

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Embargoed until June 4, 2019

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THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER LAUNCHES STONEWALL NATIONAL MONUMENT DIGITAL EXPERIENCE IN HONOR OF STONEWALL RIOTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY, WITH SUPPORT FROM GOOGLE.ORG

Three Weeks Before WorldPride in NYC, Anyone Globally Can Visit Stonewall Forever, A Living Monument to 50 Years of Pride and Add Their Own Piece to the Ongoing Story of LGBTQ Equality

New York, NY -- On Tuesday, June 4th, NYC's LGBT Community Center (The Center) launched [Stonewall Forever](#), an interactive, "living" monument to 50 years of Pride. Through Stonewall Forever, anyone, anywhere can step inside the monument online or in augmented reality (AR) and add their own story to build upon and become a part of history. Stonewall Forever was created through a partnership between The Center and the National Park Service, with the support of Google.org, to expand the reach of the Stonewall National Monument and provide access to LGBTQ history.

"Creating Stonewall Forever with support from Google presented the rare opportunity to broaden the story of the Stonewall Riots and provide a richer, more diverse narrative about one of the most influential events in the fight for LGBTQ equality," said Glenda Testone, Executive Director of NYC's LGBT Community Center. "We were proud to serve as the conduit to the community to bring a wide variety of voices to the narrative, particularly from people of color, young people and the trans community, and are honored to be part of preserving LGBTQ history."

Stonewall Forever was made possible by a \$1.5 million Google.org grant made to The Center. With help from Google volunteers and in collaboration with Stink Studios, The Center worked to transform and scale the reach of the Stonewall National Monument from a physical location into a shared experience, with the goal of amplifying unheard voices, educating generations and propelling LGBTQ civil rights forward nationally and internationally.

"We are honored to support The Center in their effort to preserve stories of Stonewall for the next generations," said William Floyd, Director of External Affairs at Google. "By using technology, we are able to expand the scale and reach of the Stonewall National Monument so that it's a shared, interactive experience, bringing past and present together in a completely new way. The fight for LGBTQ rights is an ongoing one and Stonewall Forever seeks to tell that story."

In addition to offering the digital monument experience on web and AR, Stonewall Forever features an original short documentary from director Ro Haber. This film, which was also produced by Stink Studios, brings together voices from over 50 years of LGBTQ activism to explore life before, during and after the Stonewall Riots. Viewers can discover how the fight that erupted at Stonewall grew into what we know today as Pride, and the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ civil rights everywhere.

"I came on to this project to show an inter-generational portrait of activism from the time of Stonewall up to today," said Ro Haber, Director of the Stonewall Forever documentary. "It's so important to look to our queer elders for their perspective about how to tackle the struggles we continue to face. We need to show the varied faces of queer and trans activism; we are not a monolith and will never be. The story of Stonewall is not one story and this film doesn't act as a definitive history by any means. But it does give voice to some extraordinary people involved in the movement both then and today."

Visitors will have the ability to add their own piece of LGBTQ history to the monument in the form of an image and text. Contributors to the living monument include activists Sean Saifa Wall, Chella Man, Alok Vaid-Menon, Adam Eli, Aaron Philip and Achebe Powell; journalist Derek Blasberg; YouTube creator Tyler Oakley; singer Lance Bass; actors Lea DeLaria, Trace Lysette, Cynthia Nixon, Lily Tomlin, Lena Waithe and supermodel Naomi Campbell, among others.

“While the Stonewall Riots happened 50 years ago, we were inspired by the idea that the LGBTQ movement is very much alive today in people all around the world,” said Jesse Juriga, Creative Director at the Google Creative Lab. “We wanted to use technology to rethink the idea of what a monument can be and make a living monument—one that everyone, everywhere can visit and everyone can add to—to continue to grow this history and make it as inclusive as possible.”

To celebrate this historic Pride, Google is launching [Pride Forever](#), a campaign that’s rooted in sharing LGBTQ+ history with our users. The June 4th Google Doodle is an interactive slide show that celebrates 50 years of Pride by taking users through its evolution over the decades, with animated illustrations by Nate Swinehart.

To complement the experience of the Living Monument, people can visit Google Arts & Culture to learn more about collective and personal histories of Pride. With help from partners including CyArk, The Center, the GBLT Historical Society, and the National Park Service, anyone, anywhere can now explore the Stonewall Monument and Inn in 3D, or take an immersive tour of LGBT sites in New York’s Greenwich Village in VR. Visitors can listen to over 100 hours of oral histories recorded by The Center, the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and the National Park Service.

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About The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center

Established in 1983, New York City’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center empowers people to lead healthy, successful lives. The Center celebrates diversity and advocates for justice and opportunity. Each year, The Center welcomes more than 300,000 visits to our building in the West Village neighborhood of Manhattan from people who engage in our life-changing and life-saving activities. To learn more about our work, please visit gaycenter.org.

About Google.org

Google.org, Google’s philanthropy, supports nonprofits that address humanitarian issues worldwide and apply radical, data-driven innovation to solving the world’s biggest challenges. We accelerate their progress by connecting them with a unique blend of support that includes funding, products, and technical expertise from Google volunteers. We engage with these believers-turned-doers who make a significant impact on the communities they represent, and whose work has the potential to produce meaningful change that can scale. We want a world that works for everyone—and we believe technology and innovation can move the needle in four key areas: education, economic opportunity, inclusion and crisis response.

About Google Arts & Culture

[Google Arts & Culture](#) is a new, immersive way to experience art, history, culture and world wonders from over a thousand organizations worldwide. Google Arts & Culture has been created by the Google Cultural Institute and it is available for free for everyone on [the web](#), on [iOS](#) and [Android](#). Read more [here](#).

About Stink Studios

Stink Studios is a production agency working across interactive and film, with offices in New York, Los Angeles, São Paulo, London, Paris and Shanghai. Find out more [here](#).