

Community Conversation Discussion Guide

This is the community conversation discussion guide for Working Group members. We encourage you to adapt this discussion guide to work best for you and the community conversation you would like to host. We are interested in hearing from community members in that ways that work best for them and you. When you return your results to the Planning Department, please briefly describe the community conversation you hosted (your name, number of people, setting, conversation, etc.).

Instead of using the worksheets and discussion guide script, feel free to:

- Put up a whiteboard or a piece of butcher paper in your kitchen with questions for people to respond to during a social gathering
- Hand out the worksheets for people to fill out on their own and drop in a box at a dinner party
- Have an informal conversation about LGBTQ cultural heritage needs and goals over wine

1. Getting Started

- *Introduce yourself and welcome the group*
- *Define cultural heritage*
- *Provide an overview of the project*

Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer for the LGBTQ Cultural Heritage Strategy working group. Thank you for being here today/tonight.

Cultural Heritage *(feel free to put this in your own voice)*

Cultural heritage is one way a community expresses and defines itself. This can be done through personal beliefs, religion, customs, practices, artistic expression, significant places, and more. Cultural heritage includes both the tangible, such as land, buildings, public spaces, stories or artwork, and the intangible, such as an event or ritual, organizations and institutions, and other cultural activities. These elements are rooted in the community's history and essential to maintaining its identity.

For example, the Harvey Milk Residence Castro Camera Building at 575 Castro Street is tangible LGBTQ cultural heritage. Intangible aspects of LGBTQ cultural heritage include the City's annual Pride Celebration.

The LGBTQ Cultural Heritage Strategy is a joint effort led by San Francisco Planning with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and the San Francisco Entertainment Commission and a community working group. The feedback you gather will be compiled into a progress report that will be shared with the Board of Supervisors.

Project Overview

So, what is a Cultural Heritage Strategy?

A Cultural Heritage Strategy is intended to preserve, acknowledge and promote cultural heritage among a community; in this case the LGBTQ cultural heritage in San Francisco. We will work closely with the community to identify potential cultural heritage resources as they relate to certain topics; such as traditions and celebrations, the arts, nightlife, political movements, buildings and structures, archives, businesses, and institutions; as well as their significance and the time period in which they took place. Specifically, it will provide a comprehensive plan to safeguard LGBTQ cultural heritage through a series of identified projects, procedures, programs and/or techniques.

Explain tonight's process and your role. We want to help get people thinking about what cultural heritage is, how to identify it in this neighborhood, and why we want it to help determine future strategies the City can implement to preserve the LGBTQ heritage in SF. We are going to engage in two exercises tonight (should you choose to).

I am working with the _____ neighborhood or community about the LGBTQ cultural heritage and the role arts, nightlife, history, etc. has played and continues to play.

My job is to hold conversations among the people who know the subject in this neighborhood or community best – all of you - about your thoughts, memories, stories, resources, concerns, priorities and visions, and their significance to you and others in the community. How do these events, these buildings, organizations, businesses, activities, people, stories, these places, represent LGBTQ cultural heritage, and how can that be carried forward in future projects or programs? **In gaining a local understanding of the different needs and opportunities, we can work smarter for a future with long lasting benefits to the community.** We're still in the beginning stages of this process, and the final result will depend on what we hear from the community, so these are important conversations to be having. I will bring what I've heard here today back to the working group for further exploration. Your feedback today may be reflected in the final LGBTQ Cultural Heritage Strategy.

Are there any questions at this time?

2. Exercise #1 What does Cultural Heritage mean to you?

So today, I want to get you thinking about what LGBTQ cultural heritage in San Francisco means to you. There are no right or wrong answers, and I encourage everyone to express their opinions and perspectives. Let's agree to share the space and make sure everyone has the opportunity to speak up.

Take notes this paper, a whiteboard or large poster paper during the conversation to capture the general interests and sentiments of the group.

1. When you think of the LGBTQ cultural heritage in this neighborhood, what comes to mind? Is it buildings, businesses, events, or something else? (e.g. Pride Parade, Harvey Milk's Camera Chop, etc.)

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

3. Exercise #2 Vision and Goals

Close your eyes and imagine that the cultural heritage strategy has accomplished key goals and strategies for San Francisco that you helped define. Are there new arts programs? Public spaces? New businesses? More artist support (protections, grants, training, space acquisition; Increased protection of LGBTQ historic sites buildings from demolition; Increased recognition of LGBTQ history in education; Increased recognition of LGBTQ history in public institutions; Non-profit support (protections, grants, training); Small business support (protections, grants, training)?

What is there that helps address the concerns you have about the future of the community today? There are no right or wrong answers - this is what you want to see. What does it look and feel like? Take a few moments to imagine it.

When you're ready, feel free to write what you've imagined on the paper we've provided. You can write specific ideas, general themes, or even just a couple of words that describe how this vision makes you feel.

Once everyone has completed the exercise, ask people to share and let the conversation evolve. Be careful to recognize any similarities and where are there differences.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]