



THE **ARQUIVES**

Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archives

MEDIA KIT 2025



About Us

Mission

The ArQuives was established to aid in the recovery and preservation of our histories. Its mandate is to:

- Acquire, preserve, organize, and give public access to information and materials in any medium, by and about 2SLGBTQIA+ people, primarily produced in or concerning Canada;
- Maintain a research library, international research files, and an international collection of 2SLGBTQIA+ periodicals.

Vision

The ArQuives aspires to be a significant resource and catalyst for those who strive for a future world where 2SLGBTQIA+ people are accepted, valued, and celebrated.



Colour Negatives - Khush funds.
Anthony Mohamed

About Us

History

The ArQuives is one of the largest 2SLGBTQIA+ collections in the world and the only archive in Canada with a mandate to collect at a national level.

Founded out of *The Body Politic* newspaper collection in 1973, the archives formally incorporated in 1980 and was granted charitable status in 1981.

Today, The ArQuives preserves a wide range of material, including personal and organizational papers, books, periodicals, monographs, photographs, moving images, sound recordings, artifacts (such as buttons, board games, T-shirts, and banners), and other reference material.

The ArQuives have both a digital collection and a physical collection in its [designated Heritage Home](#) at 34 Isabella Street. At this location, the reading room and James Fraser Reference Library includes physical collections of fiction, nonfiction, monographs, and serials. The reading room is accessible with a [reader card](#).

Why This Matters

These priceless records represent the broad expression of 2SLGBTQIA+ life at various points in history, serving as a testament to our past and present, and helping to inform our future.





Collections

We have four main collections at the ArQuives: Archives, Library, Artifacts, and Reference. These collections, among others, are available to [search digitally](#) from our website. The ArQuives has 30,000 titles in its library, 6,500 artifacts, and more than 200 archival fonds and collections.

The James Fraser Reference Library

Our library includes fiction and nonfiction books, monographs, serials, zines, newsletters, calendars, and magazines.

Archives

The archival collection includes papers, photographic materials, posters, digital records, and audio and video materials from individuals, groups, and organizations.



Zami photograph.
Sonja Mills

Reference Material

Our Reference collection includes vertical files, such as international, Canadian, and American research files, and a newspaper index, including newspaper clippings from 2SLGBTQIA+ media. This collection is available to researchers as well.

Artifacts & Art

The Artifact collection includes T-shirts, buttons, and matchbooks, and the Art collection includes the [National Portrait Collection](#), which comprises of 79 portraits in various mediums, highlighting 2SLGBTQIA+ community achievement and activism.



National Gay conference June 3rd 1975, Ottawa.
Gerald Hannon

What We Do

Programming

The ArQuives hosts in-person exhibitions, along with over [30 digital exhibitions](#) available 24/7; workshops using our collection, such as zine- and button-making workshops; special events with community partners; trivia nights; presentations covering topics such as archival practices and 2SLGBTQIA+ history; tours of the historical building, a Church-Wellesley Village Tour, and the Outside the Village Tour. [View our upcoming programming on our website.](#)

As well as exhibits and programming, The ArQuives has developed and piloted 2SLGBTQIA+ Inclusive Education resources to support educators with lesson plans, and understanding and implementing policies on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in Canadian schools. Building on that work, The ArQuives developed three downloadable packages with reproductions of items from its collections that can be used in classroom mini-exhibitions. By integrating archival materials into educational spaces, we aim to spark curiosity, encourage

critical discussion, and promote greater inclusivity within academic environments. All of our educational resources are available in French and English.





Impact

The ArQuives is a volunteer-focused organization, which was entirely volunteer-run from 1973–2004. Our volunteers have a variety of different backgrounds, experiences, and skills that contribute to The ArQuives' success. In 2024, 150 volunteers donated over 6,500 hours to us. The ArQuives also offer student placements, internships, and co-op opportunities.

Our dedicated volunteers power much of our reach each year, helping to bring people to The ArQuives both in person and digitally.



In 2024:

3,000+
visitors to The ArQuives

150+
on-site research visits

150+
donations to our collections

14,500+
visitors to online collections

24,500+
visitors to our digital exhibits

61,600+
sessions on our website

417,800+
social media impressions



Jim Egan and Jack Nesbitt First Meet - 1948.
Jim Egan

How to Support The ArQuives

Financial Donations

There are many ways to support The ArQuives and continue the important work of preserving 2SLGBTQIA+ history and experiences. Financial donations help us continue to:

- Acquire, process, and manage all materials that come into The ArQuives;
- Provide space for researchers on 2SLGBTQIA+ heritage;
- Reach out to the public through programming.

Ways To Donate Financially:

- Make a secure donation via our website, by phone, or by mail;
- Support The ArQuives as a monthly or yearly donor, and provide stable funding for the acquisition and preservation of 2SLGBTQIA+ information;

- Contribute to The ArQuives through peer-to-peer fundraising, and use our [fundraising toolkit](#) to help you in this process;
- Leave a legacy gift in your will for The ArQuives, and support future generations' education of 2SLGBTQIA+ history.

Collection Donations

You can also donate material to The ArQuives' collection. We are interested in preserving the records and legacy of 2SLGBTQIA+ stories and lives, and we welcome your legacy to become part of ours.

We recognize that the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is rich and complex, and we especially welcome stories from those that have not traditionally seen themselves reflected in The ArQuives collection. Material in any format may be donated as long as it can be accommodated and preserved.



Labour union float at Toronto Pride 2004.
R.J. Martin

How to Support The ArQuives

Membership

Members are a key part in helping The ArQuives fulfill its mandate to 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Becoming a member includes many benefits, such as voting rights at the Annual General Meeting. Members help guide The ArQuives in strategic planning and major decision making by engaging with Board and staff members.

There are three ways to become a member:

- Volunteer
- Donate financially
- Donate to our collections

Volunteer

As a volunteer-focused organization, The ArQuives is always looking for community support. There are nine volunteer committees you could be a part of:

- Collections and Public Service
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Curatorial
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Facilities
- Finance
- Fundraising
- Relocation

If you are interested in volunteering with The ArQuives, you can [submit an application online](#). The ArQuives welcomes volunteers year-round, based on current needs and capacity. We recommend applying once each year. We will contact you if we are able to find a position for you.





Pei Lim.
Norman Taylor

Contact

Visit us

The ArQuives is located at:

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Our mailing address is:

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Get in touch

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