

# ARLIS/NA

ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY of NORTH AMERICA

2015: 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference  
Fort Worth, Texas | March 19–23, 2015

## **LGBT SIG Meeting**

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Submitted by Edward Lukasek

Coordinator: Edward Lukasek

## **Attendees:**

Edward Lukasek, Museum of Fine Arts Houston; Susan Moon, University of California Santa Barbara; Nancy Norris, University of California Los Angeles; William Peniston, Newark Museum

## **Special Guest:**

Terry Covington, Past President of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association (TGRA).

Mr. Covington was invited to discuss the history and activities of the TGRA, an affiliate of the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA). The purpose of the organization, founded in 1976 and now with 30 affiliate groups across United States and Canada, is to raise money for charity and change people's stereotypical images of gay men and lesbians.

After Terry's presentation, we continued with a Q&A session including a question wondering if and where the archives and memorabilia of the TGRA are housed. To our dismay, we were told that a collector was storing memorabilia in his basement in Fort Worth, but after he died, the collection vanished as far as Terry knew! However, Terry did mention that individual members keep trophies, hats, vests, and other items related to their rodeo experiences, but there is no 'official' museum or archive anywhere yet.

## **Discussion:**

Attendees then went on to discuss reasons for such a small turn out and decided that having our meeting time changed from Saturday afternoon to the following Monday morning, the last day of the conference, was probably the cause, since many of our members were already heading to the airport!

Edward Lukasek, the LGBT SIG Coordinator brought up the serious issue of the purpose of this SIG – Are we a professional group? A social group? A political group? What is our relevance in ARLIS/NA? No answers or solutions were reached, so Edward suggested having a survey sent out to LGBT SIG members in order to rethink who and what we are. It was brought up that perhaps the Executive Board would have some ideas on this such as merging us with the Diversity Committee.