

L1996.18
AAGWA (Afrikan American Gay Women's Association)
Collection, 1995-1996

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

The provenance of this collection is unknown.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project. This project was guided by an overarching anti-racist framework that informs archival practice in all aspects at Lambda Archives. Therefore, along with processing the collections specified in the original narrative, we intentionally prioritize the collections of BIPOC and Transgender members of the community to preserve and disseminate their narratives, which have been historically ignored and suppressed in archives across the U.S.

This framework promotes transparency and accountability in our responsibility to those in the LGBTQ+ community that have been historically underrepresented, misrepresented and/or trivialized in archives. Our goals are to (a) gain or rebuild trust with BIPOC members of the community; (b) more fully reflect the community's diversity; (c) outwardly recognize the contributions that BIPOC have made which have enabled the community, as a whole, to flourish; and (d) improve the discoverability of these under-acknowledged histories to increase their engagement for varying purposes within the community and for research and public knowledge.

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet of shelf space: 0.25

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

“Afrikan American Gay Women’s Association (AAGWA) was founded in 1993 as a social, support, and political group where Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender African American women could gather to practice self-love, self-respect, and empowerment. The mission of the organization was the “elimination of prejudice and discrimination within the Gay and Lesbian African American community. Co-founder Cheryl Bradford

described AAGWA as a meeting place where African American women could “[share] everyday experiences, political concerns, and community ideas with women in similar situations.” African American women have historically been, and still are, one of the most underrepresented groups in society and the LGBT+ community. When establishing the organization, members of AAGWA voted to use the word ‘Gay’ instead of ‘Lesbian’ to appeal to a wider audience as “most of the women in the organization felt that ‘Gay’ was less threatening than ‘Lesbian’ or ‘dyke.’”

<https://lgbtqsd.news/afrikan-american-gay-womans-association-aagwa/>

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials pertaining to the Afrikan American Gay Women’s Association (AAGWA) group and to a Black History Month event they participated in. These materials include a canvas bag, brochure, newsletter, business card, letter, book covers, magazine cut outs and clippings (of Black figures and related to Black History Month), and organizational articles.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 box and no series.

SEPARATED MATERIAL

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. T-shirts: [T187-188 (stacks, box 8)]
 - a. “AAGWA Emblem”

SUBJECTS

Afrikan American Gay Women’s Association (AAGWA), African Americans, lesbians, gay women, Black History Month, Organizations

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions apply.

PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]

Afrikan American Gay Women’s Association (AAGWA) Collection, 1995-1996
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

L2011.13

LOCATION NOTE

C.10.3.1

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	AAGWA logo canvas bag and note (1996)	1996	
1	2	2 AAGWA brochures with group information (green, black-and-white)	1995	
1	3	AAGWA Gayzette newsletter Vol I No. 2 October 28, 1995	1995	
1	4	Envelope containing long pins		
1	5	<i>A Shining Thread of Hope</i> by Darlene Clarke Hine, Kathleen Thompson hardcover sleeve		
1	6	<i>Freedom Days</i> by Janus Adams hardcover sleeve		
1	7	Magazine cutouts and clippings		
1	8	AAGWA business card with phone number		
1	9	Pink slip with information about AAGWA		
1	10	Note to Cheryl Bradford from Chimene		
1	11	Printer paper with black ink, "Black History" and images of Harriet Tubman, Jackie Robinson, Bayard Rustin, Martin Luther King Jr., Ella Fitzgerald		
1	12	AAGWA organizational articles draft		