

IGRA Archives Committee Report

July 5, 2019 in Denver, CO

Since the May Board meeting I have sent out over 100 personal emails with the IGRA Archives Wish List attached, and I am getting some response. Hopefully, those individuals will follow through and new materials will be in the archives later this year.

The first and last IGRA Archives Display was at the Gay Games 9 in 2014. Frank Harrell and I have been updating materials to include history through 2018. We will need some assistance in obtaining photos for All-Around Cowboys and Cowgirls from 2010 – 2018, and the IGRA Royalty from 2010 – 2019.

IGRA Archives displays are currently planned for the following locations:

August 2 – 4, 2019:

“Canadian Rockies Rodeo North” in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

September 1, 2019 – January 19, 2020:

The Museum of Natural and Cultural History at the University of Oregon in Eugene will be hosting the traveling exhibit **“Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo.”** The exhibit contains photos taken by Blake Little from 1988-1992. The University staff has requested the loan of IGRA Archives to be displayed in conjunction with the exhibit. I am planning to loan them six buckles from that time period, as well as some bandanas, and possibly some pins and T-shirts. I will also provide them with the written history of the beginnings of gay rodeo and IGRA. The University will be printing copies of pollsters from the 1988 – 1992 time frame. I have also reached out to some buckle winners to ask if they will loan buckles for this exhibit.

October 25 – 27, 2019:

“World Gay Rodeo Finals” in Scottsdale, AZ.

March 28 – June 21, 2020:

James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art in St. Petersburg, FL. will be hosting the traveling exhibit **“Blake Little: Photographs from the Gay Rodeo.”** IGRA will provide similar items as loaned to University of Oregon.

Western History Association Annual Conference:

I have been invited to be part of a five person round-table panel at the Western History Association Annual Conference to be held in Las Vegas October 16 – 19, 2019. The invitation came from two members of the Program Committee: Becca Scofield who is collecting the oral interviews from IGRA participants, and Josh Garrett-Davis who is an Assistant Curator at the “Autry Museum of the American West.”

The program is titled: **“The People’s Archives: Communities on the Margins Preserving Their Own Histories.”** General discussion will be to describe some of the opportunities and challenges of community-rooted archives. Community-built archives can help strengthen bonds, preserve knowledge, and answer to the needs of those who create them. But they often lack the resources and facilities of institution-based archives. Sometimes they rely on the knowledge and labor of 1- 2 people, and might be susceptible to becoming invisible or neglected. There are also sometimes issues with information becoming public online that should be restricted for cultural or privacy reasons.

Other panelists are:

Jenny Emery Davidson, Director, Community Library (Ketchum, Idaho)

Yusef Omowale, Library Director, Southern California Library (Los Angeles)

Thuy Vo Dang, Archivist, Southeast Asian Archive, UC Irvine

Amanda Wixon, Sherman Indian School Museum/Archive, as well as

UC Riverside graduate student

Sincerely,

Roger Bergmann

IGRA Archives Committee Chair