



GALA QUEER ARCHIVE

2022 Annual Report



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1. ABOUT US

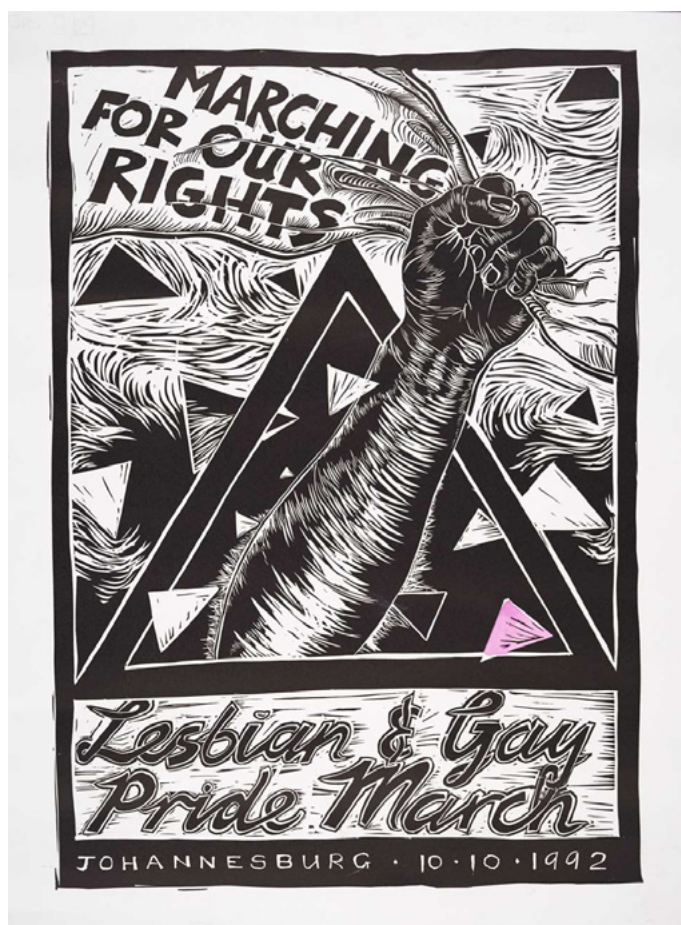
An Introduction to the GALA Queer Archive

Founded as an archive in 1997, the GALA Queer Archive (GALA) is a catalyst for the production, preservation, and dissemination of information about the history, culture and contemporary experiences of LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) people in Africa.

GALA was established in Johannesburg as a response to the continued erasure and omission of LGBTQIA+ history from official museums and archives, even in the wave of new histories and heritage being celebrated and emphasised in post-apartheid 1990s South Africa.

As an archive founded on principles of social justice and human rights, GALA continues to work towards a greater awareness about the lives and experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in Africa. Thus, GALA's main focus is to preserve and nurture LGBTQIA+ narratives and culture, as well as promote social equality, inclusive education, and youth development. Today GALA is the custodian of over 200 organisational and personal archival collections dating back to the 1940s, with archival responsibilities that include the safe storage of historical documents and objects and ensuring that this material is accessible to the public. GALA also actively adds to the archive by collecting historical material to add to existing collections or starting new collections by recording contemporary experiences.

The GALA Queer Archive's work addresses the ongoing stigmatisation, violence, and exclusion that LGBTQIA+ persons face in Africa through archival initiatives that have social justice impact. Our primary focus is to preserve and nurture LGBTQIA+ narratives, to promote social equality, inclusive education and youth development. Our archive has recently



Pride Poster. Johannesburg, 1992. Pride Collection (GAL0031), GALA Queer Archive, Johannesburg, South Africa

shifted focus towards the prioritisation of LGBTQIA+ stories that remain under-represented and underappreciated and serves as a support structure to grassroots organisations working with communities on the periphery of society. GALA's work aims to foster movement building by foregrounding the narratives of those most marginalised in society through storytelling, education, advocacy and solidarity action. GALA challenges the narrative that queerness or homosexuality is "unAfrican" by foregrounding the voices of black and African LGBTQIA+ stories, to shift perceptions around gender and sexuality diversity. GALA honours legacies of queer Africans and implements programmes through a human rights lens.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Queer Archive: A site of Remembrance and New Beginnings

Queer Archives keep the memories of our community safe throughout the years, acting as a site of remembrance and a time capsule of sorts, whilst simultaneously offering infinite possibilities for storytelling and contemporary queer expression. 2022 was a successful and productive year for GALA that saw many losses and many new beginnings.

As an introduction to the year in summary, I reflect on the importance of grief and loss in our work as a queer archive.

"Death lives with us every day. Indeed our ways of dying are our ways of living. Or should I say our ways of living are our ways of dying?"

- Zakes Mda, Ways of Dying.

Loss and grief are amongst the world's most universal experiences, finding expression in all languages, cultures and religions. South Africa is a land where we are well-versed in the language of loss and history bears witness to the remarkable ways in which we have sought to survive in spite of the innumerable losses that weigh heavily on our collective memory.

The inevitability of death is intrinsic to life on this planet and yet the pain that results from the loss of a loved one can at times feel utterly unbearable. Death also offers us the opportunity to reflect, celebrate and honour the lives of those that are no longer a part of this mortal world. In expressing our grief and gratitude, we share stories that keep the memory of our loved ones alive. We hold on to mementos such as items of clothing, jewellery, photographs, videos and voice notes in remembrance of those who have departed. Grief and loss can at times feel lonely and alienating. The rituals performed at funerals, memorials, burials, cremations and after tears have long existed to bid farewell to the dead, but also to provide us with a sense of togetherness, lightening the burden of grief. The archive is a site of death, memory, and remembrance. We look to the notes and boxes in the archive as a way of making sense of our grief, loss and belonging. The voices of our queer ancestors resonate throughout the archive sharing their pain and joy, reminding us that our history endures and bears remembering. In this edition of the GALA Times, we seek to reignite the flames of memory of those once again whom we have loved and revered.

It is within these flames of remembrance that I wish to reflect on the remarkable legacy Professor Finn Reygan, a dedicated and committed member of the House of GALA who passed away in August 2022. At the time of his passing, Finn was the Research Director and Acting Strategic Lead: Identity and Belonging in the Human and Social Capabilities Division at the Human Sciences Research Council and Extraordinary Associate Professor in Educational Psychology at the University of the Western Cape.

Finn's work reminds us that there are infinite possibilities in youth work and education, and he left a legacy behind that will be honoured in the work of many activists and scholars, for

many years to come. This leads me to reflect on our movement as a queer community in South Africa, and why we hold on to legacy to guide us forward. I think about GALA and our organisational history throughout the years, and why change is so important and such a necessary aspect of progress.

In 2022, GALA welcomed our new intern Bonke Sonjani, who participated in a robust programme structured around knowledge and skills sharing, with a particular focus on archival practice. We also bid farewell to Programmes Coordinator Genevieve Louw in 2022. Genevieve's contribution to GALA during their tenure as Programme's Coordinator has left an indelible mark on GALA's youth programme. In October, we welcomed, with great enthusiasm and excitement, GALA's new Programmes Coordinator Kgomotso Kgasi. The GALA YOUTH Forum continues to flourish under the capable and inspiring leadership of our new YOUTH Forum Coordinator, Obvious Nomaee. In 2022, GALA's youth focused programming brought zest and warmth to the organisation.

I am so pleased to reflect on all the amazing projects and achievements that GALA has attained and completed in 2022.

In June 2022, Senior Information Officer Karin Tan and I were also invited to Oslo and Bergen in Norway by our partners SAIH - Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpfond to celebrate 50 years of decriminalisation of the sodomy laws in Norway. In August, Archives Coordinator Linda Chernis presented at a conference hosted by Aalborg University, Copenhagen,

Denmark. She presented on her paper titled Preservation, Privacy and Access: Diving into Digital which looks at GALA's digitisation journey with GALE and beyond: the experience of a relatively small, queer archive undergoing a largescale digitisation project for the first time, the challenges, benefits and impacts. In October, in partnership with Exeter University and Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER), we hosted the Sex and Publics Conference at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre. GALA also launched two publications in 2022 namely, *Lesser Violence, Volume 1* and *Courage to Share, Queer Activism in Africa, Volume 2*.

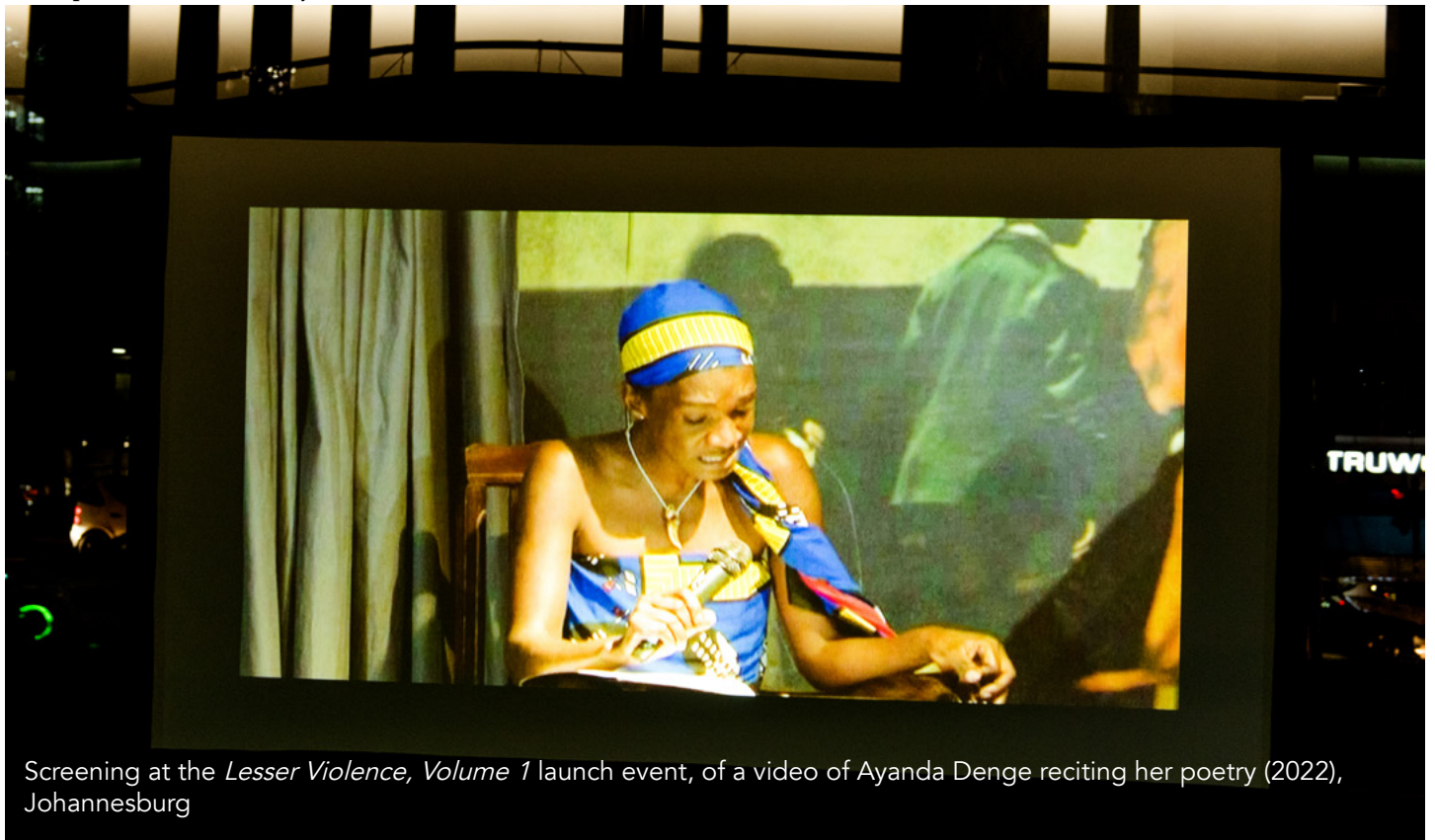
It's also exciting to announce that GALA's trusted office administrator Nobantu Nqolobe has been promoted to Senior Administration Officer. I'm deeply grateful to the GALA team for the dedication, eagerness, kindness, and care shown over this year. I would also like to thank all those that have contributed, collaborated, and participated in our work in 2022. As our team is small, it is because of a collective dedication to LGBTIQ+ culture and history in South Africa and beyond, that we are able to see GALA's work continue to thrive.

Keval Harie

Executive Director of the GALA Queer Archive

3. PROGRAMMES

GALA's work is structured around four main streams of programming, namely our Archive Programme, Culture Programme, Education Programme and Youth Engagement Programme. Our programmatic work is implemented by the GALA team and several consultants throughout the year, and we collaborate frequently with various organisations, activists, and experts to ensure that these programmes are implemented successfully.



Screening at the *Lesser Violence, Volume 1* launch event, of a video of Ayanda Denge reciting her poetry (2022), Johannesburg

3.1 Overview of Programmatic work in 2022

2022 has been a successful and productive year for GALA. It is notable that there has been an increase in in-person programming as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions being lifted, and a sense of normalcy returned to the programmatic work. This year GALA focused on our education programme during the first half of the year, and placed our energy into recruitment of new staff and internship development towards the end of the year.

With the easing of Covid-19 and travel restrictions, we have continued to see an increase in researchers to the archive, particularly in-person, as well as extended/repeat research visits, and researchers coming from abroad/out of town. There was a total of 79 researchers that worked with our archive in 2022. More than half of these were in person, which is a large increase from last year's total of just under 30%. A number of these were repeat/extended stay researchers. 85 collections were accessed by researchers this year. An exciting increase has also occurred in the number of different collections accessed, with researchers requesting and engaging with a wide range of collections, including a number that are seldom requested.

In our education programme, we noted an increase in in-person training initiatives and approximately 400 participants consisting of university students, staff members and LGBTQIA+ activists

attended our workshops this year. We do however recognise the serious impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has made on our community, especially LGBTQIA+ persons who have disabilities, immunocompromised persons, and persons with pre-existing health conditions. We note that it is important to continue to keep the health and safety of our community in mind when we host and participate in in-person events.

Preserving historical and contemporary material related to LGBTQIA+ rights in South/Southern Africa in a public archive. This work has consisted mainly of collecting, cataloguing, maintaining, and increasing the process of digitising the archive.

Activating the archive for expanded contemporary research, education, and training on rights and equality, through the GALA newsletter and social media engagements, GALA's tertiary education programmes, GALA's publications, and participating/supporting online events and initiatives.

Sharing the archive through support for partner organizations that advocate social justice and equality, particularly in relation to the public outcry against hate crimes experienced by the queer community in South Africa this year.

3.2 Archive Programme:

3.2.1. About the Archive:

GALA's archive programme, led and managed by our archivist consists out of several archival processes (cataloguing, sorting, preservation, donations) and activities (interviews, transcription, transcribing) that are implemented concurrently throughout the year, to ensure the functionality and sustainability of this important and unique resource. The archive is accessed by researchers, students, activists and numerous members of the public on a regular basis, and this entails the management of collections that are stored off-site. The archivist is responsible for communicating with researchers about their interests and requests related to the archive catalogue and can order physical collections from our archival storage facility, based on appointment. GALA is located on the 7th floor of the University Corner building at Wits University in Johannesburg and has a small public library that is often used to accommodate researchers that want to access the archival collections in-person. GALA's ongoing digitisation process allows researchers to access certain collections online, and this has increased our global reach. The archivist also engages in ongoing collection, cataloguing and recording processes with the assistance from interns and volunteers, to continue preserving the contemporary experiences and stories of LGBTIQ communities in South Africa, and the region. GALA's archive consists out of numerous collections that are not only limited to paperwork filed in archival boxes, but also includes personal objects, films, letters, posters, photographs, artworks, costumes, banners, T-Shirts and numerous memorabilia that represents the LGBTIQ movement in South Africa and the region, in complex and fascinating ways. GALA's archivist is therefore also responsible for sharing collections with the public, in the form of exhibitions, online engagements, conference presentations and collaborative projects.

3.2.2 Archive Projects:

Donations and Additions to the Archive:

New Collections - We are pleased to have received numerous new donations this year that continue to add to the collections in the archive. Daniel Conway, academic and photographer's collection includes his writing on masculinity and queerness in the apartheid military as well as the politics of pride. It also includes images and other material from his

recent photo exhibition on Soweto Pride. Carla de Bouchet, a prominent activist in South Africa and one of the organisers of People's Pride donated People's Pride t-shirts. Gabriel Hussein Khan, activist, academic and former GALA staff member donated some personal items, and we also created a collection of interviews from the Scaffold website started by Gary Hartley. These new collections are representative of the contemporary project of the archive, that encourages members of the public to donate to GALA on an ongoing basis.

Additions to existing collections: - GALA continues to gather materials donated by organisations such as Iranti, Intersex South Africa and Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW), among others, to add to collections that document important achievements and organisational developments in South African queer civil society. In addition, we received material from Gavin Hayward, long serving former editor of Exit Magazine, placards from Soweto Pride 2022, and materials to add to our ongoing collection focused on LGBTQIA+ programming and research at the University of Witwatersrand.

Intimate Archives: Queer Histories of Luanda, Angola: The goal of this collaborative engaged research project was to contribute to the recovery and documentation of queer lives and subjectivities in Luanda, the capital city of Angola. Undertaken from October to July of 2022 under strenuous circumstances – such as many types of constraints posed by the COVID-19 pandemic – the project has collected eleven in-depth oral history interviews with members of the LGBTQIA+ community living in Luanda, in addition to several shorter interviews conducted with activists from several organizations working on queer visibility and rights. Within the scope of this project, two research visits were carried to Lisbon, for research in Portuguese archives and libraries, where a wealth of information was amassed on queer pasts, from the early modern to the late colonial period. A fieldwork period was also spent in Luanda, where data was gathered mostly pertaining to the post-colonial period, including written, video and photographic materials produced or archived by local queer organizations over the last decade. Finally, the project has also included an artist or arts-based component, by commissioning a series of portraits and photographs with the participants of the project. As a result, this project successfully built, in close collaboration with partners organizations, an archival collection for Queer Luanda. This project was implemented by Caio Simões de Araújo (Wits University) in collaboration with Linda Chernis, GALA's archivist.

3.3 Arts and Culture Programme:

3.3.1 About GALA's Arts and Culture Programme:

In a broad sense, GALA's cultural production programme refers to the generation of collective meaning-making and storytelling through artistic and media related processes. Alongside exhibition-making, resource development, media and design, an important aspect of our cultural production programme involves our publications. Many of GALA's publications are published under our publishing imprint, MaThoko's Books. Launched in 2011, the imprint aims to be a corrective to the limited publishing support for queer writing in Africa and to act as a springboard for emerging and marginalised voices. It also provides a much-needed publishing outlet for scholarly works on LGBTQIA+ related themes. MaThoko's Books was founded on a belief that the sharing of stories can help to challenge homophobia and transphobia. The imprint is committed to publishing high quality writing that not only helps to educate the public about sexuality and gender identity, but that also promotes human rights on the African continent.

In addition to our publishing imprint, GALA also collaborates with various organisations, and we support artists, writers, and activists to produce collaborative publications, artworks and cultural media that can incorporate illustration, poetry, visual artwork, photography, film, and design to tell queer African stories. GALA has produced and designed training manuals, posters, exhibition catalogues and social media materials to broaden our public reach, and we continue to support projects that use literary, visual, archival, and artistic media in creative ways, to activate the archive. To make the archive accessible beyond the confines of physical space, GALA has started to focus on the importance of online media development and dissemination, and we produce a quarterly newsletter, continue to update and add to our website, and develop materials for social media that increases public engagement with our archival, cultural and educational programming.

3.3.2 Cultural, Collaborative and Media Projects:

Intimacies/Intimations: Archival Fragments from Angola and Mozambique: As part of the Sex & Publics Conference, in collaboration with Caio Simões de Araújo, GALA curated and developed a small exhibition of GALA's two Lusophone collections. These collections are ongoing projects with Caio, who has been conducting oral history interviews with queer activists and artists in Maputo, Mozambique and Luanda, Angola. The exhibition was showcased from the 20th of October to the 18th of November 2022 at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre. As the conference was being organised by Caio (along with Emily Bridger from Exeter University), we thought it would be fitting to have Caio work with us on putting together an exhibition of photographs from *Outros Corpos Nossos* (a past photo book published by MaThoko's Books) and

a new series of photographic portraits of the activists and artists from Angola. The exhibition also features photographs by Ditte Haarlov Johnsen's Maputo Diary series that were also exhibited in Sex & Secrecy Conference at WITS in 2003. Other ephemera in the collections (such as posters, organisational material, pamphlets, interviews etc) are also on display in the exhibition.

Kewpie Exhibition in Oslo, Norway: SAIH, one of GALA's primary funders, approached GALA to develop an exhibition of photographs from the Kewpie Photographic Collection in collaboration with the Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway. This coincided with Norway's Queer Culture Year (2022), which celebrates 50 years of decriminalisation of homosexuality in Norway. The exhibition opened on the 9th of November 2022, and ran for about two weeks. It also coincided with The Art of Drag, the first course on drag culture in Scandinavia. The exhibition informed the course content and argued for a decentralised, non-western focussed development and practice of queer performance in history.

Lesser Violence - Volume 1: A collection of essays and creative non-fiction exploring responses to gendered and sexualised violence in South Africa, from a variety of artistic and intellectual perspectives. This publication is informed by a reading group that started in 2018, dealing with issues pertaining to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the arts sector in South Africa. This publication has contributions from 6 participants from the reading group (Saarah Jappie, Gabrielle Goliath, Donna Kukama, B Camminga, Nondumiso Msimanga, M. Neelika Jayawardane), the project conveners (Amie Soudien, James McDonald, Keval Harie) and a transcribed poem by the late transgender activist, Ayanda Denge. The publication is predominantly focused on artistic and academic responses to SGBV in South Africa and is indicative of the intersections between issues surrounding LGBTQIA+ people and SGBV. The approach of care and mindfulness the reading group was founded on has been carried throughout the process of developing the publication.

Courage to Share - Queer Activism in Africa, Volume 2: Taboom Media and GALA Queer Archive are proud to launch *Courage To Share* this year. This is the second volume in our Queer Activism in Africa anthology series. In *Courage to Share*, 28 human rights defenders from across the continent share their origin stories and activist journeys. These intimate testimonies of strength and vulnerability, all available in both English and French, document and elevate our collective fight for LGBTQIA+ equality. Queer and ally artists bring each story to life with original illustrations that depict the hardships and triumphs of our collective movement. The result is a powerful anthology of resistance, resilience, and recognition. Like its predecessor *Hopes and Dreams That Sound Like Yours* (2021), *Courage to Share* emerged from a new Media Advocacy for LGBTQI+ Equality workshop Taboom Media hosted in February 2022 with activists from 20+ countries.

3.4 Education Programme:

3.4.1 Introduction to GALA's Education Programme:

As a queer archive and anchor organisation in the LGBTQIA+ sector in South Africa, GALA's educational programming is a central aspect of our ongoing mission to activate the archive, and to share much-needed resources with the public related to gender, sex and sexuality diversity. GALA has historically implemented educational programmes that engage in secondary school training, curriculum development, policy development, disability rights, youth development and tertiary education training programmes with students and staff. As a result of the generous support of our long-standing funder, SAIH (Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund), our education programme is predominantly focused on institutions of higher learning, and involves ongoing partnerships with universities across the country in relation to their LGBTQIA+ programming. GALA supports LGBTQIA+ student organisations, and our education programme is also geared toward capacity building for queer youth. We work with transformation units, research centres and gender equity units to assist universities with their training initiatives. GALA's programmes coordinator is responsible for the facilitation and implementation of the organisation's educational programming. This involves working with community based LGBTQIA+ organisations, activists, and expert consultants to conduct training programmes and initiatives aimed at broadening perspectives around SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics). In addition to the work conducted at universities across the country, GALA also engages in collaborative projects geared toward social justice and educating the broader public around LGBTQIA+ rights. The overall objective of the education programme is to address discrimination, violence and exclusion faced by LGBTQIA+ communities in South Africa, and to sensitise communities in through collaborative, participatory and empathy-building activities such as workshops, research, public dialogues, and educational resource development and dissemination.

3.4.2. Collaborative and Educational Projects

Drag Us to the Ball: exploring drag and ballroom culture in South Africa: Drag Us to the Ball was a 2-hour interactive lecture and dialogue that was presented by GALA on the 20th of May 2022, with Cheshire V and Lindy Lee Prince. The lecture focused on drag and ball culture in South Africa, to present to students from both University of the Western Cape (UWC) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), in collaboration with the Gender Equity Unit at UWC. To set the tone of the event, Lindy Lee referred to their Masters and Doctoral research to draw out a historical narrative of how drag arrives in South Africa, namely in the Western Cape, and how it

grows into its own, distinctly queer, communal activity. Following this, Cheshire V presented a discussion, drawing from their experiences performing in, and organising balls, emphasizing the queerness of the space, and the how ball culture has grown alongside the experiences and intersections of class and race, namely the experiences of working-class people of colour. Finally, their presentation ended off with a vogue performance and finished off by teaching those in attendance how to pose by marking their beats to music.

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Training Programme: On the 10th and 11th of May 2022 GALA facilitated an intensive SOGIESC training programme at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in the Eastern Cape Province. The workshops introduced SOGIESC and probed institutional culture of NMMU around inclusive safe spaces. GALA and the Transformation Office of NMU organized and hosted the workshops and training toward introducing inclusive and gender diverse thinking in the university culture. Genevieve Louw of GALA, Siya Hlongwa, trans activist and Jane Madingwane of FEW facilitated the programme with the support of the NMMU Transformation Office's Vuyo Ncofe. The training programme stimulated discussion on existing gaps towards inclusive and diversity culture in universities for the students while also connecting the queer community (promoting community building). Staff participants in the workshops and screening expressed thanks for the much-needed SOGIESC training. From the enthusiastic interest and supportive attitude of the staff participants the rest of the university would benefit from an organized inclusivity and gender diversity program with the help of GALA to continue the work of breaking stereotypes and promoting unity and understanding in the university community. The broad Eastern Cape community emerged as conservative around queer issues with some pockets fostering hate toward the queer community which raised concern in the training. There is a real need for a more awareness and training for both the university and the broader community.

Disability and Sexuality Training Programme with Social Workers: On the 13th of May 2022, GALA facilitated a training programme called Broadening Perspectives: Let's talk about gender, sexual diversity and disability through an Intersectional lens with social workers at Avalon Home in Kensington, Johannesburg. The training programme was facilitated by Genevieve Louw from GALA, and Thato Mphuti, the director of an organisation focused on disability rights called Enabling Enlightenment. The training focused on terminology associated with Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC), and unpacking homophobia and transphobia and how this impacts the lives of LGBTQIA+ persons in South Africa daily. The training opened discussions around disability models as a foundation of how we view, and interact with disability and persons with disabilities, and the facilitators offered tools of support to beneficiaries who form part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

3.5. GALA's Youth Empowerment Programme

3.5.1. Foregrounding Youth Voices: Introduction to GALA's Youth Empowerment Programme

Despite having one of the most progressive constitutions in the world, that protects the rights of all persons regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, LGBTQIA+ youth frequently experience discrimination and violence related to homophobia and transphobia in South Africa. Although the country has seen a rise in youth activism in recent years, youth participation is not visible in policies that concern their livelihoods, especially in relation to skills development and access to employment. This reveals an ever pressing need to support young, Black, and queer people who are economically disenfranchised because of their gender identities, sexualities, and backgrounds. GALA therefore recognises the need to foreground the voices in our programmes, we aim to prioritise youth centred projects that empower young people in South Africa and offer opportunities for holistic and professional growth and development.

GALA's Youth Empowerment Programme is implemented through the GALA Internship Programme, and the GALA Youth Forum. The Internship Programme is a dynamic opportunity that offers upskilling and training for a young queer person who wants to gain work experience in the NGO sector and is motivated to learn about queer archiving and education around gender and sexuality. GALA's Youth Forum is a safe space created for and by Black queer youth and is facilitated by a young queer person who supports GALA's ongoing youth focused programming through facilitation, training, and social events.

3.5.2. GALA's Internship Programme

In 2022 GALA was pleased to appoint our new in-house intern, Bonke Sonjani, whose internship was primarily focused on contributing to the archive programme. Bonke worked on cataloguing several collections in the archive including

organisational collections from FEW and Iranti, and GALA's collection of placards, banners and T-Shirts. Bonke also attended and contributed to several lectures, workshops and events for the education programme and found synergy with the GALA YOUTH forum programme. This year has been a productive year for GALA in relation to the structure and development of our internship programme that will continue on an annual basis and can contribute to all of our streams of programming. Our internship this year also involved a strong emphasis on skills development and capacity building in archival practice and research more specifically, and we are proud to continue to support queer youth in this aspect of our programming at GALA.

3.5.3. GALA's YOUTH Forum Programme

GALA is proud to announce that we appointed a new YOUTH Forum Coordinator in 2022, Obvious Nomaele, who has taken strides in the programme to breathe new life into our youth focused activities. The forum has returned to predominantly in-person engagements, and we are pleased to see an increase in participation from youth members. The programme in 2022 was centred around the following theme: People change Spaces and Spaces Change People. The yearly program really embodied the endeavour of prioritising oneself. Throughout the year forum members have come to understand the necessity of giving yourself the attention, compassion, time, and energy that you deserve as a young queer person. They have also dedicated the same spirit as they walk through the GALA library doors to study, attend forums, or just be with community. The GALA YOUTH forum have also strengthened their working relationship with the Wits University LGBTQIA+ student organisation, Activate Wits, and played a pivotal role in the implementation and organisation of the Wits University Annual Pride March in 2022. GALA's programmes coordinator, Kgomotso Kgasi, has displayed a keen interest in the youth empowerment programme and has collaborated closely with the YOUTH Forum to strengthen synergy between GALA's education and youth programmes.



Still from a short video of the WITS University Pride march, 2022

4. COMMUNITY AND SOLIDARITY

4.1. Background to GALA's Community Involvement and Solidarity Action

As an anchor organisation in the LGBTQIA+ sector in South Africa, GALA recognises the importance of community involvement and solidarity action, especially in relation to the ongoing challenges faced by our partner organisations, who implement essential services on the ground. GALA acts as a support structure to several grassroots organisations who respond to hate crimes, transgender refugees and migrants needing assistance, LBQ women who face economic and social exclusion and violence, and other related systemic forms of oppression experienced by marginalised LGBTQIA+ people. Although we do not implement community outreach and solidarity programmes formally in our programmatic work, we offer support and assistance when it is appropriate and possible to do so, because we see this as an essential aspect of movement building.

4.2. Community and Solidarity engagements:

GALA YOUTH Forum Visits Heilbron in the Free State Province: In 2022, the GALA YOUTH Forum visited Heilbron, a small town in the Free State, as an act of solidarity and community building for underserved queer youth who expressed the need to initiate a sense of community and visibility in a space that is under resourced. The YOUTH Forum worked closely with

the mayor, MECs, and different departments such as health and protection services to address and develop solutions that would ensure that what we had started would be well maintained. It is exciting to report that the rollout of the program developed there has seen the queer netball team host a tournament that garnered them a spot at the provincial netball tournament held by the department of sports, arts, and culture in Free State. The forum hopes to continue to foster the relationship it has established with the queer community in Heilbron and extend that to other communities and provinces.

GALA YOUTH Ball: Be Who You Are For Your Pride: In October 2022, the GALA YOUTH Ball was hosted on Wits university premises to provide a space for community building amongst students. The involvement of GALA's programmes coordinator, YOUTH Forum coordinator and intern, and that of the youth forum members led the ball to its success. GALA decided to plan and organise a ball that would be accessible to queer youth. We developed incentives like sponsoring a student with a ticket, asking working people to pay more, and also giving out free tickets. Funds that were raised went towards covering the shortfall of the budget. Be Who You Are For Your Pride was the theme for the ball that we believed would allow people to come as they are and not hold them to any cultural ways of being that similar events do. People who walked the ball categories won House of GALA T-shirts. We also opened the ball to function as an experiential space by calling for artists within the community to exhibit their works of art. It was indeed a time for all of us and our partners to reflect on the work we have achieved throughout the year. The GALA YOUTH Ball created a space for queer youth self-expression and we believe that this created a space that can foster further queer and youth focused movement building.



Still from a short video of the GALA YOUTH Ball

5. PUBLIC EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Due to the nature of our programmes and donor funded projects, GALA frequently hosts and collaborates on a variety of different public events such as exhibitions, book launches, dialogues, symposiums, and conferences. GALA also participates in public events and conferences to broaden our public reach, and to participate actively in local, regional and international initiatives that promote LGBTQIA+ rights and the importance of queer archives.

In 2022, GALA was pleased to host and participate in several conferences, book launch events, dialogues, and exhibitions that represented our dedication to LGBTQIA+ human rights and advocacy for an inclusive society.

Lesser Violence – Volume 1 **Launch Event**

We are proud that our *Lesser Violence Volume 1* publication was launched with an in person event at the Wits Art Museum foyer in commemoration of International Day Against Homophobia Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), on 17 May 2022. The event was supported by the Embassy to the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Pretoria and the Embassy of Ireland in South Africa. The Ambassadors from both embassies spoke, along with the Dutch Human Rights Ambassador. Contributors to the book (B Camminga, Saarah Jappie, Neelika Jayawardane and editor, Amie Soudien) all contributed to programming in the form of readings. We also played a clip of the late activist Ayanda Denge, reciting the poem in the publication, that had been transcribed. The event was well attended and we are pleased to have launched this publication in collaboration with the contributors and editors.

Pride Event at Women’s Goal **Constitution Hill**

On 13 June 2022, GALA partnered with the embassies of Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, The British High Commission and Constitutional Hill in hosting an event at the Women’s Goal which commemorated International Pride month. In addition to panel discussions with the remote participation of activists from the global south, GALA worked with the embassies in setting up a pop-up exhibition which reflected and celebrated the history of inception pride marches in South Africa, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Chile. The event was well attended by various dignitaries from the various embassies.

The Presence of Redaction - How silencing impacts the work of addressing gender-based violence:

On the 28th of July, GALA hosted a small in-person event that was focused on the process and debates around the redactions in the *Lesser Violence* publication. Neelika Jayawardane,

whose text, *Institutional Irresponsibility: How coverups at art institutions perpetuate gender-based violence*, had detailed an account of abuse by a well-known artist had undergone a lot of debate about the risks of publicly naming the perpetrator and the organisations and people protecting them. This resulted in the names of all people involved in the event to be redacted. Due to various technicalities, the redactions ended up having to be done by hand and this further frustrated the process. Amie, her husband, cousin and Karin Tan spent hours redacting book after book to be ready for the launch. During this process, we noticed an interesting conversation being generated about the text, but also about redactions and protecting perpetrators. This led to the idea of inviting the public to also engage with the text in this way. On the 28th of July, people were invited to redact their own copies of the publication and to engage with Amie and Neelika about the process, thoughts and events of the text. The event was hosted at The Point of Order, the WITS School of Arts student art gallery.

Sex & Publics Conference: **Interdisciplinary Debates in** **Southern Africa:**

It was our pleasure to co-host the Sex and Publics conference this year on the 19th and 20th of October 2022, at the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre with the University of Exeter, and the Governing Intimacies Project, and Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research (WiSER). The conference invited scholars, artists, and activists to think about “sex and publics” in Southern Africa from various interdisciplinary perspectives. We were especially interested in bringing historical research and present-day critique into the same analytical space. The conference unpacked sex in relation to museum and exhibition cultures, digital media and online culture, worldmaking, urban geographies, trans actionality, intersectionality, and many more intersecting themes. The two-day conference brought together papers from a range of disciplines and perspectives and the environment was one of trust and sharing.

Courage to Share – Queer Activists in ***Africa Volume 2*** Launch Event:

Courage to Share- Queer Activists in Africa Volume 2 was launched in-person on the 28th of October at the Zeitz MOCCA in Cape Town. The launch was organised and funded by Taboom Media, and the evening consisted a panel discussion (featuring Brian Pellot of Taboom Media; Larissa Mwanyama, a featured illustrator; Dzoë Ahmad, a featured author in the publication; Kevin Mwachiro, a mentor-editor, and Karin Tan from GALA) and a reception. A small exhibition of the illustrations from both anthologies was set up at the Lisa Linnow Gallery and was held in conjunction with the launch. The launch event was successful and invited attendees to participate in a robust dialogue around queer activism in the region.

6. OUR VISION AND MISSION

Vision

Our vision is to engage in a form of activism and to further develop a working ethic that is about historical redress, and challenging historical and memory discourses that exclude and distort LGBTQIA+ experiences in South Africa and across Africa. We also want to continue to prioritise contemporary archival and educational projects which are motivated by the need for social justice interventions in some of the most marginalised constituencies of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our broad vision for GALA's activism is also to continue contributing to and documenting the work of the ongoing social movement: a working model designed to create a strong civil society-based presence for LGBTQIA+ rights groups, that increases the impact of activist interventions within an African context that is still predominantly homophobic and transphobic. Our vision for the archive continues to evolve as the archive represents a historical depiction of LGBTQIA+ identities and movements in southern Africa, but also represents a contemporary queer representation of culture and personal stories that we envision will become more and more participatory and interactive.

Finally, our vision for GALA is also to further develop and foster a "community archive", one that is community-driven and community-engaged by encouraging the public to participate in archival collection and outreach initiatives. Thus, it is our goal to have members from the LGBTQIA+ community will feel more of a sense of ownership and pride in the archive at GALA.

Mission

The GALA Queer Archive is a centre for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) history, culture and education in Africa, based in South Africa. Our mission is to act as a catalyst for the production, preservation and dissemination of knowledge on the history, culture and contemporary experiences of LGBTQIA+ people on the continent and the diaspora. In addition to our archive programme, GALA also has an active education and advocacy programme, which feeds directly to and from the archive. Through the recording of oral histories, GALA has made it our mission to actively flesh out South Africa's white, cis-gendered, male dominated recorded history by focusing on the roles and stories of black, feminist, and transgender activists, as well as the everyday lives and experiences of queer people in Africans.

7. THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

GALA's work aims to use archived historical material to catalyse public awareness and support against the ongoing stigmatisation, violence, and exclusion that LGBTQIA+ individuals face in Africa. In doing so, GALA has identified four primary outcomes:

Greater LGBTQIA+ awareness in Africa

GALA strives to be an organisation that exists within the broader Global South's queer rights movement as an active participant and contributor to the ongoing public discourse and education around LGBTQIA+ rights. GALA aims to be a living archive and a primary resource of queer life in Africa.

Preserved and nurtured LGBTQIA+ identities

GALA engage in the continuing process of documenting, preserving and protecting African LGBTQIA+ stories and histories. People of marginalised groups have, and continue to, suffer the erasure of queer experiences and identities in society. This absence in Africa's public history has resulted in dangerous manipulation of the queer identities.

Strengthened and innovative research in promoting social equality

GALA collaborates with a variety of researchers and knowledge producers to evaluate and inform about the socio-economic and political implications of violence and exclusion towards people that challenge heteronormativity and patriarchal norms.

Inclusive education and youth development

GALA facilitates various educational programmes and training workshops that are focused on broadening perspectives around gender and sexual diversity. We also coordinate with educators, government, community leaders and the public to help create educational material that prioritise sexual orientation and gender identity and the way these intersect in the fight against gender-based violence in the region.

8. WORK STRUCTURE AND PILLARS OF ENGAGEMENT

GALA structures its work across three pillars of engagement:

1. Preserving historical material related to LGBTQIA+ rights in South/Southern Africa in a public archive;
2. Activating this archive for expanded contemporary research, education, and training on rights and equality; and
3. Sharing the archive through support for partner organisations that advocate social justice and equality, particularly for youth.

1. Preserving:

GALA's LGBTQIA+ historical preservation work is a leader of minority memory protection in Africa. This work consists mainly of collecting, cataloguing, maintaining, and increasingly digitising, our archive. Our archive contains vital primary documents linked to South Africa's LGBTQIA+ rights struggles, dating back to documents from the 1960s. Although our archive is focused and located in South Africa, we have become a de facto home for archived materials for various movements across the continent. GALA regularly gathers archival input from participants, beneficiaries, and partners to record and preserve the stories of queer African life. We have achieved an operational archival methodology through trial and error, and the system that is currently in place has favourable results. In relation to our education programme, we base our archival methodology on a participatory approach, and we value collaborative and socially engaged practice as this informs the programmes we develop for the communities we serve.

2. Activating:

We make use of our archived material to further support the research, education, and training on intersectional human rights issues. We do this through the following activities:

2.1. Research: GALA collaborates with various institutions of higher education to conduct research projects around existing norms, violence towards the LGBTQIA+ community and other interdisciplinary issues around gender, sexuality, migration and disability.

2.2. Education and training: We facilitate sensitivity training programmes with various stakeholders, with a focus on institutions of higher education and SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics). We collaborate with various partners who specialise in cross cutting issues such as disability, Gender Based Violence and Comprehensive Sex Education to facilitate educational programmes.



An selection of objects from the archive in the GALA Library, 2020, Johannesburg, South Africa

3. Sharing:

To make our archive more accessible for more people, we focus on sharing our resources through organisational support and public awareness programmes:

3.1. Organisational Support: We offer GALA as an advocacy-building platform for LGBTQIA+ student organisations at universities across South Africa with additional training aimed at capacity building and the provision of sub-grants that enable these organisations to host events directed at raising awareness around gender and sexual diversity on university campuses.

3.2. Public awareness: We create public awareness through regular exhibitions to educate the broader public about LGBTQIA+ stories and histories. GALA also initiates oral history projects to fill in gaps in queer history, as well as to document contemporary life from a queer perspective.



9. ORGANISATION AND LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

The regular, daily, and programmatic running of our organisation is channelled through the director who is responsible for management and development of programmatic and administrative staff, namely an archivist, programmes coordinator, information officer, administrative officer, and interns/volunteers/GALA Associates. GALA's long-term vision is developed and maintained through collaboration between the director and the board of Trustees. The board of Trustees, which comprises predominantly women, fulfils its fiduciary duties by overseeing all GALA's activities and is required to approve all financial decisions/transactions made by GALA. There are at present seven Trustees on the board.

The GALA team, which is comprised mainly of women and/or persons identifying as gender diverse, has over the years acquired skills and knowledge equipped with archiving, program management and the production of high-quality content and facilitation. GALA's team has also acquired cross-functional skills in activism, research, art, and heritage to be able to manage a wide range of innovative projects and initiatives.

10. WHO WE ARE

The 2022 Team

Full time staff:

Executive Director: Keval Harie
Archives Coordinator: Linda Chernis
Programmes Coordinator: Genevieve Louw/Kgomotso Kgasi
Senior Information Officer: Karin Tan
Administration Officer: Nobantu Nqolobe



Part time staff:

Youth Forum Coordinator: Obvious Nomaele
GALA Intern: Bonke Sonjani

Board of Trustees:

Chairperson: Zethu Matebeni
Getti Mercorio
Kendall Petersen
Mwenya Kabwe
Melanie Judge

11. FINANCIAL REPORT

GAY AND LESBIAN MEMORY IN ACTION - (GALA) (TRUST NUMBER : IT 13223/06)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION: 31 DECEMBER 2021

Figures in ZAR:	NOTES	2021	2020
ASSETS		2 305 994	1 525 163
Non-current assets		114 146	180 616
Equipment	3	114 146	180 616
Current Assets		2 191 849	1 344 547
Accounts receivable		39 237	-
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2 152 612	1 344 547
TOTAL ASSETS		2 305 994	1 525 163
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		2 305 994	1 525 163
Reserves		1440 905	1 187 310
Trust capital		1 000	1 000
Accumulated fund		597 900	277 836
Equipment fund		114 146	180 616
Sustainability fund		577 176	577 176
Retrenchment fund		150 682	150 682
Current liabilities		865 090	337 853
Accounts payable	5	123 600	80 223
Funds held in trust	6	57 630	57 630
Deferred grant income	7	683 860	200 000
TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES		2 305 994	1 525 163

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES: 31 DECEMBER 2021

Figures in ZAR:	Trust capital	Accumulated fund	Equipment fund	Sustainability fund	Retrenchment fund	Total
Balance at 31 December 2019	1 000	-	-	577 176	150 682	728 858
(Deficit) for the year	-	458 452	-	-	-	458 452
Transfer to Equipment fund	-	(203 430)	203 430	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	22 814	(22 814)	-	-	-
Transfer from Sustainability fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2020	1 000	277 836	180 616	577 176	150 682	1 187 309
Surplus for the year	-	253 595	-	-	-	253 595
Transfer to Equipment fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation for the year	-	66 470	(66 470)	-	-	-
Transfer from Sustainability fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2021	1 000	597 900	114 146	577 176	150 682	1 440 905

Figures in ZAR:	NOTES	2021	2020
INCOME		6 525 282	6 762 866
Grants	8	6452 452	6 682 190
Interest received		25 508	52 048
Royalties		47 323	28 628
EXPENDITURE		6 271 688	6 304 414
Operating expenditure		78 514	118 076
Administration	9	-	60 619
Accounting fees		-	24 637
Bank charges		12 044	3 254
Depreciation		66 470	22 814
Travel and accommodation - local		-	6 752
Projects and programmes		6 193 174	6 186 338
Australian High Commission		279 891	57 494
Baring Foundation		720 372	820 036
Gale Digitisation		239 022	194 250
Dutch Embassy		410 023	-
Gender Links		-	39 359
HSRC		-	1 233 026
Mama Cash		-	174 640
Other		1292	30 601
RFSL		-	185 096
Rosa Luxemburg		374 008	637 095
SAIH - Strengthening Rights of LGBTI Youth		1 661 390	1 225 754
SAIH - Hailey Mc Ewen Project		-	146 110
Signd Rausing Trust		1 068 807	1 055 811
Stonewall		242 355	23 500
The Other Foundation		994 813	159 000
Wellspring Philanthropic wits		201 200	-
		-	194 566
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		253 595	458 452

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS : 31 DECEMBER 2021

Figures in ZAR:	NOTES	2021	2020
Cash received from funders		6 944 398	5 298 943
Cash paid to employees, suppliers and programmes		(6 161 841)	(6 203 738)
Cash (utilised in) operations	11	782 557	(904 795)
Interest received		25 508	52 048
Net cash (outflow) from operating activities		808 065	(852 747)
Cash flows (utilised in) investing activities		-	(203 430)
Acquisition of equipment		-	(203 430)
Net (decrease) cash and cash equivalents		808 065	(1056 177)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1 344 547	2 400 724
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	4	2 152 612	1 344 547

NOTES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS : 31 DECEMBER 2021

3. EQUIPMENT

Figures in ZAR:	Computer equipment	Electronic equipment	Office equipment	Office furniture	Total
31 December 2021					
Net book value - 1/1/2021	180 616	-	-	-	180 616
Cost	405 809	53 656	20 439	33 746	513 650
Accumulated depreciation	-	(53 656)	(20 439)	(33 746)	(333 034)
Additions during the year	(225 193)	-	-	-	-
Depreciation during the year	(66 470)	-	-	-	(66 470)
Net book value 31/12/2021	114 146	-	-	-	114 146
Cost	405 809	53 656	20 439	33 746	513 650
Accumulated depreciation	(291 663)	(53 656)	(20 439)	(33 746)	(399 504)
31 December 2020					
Net book value - 1/1/2020	-	-	-	-	-
Cost	202 379	53 656	20 439	33 746	310 220
Accumulated depreciation	202 379)	(53 656)	(20 439)	(33 746)	(310 220)
Additions during the year	203 430	-	-	-	203 430
Depreciation during the year	(22 814)	-	-	-	(22 814)
Net book value - 31/12/2020	180 616	-	-	-	180 616
Cost	405 809	53 656	20 439	33 746	513 650
Accumulated depreciation	(225 193)	(53 656)	(20 439)	(33 746)	(333 034)

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Favourable bank balances	2 152 612	1 344 547
Investec current a/c - 10011834713	723 451	51 328
Investec cal Rosa Lux - 1100512258503	45 418	46
Investec call HSRC - 1100512258501	104 274	447 035
Investec call gen - 1100512258500	767 979	232 273
Investec call SAIH - 1100512258540	508 446	612 467
Petty Cash	3 043	1 398

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Accruals	70 600	37 712
Payroll liabilities	53 000	42 511
	123 600	80 223

6. FUNDS HELD IN TRUST

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Balance at beginning of year	57 630	57 630

7. DEFERRED GRANT INCOME

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Baring Foundation	-	100 000
Astraea	-	100 000
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	83 860	-
WITS	100 000	-
	683 860	200 000

8. GRANTS

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Sigrid Rausing Trust	1 509 687	999 821
Received	1 509 687	999 821
Baring Foundation	509 260	807 740
Received	409 260	907 740
Deferred to 2021	(100 000)	(100 000)
MAMA Cash	-	174 640
Received	-	174 640
Gale Digitisation	473 691	214 515
Received	473 691	214 515
Gender Links	-	50 000
Received	-	50 000
Stonewall	200 072	117 278
Received	200 072	117 278
RFSL	-	117 883
Received	-	117 883
The Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund (SAIH)	1 208 379	1 492 887
Received	1 208 379	1 346 777
Received - Hailey Mc Ewen Project	-	146 110
Rosa Luxemburg	467 773	348 039
Received	467 77	348 039
Wits University - Queer Oral Histories	-	144 000
Received	100 000	144 000
Deferred to 2022	(100 000)	-
Australian High Commission	335 100	50 000
Received	335 100	50 000
HSRC	-	1 611 875
Received	-	1 611 875
The Other Foundation	1 000 988	145 000
Received	1 000 988	145 000
The Dutch Embassy	319 891	-
Received	319 891	-
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund	201 200	-
Received	785 060	-
Deferred to 2022	(583 860)	-
Astraea	100 000	191 564
Received	-	291 564
Deferred to 2021	100 000	(100 000)
Sundry donors	126 412	216 948
	6 452 452	6 682 190

9. ADMINISTRATION

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
Board meeting expenses	-	6 000
Equipment Rental	-	5 688
Courier and postage	-	9 192
Parking	-	3 162
Printing and stationery	-	3 651
Refreshments - office	-	3 287
Repairs and maintenance	-	465
	-	29 174
	-	60 619

10. TAXATION

No provision has been made for taxation as the trust is exempt from income tax under section 10(1)(CN) as read with section 30 of the Income Tax Act due to carrying on the public benefit activities of research and of the promotion, establishment and maintenance of archives.

11. CASH (UTILISED IN) OPERATIONS

Figures in ZAR:	2021	2020
(Deficit) Surplus for the year	(696 410)	458 452
Adjusted for :		
Interest received	(81870)	(52 048)
Depreciation	-	22 814
Decrease in accrued grant income	-	-
(Decrease) in deferred grant income	971552	(1411 875)
Operating (deficit) before working capital changes	193 272	(982 657)
Working capital changes	(60 566)	77 862
(Increase) in accounts receivable	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable	(60 566)	77 862
Cash (utilised in) operations	132 706	(904 795)

12. GOING CONCERN

The existence of the trust is dependent on the continued support of its donors, by way of grants. Should the grants be withdrawn it is highly unlikely that the trust will be able to continue as a going concern. Donors have agreed to continue supporting the trust in 202.