PANEL PREP

LGBTQ+ History Month Event

Event Details

LGBTQ+ History Month Panel & Reception – Celebrating & Reflecting

Thursday, October 27, 2022

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

- 4:00 – 5:00 | LGBTQ+ History Month Panel
- 5:00 – 7:00 | LGBTQ+ Reception, Unveiling of New Banners & Program (Program will start at 6 pm)

Location: Bank of America, 800 Capitol Street, Houston, TX 77002

Attire: Business Casual

Parking Instructions: Parking is available in the Bank of America garage, with entrance located off Travis. Please park on level 6 and up as those are not reserved spaces. A parking voucher will be provided to you at check in. After parking in the garage, take the elevator to the first floor and check in at the security desk. Once you check in, you will enter the elevator and take it to the 12th floor.

Event Link: https://bit.ly/3T9nOAZ

Promo Code: LGBTQPanel - panelists may use this promo code to invite up to 4 guests each for complimentary registration. Registration will include parking (choose the registration + parking option).

Overview

The Chamber is launching its signature LGBTQ+ History Month event to celebrate Houston's LGBTQ+ history. The event will bring together Chamber Members, Corporate Partners, Key Stakeholders and the broader LGBTQ+ and Allied community.

Program Description & Panel Overview

Panel Title: Our Journeys…Preserving Houston's LGBTQ+ History

Hear from a panel of experts in Houston's LGBTQ+ Historians who have been working for years to preserve Houston's LGBTQ+ History. These individuals have dedicated countless hours for decades to ensuring that current and future generations of Houstonian's understand Houston's LGBTQ+ History. In a city that does not always prioritize its history, individuals like our panelists, preserve the important aspects of LGBTQ+ history in Houston.

Panelists & Moderator

- Panelist: Kirk Baxter (he/him), Designer, *The Banner Project*
- Panelist: Dalton DeHart (he/him), Founder, *Dalton DeHart Photographic Foundation*
- Panelist: JD Doyle (he/him), Founder, *JD Doyle Archives /* Content*, The Banner Project*
- Panelist: Sara Fernandez (she/her), Founder, *The Banner Project*
- Panel Moderator: Cheryl Mercedes (she/her), Reporter and Anchor, *KHOU 11*

Program

Time	Program	Lead / Speaker	Duration
3:30	Panelists/Delegation arrive		30 min
4:00 - 4:03	Welcome	Tammi Wallace	3 min
4:03 – 4:05	Welcome remarks by Council Members Robert Gallegos and Abbie Kamin	CM Gallegos and Kamin	2 min
4:05 – 4:08	Overview of LGBTQ+ History Month	Thomas Lopez	3 min
4:08 – 4:10	Introduce Moderator	Thomas Lopez	2 min
4:10 – 4:12	Introduce Panelists	Moderator	2 min
4:12 – 4:47	Panel Conversation	Moderator/Panelists	35 min
4:47 – 4:57	Q&A	Moderator/Panelists	10 min
4:57 – 4:59	Panel Wrap Up	Moderator	2 min
4:59 – 5:00	Closing Remarks	Thomas Lopez	1 min
5:00 – 7:00	Reception		

Panel Format

We look forward to your participation on this important panel. Thank you for sharing your stories and work in the community. Cheryl Mercedes, KHOU 11 will serve as moderator and will pose questions to each of you. Please give some thought to each of these questions below in preparation for the panel. As you move through the panel questions, you may want to add a comment or clarification other panelist's responses.

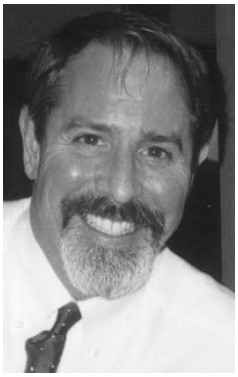
We may or may not get through all the questions below but will certainly try to cover them. We encourage concise responses so we can ensure everyone can share insight and cover as many topics as possible. We'll include with a Q&A session as well. Cheryl will reframe questions as needed and may pose a follow-up question or add a comment to your responses.

Panel Questions

- Tell us about The Banner Project. Where did the idea for The Banner Project come from? (Sara)
- Why was this project important to you personally? (Sara)
- How did you get The Banner Project off of the ground? (Sara/JD/Kirk)
- What did you learn about Houston's LGBTQ+ History while creating the banners? Surprises? (Sara/JD/Kirk)
- Are there banners that stand out for you? (Sara/JD/Kirk)
- When you were creating the design for the banners, what did you want to convey? (Kirk)
- Tell is about the JD Doyle Archives.
- Where did this idea come from for the JD Doyle Archives? When and why did you start the organization? Why was it important to you? (JD)
- Tell us more about the Dalton DeHart Photographic Foundation. (Dalton)
- Where did the idea for the Foundation come from? (Dalton)
- How have you captured this many photos as a "one-man" show over the years?! (Dalton)
- How challenging has it been for each of you to do this work to preserve Houston's LGBTQ+ History? (All)
- What is your hope with your respective work to preserve Houston's LGBTQ+ History for future generations? (All)
- Is there anything else you would like to share today?

Panelists

Kirk Baxter (he/him), Designer, The Banner Project



Kirk Baxter has resided in Houston, Texas for over 40 years. He is a graphic designer with a degree in Fine Art from Illinois State University. After receiving his degree, Mr. Baxter was invited to join the architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls in Detroit as an in-house signage designer. In 1981, he relocated to Houston with the architectural firm of CRS. As senior designer, he was responsible for graphic programs, both domestic and international, to the Fortune 500 companies CRS retained as clients.

Celebrating his 27th year as an independent consultant, Mr. Baxter has become involved with public art, as well as maintaining his practice in signage and graphic design. He has been an adjunct professor and guest lecturer at the University of Houston and a volunteer for numerous civic and arts organizations, including The Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, DIFFA Houston, The oH Project, Bayou City Art Festival, and ArtHouston. His environmental graphic and print design experience over the last 45 years has also included projects for fund-raising and non-profit organizations. He has recently designed two art books that have received international distribution. His work has been exhibited locally at the Houston Public Library, Lawndale Art Center and Redbud Gallery. Public art commissions have included work with airports, cultural institutions and municipalities. You can learn more by visiting his website at dsignage.com.

Dalton DeHart (he/him), Founder, Dalton DeHart Photographic Foundation



Dalton is the Founder of the Dalton DeHart Photographic Foundation.

Dalton has spent decades capturing the Houston LGBTQ+ community through his photography. As a talented photographer, he has captured the memories of Houston's LGBTQ+ community including important and historical events, people and organizations over the years. Currently, his collections numbers over one million photographs.

Whether capturing action shots at Deer Park High School football games and San Jacinto College basketball games, photographing many elected officials or shooting thousands of fundraisers, he has been behind the lens capturing moments that matter, especially in Houston's LGBTQ+ community.

Through his talent as a photographer, he has given back to numerous organizations over the years including serving as the official photographer for the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce since its launch and as a longtime photographer for OutSmart Magazine.

The Dalton DeHart Foundation 's mission is to digitize, catalog and preserve an expanding collection of approximately one million photographs (and growing!), from the photography pf Dalton DeHart, chronicling the Houston community, primarily nonprofit and community events, and to make these images publicly accessible for their educational, historic, and cultural value.

Learn more at https://www.daltondehart.com/.

JD Doyle (he/him), Founder, JD Doyle Archives / Content, The Banner Project



JD Doyle is a historian and archivist whose work covers several areas of LGBTQ culture. From 2000 to 2015 he was the producer of the monthly radio show Queer Music Heritage, heard as a part of Queer Voices on Houston's KPFT-FM. QMH took a music history/entertainment documentary approach to the sharing and preserving of our culture's music, and is supported by a huge website, where all past shows are archived for streaming, along with hundreds of pages of information about the artists. JD is a self-confessed fanatic collector of gay & lesbian music and likely has the largest private collection in the world. His radio work received a number of awards during this time, including in March of 2012 the Allan Bérubé Prize from the Committee for LGBT History, in San Francisco.

Perhaps the most visible honor was to have been chosen to be Male Grand Marshal for the 2014 Houston Pride Parade, quite a humbling thrill. In 2015 he retired from radio to devote more time to other projects. Around 2014 he founded the history websites Houston LGBT History, and Texas Obituary Project and is a primary team member for The Banner Project.

The History site covers a wide variety of areas of Houston LGBT culture, with special exhaustive areas on Pride, Politics and Publications, with that going beyond Houston publications to include those of other major cities around the state, and the country going back to the 1960s. The Texas Obituary Project is a searchable database of obituaries of those lost from the community, culled from the statewide publications and elsewhere, with the total now over 8000.

For the Banner Project he and founder Sara Fernandez and designer Kirk Baxter comprise the operation and he produces the website and much of the history research required.

The three websites now (in 2022) encompass over 20,000 pages of content, and that got the notice of the Library of Congress. In 2019 the LOC selected the sites for inclusion in their collection of internet materials related to LGBTQ+ Studies Web Archive, a deep and unexpected honor. Also, that year the Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus awarded him their Lifetime Achievement Award at their Equality Brunch. In 2022 the Texas Digital Library honored his Archives with the Trailblazer Award.

Sara Fernandez (she/her), Founder, The Banner Project



Sara Fernandez, a native of El Paso Texas is the founder of The Banner Project. Her work with LGBTQ+ issues began in the early 2000s as a member of PFLAG, followed by her work with AFCI Houston (Association for Family and Community Integrity) in 2010. Her focus was to share the coming out stories of LGBTQ+ family members with the public. As a result of this work, she was invited to join Houston Area Rainbow Collective History where she met local historians and archivists. It was here that the idea for a visual display of history was given a foundation to grow on. She has also been a Board Member of the JD Doyle Archives since 2015.

Moderator

Cheryl Mercedes (she/her), Reporter & Anchor, KHOU 11



Cheryl Mercedes is an Emmy and Murrow Award-winning investigative reporter and anchor at KHOU 11 News. She came to the Lone Star State from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she spent 12 years as an anchor and investigative reporter at WAFB-TV.

Cheryl was born and raised in the New Orleans area. She grew up watching local news with her family every evening and knew at a very young age that she would become a journalist. She graduated from St. Francis Cabrini High School, where she won her first journalism award for her work as yearbook editor. She went on to study broadcast journalism at Southeastern Louisiana University. After earning her bachelor's degree there, she went on to pursue a master's degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She was recently named "Alumna of the Year."

While attending graduate school, Cheryl landed her first television reporting job at Lafayette CBS affiliate, KLFY-TV. She spent three years there before moving to Baton Rouge. Cheryl has covered several major breaking news stories that have made national headlines including Hurricane Katrina, the deadly ambush on Baton Rouge law enforcement officers and the murder trials of Louisiana serial killer Derrick Todd Lee.

Her six-month investigation into unsafe and unsanitary conditions at a government-run apartment complex earned her an Emmy Award. The newscast she co-anchored also won an Emmy for its coverage of devastating tornadoes.

Cheryl has picked up several Associated Press awards including "Reporter of the Year." The highlight of news career was perhaps traveling to Miami, FL to cover the New Orleans Saints in Super Bowl XLIV.

When Cheryl is not chasing down the latest news tip, you'll likely find her running around the city, biking in the suburbs or swimming laps at a local pool.

As a triathlete, Cheryl has successfully raced Ironman Texas, Ironman Augusta, Ironman Memphis, and Ironman New Orleans twice. Her podium finishes at local races earned her spots at national championships in Omaha, Nebraska, Cleveland, Ohio, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Primary Event Contacts

If you need assistance prior to the event, please find the primary event contacts below.

Program: Tammi Wallace, Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce, tammi.wallace@houstonlgbtchamber.com, Cell: 713-301-2266

Event & Logistics: Maureen Maiuri, Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce, info@houstonlgbtchamber.com, Cell: 215-850-8764