

Executive Director
The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston

Joan Ilacqua is Executive Director of The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston. She is a public historian and archivist dedicated to preserving and sharing the stories of underdocumented communities through oral histories, archival acquisitions, and outreach and education.

CURRENT POSITION

Executive Director | January 2020 - Present

Previously served as a member of the board (January 2015-May 2016) and as a volunteer for the Events & Outreach Committee (September 2013- January 2015)

The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA

- Leads organization in fundraising and marketing strategy, annual appeals, special campaigns, and crowdfunding efforts via mailings and social media. Writes, edits, and oversees grant applications and awards, responsible for reporting and ensuring compliance with all funder regulations.
- In collaboration with the bookkeeper, treasurer, and board of directors, ensures the organization's financial accountability to donors, funding agencies, and the community.
- With the support of the Events & Outreach Committee, plans public events highlighting topics relating to LGBTQ history, with virtual audiences averaging 70 participants. Leads planning efforts for the annual *History Maker Awards* gala, including individual and corporate sponsorships. Works with local and national history and LGBTQ organizations on collaborative events and projects.
- Recruits and trains volunteers and board members to support the organization's mission to collect, preserve, and share LGBTQ history.
- Oversees archives activities, including processing, digitization, collection development, and acquisitions. Oversees volunteers, seasonal interns, and 2021 Community Curator Fellow tasked with updating and sharing Boston's Black LGBTQ history.

PAST POSITIONS

Archivist for Diversity and Inclusion | October 2018 – December 2019

Center for the History of Medicine, Francis. A Countway Library, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

The inaugural Archivist for Diversity and Inclusion, the first position of its kind at Harvard University, is responsible for ensuring that the Center's manuscript collections reflect the broad diversity of the Harvard Medical School community. The Archivist also shares the school's history of diversity and inclusion, and oversees the Archives for Women in Medicine program.

- Created a strategic program focused on documenting the achievements of underrepresented minorities in medicine in the Harvard Medical School community through archival acquisitions, oral history interviews, and education and outreach efforts including exhibits and social media. Fields research questions and press inquiries about the history of diversity and inclusion at Harvard Medical School.

Archivist for Diversity and Inclusion, continued

- Collaborated with campus and community partners to organize lectures and events promoting diversity and inclusion efforts. Participated in campus-wide planning efforts for “Celebrating 50 Years of Diversity and Inclusion” event.
- Publicized Women in Medicine research fellowship, reviewed applications, and participated in fellow selection process in collaboration with the Women in Medicine Legacy Foundation.
- Supervised part-time employee researching underrepresented students and faculty throughout the history of Harvard Medical School.

Project Archivist, Archives for Women in Medicine | June 2015 - October 2018, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Oral History Project Coordinator | November 2014 - June 2015, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Strong Medicine Project Coordinator | January 2014 - November 2014, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Archives Assistant | February 2013 - September 2013, University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA

Museum Technician | May 2012 - August 2012, Gateway National Recreation Area, New York City, NY

Archives Processing Intern | September 2012 - August 2013, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, MA

Collections and Library Intern | December 2011 - May 2012, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, MA

Student Conservation Association Museum Intern | June 2011 - October 2011, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg, TN

Cultural Resources Management Intern | January 2011 - May 2011, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, New Bedford, MA

Student Conservation Association Archival Intern | September 2010 - December 2010, Yosemite National Park, El Portal, CA

EDUCATION

Certificate in Nonprofit Management, December 2019

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Courses in: Leading and Managing Nonprofit Organizations, Nonprofit Leadership and Community Engagement, and Principles and Practices of Fundraising

M.A. in History: Public History Track, May 2014

University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA

Capstone Project: “The 1918 True Name Law: Protecting Soldiers and Sailors; Persecuting Prostitutes and Passing Women”

Advisor: Vincent J. Cannato

B.A. in History, Double Major in Art – Studio: Sculpture Track, May 2010

University of Puget Sound; Tacoma, WA

Thesis: “Northwest Regionalism: Investigating Salmon and Sasquatch Symbolism”

Advisor: Douglas Sackman

PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

CITY OF BOSTON

- Boston 400th Anniversary Commemoration Commission
 - Member (May 2022 - Present)

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

- Cultural Facilities Fund
 - Panelist (Spring 2022)

ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION

- Public Knowledge
 - Community-Based Archives Panelist (Summer 2021)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES DIVISION

- Massachusetts State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB)
 - Member (January 2021 - Present)
 - Evaluator, Roving Archivist Grant Applications
 - Evaluator, Veterans Heritage Grant Applications
 - Evaluator, Archives Supplies Regrant Applications

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS

- Inclusion and Diversity Committee (October 2018 - October 2020)
 - Editor of "Who's Missing from This Table?" newsletter column
 - Inclusion and Diversity Reading Discussion Group Facilitator (Spring Meeting 2019)

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

- Equity and Social Justice Committee (September 2016 - December 2019)
- LGBT Advisory Committee (August 2016 - December 2019)
- Joint Committee on the Status of Women (September 2015 - December 2019)

#BOSTONBETTER: A PROJECT OF BOSTON-AREA MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

- Social Media Volunteer (January 2014 - May 2014)

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

- Massachusetts Regional and State Competition Judge (2014 - Present)

HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION, UMASS BOSTON

- President (March 2013 - April 2014)
- Member (September 2012 - May 2014)
- Graduate Student Conference Committee (2013 and 2014)

SELECTED AWARDS AND GRANTS

Capacity Building for The History Project, The Mellon Foundation, \$350,000, 2022.

2021 Preservation Achievement Award, Boston Preservation Alliance, "Stonewall 50," 2021.

Digital Capacity Grant, Mass Humanities, "Updating and Sharing Boston's Black LGBTQ History," \$5000, 2021.

Support for Community-Based Archives Grant, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, \$80,000, 2019.

Boston Pride Community Grant, Community Storytelling Event, \$2000, 2019.

“Pride was a Riot: Stories of Love, Loss, Community, and Rebellion,” \$1000, 2017.

Sharon P. Clayborne Staff Diversity Award, Harvard Medical School, 2019.

Equality Fund Grant, The Boston Foundation, General Operating Support, \$11,500, 2022.

General Operating Support, \$5000, 2021.

General Operating Support, \$5000, 2020.

Hiring a Community Liaison to Strengthen Relationships with Black LGBTQ+ Bostonians, \$5000, 2018.

Dean’s Community Service Award, Harvard Medical School, \$1000, 2018.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

New England Archivists

TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Community Curator Fellow Supervisor, June 2021 - Present

Micha Broadnax

Fieldwork Advisor, Northeastern University, January 2021 - June 2021

Ben Federlin: M.A. in Public History

Course Facilitator, Library Journal, April-May 2020

Course: “Evaluating, Auditing, and Diversifying Your Collections”

Internship Advisor, Smith College, June 2020 - August 2020

Erin Walsh: Praxis Program

Project Advisor, Simmons College, Spring 2019

Maureen Coleman, Jade Mejia, Rachel Wentworth: “Proposed Outreach Project: Queer Women of Color Book Club”

Internship Advisor, University of Massachusetts Boston, September 2017 - January 2018

Nina Rodwin: “Soothing Words: Women Physicians in The Medical Field: 1900-1920”

Graduate Assistant, University of Massachusetts Boston, September 2012 - May 2013

Timothy Hasci: History 175: Comic Books in America: The History of Comic Books and American Society since 1938, History 266: American History Since 1877

CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR PRESENTATIONS

Ilacqua, Joan. “Archives for Diversity and Inclusion.” Poster, Harvard Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging Conference, Cambridge, MA, May 21, 2019.

Hayes, Carolyn and **Joan Ilacqua** and Heather Mumford. “Approaching Trauma and Grief in Acquisitions Work.” Webinar, New England Archivists, April 30, 2019.

Ilacqua, Joan. “Acknowledging the Gap: Diversifying Our Collections, Services, and Workforce.” Presentation, New England Archivists Spring Meeting, New Haven, CT, March 24, 2018.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Oral History as Public Engagement." Presentation, New England Archivists Spring Meeting, New Haven, CT, March 23, 2018.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Excavating the Past: Illuminating LGBTQ Stories." Moderator, Harvard LGBTQ Conference 2018, Cambridge, MA, March 3, 2018.

Hayes, Carolyn and **Joan Ilacqua** and Heather Mumford. "From the Trenches: Approaching Transition and Grief in Acquisitions Work." Presentation, New England Archivists Spring Meeting, Falmouth, MA, March 25, 2017.

Ilacqua, Joan. "The 1918 True Name Law: Protecting Soldiers and Sailors; Persecuting Prostitutes and Passing Women." Presentation, New England Historical Association Spring Conference, Springfield, MA, April 26, 2014.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Sasquatch and the Law: The Implications of Bigfoot Preservation Laws in Washington State." Presentation, University of Massachusetts Boston History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 29, 2014.

Galligan, Sarah and **Joan Ilacqua.** "Picturing the President's Appointment Book: White House Photographs at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library." Poster, Society of American Archivists 2013 Meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 2013.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Recovering a Sordid Past: Public Memory of Scollay Square." Presentation, New England Historical Association Spring Conference, Westfield, MA, April 20, 2013.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Recovering a Sordid Past: Public Member of Scollay Square." Presentation, University of Massachusetts Boston History Graduate Student Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 9, 2013.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Ilacqua, Joan. Pride Month Flag Raising Remarks. Massport, June 29, 2022.

Ilacqua, Joan. "The changing face of Pride," <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2022/06/09/opinion/changing-face-pride/>. *Boston Globe*. Opinion, June 9, 2022.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Boston Pride: Commemoration and Controversy," <http://historyproject.org/event/boston-pride-commemoration-and-controversy>. Virtual lecture and moderated discussion, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, June 2, 2022.

Fellman, Isaac and **Joan Ilacqua.** "Dead Collections: A Conversation with Isaac Fellman," <http://historyproject.org/event/dead-collections-conversation-isaac-fellman>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, April 7, 2022.

Ilacqua, Joan and Tom + Lorenzo. "*Legendary Children*" with Tom + Lorenzo in conversation with Joan Ilacqua," <http://historyproject.org/event/legendary-children-tom-lorenzo-conversation-joan-ilacqua>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, June 24, 2021.

Collins, CD, Jon Coleman (Faulkner Morgan Archive), and **Joan Ilacqua.** "From the Bluegrass to Beantown: CD

Collins on the Kentucky-Massachusetts Connection,” <http://historyproject.org/event/bluegrass-beantown-cd-collins-kentucky-massachusetts-connection>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, May 6, 2021.

Ilacqua, Joan, Richard Pillard, Patrick Sammon, and Bennett Singer. “CURED Live Q&A,” <http://historyproject.org/event/screening-and-discussion-cured>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, April 22, 2021.

Chavez, Karma, Al Green, Richard Iandoli, **Joan Ilacqua**, and Eithne Luibheid. “LGBTQ Migration and Immigration from the 1950s to Today,” <http://historyproject.org/event/lgbtq-migration-and-immigration-1950s-today>. Panel moderator, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, April 15, 2021.

Ilacqua, Joan and Allie Therin. “Magic in Manhattan: Queering Paranormal Historical Romance,” <http://historyproject.org/event/magic-manhattan-queering-paranormal-historical-romance-allie-therin>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, February 25, 2021.

Ilacqua, Joan and Rebecka Sheffield. “Documenting Rebellions: A Conversation with Rebecka Sheffield about Queer Archives,” <http://historyproject.org/event/documenting-rebellions-conversation-rebecka-sheffield-about-queer-archives>. Virtual interview, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, September 17, 2020.

Pennington, Juliet. “Joan Ilacqua likes to mix history and cocktails (and mouse ears) on vacation.” *Boston Globe* VIP Lounge interview, August 27, 2020.

Bronski, Michael, Shawn Cotter, **Joan Ilacqua**, George Mansour, Evan Purchell. “Ask Any Buddy,” <http://historyproject.org/event/ask-any-buddy>. Panel moderator, Wicked Queer Film Festival, July 26, 2020.

Kearnan, Scott. “Making History: The History Project Appoints Its First Executive Director.” *Boston Spirit Magazine* feature, July/August 2020.

Ilacqua, Joan. “Pride was a Riot,” <http://historyproject.org/event/pride-was-riot-0>. Virtual presentation, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, June 11, 2020.

Ilacqua, Joan, Matthew Riemer and Leighton Brown. “We Are Everywhere,” <https://www.cambridgema.gov/cpl/aboutus/newsandannouncements/2020/06/pride2020>. Virtual interviewer and moderator, Cambridge Public Library, June 9, 2020.

Ilacqua, Joan. “Stonewall50: Pride was a Riot.” Presentation, Boston Children’s Hospital, Boston, MA, June 20, 2019.

Ilacqua, Joan. “Oh the Horror! Women-loving Women and the Occult.” Presentation, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA, October 23, 2018.

Amelia Mason. “Tracing Boston's Transgender History Through The Tale Of An Infamous Grifter,” <http://www.wbur.org/artery/2018/06/15/bostons-transgender-history>. *WBUR* interview, June 15, 2018.

Kearnan, Scott. “Let Us Introduce You.” *Boston Spirit Magazine* interview, May/June 2018.

Ilacqua, Joan and David White. “Curious Boys and Odd Girls: Erotica in the Archives.” Presentation, The History

Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA, February 25, 2016.

Ilacqua, Joan and Stu Maddox. "Reel in the Closet." Comment and Q&A moderation, Fenway Health, Boston, MA, December 7, 2015.

Elder, Andrew, and **Joan Ilacqua**. "LGBTQ Freedom Trail." Article, *Boston Pride Guide*, June 2015.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Oral History & The History of Medicine: Reflections on *Strong Medicine: The Healing Response to the 2013 Marathon Bombing*." Presentation, Harvard Department of the History of Science, Cambridge, MA, October 6, 2014.

Bossert, Carol. "Fresh Faces." *The Museum Life* radio show interview, May 23, 2014.

Ilacqua, Joan. "Walking through History: Preparing a Walking Tour through Beacon Hill's GLBT Past." Presentation, The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA, November 21, 2013.

TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

"Evaluating, Auditing, and Diversifying Your Collections." *Library Journal*, virtual, April-May 2020.

"Deconstructing Whiteness." New England Archivists, Providence, RI, August 6, 2018.

"Creating Digital Oral History Exhibits." Oral History Association, Long Beach, CA, October 12, 2016.

"Offensive Objects: Displaying Work with Problematic Histories." New England Museum Association, Providence, RI, May 12, 2016.

"Fundamental of Arrangement and Description." Society of American Archivists, Boston, MA, June 21-22, 2016.

"Grant Proposals: The Right Donor; The Right Project; The Right Proposal." New England Museum Association, Lynn, MA, July 23, 2015.

"Marketing and Development Intersections: The New Media Landscape." New England Museum Association, Boston, MA, July 1, 2015.

"Archives 101: Archival Exhibitions." New England Museum Association, Portsmouth, NH, March 20, 2014.

"Yale Indian Papers Project Workshop on Documentary Editing." University of Massachusetts Boston, Boston, MA, March 11, 2013.

"Effective Oral History: Interviews, Project Management, and Practical Applications," National Park Service: Yosemite National Park, El Portal, CA, October 18-22, 2010.

PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS

"Perspectives of Change: The Story of Civil Rights, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access to Education at HMS and HSDM," <https://perspectivesofchange.hms.harvard.edu/>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, November 2014 - October 2019.

"#ColorOurCollections 2019," <https://cms.www.countway.harvard.edu/wp/?p=15579>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 2018.

- “Re-Centering the Narrative: A Brief History of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic,”
<https://cms.www.countway.harvard.edu/wp/?p=15400>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, December 4, 2018.
- “#ColorOurCollections 2018,” <https://cms.www.countway.harvard.edu/wp/?p=14676>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 2018.
- “#ColorOurCollections 2017,” <https://cms.www.countway.harvard.edu/wp/?p=13622>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 2017.
- “A Brief History of Women at Harvard Medical School,”
<https://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/exhibits/show/women>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, December 2016 - January 2017.
- “#ColorOurCollections 2016,” <https://cms.www.countway.harvard.edu/wp/?p=12609>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 2016.
- “LGBTQ Freedom Trail Tour,” The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA, January 2015 - June 2015.
- “Strong Medicine: the Healing Response to the 2013 Marathon Bombing,”
<https://collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/strongmedicine>, Center for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, January 2014 - November 2014.
- “Activism and Pushing Boundaries: An LGBTQ Walking Tour of Boston’s Beacon Hill,” The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston, Boston, MA, September 2013 – April 2014.
- William H. Lewis Biography, NAACP Boston Branch Freedom Fund Dinner, September 28, 2013.
- Hannah Mather Crocker Biography, Mapping Revolutionary Boston, The Bostonian Society, Boston, Massachusetts, February – May 2013.
- Making Your Living* Arts and Crafts Exhibit and Mayflower II Interpretive Panels, Plimoth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts, February - March 2012.
- Civil War Trading Cards, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, New Bedford, Massachusetts, January – May 2011.