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Exhibitions, Performances, Readings, Lectures, and Workshops

**circa** QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2024  
Presented by One Institute



Full lineup coming  
September 10:  
[circafestival.org](http://circafestival.org)

**ONE INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES  
LINEUP OF EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES,  
READINGS, LECTURES, AND WORKSHOPS FOR  
CIRCA: QUEER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2024**

**Partners to include Celebration Theatre, APLA Health Writer's Workshop,  
THE LAVENDER EFFECT®, Drag King History, Ramy El-Etreby, Walela Nehanda,  
and more**

**Tickets on Sale September 10**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Los Angeles, CA (August 27, 2024)** — One Institute announced today the lineup of exhibitions, performances, readings, lectures, and workshops for Circa: Queer Histories Festival 2024. As previously announced, Circa will take place during LGBTQ+ History Month from October 1–31 at venues across Los Angeles. The full lineup will include

over 65 programs. Audiences can reserve their tickets at [circafestival.org](http://circafestival.org) starting September 10.

The second annual Circa: Queer Histories Festival promises audiences an even more dynamic and diverse lineup of programs. One Institute's newly announced programming partners include APLA Health Writer's Workshop, Celebration Theatre, Drag King History, the San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center, The Lavender Effect®, Trans/gressive Writers' Workshop, and Whacking Los Angeles.

This year's exhibitions invite community members to view photographer **Morgan Lieberman**'s portraits and documentary footage of senior lesbian partnerships across the United States, while celebrating the local origins, impact, and future of **The San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center**, one of the few LGBTQ+ resources hubs in the region. For *Team Sport*, **Maddie Keyes-Levine** weaves together photographs, sculptural work, textiles, and custom player trading cards in an archival love letter to Los Angeles' weekly soccer pickup league, Dyke Soccer. In a unique extension of the exhibition, community members are invited to partake in a dyke soccer scrimmage at the Great Lawn in West Hollywood Park adjacent to the installation at One Gallery.

"My exhibition, *Team Sport*, is the culmination of five years of photographing and playing with Dyke Soccer," said Maddie Keyes-Levine. "I'm thrilled to bring the show to Circa and can't wait for people to experience it."

Returning for a second year to the festival, One Institute's partners at **Celebration Theatre** bring a story of queer Asian friendship to the Los Angeles LGBT Center's Renberg Theatre with a staged reading of Boni Alvarez's *Sticky Rice*. Arab theatre artist, writer, and poet **Ramy El-Etreby** also brings BIPOC narratives to queer audiences at Circa in the second installment of their highly attended, yet intimate evening program featuring performances by Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) artists.

"It is a joy and an honor to be a part of Circa for the second year in a row," said Ramy El-Etreby. "As a native Angeleno and as a Queer Arab person with roots in the SWANA region, I feel like I have to work extra hard to be included in LA's local queer narratives. I am so grateful to the Circa festival for ensuring that space is carved out each year for me and my community's stories."

Readings and lectures address topics such as health and wellness through programs hosted by participants in the **APLA Health Writer's Workshop** and by Black, non-binary cancer survivor and cultural worker **Walela Nehanda** in conversation with Audre Lorde's seminal works, *The Cancer Journals* and *A Burst of Light*. Programmers will also invite audiences into the cultural worlds of female-born performers donning men's attire and leather and ballroom houses with writers and entertainers of their crafts, drag king **Mo B. Dick**, leather "educatrix" **Tina Horn**, and House of Xtravaganza performer **Sydney Baloue**.

Circa will also feature interactive workshops that honor our histories and inspire creative expression in furtherance of our collective liberation. "Rhythms of Revolution: Dabke,

Drag, and Drums” and “WHACK!: Sound of a Dance R(Evolution)” celebrate the power of rhythm and dance as tools of resistance and community-building, from the crossroads region of Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria to the gay multicultural neighborhoods of 1970s Los Angeles. Members of the **Trans/gressive Writers’ Workshop** will lead attendees in a generative writing and reading workshop centering the radical potential of trans visions for justice, healing, and joy.

Tickets for Circa: Queer Histories Festival 2024 go on sale on September 10. Sign up to receive email updates from Circa 2024 at [circafestival.org](https://circafestival.org).

### **As previously announced**

Circa: Queer Histories Festival 2024 will feature over 30 outstanding film screenings, panel conversations, and parties. View the lineup of previously announced programs at [circafestival.org](https://circafestival.org).

Showcasing never-before-seen materials from newly-cataloged collections at ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, ***Our Patch: LGBTQ+ Life from Cradle to Grave*** is One Institute’s tribute to the diverse yet deeply intertwined histories of LGBTQ+ community care and movement-building in Los Angeles. The exhibition will be on view to the public September 29-October 31, 2024. The opening reception will take place on Sunday, September 29, 2024, 5-8 p.m. at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Advocate & Gochis Galleries.

**VIP and General Admission tickets for the Circa: Queer Histories Festival launch party are on sale now at [bit.ly/CircaLaunchParty2024](https://bit.ly/CircaLaunchParty2024).**

In addition to the exhibition, Circa’s first week of programming will feature “**Our Queerest Century: A Conversation with the *Los Angeles Times*,**” an opening plenary discussing *The Times’ [groundbreaking retrospective of the last 100 years of queer politics, life, and culture](#)*, published in June 2024. Moderated by *Times* staff writer Kevin Rector, the panel will feature a discussion with writers who contributed to the project, delving into their pieces and reflecting on the exceptional contributions of LGBTQ+ people through history. The opening plenary will be held at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Renberg Theater on **Friday, October 4, 2024, 8-9:30 p.m.**

Award-winning LGBTQ+ writers Tre’vevell Anderson, Roxane Gay, George M Johnson, and Eric Cervini will join One Institute at Circa’s closing plenary, “**The Future of Queer History: LGBTQ+ Writers on the Election.**” The plenary will be a candid discussion about what’s at stake for queer people, life and culture, in the climatic race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. The event will take place just one week before the election on **Sunday, October 27, 2024, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Renberg Theatre.**

Tickets to these events and more will be available on September 10 at [circafestival.org](https://circafestival.org).

[Circa: Queer Histories Festival](#) is presented by One Institute. Generous support for the festival comes from the Third District Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, California Arts Council, the City of West Hollywood, Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, and Ares Management.

### About the Exhibitions

**ARCOIRIS:** Oscar Corona's *Arcoíris* explores queer melancholy through the symbolism of the rainbow. The exhibition aims to update the queer art canon from Corona's unique perspective as a queer, Latinx, non-binary artist.

**FROM PAST TO PRESENT: HONORING THE STORIES OF SENIOR LESBIAN PARTNERSHIPS:** Morgan Lieberman returns to Circa: Queer Histories Festival for a second year to share her portraiture and documentary short film from *Hidden Once, Hidden Twice*, a long-term project chronicling the lives of senior lesbian partnerships across the United States.

**LIFE IS WORTH LIVING:** Life is Worth Living is a collection of work by trans artist and activist Mars Wright. The collection will feature paintings, fashion, and mixed media pieces that showcase the importance of pushing through depression and suicidal thoughts.

**OUR PATCH: LGBTQ+ LIFE FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE:** Showcasing never-before-seen materials from the newly-cataloged collections at ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, *Our Patch: LGBTQ+ Life from Cradle to Grave* is One Institute's tribute to the diverse yet deeply intertwined histories of LGBTQ+ community care and movement-building in Los Angeles.

**SACRED PLEASURE:** *SACRED PLEASURE* is a photo art book encapsulating transdisciplinary artist and photographer Devyn Galindo's six-year journey documenting the trans-masculine community.

**TEAM SPORT:** An art exhibition documenting the past five years of Dyke Soccer, covering the hanging-out and the queer physicality of the space, soccer as a fandom and obsession, and curator Maddie Keyes-Levine's personal history of the sport.

### About the Performances

**A SHARK ATE MY PENIS: A HISTORY OF BOYS LIKE ME:** Trans performer Laser Webber's one-person musical comedy about the history of trans men.

**CELEBRATION THEATRE PRESENTS: STICKY RICE BY BONI ALVAREZ:** A staged reading of *Sticky Rice*, a play centered on a group of San Francisco gaysian friends who have internalized such popular depictions and explores what happens when they are forced to confront their self-hatred and prejudices.

**DEAR LOVER/DEAR HABIBTI:** An interactive performance that shines a warm, intimate light on the powerful stories of iconic Queer Femmes from the SWANA region. Organized by Ramy El-Etreby.

**UNDER MY SKIN:** A comedy of complicated social engagements. The series of monologues, enhanced with dance, movement and poetry explores the other side of common beliefs, and what lives under the skin of transphobia, homophobia, and intolerance. Organized by Emanuel Loarca.

### About the Readings

**APLA WRITERS: RISING FROM THE ASHES ANTHOLOGY READING:** A work-in-progress reading of personal narratives and poems from a new APLA anthology, which grapples with the history of HIV while charting a new vision spearheaded by elders who lived rich lives through, despite, and in dialogue with the epidemic. Organized by APLA Health Writer's Workshop.

**LIVES OF COMMON LESBIANS:** A tribute of words, art, and conversation to the iconic lesbian-feminist journal, *Common Lives/Lesbian Lives*. Organized by multicultural lesbian literary journal *Sinister Wisdom*, in celebration of their Fall 2024 issue, "Sinister Wisdom 134: Lives of Common Lesbians."

**MY LIFE IS POETRY: AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL POETRY READING BY LGBTQ SENIORS:** A culmination reading by LGBTQ+ seniors who participated in poet, artist, and educator Steven Reigns' summer autobiographical poetry workshop, featuring poems exploring themes of love, identity, struggle, and triumph.

**SUCCULENT SENIOR LESBIANS: LOVING IS A POLITICAL ACT:** Join as senior lesbian poets reclaim the erotic, celebrating the profound love that has both challenged and sustained them. Organized by Ronna Magy and Dorothy Gray.

**THE CANCER CROSSROADS: A BLACK QUEER INTERGENERATIONAL READING BETWEEN AUDRE LORDE AND WALELA NEHANDA:** An immersive evening weaving together the narratives of two Black cancer survivors navigating an unjust healthcare system, and envisioning a future where disability is embraced as a site of possibility. Organized by Walela Nehanda.

**WRITING COUNTERCULTURES FROM THE INSIDE OUT: LEATHER AND BALLROOM NONFICTION BOOKS:** Join Tina Horn and Sydney Baloue for a conversation on nonfiction craft, infiltrating mainstream publishing, and the challenges of being true to your community while also telling compelling true stories. Organized by Tina Horn.

### About the Lectures

**BOTTOM-SURGERY: AN INCOMPLETE HISTORY:** A groundbreaking zine that explores the evolution of gender-affirming surgeries through the lens of those who have undergone or considered these procedures. Collaborative project guided and organized by Hester Tittmann, Elijah Hart, Andrea Castro, and Olivia Hnilicka.

**DRAG KING HISTORY:** Presented by Drag King Legend Mo B. Dick, this Drag King History lecture will traverse from breeches roles and vaudeville to contemporary drag kings and gender-free performance, illuminating the often-overlooked contributions of women, transgender, and non-binary individuals.

**OUT ON THE WALK: CELEBRATING LGBT HONOREES ON THE PALM SPRINGS WALK OF THE STARS:** Take a virtual stroll down the iconic Walk of Stars and explore the rich history and allure of this historic Palm Springs landmark, while learning about some of the newly identified LGBT Stars. Organized by LGBTQ+ History and Archives of the Desert.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY POWER OF QUEER ART: TRANSFORMING MAINSTREAM CULTURE THROUGHOUT HISTORY:** This lecture will explore how LGBTQ+ artists, despite societal repression, have transformed art history and mainstream culture from the Renaissance to present day. Organized by Ignacio Darnaude.

**SINGING FOR OUR LIVES: MUSIC, SPIRITUALITY, AND ACTIVISM AMONG QUEER COMMUNITIES DURING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC:** Reverend Jim Mitulski and musicologist Thomas Kurtz present a lecture and Q&A exploring how music and spirituality served as voices for social change among queer communities during the AIDS crisis.

### About the Workshops

**140+ (HOW TO DJ):** Learn the fundamentals of DJ'ing, including how to download tracks and record DJ sets, while learning the importance of rave community and getting recommendations on necessary equipment. Organized by cleophus yesha'yahu.

**A LOVELY DAY: FAMILY YOGA WITH JASMIN BENWARD:** This family yoga class is catered to delight the entire crew with kid-friendly yoga poses, sing-alongs, ecstatic dance, acro yoga, games, and a relaxing story time wind-down. Organized by Yo! Yogi.

**ARCHIVING THE NOW – A QUEER RISO NIGHT:** This workshop will introduce Risograph techniques to community members in a queer-centric, queer-owned space, inviting hands-on experimentation, unexpected exchange, and the generation of new content that creates a historical archive of the present day. Organized by Xtina Webb and Yara Feghali.

**CREATING A QUEER CHOSEN FAMILY:** This empowering workshop will invite participating to engage in creative collage-making that represents their ideal chosen family and reflects the traits, qualities, and values they wish to embody. Organized by Dawn Moreno-Freedman.



**DREAMING TRANS FUTURES: CREATIVE WRITING, COMMUNITY, AND**

**LIBERATION:** A generative writing and reading workshop centering the radical potential of trans desires in the pursuits of collective liberation. Organized and facilitated by members of Trans/gressive Writers' Workshop.

**EXPLORING LA'S LOVE REVOLUTION:** A tour of the unique locations that gave birth to Los Angeles' rich, vibrant, and little-known LGBTQ+ history. Organized by THE LAVENDER EFFECT ®.

**MUTUAL DEFENSE FOR QUEER FUTURES:** A pair of gatherings where queer and allied community members are introduced to the concept and practice of mutual defense, which asserts that our safety, much like our voice, is a collective action. Organized by Badly Licked Bear.

**RHYTHMS OF REVOLUTION: DABKE, DRAG, AND DRUMS:** A trans-organized and queer-centered workshop that celebrates the power of rhythm and dance as tools of resistance and togetherness. Organized by Starlight Shamsi.

**SURVIVING THE SEASONS: A DAY OF CEREMONY AND SOLIDARITY:** A ceremony and panel conversation designed to create a space for BIPOC and LGBTQIA2-S+ community members to set personal intentions for the Fall Harvest and to process the stress of the upcoming 2024 Election Season. Organized by The Earthlodge Center for Transformation.

**WE GATHER/HIV & PALESTINE:** Through the lens of public health, activism, cultural production and more, participants in this workshop will explore the influence, impact, and relationship between the ongoing HIV response and the ongoing fight for Palestinian futures. Organized by What Would An HIV Doula Do? (WWHIVDD).

**WHACK!: SOUND OF A DANCE (R)EVOLUTION:** Dive into the vibrant world of Whacking with this dynamic 3-part program, featuring a lecture and movement class, performances from local LGBTQ+ Whacking stars, and an inclusive social dance party. Organized by Whacking Los Angeles (WLA).

**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](https://oneinstitute.org), and connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @[oneinstitutela](https://www.instagram.com/oneinstitutela).

## About Circa

Debuting in 2024, Circa: Queer Histories Festival is the first-ever LGBTQ+ History Month festival in the United States. This month-long celebration showcases an array of programs from hundreds of queer artists, writers, filmmakers, activists, and community organizations throughout October. With sections including conversations, screenings, exhibits, and more, the festival offers a unique and enriching experience for attendees across Los Angeles County and beyond.

## Press Contact

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## SELECTED PRESS IMAGES



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A Reading From  
*Bless the Blood:  
A Cancer Memoir*  
with Walela Nehanda







1. Promotional image by One Institute. Photo courtesy of Whacking Los Angeles (WLA).
2. Photo by Morgan Lieberman
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