

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN MEMORY IN ACTION (GALA)



JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2007

**Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action
PO BOX 31719
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2017
South Africa**

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Executive Summary

GALA and its archives, are a unique source of information for the public. The collections highlight the broader processes of oppression and social transformation in South Africa. The archive boasts an extensive collection of individual and organisational records forming the foundation of a comprehensive lesbian and gay social history in South Africa and the African continent.

All our projects are designed to generate new archival material, make it available to the LGBTI community in its entirety and the general public for educational purposes, and to raise awareness of LGBTI issues and rights. Theatre, video and film productions, and an innovative tour of “Queer Johannesburg” have complemented more traditional exhibitions as part of the archive’s outreach strategy.

The purpose of this grant is to help instil a sense of self-worth and political purpose in the (black) LGBT community by supporting the outreach and education strategies of the Gay and Lesbian Archives.

GALA has attempted to integrate acquisition, research and outreach programmes in an effort to raise public awareness and to fulfil its role as a community archive. To do this, our primary objective has been to dispel prevailing societal misperceptions of same sexuality generally and specifically within an African cultural context. Our projects/outreach programmes, as you will note, focus their efforts on generating: educational and training materials; LGBTI issues and human rights awareness; creating advocacy and organisational capacity; and, procuring holdings that cross both the racial and the rural/urban divide.

To date our work in 2007 has focused on empowering LGBTI township communities – with encouraging results. *GALA*’s communication strategy in 2007 has been limited to specific project related events such as exhibitions and associated events, various publications and our involvement with targeted religious and non-profit organisations and jointly managed programmes. This has helped the archive establish itself within the non-profit sector and serve the specific needs of the LGBTI community at large.

GALA has continued to work to develop a long term fundraising strategy that focuses on the organisation’s future sustainability. The patrons of *GALA* are Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mr. Justice Edwin Cameron.

In the past year we initiated and continued projects that span and wherever possible integrate the following core functions: 1) Documenting gay and lesbian experience in South Africa (maintaining and expanding collections); 2) Making the materials a resource for the broader society and disseminating this information proactively while maintaining a special outreach focus to gay and lesbian communities; 3) Contributing to struggles for justice around LGBTI rights (in South Africa, but also regionally); 4) Establishing and promoting linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBT activism; 5) Research, analysis and advocacy in support of scholarly and community endeavour.

Our core work is built around specific projects integrating as many of the core functions as possible. A detailed progress report on existing and planned projects is in the report and is summarised below. Our progress is directly related to our stated project outcomes and objectives under the core function to which they are most closely linked:

1. Documenting gay and lesbian experience in South Africa (maintaining existing collections, expanding the collections by acquiring new materials and generating oral histories

In view of space constraints in the archive, new acquisitions relate to special projects, in particular, the research and documentation components of the GALA exhibition and publication projects have brought in important records on same-sex marriage, the Civil Union Act and diverse family forms in South Africa. The ongoing Transgender Life Story Project has also significantly expanded GALA holdings on transgender and gender diverse people. Mark Gevisser has also donated records related to Cecil Williams. These acquisitions have further broadened the scope of material at the archives. GALA has continued to link oral history projects to research and dissemination and has acquired a substantial number of interviews as a result of the book project, 'To Have and to Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa' and the exhibition projects 'Home Affairs' and 'Tracks' as well as the Transgendered Oral History Project. GALA has digitised 100 photographs from the Mother City Queer Project collection. The majority of transcriptions have been completed for the HIV oral history project and the Deaf oral history project as well as the special projects.

2) Making the materials a resource for the broader society and disseminating this information proactively while maintaining a special outreach focus to gay and lesbian communities;

Publications

In October 2007 GALA launched, 'Till the Time of Trial: The Prison Letters of Simon Nkoli' an A5 32-page colour booklet edited by Shaun de Waal and Karen Martin using GALA archival material. The booklet was launched at a public event at Constitution Hill. The booklet has been distributed in South Africa and to LGBT organizations in Namibia, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia and to participants at an ARC International conference.

Work also commenced in 2007 on the book 'To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa' in collaboration with OUT-LGBT Wellbeing. The book is a collection of essays, interviews and documents edited by Melanie Judge, Anthony Manion and Shaun de Waal, and brings together a range of perspectives on same-sex marriage and the processes that resulted in the Civil Union Act in 2006. Work on the essays, interviews and documentation component was completed in 2007 and the book will be published by Jacana Media under its Fanele imprint in 2008.

Exhibitions

The exhibition *Balancing Act* completed its run at the East London Museum in East London in March 2007. In April 2007 around Freedom Day, GALA curated a small exhibition of body maps of transgendered people at Constitution Hill. The GALA

mini-exhibition based on the book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* was featured at Rhodes University in August 2007 as part of a week of LGBT pride activities organised by students. In the second half of 2007 GALA also commenced work on three large exhibition projects: (1) a permanent installation at The Apartheid Museum looking at how women, people with disabilities and gays and lesbians took public action in the early 1990s to ensure that their particular rights would be protected in the new Constitution; (2) "Home Affairs," an exhibition that will spend 5 months at The Apartheid Museum in 2008. The exhibition deals with the different ways people love and form relationships and families. It aims to create greater understanding and tolerance for same-sex relationships and same-sex marriage; (3) "Tracks," an exhibition that will spend 6 months at Constitution Hill in 2008. This exhibition uses the lens of the city's gay and lesbians inhabitants to examine the effects of the Constitution. These exhibition projects (and the associated publications) will be completed and launched in 2008.

Queer Tour

GALA continues to offer both walking tours and the full bus tour to interested groups and individuals. GALA provided a tour for the Out in Africa visiting film directors in March and November 2007, for the ILGA Africa conference in May 2007, and the ARC International conference in December 2007.

Documentaries

GALA is currently fundraising with a local film maker to edit and distribute a documentary on HIV in the LGBTI community based on footage we have collected from the real stories of actors affected and infected by HIV in our 2005-6 community theatre production 'Coming Out Again'. The funds have still not been secured for this documentary.

Library

The GALA lending library continues to be used and its membership continually grows. There is now an involved membership in the region of 400 members.

3) Contributing to struggles for justice around LGBTI rights (in South Africa, but also regionally);

In May 2007, GALA gave a presentation at ILGA Africa on record keeping, archiving and oral history projects for participants from different countries who attended the conference. GALA offered support to organisations who would like to initiate record keeping, archiving or oral history projects. Five organisations indicated that they would contact us when they were ready to initiate such projects.

GALA continues to work with mainstream archives and museums to ensure that they are given opportunities to host our exhibitions at their institutions. In 2007 we successfully engaged with The Apartheid Museum and Constitution Hill around the GALA Heritage Project for 2008-2009. This includes the permanent installation at the Apartheid Museum, 'Home Affairs' at the Apartheid Museum and 'Tracks' at Constitution Hill (described in section 2). All our exhibitions challenge the idea that homosexuality is UnAfrican..

4) Establishing and promoting linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBT activism;

GALA continues to work with the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL) and ILGA to explore opportunities for shared work and to build linkages with LGBTI organisations throughout Africa. We are currently raising funds for a joint publication project with the Centre for Development of People (CEDEP) in Malawi to research and document same-sexuality in Malawi.

5) Research, analysis and advocacy in support of scholarly and community endeavour.

Gay men in the military research project

The SAHA/GALA collaboration to continue using the Freedom of Information Programme to recover information pertaining to Aversion therapy for gay men in the apartheid military has now been completed. A chapter has been prepared for a publication planned on the practical experience of the use of PAIA to be published in 2008.

Analysis of Deaf gays and lesbians life histories project

The GALA director has completed the final editing phase of a book this year provisionally entitled *Deaf Me Normal: Deaf South Africans tell their stories* based on a life story project with Deaf South Africans which includes the life stories of Deaf gays and lesbians and a discussion of the issues affecting this minority within a marginalised group.

The GALA director together with John Meletse and Karin Willemse from Erasmus University submitted a paper for publication in a volume dedicated to homosexuality in Africa for the Canadian Journal for African Studies in 2008.

Conference Presentations and Publications

GALA was involved in presentations of different projects at both international and local conferences and workshops throughout the year.

1. CONTEXT

Established in 1997 as a project of the South African History Archives (SAHA), GALA celebrated ten years of existence by becoming an independent Trust in January 2007 called *Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action*. Our new name reflects our increasing engagement as an activist archive with making memory accessible and relevant to our own communities and to the general public. Our current focus is repackaging the information from the dusty archival boxes into innovative products such as museum exhibitions, books, booklets and documentaries. Our archive forms part of the Historical Papers collection based at the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. *GALA* represents a unique resource of material relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex (LGBTI) experience in Southern Africa. It is appropriate that the only LGBTI archive on the continent should be located in South Africa, considering that this is the first country in the world to enshrine equality on the basis of sexual orientation in its constitution. In the light of the constitution making process and the ensuing legal reforms, South Africa has become a focus for international and local research attention.

The bulk of the collections are organisational records dating from the 1960s. These document the history of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement in South Africa. More personal records, including letters, scrapbooks and photograph albums complement these collections. There is also an extensive oral narrative collection of both historical and contemporary material.

Recognising that LGBTI communities in South Africa are not homogeneous, our collections strive to reflect that diversity. *GALA* actively seeks to focus on the histories and experiences of those communities who have been marginalised, not only on the basis of sexual orientation, but also on grounds of race, class, gender or disability.

GALA was established as a community archive that aims to serve the needs of academic research, while maintaining its primary function as a repository of community histories, and cultural artefacts. This dual function is reflected in *GALA's* location as a community archive within an academic institution. *GALA* has attempted to integrate acquisition and outreach programmes in order to raise public awareness about the archives and to fulfil its role as a community archive. Theatre, video and film productions and innovative tours have complemented more traditional exhibitions as part of the archive's outreach strategy.

In terms of our location in the academy we also recognize that research is a critical function of a gay and lesbian archive in an African context. *GALA* has been at the forefront of stimulating new avenues of academic enquiry into sexuality in South Africa. Providing both the source material and undertaking a range of projects and publications that further enhance knowledge and teaching in the sphere of gender and sexuality studies. The projects undertaken by *GALA* emphasize archival collection of life histories, documents, audio and video recordings of community activities and events. As a national LGBTI archive, *GALA* also strives to collect material from a

wide range of geographically dispersed lesbian and gay communities throughout Southern Africa and Africa. As the only LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex) archive in Africa, we have recently extended our focus to other African countries and have started to create linkages with LGBTI organisations throughout Africa. We are currently raising funds for a joint publication project with the Centre for Development of People (CEDEP) in Malawi to research and document same-sexuality in Malawi.

2. OVERVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The focus of our work in 2007 has been on our dissemination and education strategies through which *GALA* aims to help instill a sense of self-worth and political purpose in the (black) LGBTI community. The slogan that we have adopted reflects this assumption that underlies all our programmes “Without gay history there is no gay pride”.

GALA has attempted to integrate acquisition, research and outreach programmes in an effort to: expand our collections, conduct research so as to highlight the issues that confront the LGBTI communities in SA, raise public awareness and fulfil its role as a community archive. To do this, our primary objective has been to dispel prevailing societal misperceptions of same sexuality generally and specifically within an African cultural context. Our projects/outreach programmes, as you will note, focus their efforts on generating: educational and training materials; LGBTI issues and human rights awareness; creating advocacy and organisational capacity; and, procuring holdings that cross both the racial and the rural/urban divide.

Staff

In 2007 we had five full time staff members (the director Ruth Morgan, project and finance manager Moilola Harry Ntombela, archives co-ordinator Anthony Manion, office manager Busi Kheswa, administrative assistant/Deaf oral history project and outreach worker John Meletse. We also had the following part time staff: a volunteer Rev. Paul Mokgethi who assisted us with administration and our HIV project, and two part time librarians Carol Cooper and Tony Sparks. Additionally *GALA* employed part time contract workers for different projects such as the three museum exhibition projects and the production of publications, one booklet and two books.

In October 2007 Mr Moilola Harry Ntombela, project and finance manager, resigned after working for *GALA* for a year. He was headhunted back into the corporate sector but is continuing to do *GALA*'s book keeping. A replacement for Mr Ntombela was not found in 2007 and a search will be initiated in 2008.

Patrons

GALA's patrons remain Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Justice Edwin Cameron.

Governance

The nine member advisory committee became the Board of Trustees in January 2007 and continue to meet quarterly. The Board of Trustees consists of:

1. Sandra Gordon, media expert and business owner (publishing, advertising and public relations) who brings business and media expertise to the project.
2. Dr Rehana Ebr-Vally, a social anthropologist and Associate Professor from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pretoria.
3. Dr Graeme Reid, founding director of GALA and currently a visiting lecturer in LGBTI Studies at Yale University, USA.
4. Karen Martin, free lance editor and former *GALA* Archivist.
5. Thuli Madi, Director of Behind the Mask
6. Jillian Gardner, Lecturer/Undergraduate Coordinator (Steve Biko Centre for Bioethics) University of the Witwatersrand Medical School: Faculty of Health Sciences.
7. Marius Coetzee, Archivist at Communicare, Cape Town.
8. Ruth Morgan, Director of *GALA* ex- officio
9. Piers Pigou, Director of SAHA, ex-officio

2.2 GALA-SAHA- Historical Papers relationship

Although *GALA* has formally separated from *SAHA*, the two organisations continue to work together and the directors of each organisation sit on each other's boards in an ex-officio capacity.

Both *GALA* and *SAHA* have a close and complex relationship with Historical Papers (HP). The latter gives both organisations physical space, infrastructural support and the assistance of Library members of staff. In significant ways the *SAHA* and *GALA* collections are integrated with the broader HP collections. *GALA*'s collections are housed by the Historical Papers Department (HP) in the William Cullen Library free of charge, together with *SAHA*'s collections under a pre-existing 1994 agreement between the University and *SAHA* for a duration of fifty years. This agreement includes the provision of infrastructural support and the assistance of library staff in times of need. *GALA* and *SAHA* are currently engaged in a process with the University to revise the Memorandum of Understanding on the request of the University. The University has requested that *GALA* wait until it finalises a new MOU with *SAHA*. At that point a parallel process will be put in place so that *GALA* can negotiate a MOU with the University.

GALA is governed by its own Policies and Procedures. *GALA*'s auditors are Douglas and Velcich. On completion of the audit, the audited financial statements for 2007 will be distributed.

The contact details of the auditors are as follows:

Douglas and Velcich
10th Floor
Sable Centre
41 De Korte Street
Braamfontein.
Tel: (+2711) 403-3835
Fax: (+2711) 339-7762

2.3 Collaboration with other organisations

In 2007 *GALA* collaborated with the following organisations as outlined below:

- OUT on a joint project with the Gauteng Department of Education which was initiated in 2006. In addition we co-produced a book on same-sex marriage to be published in 2008.
- Gender Dynamix on a joint body map project in which a workshop was held at Constitution Hill followed by an exhibition. We also continued to work together on the Trans Oral History Project and a proposal for a publication arising from this project. *GALA* also provided videotaping for a workshop they hosted.
- The Apartheid Museum with whom we are partnering on two exhibition projects: *Home Affairs* an exhibition on same-sex marriage which is being co-curated by TRACE and a permanent installation co-curated by *GALA* and the Apartheid Museum focusing on the early 1990s campaigns to get minority rights for women, LGBTI people and people with Disabilities into the Equality Clause of the Constitution.
- Constitution Hill and TRACE, on the *Tracks* Exhibition
- The Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival supplying them with materials for their satellite film festivals.
- The Joint Working Group (JWG) initiative which now includes in the region of 20 LGBTI organisations. *GALA* distributed its booklet on the *Prison Letters of Simon Nkoli* through the JWG. *GALA* was a co-lead organization on the research and documentation cluster of the 070707 campaign.
- FEW- *GALA* provided videotaping services at different events
- Behind the Mask to archive their records and to pilot a record keeping system.
- The Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL) on the distribution of Tommy Boys both regionally and internationally and videotaping events.

2.4 Finances

The total income received for core and project funding for *GALA* for 2007 was R1,984,881. Expenditure for 2007 totalled R1,935,778 (see Audited Financial Statements 4.0) *GALA* had two core funders for this period. HIVOS (Zimbabwe) provided R434,509 for core and project costs of which R337,922 was received in 2007) and Atlantic Philanthropies provided a generous grant of R1,022,000 for both core and project costs. Funding for specific projects, is usually raised separately from our core budget from a range of local and foreign sources. In 2007 The Ford Foundation gave a generous grant of R543,750 for the period 07-08 for the *GALA* heritage project comprising three exhibitions and the Conference Workshop Cultural Initiative Funds (CWCI) gave us a grant of R372,734 from Oct 07 to March 08 covering 80% of the *Tracks* exhibition at Constitution Hill. Standard Bank contributed R75,000 for the booklet (deferred to 2008) that accompanies the permanent installation at the Apartheid Museum. R45,661 of HIVOS (NL) funding for the Womens' Research Sex and Secrecy Grant was carried forward to 07 and expended.

2.5 Sustainability

GALA relies on funding for its continued existence and activities. This comes from foreign and local sources. We have applied for another three year cycle of funding from Atlantic Philanthropies for 2008-2010 and we have received verbal notification that receipt of this funding has been postponed to April 2008. We are waiting to hear about the outcomes of project proposals submitted to Hivos, Astraea and the Royal Netherlands Embassy for specific projects for 2008. A balance between foreign donor funds and local funding will help to ensure the continued support for the project from abroad. *GALA* will be focusing on broadening the funding base in 2008 both in South Africa and abroad in order to focus on the organisation's future sustainability.

3. PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Core functions

In 2007 we have initiated and continued projects that span and wherever possible integrate the following core functions:

- 1) Documenting gay and lesbian experience in South Africa: maintaining and expanding collections;
- 2) Making the materials a resource for the broader society and disseminating this information proactively while maintaining a special outreach focus to gay and lesbian communities;
- 3) Contributing to struggles for justice around LGBTI rights (nationally and regionally);
- 4) Establishing and promoting linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBTI activism;
- 5) Research, analysis and advocacy in support of scholarly and community endeavour.

Our core work is built around specific projects which integrate as many of the core functions as possible. Our progress on existing and planned projects is detailed below in relation to outcomes achieved including progress made towards project objectives under the core function to which they are most closely linked:

3.1. Documenting gay and lesbian experience in South Africa: maintaining existing collections, expanding the collections by acquiring new materials and generating oral histories

3.1.1. Acquiring, arranging and describing new collections

3.1.1.1. Acquisitions

The space limitations at the William Cullen Library (where the *GALA* collections are housed) meant that *GALA* has exercised caution in seeking new records over the past two years. In spite of these limitations, 2007 has seen the acquisition of an exciting range of records through special projects, including documentation projects related to the publication 'To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa', the exhibitions 'Home Affairs' and 'Tracks' and the Transgender Life Story Project. Through the research and documentation component of 'To Have and To Hold' *GALA* has acquired a comprehensive set of records relating to same-sex marriage in South Africa and the Civil Union Act, including previous court records, submissions, transcripts of public hearings and parliamentary debates, speeches, memorabilia, published articles and journalism, photographs, and 27 oral history interviews with activists, politicians (including representatives of the ANC and DA) and diverse same-sex and transgender couples. (see 3.2.1.1). The research and documentation process for the 'Home Affairs' exhibition has generated 44 short to medium length interviews, as well as a rich collection of photographs and memorabilia related to same-sex relationships and diverse families. The research and documentation process for the 'Tracks' exhibition is still in process, but has also brought in a number of oral history interviews into the archives. Interviews have also been added to the transgender life story project, in partnership with Gender Dynamix (a Cape Town based transgender support initiative). Through the transgender body map workshop in March/April 2007 *GALA* also found other, innovative ways to capture the stories and experiences of transgender people for the archive.

Mark Gevisser has donated substantial records on Cecil Williams and the making of Gevisser's documentary, 'The Man Who Drove Mandela'. *GALA* also received small donations from individuals, including a fine addition to Simon Nkoli's prison correspondence, as well as a number of academic papers. Zanele Muholi continues to lodge with *GALA* her photographs documenting black lesbian experience, although public access remains restricted. *GALA* continues to use the video camera it acquired to document LGBT events, pageants and workshops in the vicinity.

3.1.1.2. Arrangement and Description

GALA has finished processing the additions to the Edwin Cameron, Barry McGeary and Out-In-Africa records- increasing the size of these collections substantially. The records collected as part of the Pride book project have also been processed. We have also processed a small collection of PMB Gay and Lesbian Network records. Our press clipping and magazine collection is also updated on a regular basis.

3.1.2 Facilitating archival access and use

3.1.2.1 Updating print and web-based user's guide

The Guide to Resources, which was held back to allow for a number of key collections to be added, has now been completed. A limited number of printed copies are in process, and the updated *Guide* will be available as a PDF on the *GALA* website. The website continues to be an important tool for long distance users of our collections, and many email enquiries mention that the user found us through our website.

3.1.2.2 Website to include access to data base and search facilities

In 2007 the majority of *GALA* inventories were converted to Encoded Archival Description (EAD) as a means of increasing access and usability of *GALA* inventories. These electronic, searchable inventories can be accessed via the Historical Papers website (to which the *GALA* website links) and will assist in making *GALA* collections accessible to broader national and international audience.

3.1.2.3. Digitisation of sound recordings, documents and photographs for web publication and digital dissemination

In 2007 *GALA* continued its process of digitizing key photographic holdings in order (1) to ensure the long term preservation of these records, (2) to provide access to photographic holdings online, and (3) to enable long distance researchers (i.e. those who cannot travel to the archives) to make use of these records. Over the past year *GALA* digitised 100 photographs and archival documents from the Mother City Queer Project collection. Many of the archival documents and photographs collected for special projects (including the exhibitions 'Home Affairs' and 'Tracks' and 'To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage') have also been digitized, and this process will be completed in 2008.

No sound recordings were digitised in 2007 due to lack of staff capacity for this time-consuming process. However *GALA* purchased three additional digital tape recorders for our oral history projects ensuring that all new recordings are digital. During 2007 73 interviews were audio digitally recorded for the Civil Union Act book, the Home-Affairs exhibition and the Trans oral history project (see 3.1.1.1 and 3.2.1.1 and 3.1.3.4) and 9 were video digitally recorded for the Trans oral history project.

3.1.3 Generating additional material for GALA's oral history projects and associated dissemination and outreach projects

3.1.3.1 HIV oral history and outreach project

As the collection of 22 life story interviews had been completed in 2006, the focus was on transcribing this material. The interviews were transcribed and work commenced on editing the transcripts for publication in a booklet which will be published and launched in 2008 around World Aids Day. Interviews will continue to be done in the future to add to this collection as they arise. *GALA* presented a paper at the HSRC conference on HIV and LGBT issues in 2007 and submitted a written version for the proceedings. Mr John Meletse and Rev Paul Mokgethi, *GALA* staff member and volunteer respectively, were selected for the Open Society Institute of Southern Africa (OSISA) HIV digital story project in early 2007 and produced digital

stories about their lives as part of this project. They represented the voices from the disability and MSM sectors, John being Deaf, gay and HIV positive and Paul being gay and HIV positive.

In addition to these activities, 2000 copies of the *GALA* HIV educational comic, 'Eyes Wide Open', were distributed through *Exit* newspaper to bars and sex venues in Johannesburg in 2007. Small quantities of comics were also distributed to LGBT organizations in Malawi, Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique.

3.1.3.2 Same sex Sangoma oral history and outreach project (traditional healers)

A lesbian sangoma continues to participate in the *GALA* Queer Tour. *GALA* continues to work closely with the lesbian sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde who works at Constitution Hill as a tour guide. (See also 3.2.1.2.)

3.1.3.3 Deaf oral history and outreach project

3.1.3.3.1 Collection of lesbian and gay Deaf Life Stories

In 2007 eight of the most interesting interviews of Deaf gay men were translated from South African Sign Language (SASL) into English by Mr Meletse and a translator.

3.1.3.3.2 Deaf sexual diversity and HIV awareness school based project

Mr Meletse also continued his work at Sizwile School for Deaf learners in Soweto on a weekly basis using the educational comic: *Are your Rights respected?* to teach them about sexual rights and sexual diversity. He worked for three sessions with each grade at highschool level during the first half of the year. For the remainder of the year he focused on the grade 7s. At the end of the year it was felt that this class was too immature to maximally benefit from this input and it was decided that he would focus on grade 9s in 2008.

3.1.3.3.3 Workshops and talks

Mr Meletse has also given numerous workshops and talks to Deaf and hearing audiences and at schools for Deaf learners about being gay and HIV+ in 2007. This included a presentation on his school based project at the World Federation of the Deaf's conference in Madrid, Spain in July and a presentation at the Deaf Women in Africa and HIV conference held at Midrand in June.

3.1.3.3.4 Documentary

GALA is still raising funds to complete the documentary *Talking About Us* which features Mr Meletse and Rev. Mokgethi's life stories and day to day experiences. (See 3.2.6)

3.1.3.4. Transgender Oral History Project

This is a long-term project that *GALA* initiated in March 2006 in partnership with Gender Dynamix, a Cape Town-based transgender support initiative. The purpose of the project is to use oral histories to document the stories and experiences of this marginalized and stigmatized group. In 2007 *GALA* and Gender Dynamix continued the documentation of transgender life stories, and expanded the project to include intersex people. 18 interviews have been completed so far on audio and videocassette,

including FTM and MTF transgender and gender variant people, as well as an intersex person.

In addition, a four-day intensive body mapping workshop was held in March/April 2007 at Constitution Hill in collaboration with Gender DynamiX and Womens Net, where thirteen participants made body maps. An exhibition of these body maps was launched at Constitution Hill around Freedom Day on 27 April, and the exhibition ran for a week. The workshop achieved its aims of: (1) creating a safe healing space for the participants to explore their histories and experiences using body map techniques; (2) successfully documenting stories and experiences of trans and gender variant people using body maps; (3) making these stories visible through an exhibition at Constitution Hill.

Busi Kheswa was also involved in documenting the Gender DynamiX strategic planning conference in Cape Town in May 2007 at the request of the conference organiser.

The Trans Life Story Project will continue in 2008. We aim to do a collaborative publication with Gender DynamiX (pending funding) once the interviews have been completed.

3.2 Making the materials a resource for society (with a special outreach focus to gay and lesbian communities) and ensuring frequent coverage of LGBTI Issues in all media

3.2.1 Initiating publication and distribution of books from oral history projects and archival material:

3.2.1.1 Publication of book on Civil Union Act: *To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa*

In 2007 work commenced on the book 'To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa'. This is a collaborative project with OUT-LGBT Wellbeing, and is being edited by Melanie Judge (OUT), Anthony Manion (*GALA*) and Shaun de Waal. The book has been funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. The aim of the publication is to document and explore understandings and perspectives on same-sex marriage, including advocacy strategies and the passing of the Civil Union Act. The book includes nineteen essays from a range of activists, intellectuals and public figures including Pierre de Vos, Graeme Reid, Mary Hames, Jonathon Berger, Vasu Reddy, Ruthann Robson, Jody Kollapen, Zethu Matebeni and others. It also includes diverse interviews with activists, politicians, and same-sex couples, as well as a number of edited round table discussions on same-sex marriage and feminism, religion and LGBT activism in other African countries. The book also reproduces a wide range of original source material, photographs and cartoons. The book is to be published by Jacana Media under its Fanele imprint.

The project included a documentation component. This involved the collection of original source material related to the same-sex marriage campaign and the Civil Union Act, including previous court records, submissions, transcripts of public

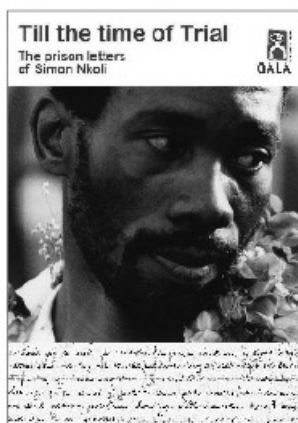
hearings and parliamentary debates, speeches, memorabilia, published articles and journalism, photographs and so on. It also included the collection of 27 oral history interviews with a range of activists, politicians and same-sex couples. The collection of this material and the writing of the book was completed in 2007, and is the basis for an important collection for the *GALA* archives.

3.2.1.2. Same-sex sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde's autobiography: *Black bull, ancestors and me – my life as a Zulu lesbian sangoma*

Nkunzi Nkabinde, a lesbian sangoma who has worked closely with *GALA* since 2002 was assisted by Melody Emmett and the director of *GALA* to write a book of her life story. This book highlights the fact that homosexuality is part of African culture and is in fact permitted by the ancestors. As a sangoma, Nkunzi is able to explore dimensions of her sexual identity due to her relationship with both male and female ancestors. Conscious of her constitutional rights as an urban young lesbian in a time of a relentless spate of hate crimes against township lesbians, Nkunzi is simultaneously sensitive to the demands of the guiding ancestral voice of the traditional, rural Zulu patriarch whose name she bears. Her quest is for a middle path of balance and integration between the living and the dead, the traditional and the modern.

There is a chapter that draws on the *GALA* sangoma life story project for which Nkunzi conducted interviews in 2002/03. This includes the experiences of other women sangomas who have taken ancestral wives with whom they have had secret same-sex relationships. By the end of 2007 a first draft of the book had been submitted to the publishers Jacana Media. The book will be published and launched around Women's Day in August 2008.

3.2.1.3. *Till the Time of Trial: The Prison Letters of Simon Nkoli*



This project involved the production of an A5 32-page colour booklet titled, 'Till the Time of Trial: The Prison Letters of Simon Nkoli'. The booklet was edited by Shaun de Waal and Karen Martin and draws on the *GALA* archival collections. The booklet documents an important chapter in the life of South Africa's most well known LGBT rights activist, Simon Nkoli, through a selection of the letters he wrote in prison as part of the Delmas Trial in the 1980s, together with a detailed introduction and many photographs.

The booklet was launched at a public event at Constitution Hill, Johannesburg on 01 October 2007 as part of the Johannesburg Gay and Lesbian Pride Festival Week. The event included a keynote address by Mr. Justice Edwin Cameron and the screening of the documentary 'Simon and I' (2001) followed by a discussion with its director Beverly Ditsie. The booklet received good press coverage including a feature-article in *The Sunday Independent*.

The booklet is provided free-of-charge to interested individuals and organizations. It was distributed to all the organizations in the Joint Working Group. In addition to distribution in South Africa, it has also been distributed to LGBT organizations in Namibia, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia and to participants at the ARC International conference in Johannesburg in December 2007.



Beverly Ditsie (l) and GALA staff member John Meletse at the launch of 'Till the Time of Trial'.



Co-editor Karen Martin (l) asking Roy Shepherd (to whom the letters in 'Till the Time of Trial' were addressed) to sign a booklet.



Simon Nkoli's mother (centre) at the launch of 'Till the Time of Trial'.



The editors of 'Till the Time of Trial' Shaun de Waal (l) and Karen Martin.

3.2.1.4 Distribution of Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives: Female Same Sex Practices in Africa

In 2007 GALA completed distribution of the book *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives* based on the African Women's Life Story Project: Exploring Same Sex Practices funded by the Gender, Women and Development Desk of the Humanist Institute for the Co-operation with Developing Countries (Hivos) Netherlands

GALA worked with the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL) who distributed the book as widely as possible nationally, regionally and internationally. The balance of the books were distributed by CAL in 2007 at:

- The ILGA conference held in Johannesburg
- The World Social Forum in Nairobi and
- The IRIN meeting in Dakar to explore creating a network of LGBTI information resources in Africa.

With Hivos' agreement the balance of the funds were used firstly in the production of the book: *Black bull, ancestors and me: my life as a Zulu lesbian sangoma* and secondly towards purchasing copies of *Balancing Act* for distribution to schools.

3.2.2 Continued publication of bi-annual newsletter

GALA decided to focus its energy and resources on producing the booklet, 'Till the Time of Trial: The Prison Letters of Simon Nkoli' (see 3.2.1.3) rather than a newsletter in 2007. It was felt that this would have more impact and use for the communities that *GALA* serves. This was the first in a series of booklets that *GALA* plans to produce.

3.2.4 Expanding access to distance users via the web

Encoded Archival Description (EAD) has emerged as the international standard for making inventories searchable via the web. In 2007 the majority of *GALA* inventories were converted to EAD, and these are now available for search through the Historical Papers website. *GALA* is therefore not pursuing web-based InMagic search facilities at this point. (See 3.1.2.2)

3.2.5 Marketing and promoting the Queer Tour so that it becomes well established and utilised by both locals and foreigners in order to promote the living archive.

GALA continues to put on the full bus tour for conferences and special events (most recently for the ILGA Regional conference in Johannesburg in May 2007, the ARC International conference in Johannesburg in December 2007, and the Out-In-Africa Film Festival in March and November 2007). *GALA* also continues to offer a Walking Tour of Queer Hillbrow and Constitution Hill, and took 13 individuals and groups on this tour in 2007. The tour has been featured at length in an SABC 1 television programme, *Mzansi Heads Up*, and is listed in a number of travel guides to Johannesburg (including *The Lonely Planet* guide).

3.2.6 Creating partnerships with film makers in order to make documentaries on same sexuality that draw on archival and project material. [RUTH]

GALA is still trying to raise funds for a documentary *Talking About Us*. In 2007 our proposal was turned down by the Open Society Foundation and by AMFAR. We are still waiting to hear from the Royal Netherlands Embassy who are considering our proposal. The proposed documentary is based on the community theatre performance *Coming Out Again* developed in 2005 and performed in 2005-06 which depicts South Africa's wider struggle for human rights by specifically highlighting aspects of the life stories of HIV+ LGBTI people. In this film six ordinary young people including two *GALA* staff members tell their stories. The autobiographical element is essential but will be fused with daily life. They are in the process of deepening their self-awareness while also facing complex conflicts peculiar to their generation. They are a part of the microcosm of the new society in South Africa. The production team will include film maker Donne Rundle and *GALA* trainee film maker and *GALA* staff member Busi Kheswa.

3.2.7 Ensuring that GALA material is exhibited in areas which are accessible to people who cannot access the university easily.

3.2.7.1. Balancing Act exhibition

The travelling exhibition, *Balancing Act: South African Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out*, completed its run at the East London Museum in March 2007, and is currently in storage. The experience of taking the exhibition to different institutions has emphasised the importance of GALA working throughout the duration of the exhibition with the guides and educators at museums to make sure they understand the exhibition and its content, and feel comfortable engaging with the public around it.

3.2.7.2 Transgendered Body Map workshop and exhibition

GALA, in partnership with Gender Dynamix and WomensNet, also created an exhibition of transgender body maps, which was hosted at the Women's Jail, Constitution Hill, Johannesburg, in April 2007 around Freedom Day – see 1.3.5. The aim of the exhibition was to make transgender stories and issues visible to the visitors to the site, as well as people working for civil society organisations based at the Women's Jail.

3.2.7.3 GALA Heritage Exhibition Project: 'Home Affairs'

In the second half of 2007, GALA commenced work on 'Home Affairs', a travelling exhibition in partnership with TRACE exhibition group. This project is part of the broader GALA Heritage Exhibition Project. The exhibition aims to educate the public about same sex- relationships and other non-conventional relationships through the lens of family diversity. The exhibition further aims to create greater tolerance for same-sex relationships and an understanding of the Civil Union Act as an outcome of the Equality Clause in the Constitution. The exhibition is targeted at school-goers, who comprise the bulk of South African visitors to the Apartheid Museum. The past year saw the completion of much of the research and development work for the exhibition. The production, design and installation of the exhibition and the creation of an educational handout is to be completed in 2008. The exhibition is to be held at the Apartheid Museum from April 08 for five months.

3.2.7.4 GALA Heritage Exhibition Project: Permanent Exhibition at Apartheid Museum

The Apartheid Museum invited GALA to work with them to create a permanent exhibition at the site that looks at how women, people with disabilities, and gays and lesbians took public action in the early 1990s to ensure that their particular rights would be protected in the new Constitution. This is the first time that The Apartheid Museum has invited an outside organisation to add to their permanent exhibition, and is an indication of the good relationship that GALA has built with the Museum. This permanent exhibition is an important step in GALA's goal of mainstreaming LGBT content at museums and heritage sites in South Africa. There are no museums in South Africa that include LGBT content at present. The past year saw work begin on conceptualising the exhibition and preparing the draft text. Karen Martin was contracted to work with GALA and the Museum to co-curate the exhibition. The

installation will be completed next year for launch in May 2008. An educational booklet will also be developed for grades 9-11.

3.2.7.5 GALA Heritage Exhibition Project: *Tracks*

The third exhibition that makes up the GALA Heritage Exhibition Project is *Tracks*, a temporary, site-specific exhibition in collaboration with TRACE exhibition group and Constitution Hill. The exhibition examines the effects of the Constitution and how it came about, as well as the city of Johannesburg, through the stories of eight gay, lesbian and transgender people. The exhibition is site-specific to Constitution Hill. The second half of 2007 saw work begin on the conceptualisation of the exhibition, and the collection of research material. The project will be completed next year and launched in May 2008.

3.2.8 *Maintenance and expansion of the Gay and Lesbian community lending library and its user.*

The library membership has continued to grow with about 42 new members this last year – the collection of books and DVDs has also grown – 138 new books from funds as well as donations (mainly fiction, although some useful non-fiction titles) and some 43 new DVDs. Several researchers have used the library for books that are not easily found in other libraries – particularly those books with South African content. The student volunteer system of one afternoon a week worked well, enabling those unable to come on Saturdays to make use of our resources. We have another volunteer for 2008 and that is to be welcomed. There were three social events that brought library members together and which were quite well attended. The library space continues to be a safe space for people struggling with their LGBT identity.

3.3 Advocacy: Contributing to struggles for justice (in South Africa, and regionally across Africa)

Almost all projects fall under this function in relation to South Africa. Specific projects that relate to the region are: the distribution of Tommy boys, lesbian men and ancestral wives: female same sex practices in Africa by the Coalition of African Lesbians (see 3.2.1.4).

ILGA held its first Africa regional conference in Johannesburg from 5-8 May 2007, and it was attended by representatives from a number of LGBT organisations on the continent. GALA used this opportunity to meet with representatives and explore opportunities for shared work in relation to research, record keeping and archiving and GALAs role in this. GALA will be working with a Moroccan initiative to 1) provide for the safe-keeping of interviews and research materials collected by the initiative; and 2) explore the possibility of GALA providing members of the initiative with training on research and records management. Representatives from Uganda, Malawi, Rwanda, and Nigeria also expressed interest in GALA providing training for their organizations in terms of records management, archiving and research methods, and assist their organizations in building links with mainstream institutions. Discussions were initiated in October 2007 for a partnership with the Malawi based organization Centre for Development of People (CEDEP) to research and document

same-sexuality in Malawi resulting in a book publication. A joint proposal will be submitted to funders in early 2008.

3.3.1 Ensuring that mainstream archives and museums are aware of - and exhibit - their LGBTI holdings.

GALA secured funding from the Ford Foundation for our heritage programme for 2007-2009. This includes a permanent exhibition at the Apartheid Museum, and travelling exhibition on the marriage campaign called Home-Affairs at the Apartheid Museum in January 2008. We have also received funds from CWCI for funds to produce an exhibition with TRACE called *Tracks* at Constitution Hill based on GALA's oral history projects and further research on LGBT lives in Johannesburg since the 1930s. All our exhibitions challenge the idea that homosexuality is UnAfrican..

GALA worked closely with the Apartheid Museum in 2007 to conceptualise and research the permanent installation. The installation focuses on how different sectors of civil society mobilized around getting their rights included in the Equality Clause of the constitution in the early 90s. The installation focuses on women, people with disabilities and LGBT people (see 3.2.7).

GALA has also been working on a three way partnership with Constitution Hill and TRACE. GALA and TRACE are co-curating an exhibition called *Tracks* which was funded by CWCI and will be launched in April 2008. We have discussed with Constitution Hill the possibility of a long term installation of part of this exhibition after its six month run. GALA will provide Constitution Hill and the Apartheid Museum with training on how to promote and explain the exhibition to the public (see 3.2.7.) The third exhibition Home-Affairs is a traveling exhibition which will be hosted at the Apartheid Museum for five months before going to other museums.

3.4. Establishing and promoting regional linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBTI activism

3.4.1 Records Management for Humanity Project

With this project GALA initially aimed to encourage and support LGBTI organisations in Africa to establish simple, ongoing records keeping systems. We presented this project at the ILGA conference in South Africa and invited organizations to give us feedback on this idea. In 2006 we developed a manual for records keeping projects which can be requested by other LGBT organisations and is available on our website. The organizations that attended the session indicated that they needed support with ongoing projects that were not related to record keeping. For example the CEDEP in Malawi wanted assistance with oral history research and a publication. It was therefore decided by GALA to suspend this project until other organizations request this kind of support and to instead focus on what organizations needed from us.

GALA continues to work with the organisations it has established links with in CAL and ILGA to explore opportunities for shared work.

3.4.2 Further training for the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL)

The goal of providing oral history project training on same sex practices for LGBTI activists from other African countries as part of the Coalition for African Lesbians Project has changed as this function has now been taken over by CAL. CAL has asked GALA to provide support with their forthcoming publication on lesbians in at least 12 African countries. GALA has agreed to provide advice and support where needed.

3.5 Research and analysis in support of scholarly and community endeavour

3.5.1 Using SAHA's Freedom of Information Programme to continue to recover information pertaining to Aversion therapy for gay men in the apartheid military.

The SAHA/GALA collaboration to continue using the Freedom of Information Programme to recover information pertaining to Aversion therapy for gay men in the apartheid military has now been completed. A chapter has been prepared about the significance of and barriers to accessing information in relation to gays in the Apartheid Military for a SAHA publication planned on the practical experience of the use of PAIA .

3.5.2 Analysis of Deaf gays and lesbians life histories project

The GALA director has completed the final editing phase of a book in 2007 provisionally entitled *DEAF ME NORMAL: Deaf South Africans tell their stories* based on a life story project with Deaf South Africans which includes the life stories of Deaf gays and lesbians and a discussion of the issues affecting this minority within a marginalised group. The stories needed to be re-edited extensively in 2007 to make them more accessible. The book will be published in 2008 as part of the Hidden Histories Series that UNISA PRESS is publishing.

The GALA director together with John Meletse and Karin Willemse from Erasmus University submitted a paper for publication in a volume dedicated to homosexuality in Africa for the Canadian Journal for African Studies. The paper is based on GALA's Deaf oral history project focusing on John Meletse's experiences as a Deaf gay man living with HIV.

3.5.3 Conference presentations and publications in the field of same sexuality as well as archival theory and practice

3.5.3.1 GALA Presentations

ILGA held its first **Africa regional conference** in Johannesburg from 5-8 May 2007, and it was attended by representatives from a number of LGBT organisations on the continent. GALA used this opportunity to meet with representatives. Harry Ntombela facilitated a session to explore opportunities for shared work in relation to research, record keeping and archiving and GALA's role in this (see 3.3).

Together with Busi Kheswa, Anthony Manion presented at the **CSIR conference** in Pretoria, February 2007 'An assessment of the LGBT sector's use of ICT together

with the ICT needs of LGBT youth in Johannesburg', CSIR. The paper focused on an assessment of the web needs of LGBT youth in South Africa.

Anthony Manion participated in a panel of LGBT archivists from the commonwealth and presented a paper 'Ten Years of Building Community' at the **Wolfendon 50 Conference** in London in June 2007.

John Meletse related aspects of his life story focusing on his experiences around HIV at **The Deaf women in Africa HIV conference** at Midrand in June 2007.

John Meletse did a presentation on GALA's Deaf oral history and outreach programme at **The World Federation of the Deaf conference** in Madrid, Spain in July 2007.

Ruth Morgan, Busi Kheswa and John Meletse did a presentation called "Creating memory: documenting and disseminating life stories of LGBTI people living with HIV" at the HSRC conference in May 2007 called **Gender, Same Sex Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in South Africa**.

Ruth Morgan, Busi Kheswa and Zethu Matebeni did a presentation "Documenting life stories of lesbians who have been raped" for a panel on Silence and Violence Around Sexualities and Sexual Politics at a Public Round Table on 12 October at Wits University hosted by the Department of Political Studies in conjunction with Stephan Meyer, the Co-ordinator of the South African Swiss Joint Gender Research Project, Zentrum Gender Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland.

3.5.3.2 **GALA Publications**

3.5.3.2.1 *Books*

Melanie Judge, Anthony Manion and Shaun de Waal (in press) 'To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage'. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.

Nkunzi Nkabinde (in press) *Black bull, ancestors and me: my life as a Zulu lesbian sangoma*. Jacana Media: Johannesburg.

3.5.3.2.2 *Booklet*

Shaun de Waal and Karen Martin (Eds.) 'Till the time of Trial: The prison letters of Simon Nkoli'. 2007. GALA: Johannesburg.

3.5.3.2.3 *Articles*

Nkunzi Nkabinde and Ruth Morgan, 2007. *Unyankwabe: A wife for Zodwa's ancestors*. in GALZ (ed.) *Unspoken Facts: a history of homosexualities in Africa*. GALZ: Harare.

Ruth Morgan, Busi Kheswa and John Meletse, 2007. *Creating memory: documenting and disseminating life stories of LGBTI people living with HIV*. - Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA). For HSRC HIV conference proceedings.

Meletse John with Ruth Morgan, 2007. *"I have two! ": Personal reflections of a Deaf HIV positive gay man in South Africa*. Reprinted from Deaf Worlds 2006 in shortened

form in Luczak, 2007. Luczak, Raymond (ed.), 2007. *Eyes of desire 2: a deaf glbt reader*. Handtype Press. Minneapolis.

3.5.3.2.4 *Digital Stories*

John Meletse 'I try to motivate deaf people to know their status' *Amplifying Voices: A series of digital stories*. Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

Paul Mokgethi 'If fear and stigma hadn't made them afraid to come out about being positive, their lives might have been saved'. *Amplifying Voices: A series of digital stories*. Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa

4. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS