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OUT AT CHM EXPLORES THE LGBT PAST AND ITS IMPACT ON CURRENT EVENTS

Politics, Citizenship, and Transgender issues are addressed in the 2008 series

CHICAGO (December 4, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum is proud to announce the schedule for the 2008 Out at CHM series. The Out at CHM series addresses the long and storied history of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in Chicago. Out at CHM programs are \$12/ \$10 for museum members and students with a valid ID. Programs begin at 6:30 p.m., with cocktail reception starting at 5:30 p.m. The first program is \$15/ \$12 for museum members and students due to an additional cocktail hour at the conclusion of the program.

This three-part series starts on Thursday, January 31, 2008 with **Sexual Politics: From the Lavender Scare to Larry Craig**. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m., and the program starts at 6:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. This program discusses how the sexuality of gay men repeatedly finds its way to the center of the nation's political scene. How has this situation emerged, and how much (or little) have things changed in the last 50 years? Historians David Johnson and Lane Fenrich recount the history of gay men in the public, political eye, and provide new perspectives for thinking about 2008's political rhetoric on both the left and the right.

The second program, **Queer Exclusions: Sexuality and U.S. Citizenship**, on March 27, 2008 examines the controversies dealing with immigration and naturalization that have become increasingly divisive in recent years, but these debates have tended to ignore the role of sexuality in U.S. policies. Cultural historian Siobhan Somerville will trace how questions of sexuality - in combination with race - have shaped how the U.S. government has distinguished between "citizens" and "aliens." She will explore how lesbians and gay men have navigated U.S. immigration and citizenship laws, as well as how these policies have actively "queered" particular migrants, regardless of their actual sexual orientation.

The third and final program of the series, **Screaming Queens and Lavender Panthers: A History of Transgender Activism**, on May 8, 2008 talks about how in the year 1966, the drag queen prostitutes who rioted against a police raid at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco's Tenderloin district launched a new movement for transgender rights across the country. The radical phase of that movement drew to a close in

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1973 with the collapse of the Lavender Panthers, a Tenderloin-based armed self-defense street patrol. In the intervening years, transgender people participated in a movement for freedom of gender expression that offers contemporary researchers a new view on that turbulent era's politics. Activist and expert, Susan Stryker will look at the history of transgender activism throughout the nation and Chicago.

Becoming a member of the Museum between now and January 31, offers discounts on tickets and other great benefits for the Out at CHM series. Joining as an individual member is \$40, and includes one free admission to each of the three programs, access to all three cocktail hours, the opening reception, the Newcity after parties, and one free drink ticket for each of the after parties. Joining at a \$50 family membership includes all of the above perks plus two free admissions to each of the three programs, and two free drink tickets for each of the after parties.

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust is the generous sponsor of Out at CHM, with additional support from UBS and our partner organizations: Center on Halsted, Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at Columbia College Chicago, University of Illinois at Chicago Gender and Women's Studies Department, and Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society and acknowledges the Chicago Park District's generous support of all the Museum's activities.