

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN ARCHIVES**

[Logo deleted for email version]

**AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY  
ARCHIVE TRUST**

## **JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2006**

**Gay and Lesbian Archives  
PO BOX 31719  
Braamfontein  
2017  
South Africa**

**Prepared by:  
Dr Ruth Morgan, Director, [morganr@GALA.wits.ac.za](mailto:morganr@GALA.wits.ac.za), Telephone  
(011)7174239,  
Fax (011) 7171783**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	3
1. BACKGROUND .....	8
2. OVERVIEW .....	10
2.1 Introduction.....	10
2.2 <i>GALA-SAHA</i> relationship .....	10
2.3 Collaboration with other organisations.....	12
2.4 Resources .....	13
2.5 Sustainability.....	13
3. PERFORMANCE REPORTS .....	15
3.1. Documenting gay and lesbian experience in South Africa: maintaining existing collections, expanding the collections by acquiring new materials and generating oral histories.....	15
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.....	21
3.3 Advocacy: Contributing to struggles for justice (in South Africa, and regionally across Africa).....	29
3.4. Establishing and promoting regional linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBTI activism .....	30
3.5 Research and analysis in support of scholarly and community endeavour ...	31
4. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS .....	34

## 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.

*GALA* has attempted to integrate acquisition, research and outreach programmes in an effort to raise public awareness and to fulfill 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.

Our work in 2006 has focused on empowering LGBTI township communities – with encouraging results. Without a communications/public relations specialist, *GALA*’s communication strategy has been limited to specific project related events such as book and comic launches and associated events, 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 been working to develop a long term fundraising strategy that focuses on the organisation’s future sustainability. We have also continued to recruit patrons to raise the visibility of the organisation in the public domain. In February this year Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu agreed to be a patron of *GALA* joining 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 LGBTI 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 summarized 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 and expanding collections***

*GALA* expanded its holdings relating to the African continent through the acquisition of the Behind the Mask (BTM) pan-African records and the records of Sexual Minorities of Uganda (SMUG). Recent donations have increased the Barry McGearry collection in size and scope. *GALA* also took in a collection of additional National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) records. *GALA* has also started documenting emerging organisations, including the Pietermaritzburg Gay and Lesbian Network and Gender Dynamix. *GALA* also received two donations from individuals as well as a number of academic papers. Sabelo Mlangeni and Jean Brundritt both donated photographs. *GALA* continues to use the video camera it acquired to document LGBTI events, pageants and workshops in the vicinity.

In order to facilitate access and use the Guide to our collections was updated and is available online. Over 150 photographs and documents were digitized and the digitization of sound recordings has been outsourced to the Wits Audiovisual Department.

We have continued to focus on generating more material via the range of oral history projects that focus on disadvantaged, primarily black minorities and the associated dissemination and outreach projects in the areas of: LGBTI and the following communities: HIV infected/affected and Deaf. In January this year *GALA* initiated two new projects focusing on transgendered people and faith respectively. The book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* also generated a substantial collection of related oral histories.

***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 April this year we completed the book based on the Pride Oral History Project: *Pride, Protest and Celebration* which was published by Jacana and launched successfully at four events during Pride week in September.

*GALA* has also continued to assist the same sex sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde to write her life story for possible publication by Jacana.

*GALA* has also completed two educational comics this year. *Eyes Wide Open* is based on the HIV oral history project and *Are your rights respected?* draws on the Deaf oral history project: The former was co-funded by CWCI, Atlantic Philanthropies and Hivos and the latter by the Foundation for Human Rights, Atlantic Philanthropies and Hivos.

Over the past year *GALA* has been involved in setting up a joint project with OUT Wellbeing and the Department of Education to disseminate the book on youth life stories *Balancing Act* within teacher sensitization workshops which took place in Gauteng at a district level in the last six months of this year.

*GALA* has continued to disseminate the book *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives; female same-sex practices in Africa* in conjunction with the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL).

*GALA* published and distributed two newsletters in the past year, titled 'Coming Out Again' and 'Marching for Our Rights'.

*GALA* also produced six articles for WRAPPED magazine showcasing the archives and its collections.

### **Exhibitions**

The exhibition *Balancing Act* based on the book was redeveloped and successfully launched at the Apartheid Museum this year. The exhibition received favourable media attention, and has been viewed by over 8000 school goers and by other visitors to the Apartheid museum. The exhibition has also traveled to the Natal Museum and East London Museum in the second half of 2006.

An exhibition featuring the original pastel drawings by internationally acclaimed Deaf artist Tommy Motswai for the educational comic *Are your rights respected?* was co-curated by *GALA* and the Adler Museum. The exhibition was launched just before the International Week for Deaf People 4-10 September. The exhibition was hosted by the Adler Museum for three months.

*GALA* also curated an exhibition based on the book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* which was featured at Constitution Hill following the launch of the book from September 25th to October 4th.

### **Community Theatre Production, Radio Programme and Educational Comics**

The HIV community theatre project *Coming Out Again* is based on actual stories of black gay and lesbian HIV positive people. The play went on a national tour around Human Rights Day in March this year and was performed in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town. Additionally, a community radio programme was produced in the second half of this year based on the play and distributed to 20 community radio stations. Two educational comics based on the community theatre production *Eyes Wide Open* and *Are your Rights Respected?* were produced for the hearing and Deaf LGBTI communities respectively and were successfully widely disseminated.

A further pilot project based on *Are Your Rights Respected?* was conducted at Sizwile School for the Deaf who were provided with workshops for Life Orientation classes at highschool level by Deaf teaching assistants who were trained by GALA.

### **Queer Tour**

The Queer Tour will become part of three specialized tours that the City of Johannesburg has commissioned and which will be offered by the City when the process has been completed. Two bus tours were done in 2006. GALA developed a walking tour of Hillbrow and Constitution Hill in 2006 which was conducted on eleven occasions.

### **Documentaries**

More footage was filmed for the documentary *Talking About Us*. GALA is currently fundraising with a local film maker to edit and distribute this documentary on HIV in the LGBTI community based on footage we have collected from the real stories of actors affected and effected by HIV who performed in the community theatre production *Coming Out Again*.

### **Library**

In 2006 the library celebrated 21 years of existence. It contains over 4000 books and 500 films. The GALA lending library continues to be used and its membership continually grows. There is now an involved membership in the region of 350 members.

### ***3) Advocacy: Contributing to struggles for justice around LGBTI rights both nationally and regionally***

In June this year, GALA gave a presentation at the institute of the Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL) on record keeping for African lesbians from 12 different countries who attended the CAL institute.

GALA continues to work with mainstream archives and museums to ensure that they are given opportunities to host our exhibitions at their institutions. We successfully worked with the Apartheid Museum and the Adler Museum as a start to this process. GALA is also currently working with Constitution Hill and The Apartheid Museum on the initial stages of fundraising to host exhibitions based on GALA's oral history projects and archival holdings. GALA has also used its publications and exposure in the media around the launches and associated events to challenge the idea that homosexuality is UnAfrican.

### ***4) Establishing and promoting linkages in the intersecting fields of archives and LGBTI activism***

GALA has developed a *Records Management for Humanity* project which includes a training course *Filing for our Lives* for which we need to secure funds to implement in different African countries. The project has been piloted with Behind the Mask. A presentation of this material was done by Marius Coetzee at the Association for Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) in San Antonio, USA.

**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 *GALA* by Laura Pollecut for a publication planned on the practical experience of the use of PAIA to be published in the next year.

**Research report on media knowledge, attitudes and practice on LGBTI issues and stories**

This project funded by the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) was conducted for *GALA* by Community Media for Development (CMFD). The report concluded that work needs to be done in building the quantity and quality of reporting in the media on LGBTI issues.

**Analysis of Deaf gays and lesbians life histories project**

The *GALA* director has completed a book in June this year *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 book will be published next year as part of the Hidden Histories Series that UNISA PRESS is publishing.

The *GALA* director also co-authored a journal article with a *GALA* staff member John Meletse on his experience of being Deaf, gay and HIV positive for the international journal *Deaf Worlds* which was published in April this year.

**Conference Presentations and Publications**

*GALA* was involved in presentations of different projects at both international and local conferences and workshops throughout the year. In addition *GALA*'s books and articles notably *Pride, Protest and Celebration* produced in 2006 contribute significantly to South African LGBT sources. Jacana publishers decided to do a second print run of *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives: female same sex practices in Africa* at the end of the year.

## ***1. BACKGROUND***

Established in 1997, *GALA* is an independent project of the South African History Archives Trust (SAHA) which forms part of the Historical Papers collection based at the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. For SAHA this was a valuable extension of its existing collections that echoed SAHA's historic commitment to documenting human rights struggles in South Africa. *GALA* represents a unique resource of material relating to lesbian and gay experience in Southern Africa. It is appropriate that the only lesbian and gay 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 gay and lesbian communities in South Africa are not homogeneous, the Gay and Lesbian Archives strive to reflect that diversity in the collections and by devising appropriate strategies for making the collections more accessible to the public. *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 fulfill 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 research projects that further enhance knowledge and teaching in the sphere of gender and sexuality studies. The research projects undertaken by *GALA* follow the pattern of previous research projects by emphasizing archival collection of life histories, documents, audio and video recordings of community activities and events. As a national lesbian and gay archive, *GALA* also strives to collect material from a wide range of geographically dispersed lesbian and gay communities throughout Southern Africa.

As the only LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and intersex) archive in Africa, we have recently extended our focus to East Africa and working in partnership with Behind the Mask and the Coalition for African Lesbians have started to create linkages with LGBTI organisations throughout Africa.

## **2. OVERVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The focus of our work in 2006 has been on our dissemination and education strategies through which *GALA* aims to help instil 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; LGBTIssues and human rights awareness; creating advocacy and organisational capacity; and, procuring holdings that cross both the racial and the rural/urban divide.

Our work in 2006 has focused on empowering LGBTI township communities – with encouraging results. Without a communications/public relations specialist, *GALA*'s media strategy has been limited to specific project related events such as book and comic launches, 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.

#### **Staff**

In the second half of 2006 the position of Project Manager was created. Mr Marius Coetzee was employed as a contract worker on a short term basis to establish the position and to set up improved archival and record keeping systems. Mr Moiloa Harry Ntombela was then employed as project and finance manager on a three month independent contract. At the end of this period, it was decided to employ him on a full time permanent basis in 2007.

#### **Patrons**

*GALA* has embarked on a process this year of identifying patrons to raise the visibility of the organisation in the public domain. Emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu has agreed to be a patron in name only, joining Justice Edwin Cameron who became a patron in 2005.

### **2.2 GALA-SAHA relationship**

*GALA* is constituted as an independent project of the South African History Archive Trust (SAHA). The SAHA deed of trust and SAHA management policy formally include *GALA*. The SAHA Board is the overall management structure of *GALA*. In addition, the *GALA* advisory committee serves to monitor the work of *GALA*.

The advisory committee represents a wide range of interest groups associated with the archives. In 2006 Mr Sello Hatang, Mr Thofi Bishop and Mr Zackie Achmat resigned from the advisory committee. Ms Thuli Madi, Ms Jillian Gardner, Mr Marius Coetzee and Mr Piers Pigou (ex officio Director SAHA) were appointed to the advisory committee. The nine member advisory committee meet quarterly. The advisory committee 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 from the Department of Anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand.
3. Graeme Reid, former director and current researcher at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WISER) in the Cultures of Sexuality and Power programme. Graeme is also the vice chairperson of the SAHA Board of Trustees.
4. Karen Martin, freelance editor and former *GALA* Archivist.
5. Thuli Madi, Director of Behind the Mask
6. Jillian Gardner, Lecturer/Undergraduate Coordinator (Bioethics and Health Law) University of the Witwatersrand Medical School: Faculty of Health Sciences.
7. Marius Coetzee, Senior Archivist and Head of Dept. Historical Papers and Rare Books - the UWC Robben Island Mayibuye Archive
8. Ruth Morgan, Director of *GALA* ex- officio
9. Piers Pigou, Director of SAHA, ex-officio

In 2006 *GALA* began the process of establishing itself as an independent Trust and NPO called **Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA)**. It was felt that *GALA* has come of age as an organisation and was now ready to operate independently. *GALA* has proven that it is sustainable in its own right and has a niche in the archive world that is not served by any other existing institution.. *GALA* will continue to work closely with SAHA once we have become independent. The advisory committee will become the Board of Trustees. The Trust documentation was submitted to the Masters Office in Pretoria in October 2006. Registration should be completed in the first quarter of 2007.

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. Once *GALA* is an independent Trust we will finalise a new MOU with the University.

The directors of *GALA* and *SAHA* continued to work closely together in 2006. However, *GALA* remains autonomous in the sense that it continues to be responsible for its own fundraising and the management of its own affairs. This close working relationship will continue after *GALA* becomes an independent Trust in 2007.

*GALA* is governed by the *SAHA* Financial Policies and Procedures. *GALA's* auditors are Douglas and Velcich. On completion of the audit, the audited financial statements for 2006 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 2005 *GALA* collaborated with the following organisations as outlined below:

- OUT on a joint project with the Gauteng Department of Education this year led by OUT in which *GALA* staff were trained to conduct sensitisation workshops for psychological support services for schools. Ten workshops were conducted in 2006.
- The Apartheid Museum who co-curated and launched the Balancing Act exhibition in February 2006 for six months.
- The LGBT network in Pietermaritzburg who co-hosted the Balancing Act exhibition at the Natal Museum in September for three months.
- The East London Museum who hosted the Balancing Act exhibition in November 2006.
- The Soweto HIV Counseling Association (SOHACA), The Hope and Unity Metropolitan Church (HUMCC) and the Centre for the Study of Aids (CSA) at Pretoria University on the HIV oral history and outreach projects.
- The Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. *GALA* also partnered with Out in Africa by performing the HIV theatre project: Coming Out Again during their Cape Town festival and providing them with a reduced and portable exhibition of Balancing Act for their satellite festivals.
- The Joint Project initiative which now includes in the region of 20 LGBTI organisations. *GALA* distributed its educational comic and the book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* at JWG meetings this year
- FEW- *GALA* provided videotaping services at the national lesbian conference
- Behind the Mask to archive their records and to pilot a record keeping system *Filing for Our Lives*.
- The Coalition for African Lesbians (CAL) on the distribution of Tommy Boys both regionally and internationally and videotaped the meeting at Constitution Hill this year. *GALA* also gave an input on our record keeping project in Africa: *Filing for our Lives* at this meeting.

## 2.4 Resources

In 2006 we had five full time staff members (the director, archives co-ordinator, office manager, archives assistant/HIV oral history project and outreach worker, administrative assistant/Deaf oral history project and outreach worker. Other part time contract workers include two project managers (June to December), a book keeper and two part time librarians.

Additionally *GALA* employed a large number of part time contract workers for different projects: eleven part time contract workers for the HIV Theatre Project *Coming Out Again* and its associated educational comics and radio programme which involved a cast of seven actors, a Director, a scriptwriter and a project manager and a South African Sign Language interpreting service. Three contract workers were employed to work on the two Balancing Act exhibitions and a researcher continued to work on the Gay Men in the Military project. CMFD was contracted to complete the media research project.

The total income received for core and project funding for *GALA* for 2006 was R2,333,955. *GALA* had two core funders for this period. HIVOS (Zimbabwe) provided a grant of R461,090 (Euro 50 000) for core and project costs and Atlantic Philanthropies (Ireland) provided a generous grant of R1,388,000 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 2006, An amount of R78,974 was carried forward from HIVOS (NL) Gender, Women and Development Desk (Netherlands) for the distribution of the book "Tommy boys, lesbian men and ancestral wives: exploring female same sex practices in Africa" arising from the African Women's Oral History Project. Additional funds have been received at the end of 2005 for the HIV Theatre and Comic outreach project: *Coming Out Again* from the Foundation for Human Rights (R200,000 for the period November 2005 to June 2006 and from the Conference Workshop Cultural Initiative Funds (CWCI) (R331 ,222.00) an EU-SA Partnership Programme for the period November 2005 to April 2006. A further R70 000 was received from the Foundation for Human Rights for the Deaf Sexual Diversity and HIV Awareness Project at Sizwile School for Deaf learners for the period September to November 2006. MDDA provided a grant of R82,000.00 for the *Out in the Media research* project.

## 2.5 Sustainability

*GALA* relies on funding for its continued existence and activities. This comes from foreign and local sources. *GALA* has secured a three year grant of R3,880,000 for the 2005-07 period from Atlantic Philanthropies and a two year grant from HIVOS for the period 2005-2006 of Euro 100,000.00. Hivos has agreed to give a further grant to *GALA* of Euro 40 000 in 2007.

*GALA* is waiting to hear about the outcome of project proposals submitted to the Open Society Foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies and The Ford Foundation for specific projects for 2007. A balance between foreign donor funds and local funding will help to ensure the continued support for the project from abroad.

*GALA's* will be focusing on broadening the funding base in 2007 both in South Africa and abroad in order to focus on the organisation's future sustainability.

The establishment of a 501C3 company in the USA will be finalised in 2007. This will enable *GALA* to raise funds through a U.S. based website. The registration as a 5013C organisation provides tax incentives for individuals to donate funds.

### **3. PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

#### **Core functions**

In 2006 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**

While 2005 saw an unusually high volume of material added to our archival holdings, this slowed down in 2006. This is due in part to space limitations at the William Cullen Library which prevent *GALA* from actively seeking records outside of special projects.

*GALA* has acquired the Behind the Mask (BTM) pan-African records from 2000 to 2004. *GALA* will work with BTM to develop this collection. In addition, *GALA* has acquired Victor Juliet Makasa's records of Sexual Minorities of Uganda (SMUG). The bulk of this collection is temporarily embargoed, but some records are accessible to researchers.

Edwin Cameron has donated additional records to the Barry McGeary collection at *GALA*, substantially increasing its size and scope. In terms of organisational records *GALA* has started documenting emerging organisations, including the Pietermaritzburg Gay and Lesbian Network; and Gender Dynamix an organisation focusing on transgendered people. *GALA* also took in a large collection of additional National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE) records. *GALA* also received small donations from individuals—in particular Charles Whiley and Rocco de Villiers (Herb Klein material)—as well as a number of academic papers. 2006 has seen some exciting photographic acquisitions, including photographs by Sabelo Mlangeni and Jean Brundritt. Zanele Muholi continues to lodge with *GALA* her innovative photographs documenting black lesbian experience, although she has restricted public access for the present. *GALA* continues to use the video camera it acquired to document LGBT events, pageants and workshops in the vicinity.

In addition to these acquisitions, *GALA* also undertook several special projects in 2006 that have generated important archival records. These include the publication *Pride Protest and Celebration* (2.3.2), which involved the collection of some additional interviews and photographs; and the ongoing Faith oral history project, which has provided six interviews and some records relating to religion and homosexuality. Work also commenced in 2006 on the transgender oral history project, in partnership with Gender Dynamix (a Cape Town based Transgender support initiative), and so far this has generated eleven oral history interviews; one written contribution; 14 photographs; and other records from this neglected group. These acquisitions have further broadened the scope of material at the archives.

### **3.1.1.2. Arrangement and Description**

*GALA* has finished processing the additions to the Edwin Cameron collection, the Pride collection, additions to the Herb Klein collection and the bulk of the Out in Africa Gay and Lesbian Film Festival records. Our press clipping and magazine collections also continue to be updated on an ongoing basis.

### ***3.1.2 Facilitating archival access and use***

#### **3.1.2.1 Updating web-based user's guide**

The updated *Guide* is available online 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**

*GALA* has installed a keyword search facility on our website. Distance users can already find summaries outlining the scope and content of each of our collections on our website, and can request full length inventories by email. Should the number of *GALA*'s collections increase dramatically in the future it might be necessary to revisit this decision. The *GALA* site averaged 31 visits a day in 2006.

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

In 2006 *GALA* continued its process of digitizing sound recordings and key photographic holdings in order (1) to ensure the long term preservation of these records, (2) to provide access to photographic holdings and eventually sound recordings online, and (3) to enable long distance researchers (i.e. those who cannot travel to the archives) to make use of these records.

In 2006 over 150 archival documents and photographs were digitized. *GALA* outsourced the digitization of ten audio interviews to the Wits Audiovisual Department as a pilot. However, the quality of the digitization was insufficient and *GALA* will return to doing the process itself in 2007.

### ***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**

By December 2006 *GALA* had a total of twenty two life story interviews of HIV+ LGBTI people. Nineteen of these interviews (eleven HIV+ gay men and eight HIV+ lesbians) were collected over the past two years. This has been a significant accomplishment given the continued stigma and silence around HIV. Even people who have openly disclosed their status are very resistant to being interviewed. Some of the reasons for this could be due to the interview raising unresolved issues. The interviewing phase of the project has now been completed and in 2007 we will be focusing on publishing some of these interviews in a booklet. Interviews will continue to be done in the future to add to this collection as they arise.

Due to the difficulty of securing interviews, the focus of the HIV programme has shifted in 2006 to outreach and breaking the silence and stigma with public talks and presentations (see 3.5.3.1), the community theatre performance and discussion (see 3.2.3) as well as with two educational comics (see 3.2.3.2.1 and 3.1.3.3.2) and a digital story by Busi Kheswa for WomensNet.

The production of the community theatre performance *Coming Out Again*, in which the *GALA* HIV+ outreach workers Paul Mokgethi and John Meletse told their stories together with 5 other LGBTI actors was successfully performed five times in 2006. The play went on a national tour of Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town followed by a facilitated discussion led by a colleague in the Centre For the Study of Aids.

Rev. Mokgethi has also liaised with a support group for people that are living with HIV from Pretoria University's Centre for the study of AIDS, and as a result of this contact they refer people for counselling to him.

*GALA* staff member Busi Kheswa's digital story "I have listened, I have heard" was produced as part of a WomensNet digital story project: Digital Stories for Transformation focusing on violence against women including lesbians.

Her digital story focuses on her experiences interviewing lesbians who are now HIV positive as a result of hate crimes involving rape. (see 3.5.3.1)

Additionally the HIV educational comic *Eyes Wide Open* (see 3.2.3.2.1) and the comic aimed at the Deaf community *Are your rights respected?* (see 3.1.3.3.2 and 3.2.3) were produced in close consultation with *GALA* staff members and printed in April and July respectively.

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

*GALA* continues to focus on sustaining links with same sex sangomas and thus the living oral archive and working on increasing their visibility wherever possible. To this end *GALA* organised for a group of sangomas to attend the same sex marriage march on the Union Buildings in October this year. This allowed same sex sangomas to be visible negating the public perception that same sexuality is UnAfrican.

[pic deleted for email version]

**Amongst the people who marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria in October 2006 to show their support for same-sex marriage were a number of sangomas organised by *GALA*.**

A lesbian sangoma continues to participate in the *GALA* Queer Tour. *GALA* continues to work closely with the lesbian sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde who co-authored a chapter '*This has happened since ancient times...it's something you are born with*': *ancestral wives amongst same-sex sangomas in South Africa* with the Director of *GALA* based on the *GALA* sangoma oral history project to the book *Tommy Boys, Lesbian Men and Ancestral Wives: Female Same Sex Practices in Africa* which was published in June 2005. An edited version of this article appeared in *AGENDA*'s homosexuality edition in 2006. In 2006 Nkunzi Nkabinde has started to write her life story as a book for publication with *GALA*'s assistance.

### **3.1.3.3 Deaf oral history and outreach project**

#### *3.1.3.3.1 Collection of lesbian and gay Deaf Life Stories*

Mr Meletse has collected a total of sixteen Deaf videotaped life stories of gay men by the end of 2006 from four different provinces. In 2006 he collected four life stories in Johannesburg and four in Cape Town after he performed in the play *Coming Out Again* in March. All these interviews have been transcribed into English glosses. The transcription process is very time consuming when working from videotaped South African Sign Language in slow motion. The narratives need to be translated into written English in 2007

Due to the difficult task of identifying people who are prepared to be interviewed in the very small pool of visible gay/lesbian Deaf people, this project has focused more on outreach work (the production of the play and the educational comic) over the past year. As Mr Meletse appeared in the play *Coming Out Again* with two South African Sign Language interpreters, Deaf audiences attended all the performances in Durban and Cape Town (see 3.2.3).

#### *3.1.3.3.2 Educational comic: Are your Rights respected? (see also 3.1.3.1)*

An educational comic *Are your rights respected?* aimed at Deaf adults raising sexual rights including LGBTI and HIV issues was launched in August 2006 with funding received from the Foundation for Human Rights, Hivos and The Atlantic Philanthropies. This product specifically aimed at Deaf adults is required as the average literacy level of Deaf adults is at grade-four level due to the failure of Deaf Education in South Africa.

Mr Meletse was instrumental in creating this comic which included a narrative around a school boy coming out to his friend and his teacher. This mainstreaming of gay issues into broader sexual rights issues was very successful.

The comic aimed at Deaf people *Are your rights respected?* is being used by the World Bank as part of its work on the intersection between disability and HIV/AIDS. They are using the comic as evidence of good practice models.

The comic was widely disseminated internationally using pdf digital format and hard copies. The comic appears as a PDF on 4 websites besides *GALA's*: Soulbeat Africa, IRIN news, International Information Support Network and AGENDA. The following websites have carried articles about the comic: Mail and Guardian, Behind the Mask, POSZ and Hearing loss news and other articles and African News Dimension. It also appears in a number of blogs.

Hard copies of the comic were distributed to the following Deaf and hearing institutions/organisations and schools in South Africa:

- The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA) HIV conference for their development workers from 9 provinces;
- DEAFSA national office;

- Disabled People South Africa Bi-Annual National Assembly;
- Sizwile School for the Deaf, Soweto South Africa, Fulton School for the Deaf (Durban) on request (still to be distributed to Deaf schools via future workshop programme);
- The South African Sign Language Department and Centre for Deaf Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand;
- The department of Afroasiatic Studies, Sign Language and Language Practise at the University of the Orange Free State;
- The Adler Museum for the launch of the associated exhibition

African Distribution included Deaf organisations in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya and Nigeria.

International Distribution of hard copies include the MCC Church conference in Germany and the World Bank Senior Operations Officer

#### *3.1.3.3.3 Deaf sexual diversity and HIV awareness school based project*

This three month project (September to November 06) was funded by the Foundation for Human Rights and The Atlantic Philanthropies. *GALA* entered into an agreement with a consultant Kevin Lowe, specialising in HIV training and educational material development. Kevin was responsible for piloting the use of the comic *Are your rights respected?* in an educational setting viz. Sizwile School for the Deaf in Soweto. He worked closely with the Deaf *GALA* staff member John Meletse who is responsible for the *GALA* outreach work in the Deaf community and the *GALA* director.

The project consisted of the following primary components:

- Two HIV and AIDS information sessions for all teaching staff at Sizwile;
- Six HIV and AIDS training sessions with five Deaf facilitators comprising two Deaf teaching assistants and two Deaf teachers at Sizwile and Deaf *GALA* staff member John Meletse;
- Development of supplementary learning material for Deaf learners (3 worksheets were developed focusing on HIV and AIDS, harming and helping and sexual orientation and friendship);
- Twelve contact sessions with learners from Grades 7 to 12 co-facilitated by John Meletse, teaching assistants and teachers, and monitored by the consultant.

#### *Sexuality issues*

A lot of discomfort was experienced by the learners in discussing issues of homosexuality. A large proportion of male and female learners expressed negative views towards homosexuals. Although there were learners who were willing to accept a friend who was gay, the larger majority of learners (who expressed opinions) felt that they would not be able to accept a gay friend, that they did not understand why people would 'choose' to be gay and many questions about gay sex were posed. This suggests that more time needs to be spent on issues of sexuality and tolerance perhaps in the form of diversity workshops.

Recognising the experimental nature of this project and the fact that this project was being conducted as a pilot, an implementation plan was created. While there have been minor deviations from this plan, when viewed as a whole, the overall project aims have been fulfilled and all major components of the project completed.

Feedback from learners was very positive across all groups. At the end of the one session, Philip, a grade 10 learner, expressed the following:

*“Thank you very much. I have been to many talks on HIV and AIDS but this is the first time I could express myself in signing and be understood. I enjoyed it very much.”*

Philip’s words summarise the feelings of all parties who were involved in this project. This is the first time that a project of this kind has been attempted and many lessons were learned. It is always difficult to assess the impact of HIV and AIDS education. There is little doubt, however, that many lives were touched in the execution of this project and that the impact on all the role players has been overwhelmingly positive.

#### *3.1.3.3.4 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+ over the past year. (see 3.1.3.1)

#### *3.1.3.3.5 Documentary*

The HIV weekly programme for national television *Beat It* filmed Mr Meletse as part of a programme focusing on HIV and disability which was screened in January 2006 as a result of Mr Meletse's advocacy work.

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

#### **3.1.3.4. Transgender Oral History Project**

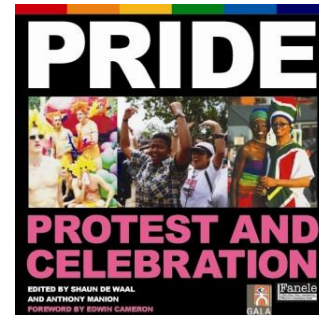
*GALA* initiated this project in March 2006 in partnership with Gender Dynamix, a Cape Town-based transgender support initiative. The purpose of the project is to use oral histories to document the stories and experiences of this marginalized and stigmatized group. Eleven interviews have been completed so far on audio and videocassette. The project will continue in 2007 (see 3.1.1.1).

### **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 a book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* by Shaun de Waal and Anthony Manion (GALA archives co-ordinator)**

Work was completed on 'Pride, Protest and Celebration' co-edited by Shaun de Waal (renowned journalist and author) and Anthony Manion (GALA archives coordinator) and the book was published by Fanele, an imprint of Jacana Media in September 2006. The year 2006 marked the 17th anniversary of the first Johannesburg Gay and Lesbian Pride March, and yet the history and meaning of Pride is not well understood. The book tries to ground the symbolic 'Pride' in the ordinary experience of people who have participated in the march, and to place pride in its historical context. The book includes a foreword by Mr. Justice Edwin Cameron.



The research material collected in 2005 and 2006 for this project includes interviews with 48 people (the bulk the interviews include a life history component); over 400 photographs; and two archive-boxes of records and memorabilia. This material forms part of GALA's archival holdings and is accessible to users.

#### *3.2.1.1.1 Launch and related events*

The book was very successfully launched in the last week of September to coincide with Pride Heritage Week. The launch-related events included a public discussion on Pride at Constitution Hill on 23 September, with Justice Edwin Cameron, Shaun de Waal (co-editor), Beverly Ditsie (lesbian activist and filmmaker) and Donna Smith (director, Forum for the Empowerment of Women) taking part. The discussion was part of the Constitution Hill word series and was attended by approximately 80 people. The book was officially launched at Exclusive Books, Hyde Park on 28 September, with Justice Edwin Cameron addressing approximately 100 guests. It was also launched (together with a book of Afrikaans short stories) at a gay night club called Legends in Pretoria on 4 October, in order to bring the book to different audiences. This event was attended by approximately 40 people. The final launch-related event was a book reading focused on lesbian experience at Pride, which took place at the Gay and Lesbian Library on 8 October. Readers included Fikile Vilakazi, Margaret Auerbach, Nonhlanhla Zwane, and Donna Smith. The event was attended by approximately 30 people.

#### *3.2.1.1.2 Media Coverage*

Considering the usual lack of response of the mainstream media to LGBTI events the book attracted considerable media attention, including reviews and information about the book. Newspaper coverage included: The Sowetan (review), Business Day – Weekender (review), The Sunday Independent (review), The Mail and Guardian (reproduced foreword from book), The Guardian (UK) (review and use of material from book), The Cape Times (information on book), and The Star (information on book). The gay and lesbian media have also provided coverage of the book, including Exit, Wrapped and Mambaonline.co.za. Radio coverage included Radio 702 Metro FM broadcasts. SABC TV included an interview with Shaun de Waal on Morning Live.

### **3.2.1.2. Production of same-sex sangoma Nkunzi Nkabinde's autobiography**

In 2006 *GALA* again pursued the publication of a book based on her life aimed at the general public written by a same-sex sangoma, Nkunzi Nkabinde. Under the mentorship of Simon Zwane (Wits Writing Centre), Ms. Nkabinde wrote two chapters and a chapter outline of the book, which Jacana Media has expressed interest in publishing. However, work on the book was interrupted by the untimely death of Ms. Nkabinde's mentor Mr. Zwane who was murdered in Hillbrow (following on the death of Ms. Nkabinde's previous mentor Phaswane Mpe in 2004). Her resulting depression prevented her from continuing with the writing process. In October this year *GALA* staff members Anthony Manion and Ruth Morgan decided to interview her orally on a weekly basis as an alternative to Ms. Nkabinde writing her life story. The transcripts would form the basis of the book. The interviews will continue in 2007. Ms. Nkabinde will supplement the oral narrative with images and poems that she has written herself. Jacana is interested in publishing the book once it has been completed in 2008.

### **3.2.1.3 Distribution of the book "Balancing Act: South African Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out" by Joanne Bloch and Karen Martin:**

This book commissioned by *GALA* to both generate oral history interviews for our collections and to disseminate this information was published by New Africa Books in June 2005. We see this book as the start of an ongoing process of human rights education aimed at the youth of this country. *Balancing Act* has been specifically written to be used in schools and contains teaching notes relating to the area of Life Orientation. This book is a valuable resource for teachers. In 2006 *GALA* continued working to ensure that the book is used in schools.

#### *3.2.1.3.1 Dissemination*

Schools were resistant to buying and using this book due to high levels of homophobia amongst the general public. We therefore started to collaborate with OUT Wellbeing and the National Department of Education on a sensitisation pilot programme. We received a letter of endorsement for *Balancing Act* from the Director General for Education and provided input to a session for educators responsible for curriculum planning in life orientation from all provinces in early 2006. The Gauteng Department of Education were willing to embark on a series of sensitisation workshops for educational support staff and life orientation educators at a district level in Gauteng which includes the use and distribution of this book. The planning for 10 x 2-day workshops and the training of *GALA* and OUT facilitators was completed by OUT in the first six months of 2006. The workshops were conducted by *GALA* and OUT staff between July and October. *GALA* donated 200 copies of the book to be distributed at the workshops.

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

*GALA* has continued to distribute 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. Three hundred copies of the book were donated to CAL to distribute. Two hundred and twenty five of these books were distributed in 2006 at the following conferences and events:

- The Sexual Health conference in Nairobi in June
- The conference that formed part of the Gay Games in Montreal in October at which a presentation of the project by Donna Smith was included in a panel organised by co-author Saskia Wieringa.
- The national lesbian conference organized by the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) in Johannesburg in August
- The CAL conference in June to members from Botswana, Uganda and Namibia who were willing to take books back with them

The remainder of the books will be distributed in early 2007 at the World Social Forum in Nairobi in January and at the IRIN meeting in Dakar in February to explore creating a network of LGBTI information resources in Africa. Additionally one hundred copies of the book were distributed by the Ford Foundation in Nairobi to East African LGBT organisations as part of the East African Capacity Building Initiative in June.

### **3.2.1.5 WRAPPED magazine articles**

Six articles authored by *GALA* and showcasing the archives and its collections, were published in *Wrapped Magazine* in 2006. (see 3.5.3.2.2)

### **3.2.1.6 Production and Distribution of two educational comics**

(see 3.2.3.2)

### **3.2.2 *Continued publication of bi-annual newsletter***

*GALA* publishes and distributes a newsletter twice a year in order to make its holdings accessible to the public. *GALA* has published and distributed two print newsletters 'Coming Out Again' and 'Marching for Our Rights' in 2006. The first focused on *GALA*'s HIV and AIDS oral history project and commemorated the life of the late HIV-activist, Peter Busse. The second showcased *GALA*'s recent publication on the Johannesburg Pride parade. Newsletters are published on the *GALA* website as they become available. A PDF of the March newsletter was also emailed to people who had subscribed on the *GALA* website. The newsletters are also distributed to gay and lesbian organisations locally, and at community events.

### **3.2.3 *Using dramatic performance and educational comics to disseminate information on HIV based on oral history project***

#### **3.2.3.1 The play: Coming Out Again**

*GALA*, in collaboration with various directors, artists and media organisations, developed a community theatre production *Coming Out Again* to share the stories of

HIV+ people in the LGBTI community. The theatre production reflects the stories of real people and their experiences with HIV – coping with loved ones who are positive, staying negative, and life after learning one is HIV positive. Each event included a performance of approximately 45 minutes and a facilitated post-performance discussion of 30- 60 minutes in duration led by Jason Wessenaar of the Centre for the Study of AIDS. Each of the performances included South Africa Sign Language (SASL) interpretation, both for Deaf actor John Meletse, and for the audience. This project has been co-funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Conference Workshop Cultural Initiative Fund (CWCI) and the Foundation for Human Rights (FHR) and managed by Community Media for Development Productions (CMFD).

With the support of CWCI and FHR, *Coming Out Again* was presented for an additional 5 performances in 2006 during a national tour to Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Cape Town.

### **Human Rights Day Tour**

21 March 2006 City Hall Durban, KZN	Durban Gay and Lesbian Health Centre	Outside venue, mixed heterosexual and homosexual audience.	150 attended
22 March BAT Centre Durban, KZN	Durban Gay and Lesbian Health Centre	Mostly LGBTI audience.	80 attended
23 March 2006 Kismet Hotel Pietermaritzburg, KZN	Pietermaritzburg Gay and Lesbian Network	Mostly LGBTI audience. Class from Fulton School for the Deaf	150 attended
25 March 2006 On Broadway, 88 Shortmarket St Gugulethu Township	Out in Africa  Triangle project	Mostly LGBTI audience  LGBTI audience from townships	90 attended  20 attended

### **3.2.3.2 Educational Comics and Radio Programme**

#### *3.2.3.2.1 Eyes Wide Open*

A comic storybook was produced that reflects the stories and experiences of the gay and lesbian community. The LGBTI community has largely been left out of most development communication programmes in the country, and the comic book was designed to be a fun, informative media that reflects these stories and experiences. The comic booklet was developed based on the issues raised in the theatrical production, as well as additional issues and feedback raised during consultative workshops conducted by writer Andre Croucamp.

A storyline was developed which was tested with LGBTI organisations and members of the community. Once the storyline had been refined, it was then translated into graphic images and comic text, as well as two information pages. Following this step, the comic was further tested during two focus group sessions, and changes made to the storyline and language to reflect the feedback from this process.

35,000 copies were printed. Distribution is being done through a variety of organisations, prisons, schools museums and churches outlined below:

- 21 organisations who participate in the Joint Working Group;
- 10 workshops for psychological service educators that OUT and *GALA* conducted for the Gauteng Department of Education;
- The Kutama Sinthumule Maximum Security Prison and the Kutama Senthumule Maximum Security Prison in Louis Tichardt and the Johannesburg Medium B Prison (Sun City Prison);
- Requests from individual schools in Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Mafikeng responding to an advert in *The Teacher*;
- HIV organisations in Alice and the HIV/AIDS Perinatal Clinic at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital;
- The Apartheid Museum, Kwa Zulu Natal Museum, East London Museum, Conference on HIV and workshop at Constitution Hill.
- The Coalition for African Lesbians and the East African Capacity Building initiative

*3.2.3.2.2 Comic for Deaf audience: Are your rights Respected?* (see 3.1.3.3.2)

*3.2.3.2.3 Radio Programme*

The play was adapted for a radio programme which was produced by CMFD and sent to 20 community radio stations.

***3.2.4 Expanding access to distance users via the web: Providing InMagic search facilities via the web to distance users***

(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* has further developed the Queer Walking Tour of Hillbrow and Constitution Hill, and conducted 11 walking tours in the course of 2006. The walking tour is more flexible than the bus tour, and involves fewer costs. *GALA* conducted two bus Queer Tours in the course of 2006, including a tour for personnel in the heritage sector who are involved in public education.

The City of Johannesburg requested in 2005 that our Queer Tour become one of three specialised tours to be further developed and offered by the City. *GALA* agreed to partner with the City on this project and submitted the requested information to Ochre who is managing the process for the City. Following an evaluation of three accredited tour operators *GALA* identified 'Moretiwa Tours' as the best placed to coordinate the tour. *GALA* is waiting for the City to take this process forward.

The Queer Johannesburg Tour is listed in the Johannesburg Pink Map, as well as numerous travel guides.

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

The planned documentary with New York based Sandi Dubowski to make an in-depth film about same sex sangomas in Africa will not take place as Sandi Dubowski has withdrawn from the project.

Instead *GALA* is raising funds for a documentary *Talking About Us*. 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 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**

Work on the traveling exhibition *Balancing Act: South African Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out* (based on the book) was completed in 2006. The exhibition promotes tolerance for difference, and is framed around the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Constitution. The exhibition was curated in partnership with The Apartheid Museum and draws on a previous, smaller exhibition that *GALA* held at Constitution Hill in 2005 around the launch of the book. However the original exhibition has been substantially expanded and re-imagined. It now includes a panel dealing with a hate crime against a young lesbian who was murdered in Khayelitsha just before the exhibition was launched in February.

The new exhibition was successfully launched at the Apartheid Museum on February 14<sup>th</sup> (Valentines' Day) 2006 and Prof. Mary Metcalfe addressed approximately 100 guests. The exhibition was at the Apartheid Museum until the end of July 2006. During this time it was viewed by over 8000 school goers and countless other visitors to the museum. *GALA* assisted in training the museum guides on how to use and explain the exhibition. *GALA* also arranged for two interns from the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) to interface with the public in the exhibition space – part of a skills development programme.

Following its six-month run at the Apartheid Museum, the exhibition traveled to the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg from August to the end of October 2006. *GALA* collaborated with the LGBT network in Pietermaritzburg who co-hosted the exhibition at the Natal Museum. The Pietermaritzburg launch received positive media coverage. The exhibition is currently at the East London Museum, East London until March 2007.

The experience of having the exhibition at these different venues has emphasised the importance of working 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. While the Apartheid Museum worked directly with their own guides with input from *GALA*, it was necessary for *GALA* to develop a workshop for museum staff at the Pietermaritzburg and East London museums. The workshop in Pietermaritzburg was co-facilitated by the Durban Gay and Lesbian Community and Health Centre.

The exhibition includes interactive components that enable visitors to write responses to the exhibition. The range and number of these responses indicate that school goers and the broader public are engaging with the exhibition in a meaningful way. Although the response from learners is still often one of intolerance and prejudice, this may be slowly changing in urban areas. To our surprise the majority of the responses from school goers were overwhelmingly positive:

*If we can't respect our people it will be apartheid again so let us respect and appreciate diversity in our country. (black female learner responding to exhibition)*

One of the few negative responses identified was written to one of the youth participating in the exhibition and was informed by a strong religious conviction:

*Alex why cant you be just like anyone, by that I mean you are wrong!! The Lord cannot make a mistake. From someone you don't deserve to know.*

Religious arguments against homosexuality are still deeply entrenched and are the most difficult to change.

[Pics deleted for email version]

Prof. Mary Metcalfe, head of Wits School of Education (left) was the keynote speaker at the launch of the exhibition 'Balancing Act' at the Apartheid Museum on 14 February 2006. She is pictured here with *GALA* director Ruth Morgan (right).

John Meletse (left) and Azania Maseko are two of the courageous youth whose stories are told in the exhibition 'Balancing Act'. They are pictured at the launch of the exhibition on 14 February 2006.

### **3.2.7.2 Deaf comic exhibition: Are your rights respected?**

An exhibition featuring the original pastel drawings by internationally acclaimed Deaf artist Tommy Motswai for the educational comic *Are your rights respected?* was co-curated by *GALA* and the Adler Museum. The exhibition was launched just before the International Week for Deaf People 4-10 September. *GALA* patron Mr Justice Edwin Cameron was the guest speaker at the launch.

In addition Mr Tommy Motswai and Mr John Meletse gave short presentations. The launch was attended by approximately 50 people. The exhibition was hosted by the Adler Museum for three months.

### **3.2.7.3. Pride Protest and celebration exhibition**

*GALA* also curated a small exhibition based on the book *Pride, Protest and Celebration* which was featured at Constitution Hill following the launch of the book from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

In 2006 the library celebrated 21 years of existence. This resource now has over 4000 books and 500 videos. The opening of the library during office hours was discontinued as the *GALA* staff could not cope with monitoring the library, and it is now open on a Thursday afternoon when it is staffed by two Activate student volunteers. It continues to be open on Saturday afternoons which is the busiest time. The lending library continues to be used by readers and researchers and its membership continually grows. There is now an involved membership in the region of 350 members - approximately 50 people a week visit the library which provides a safe supportive community space. The library hosted a reading around the launch of *Pride, Protest and Celebration* as well as other cultural events for their members during the year. The library has a regular e-newsletter which is posted to members without access to email.

The library has made an arrangement with the Wits gay student organization, Activate, that their members may join the library with the joining fee waived to encourage use of the facilities. Several members have joined. The library has been able to purchase 165 new books (including donations) in 2006 and recently received a large donation of books - mostly duplicates - which has been used to replace books that are no longer in good condition. The balance was donated to other smaller organisations as part of the library outreach.

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

Almost all projects fall under this function. The *Records Management for Humanity project* for Africa has a regional focus (see 3.4.1) as has the distribution of Tommy boys, lesbian men and ancestral wives: female same sex practices in Africa by the Coalition of African Lesbians and the East African Capacity Building Initiative (see 3.2.1.4). The educational HIV focused comic *Eyes Wide Open* has also been distributed by CAL and the East African Capacity Building Initiative to LGBTI NGOs in East Africa (see 3.2.3.2.1).

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

Mainstream archives and museums that *GALA* has approached have indicated that they do not have LGBTI holdings and are uncertain how such material should be contextualised. For these reasons the focus of the project has shifted to preparing travelling exhibitions and identifying mainstream museums and community spaces to host the exhibitions and providing these institutions with training on how to promote and explain the exhibition to the public (see 3.2.7.).

At the same time *GALA* continues to try and work with museums to include LGBTI content in their permanent installations. In July 2006 *GALA* submitted a proposal to

the Apartheid Museum proposing *GALA* material be included in permanent exhibitions in the Museum. *GALA* argued that homosexuality provided a prism through which visitors to the museum can view colonialism, apartheid and democracy. The Apartheid Museum has invited *GALA* to participate in the development of a new installation at the Museum in 2007/08 with a focus on the constitution.

Both Constitution Hill and the Apartheid Museum are interested in hosting temporary exhibitions curated by *GALA*. Towards the end of 2006 *GALA* negotiated that a joint exhibition on same-sex marriage (civil unions) following the passing of the Civil Union Act will be undertaken by Trace, Constitution Hill and *GALA* in 2007.

*GALA* continues to interact with museums and archives through conferences, including presenting at the Memory, Heritage and Public Interest conference organised by the South African History Archive (SAHA). The presentation focused on *GALA*'s approach to oral histories and their dissemination. *GALA* also took a special interest group that meets on heritage and education issues for the Queer Johannesburg Tour.

### ***3.3.2 Implementing focused multi media communication and visibility strategy to ensure information in archive is disseminated to the general public***

*GALA* has not been able to develop a multi media communication and visibility strategy yet due to lack of capacity in this regard. We did not receive funds from the Lottery for a communication specialist but are appealing this decision. In the meantime, we have worked with Deborah Walters from CMFD, the Wits Media office, and the institutions which have hosted our launches and exhibitions to publicise as widely as possible our publications, play, launches, comics and exhibitions.

The monthly gay and lesbian lifestyle magazine, *Wrapped*, has provided *GALA* with space in its pages to include articles that showcase *GALA* collections. *GALA* has had six articles published in *Wrapped* in 2006 under the general heading "From the archives" (see 3.5.2 - *GALA* publications). We are in the process of developing a communications strategy for 2007.

## **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* aims to encourage and support LGBTI organisations in Africa to establish simple, ongoing records keeping systems that will:

- Support the capacity, sustainability and effectiveness of LGBTI organisations and make it possible for organisations to improve on project or service delivery, while meeting the accountability requirements of funders and the communities they operate in;

- Reduce the vulnerability of LGBTI organisations operating in areas still experiencing forms of repression by assisting such organisations to develop a strategy that will facilitate quick identification and retrieval of records containing politically or financially sensitive information or records that contain information about individuals that may compromise their safety and their immediate and effective destruction or rapid evacuation (grab-and-go!) should a threatening situation arise.
- Strengthen democratic endeavours by enabling LGBTI organisations to document and preserve their records relating to development, humanitarian or justice work.

For this purpose *GALA* developed a manual and workshop on archives and records management called *Filing for our Lives*. This resource continues to be provided to those LGBTI organisations in Africa that request it. The first focus group workshop was piloted with Behind the Mask in December 2006 as part of a larger project where *GALA* has started to create an archive of BTM records at their office; archive their pan-African records at *GALA*; provide assistance with their records keeping system; and provide some training to BTM staff on records keeping and archiving. This project will continue in 2007.

*GALA* has approached Ford East Africa regarding a proposal for a pilot project of "Records Management for Humanity Project" in East Africa and will also approach the Swedish Embassy in South Africa in 2007. The International Records Management Trust (IRMT) expressed interest in a possible partnership.

### ***3.4.2 Further training for the Coalition for African Lesbians***

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. A role was identified for *GALA* where we provide training for their organizations in terms of records management, archiving and research methods, and assist their organizations in building links with mainstream institutions. This was further affirmed at the Coalition for African Lesbians conference in Johannesburg in June 2006, where *GALA* presented on archiving and records keeping followed by a discussion.

## **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.***

This year marked the final stage in the Gays in the Apartheid Military Project which has been conducted jointly by a researcher contracted by *GALA* and SAHA's Promotion of Access to Information Programme. In 2006 the research was finalised at the Department of Defence Documentation Centre. During the reporting period the researcher and the South African History Archive (SAHA) held numerous meetings with the Department to discuss concerns regarding requests and facilitate constructive engagement. The researcher wrote a chapter about the significance of and barriers to

accessing information in relation to gays in the Apartheid Military for their publication examining access to information in South Africa. A draft of the chapter was completed by the end of 2006.

### ***3.5.2 Research report on media knowledge, attitudes and practice on LGBTI issues and stories***

2006 also saw the release of the research report “Out in the Media? Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of the Media towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues and Stories”. The report was compiled for *GALA* by Community Media for development (CMFD) and funded by the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA). The research was undertaken with the goal of finding out the issues, gaps and possible solutions related to reporting on LGBTI issues. It also aimed to provide recommendations for effective strategies. The report concluded that work needs to be done in building the quantity and quality of reporting in the media on LGBTI issues. It felt that opportunities exist for working with the media and journalists to create good media. It recommended mobilizing the LGBT sector to create advocacy campaigns that seek to make homophobic coverage as unacceptable as racist coverage.

### ***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**

Marius Coetzee (*GALA* project manager) was invited to give a presentation at the *Association for Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA)* conference in San Antonio, USA in October. The title of his presentation was “Records management for humanity” and focused on *GALA*’s endeavours to promote records keeping amongst grassroots LGBTI organisations. His paper and workshop were well received and ARMA requested him afterwards to give input to their analysis of the records and information management profession.

Anthony Manion (*GALA* archivist) presented at the *Memory, Heritage and Public Interest* conference organised by the South African History Archive (SAHA). The *GALA* oral history presentation focused on *GALA*’s approach to oral histories and their dissemination. The presentation was well received.

*GALA* was invited to participate in the HSRC conference *Gender-Based Violence, Black Lesbians, Hate Speech and Homophobia* for 16 Days of Activism for no Violence against Women and Children Campaign. *GALA* director Ruth Morgan and Busi Kheswa gave a presentation in a panel discussion: *Lesbian Violence in SA: A case study of experiences and reflection*.

*GALA* staff member Busi Kheswa’s digital story “I have listened, I have heard” was produced as part of a WomensNet digital story project: Digital Stories for Transformation focusing on violence against women including lesbians. Her digital story was screened at:

- The opening of the Forum for the Empowerment of Women’s (FEW) National Lesbian Conference around Women's Day in August,

- The *GALA* presentation at the Memory, Heritage and Public Interest workshop organised by the South African History Archive (SAHA) - (see above).
- The HSRC conference for 16 Days of Activism (see above).

*GALA* staff member Mr Meletse has given numerous talks to Deaf and hearing audiences and at schools for Deaf learners about being Deaf, gay and HIV+ over the past year. These include:

- Disabled People South Africa Bi-Annual National Assembly as part of their Candle Light Memorial Service for Fallen Disabled People Due to HIV and AIDS;
- The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DEAFSA) HIV conference for their development workers from 9 provinces;
- World Aids Day at the Southern Gauteng DEAFSA office;
- The AIDS Consortium meeting during youth month;
- DEAFSA Gauteng Province HIV/AIDS workshop;
- HIV/AIDS workshop at the Tshwane Deaf Association;
- Sizwile School for the Deaf HIV input;
- HIV/AIDS consultation between provincial government and people with disabilities;
- St Vincents School for the Deaf HIV input

### 3.5.3.2 *GALA Publications*

#### 3.5.3.2.1 *Books*

Shaun de Waal and Anthony Manion (eds.). 2006. *Pride: Protest and Celebration*, Fanele.

#### 3.5.3.2.2 *Articles*

Melanie Judge and Ruth Morgan. 2006 *Teachers Never Intervened – homophobia in South African schools. Gender Links Homophobia in schools*

John Meletse with Ruth Morgan. 2006 *“I have two! ”: Personal reflections of a Deaf HIV positive gay man in South Africa*. In: HIV/AIDS and Deaf Communities. Eds. Constanze Schmaling and Leila Monaghan. Special edition *Deaf Worlds Journal*, April 2006, Forest Books Ltd.

Anthony Manion and Ruth Morgan. 2006. *The Gay and Lesbian Archives: documenting same-sexuality in an African context*. *AGENDA*, Issue 67.

Nkunzi Nkabinde and Ruth Morgan. 2006. *‘This has happened since ancient times...its something that you are born with’: ancestral wives amongst same-sex sangomas in South Africa*. *AGENDA*, Issue 67.

Nkunzi Nkabinde and Ruth Morgan *A Wife for Zodwa’s Ancestors” and “Hazel’s Story* in “Sometimes X, Sometimes Y, Always Me”, E-publication, Joint Working Group, 2006.

Nkunzi Nkabinde with Ruth Morgan. In Press. Unyankwabe: A wife for Zodwa's Ancestors. Pending publication in a book provisionally titled: *Homosexualities in Africa: a history*. Edited by Marc Epprecht. Weaver Press, Harare.

The following articles, authored by *GALA* and showcasing the archives and its collections, were published in *Wrapped Magazine* in 2006:

*Balancing Act: Gay and Lesbian Youth Speak Out* (April 2006)

*Gays in the military* (June 2006)

*Queer Johannesburg: From the Second World War to the Swinging Sixties* (August 2006)

*Without queer history there can be no queer pride* (September 2006)

*Simon Tseko Nkoli – Out for Freedom* (November 2006)

*The Fine Art of Evasion* (December/Jan 06-07)

#### **4. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**