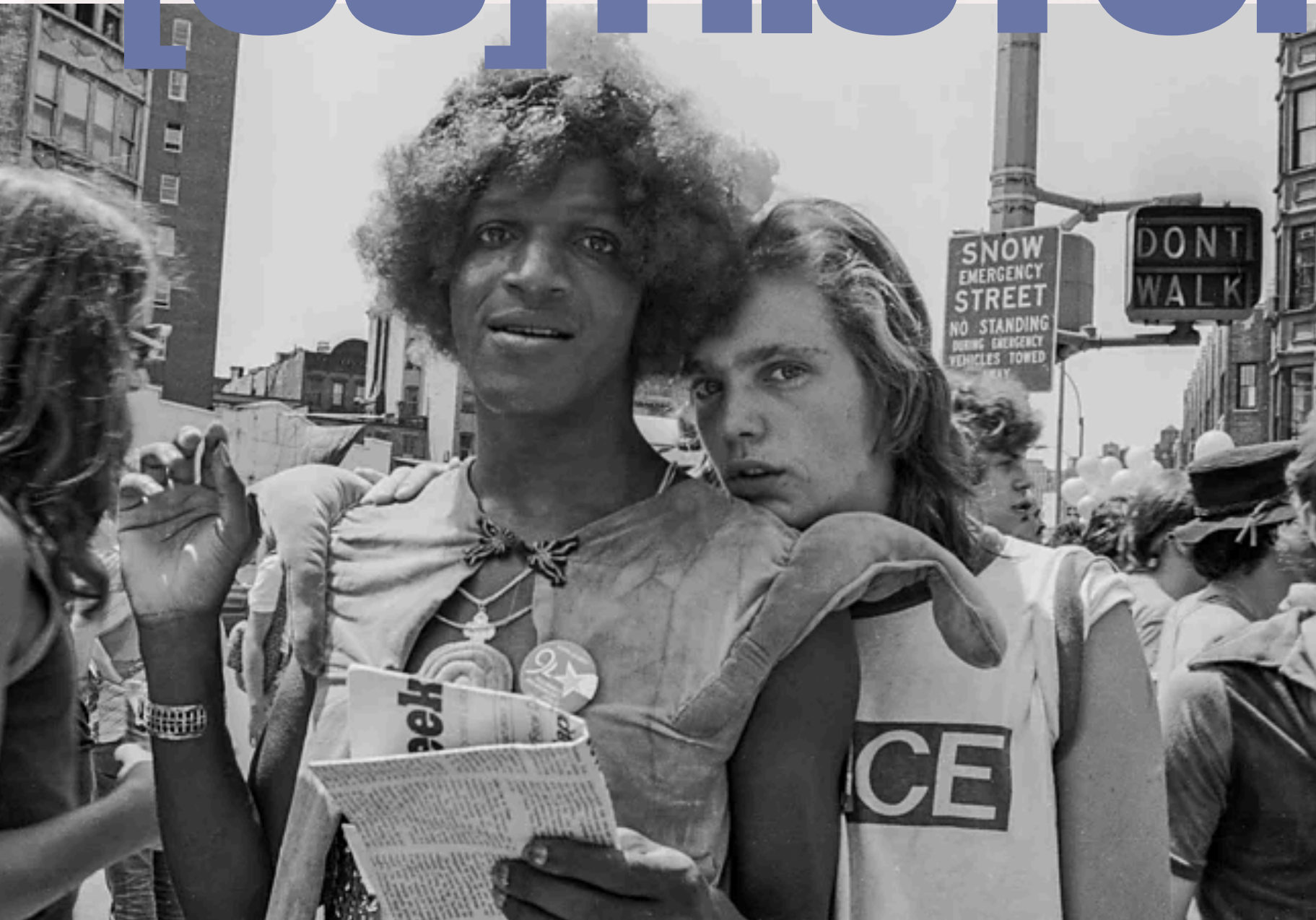
QTAPI: an umbrella term adopted for and by queer and transgender AAPI that centers the experiences of queer and transgender identities.

Sex Assigned at Birth: the category doctors assign to people when they are born. The sex assigned to individuals usually results in an assigned gender and added expectations.

Transgender: an umbrella term that refers to a person whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Transphobia: a range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, resentment, erasure, or discomfort) that one may have/express towards transgender individuals. Transphobia can come from within the queer community as well as cisgender/heterosexual society.

BRIEF LGBTQ+ [US] HISTORY



Marsha P. Johnson and friend,
Christopher Street Liberation
Day, NYC, 1976



After police raided the Stonewall Inn, rioting broke out next to the gay bar during the early hours of 28 June 1969

STONEWALL RIOTS

June 27-29, 1969

The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York City, was raided by the police (unprovoked). This led to over 400 individuals to protest the invasion and push the police back from the area. These riots continued over the course of 6 days.

Two key figures of this movement were Martha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera.

Today pride parades honor this event and celebrate the revolution of queer identity, the first one having been held in 1970 to honor the 1-year anniversary of the massacre at Stonewall.



Sylvia Rivera at Age 18
in NYC, 1969

AIDS EPIDEMIC BEGINS

1981

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports its first case of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a rare lung disease. A total of 583,298 American men, women and children would die from AIDS through 2007.



Act Up organized a 'die-in' in 1992, protesting over the lack of beds for Aids patients in hospital wards

Same-sex marriage supporters outside of the Supreme Court, June 2015



OBERGEFELL V. HODGES

2015

The Supreme Court Decision on Obergefell v. Hodges ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This decision federally mandated that states **MUST** allow same-sex couples to legally marry.

2SLGBTQIA+/ BIPOC ACTIVISTS



PAULINE PARK

Pauline Park, a 58 year-old trans activist based in New York City. She was born in Korea and adopted by white Christian fundamentalists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Though she did not see the representation she needed as a young person, she gravitated to books as her “portal” into the world of information and knowledge on who she was and would become. Park is largely credited for her work in passing NYC legislation to protect the rights of Trans people living in New York and is the cofounder of several queer/trans organizations, including Queens Pride House. In learning about the Korean tradition of paksu mudang she discovered her own identity as a Trans woman. She speaks to the struggle of being AAPI and navigating queerness in a community dominated by white folks, hoping to relay hope and inspiration to young queer folks in the AAPI community with her story.

HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU

Also known as Kumu Hina, is a 52 year-old native Hawaiian. They identify as Hawaiian māhū, the traditional third gender opportunity who occupies a place between male and female, and embodies the modern western conceptions of transgender women. Kumu Hina is known for her work as a kumu hula (hula teacher), activist, artist, filmmaker and community leader in the field of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) language and cultural preservation. Her teaching promotes cross-cultural alliances throughout the Pacific Islands and she is thus hailed as a cultural icon, for her powerful leadership and performance. Wong-Kalu is not only Cultural Ambassador for Native Hawaiian Advancement, but is one of the first transgender candidates for a statewide political office in the U.S., having run for the office of Hawaiian Affairs. She is a co-founder of the Kulia Na Mamo, a transgender health project and cultural director of a Hawaiian public charter school. Additionally she served as the Chair of the Oahu Island Burial Council, which oversees the management of Native Hawaiian burial sites and ancestral remains. She was the subject of the documentary film, Kumu Hina, which won multiple awards following its debut at the Hawaiian International Film Festival.



ALOK V MENON



Alok V Menon is a South Asian non-binary performer, artist and activist. Their work grapples with violence against trans and non-binary individuals and advocates for freedom from gender binary norms. They are a strong advocate of bodily diversity, gender neutrality and self-determination. Their own discomfort from being bullied as a young person and the inability to express their identity as an adolescent shaped their performance art and expression as an adult. They performed extensively with the group DarkMatter, a south-asian art and activist collective which performs primarily spoken-word poetry addressing queer/trans experiences in the South Asian community.

HISTORY + IMPORTANCE OF QUEER SPACES

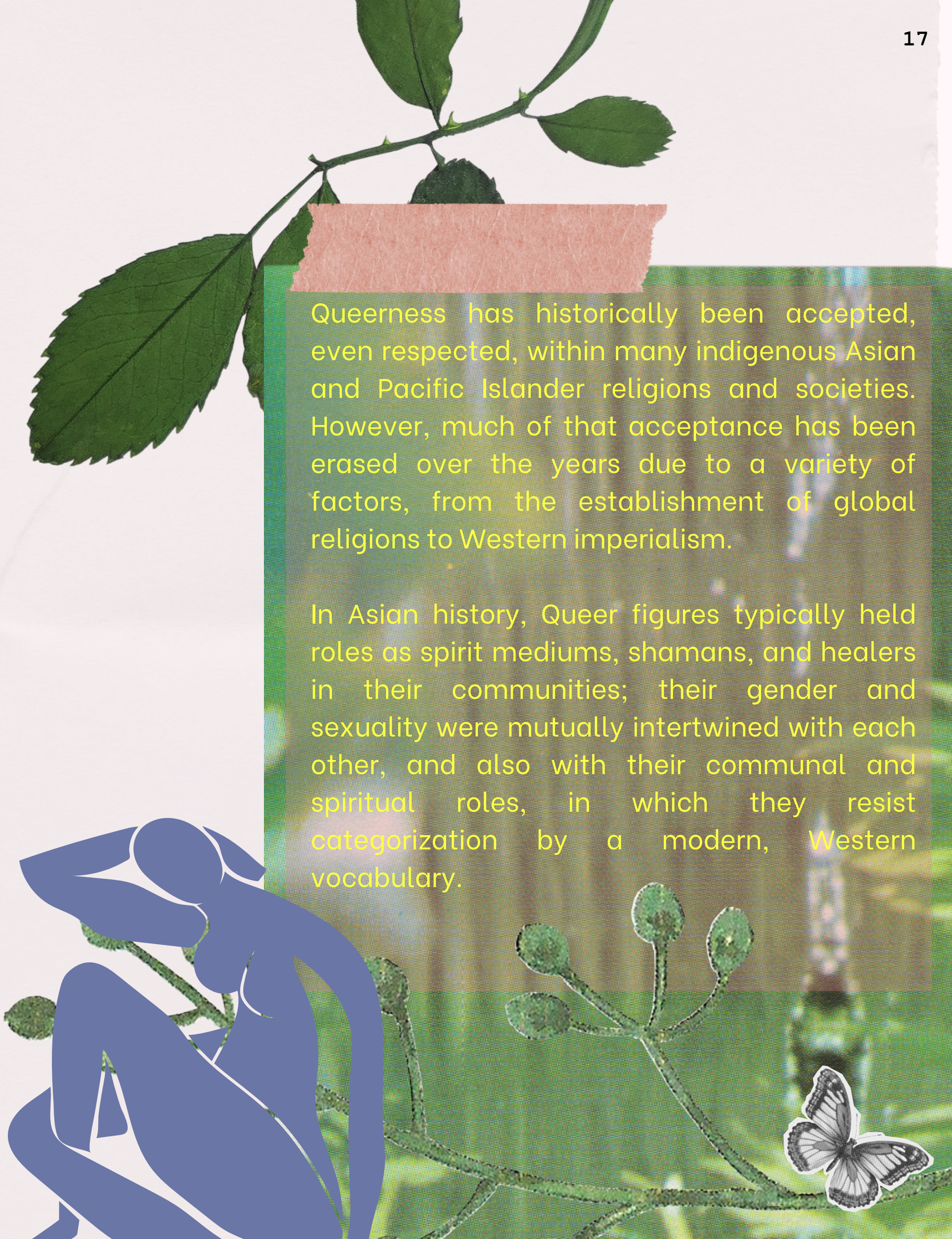
WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A SPACE TO BE QUEER? This refers to a space that connects or ties architecture with a person's sexuality and gender identity. They are intentionally designed for one's body to be, defining the need to iterate one's true identity, sexuality and need to connect, whether that's physically or through community. **AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?** Throughout history, queer identity has been (and continues to be) faced with discrimination and limitation. However, queer spaces offer a safe space that allows for self-expression that also offers individuals to find places for gathering, entertainment, housing, community and belonging.





HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW GENDER WAS ALSO COLONIZED?

Accepting queer people is not “progressive” in regards to South Asian history and culture, as this was once a norm in our communities. For example, Hinduism does not condemn LGBTQA+ individuals, unlike other religions. There is also much of ancient South Asian literature and culture filled with queerness. A great example is the God Ardhanarishvara, half Shiva/half Parvati (half man/half woman). Ardhanarishvara depicts that the human being is not purely “masculine” strength or “feminine” beauty, but rather the human being must be made of a balance between strength and grace - regardless of gender. Gender does not confine one to the attributes of gender stereotypes.



Queerness has historically been accepted, even respected, within many indigenous Asian and Pacific Islander religions and societies. However, much of that acceptance has been erased over the years due to a variety of factors, from the establishment of global religions to Western imperialism.

In Asian history, Queer figures typically held roles as spirit mediums, shamans, and healers in their communities; their gender and sexuality were mutually intertwined with each other, and also with their communal and spiritual roles, in which they resist categorization by a modern, Western vocabulary.

NOW LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME HISTORIC QUEER SPACES

SAVOY BALLROOM

- Venue for Jazz and Swing music that attracted an interracial audience, however, it “was also home to some of the most prominent drag balls in New York City,” making it a crucial space for queer culture and identity within the community
- The ballroom also allowed guests to stay as late as 5AM to protect them from racist or homophobic attacks during the night
- “The theatrics of the drag balls enhanced the solidarity of the queer world and symbolized the continuing centrality of gender inversion to queer culture.”





HOTEL OLGA

- Opposite from Hotel Theresa which “loomed as a citadel of racial exclusion”
- Hotel Olga was critical in providing a safe haven for Black individuals
- Many queer artists, musicians, and writers of the Harlem Renaissance were led to utilize Hotel Olga as a safe space and respite
- The hotel consisted of individual rooms where artists could create and ideate, while the common spaces like lounges, library, and reading rooms would allow queer guests to converse with each other

QUEER SPACES IN THE TWIN CITIES

QUEERSPACE COLLECTIVE

QUEERSPACE collective is the first mentorship program created specifically for LGBTQ+ youth in Minnesota. They create space for LGBTQ+ youth to feel safe and empowered to be their true selves.

OUR SPACE

Our Space is a community-driven campaign to create, build, and dream up physical and virtual spaces for queer and trans and LGBTQ+ communities in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. Our Space intentionally centers the needs and experiences of those most marginalized in our communities, including Trans and GNC people, folks of color, Indigenous and Native American folks, folks with disabilities, and others at the intersections of multiple marginalized identities.

THE BRASS STRAP

The Brass Strap is a group of six dedicated queer creatives, organizers, and food service industry workers that are in the early stages of opening a cooperatively owned queer bar in Minneapolis. They provide an inclusive community space for people to play music, dance, sell their art, share skills, build families, and above all else, feel safe.

BLACK HART

The Black Hart is a neighborhood, queer, and soccer bar in the Midway neighborhood of St. Paul. It is a home for the LGBTQ+ community and often hosts drag shows, burlesque, BINGO, and karaoke nights!

QUATREFOIL LIBRARY

The intentional destruction of literature is nothing new. Books have often been destroyed as a way to erase groups from history. Even today, queer literature is one of the most commonly targeted. Q Library is protecting these stories, allowing generations young and old to see themselves represented.

However, it's more than just a library. For decades, the library has stood as a gathering point for those in the queer community. They host meetings, book author readings, and countless clubs – including a Queer Dungeons and Dragons meetup!

JETSET

If you're in the mood to dance, head to the New York-style lounge geared toward the gay community.

TRANSFORMING GENERATIONS

Their mission is to organize, educate, and transform cultural and power dynamics to end gender-based violence through compassionate accountability and a strength-based/person-centered approach to support people in meeting their goals.

SOLCANA FITNESS

A Minneapolis-based gym built on the idea of body liberation. They are a queer, woman-owned gym designed for all bodies.

FAMILY TREE CLINIC

Family Tree Clinic is committed to improving the health of lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and queer individuals through affordable, respectful sexual health care and education. Working cooperatively with other community-based organizations, they continue to build their capacity to serve LGBTQ+ communities through their outreach, education, and clinic services.

MINNESOTA TRANSGENDER HEALTH COALITION

The Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition is committed to improving health care access and quality of health care received by trans and gender non-conforming people through education, resources, and advocacy.

RECLAIM!

RECLAIM's mission is to increase access to mental health care for queer and trans youth so they may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms. They're one of the only organizations in Minnesota that offers financially accessible, specialized mental health care to this marginalized community.

FIREWEED COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Fireweed Community Workshop is a non-profit educational organization whose key mission is to empower women and marginalized genders through the art of woodcraft. Their goal is to introduce people to tools and techniques through classes, while providing equipment, workspace, and community to help them flourish within the craft.

MN POLICY



GENDER AFFIRMING CARE ACT

This would require insurance companies to recognize gender affirming care as necessary and coverable. This pertains to both physical and mental health care for individuals seeking Gender Affirming care from medical professionals. **THIS PASSED, WOOHOO** a huge win for the LGBTQ community in Minnesota!

ERA BILL

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is a proposal to amend the Minnesota Constitution to codify and protect abortion access rights (headed by Gender Justice and the Minnesota branch of the Unrestrict Coalition). After 14 hours of back and forth arguing, this bill ultimately did not pass, though Gender Justice is already gearing up to get this on the 2025 Minnesota legislative timeline. In the meantime, local organizations, like Gender Justice and AAOP are working to ensure that people know their rights and how to access reproductive care and resources.



BUILDING FAMILIES ACT

Mandated insurance coverage for infertility treatment, did not pass this legislative session. Though this bill would've helped thousands of individuals suffering from medical infertility as a result of chronic illness or from birth, by allowing for unlimited embryo transfers and a limited number of egg retrievals – a key step in IVF Treatment.



Photography Holly Buckle

HIV STIGMA

National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NAPIHAAD) happens annually on May 19th. This is an important day to raise and promote awareness surrounding HIV/AIDS specifically within AANHPI communities with a strong emphasis on education, quality care, and addressing stigma and related health conditions. As there is still stigma and discrimination surrounding sexual and reproductive health, this can prevent folks from seeking care and support when learning about their sexual health status.

RESOURCES FOR LGBTQ+ HEALTH:

RAINBOW HEALTH

offers in-person and telehealth options for mental health and substance use support for LGBTQ+ community + people living with HIV

MN TRANS HEALTH COALITION

is committed to improving health care access and the quality of health care received by trans and gender non-conforming people through education, resources, and advocacy.

PRIDE INSTITUTE

Pride Institute has been a leader in helping LGBTQ+ folx recover from substance use disorder, sexual health issues and mental health conditions. Their staff is trained to be knowledgeable about the unique challenges individuals face as a member of the queer community.

ALIVENESS PROJECT

offers HIV support services such as, health meals, food shelf, nutrition therapy, case management and housing resources, HIV services, and peer led support groups.

RED DOOR CLINIC

STD + HIV testing, support groups, and sexual health services in the Twin Cities

****please visit [Pride Twin Cities Community Resource](#) page to find more info related to health, support groups and social meet-ups, chemical dependency, and housing and LGBTQIA+ resources!**

[REFERENCES]

[AAPI LGBTQ+ EXPERIENCES OF GBV](#)

[ALOK](#)

[DISAPPEARING QUEER SPACES](#)

[INDONESIAN QUEER HISTORIES AS SOLACE AND RESISTANCE](#)

[IN SEARCH OF QUEER ANCESTORS](#)

[KUMU HINA](#)

[LGBTQ HISTORY AND TIMELINE](#)

['LOVE HAS WON': REACTION TO THE SUPREME COURT RULING ON GAY MARRIAGE](#)

[NATIONAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY 2024 TOOLKIT](#)

[PRIDE MONTH: SOUTH ASIA'S ANCIENT QUEER HISTORY INTO TODAY](#)

[THE FASCINATING QUEER HISTORY OF COMING OUT](#)

[THE HIDDEN HISTORIES OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN ASIA](#)

[THE THIRD GENDER AND HIJRAS](#)

[QUEER SPACES: WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT IN ARCHITECTURE AND THE PUBLIC REALM?](#)

[QUEER SPACE: WHAT IS IT?](#)

[STONEWALL RIOTS: A BEACON FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD?](#)

[WHY THESE PROTESTORS STAGED A MASS DIE-IN ON WORLD AIDS DAY](#)