

LEATHER ARCHIVES & MUSEUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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FROM THE PRESIDENT



BILLY LANE

LA&M Board President

As we move into 2026 and close out another amazing year at the Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M), I am honored to reflect on our progress, our challenges, and our continued commitment to preserve, educate, and celebrate leather, kink, fetish, and BDSM histories. 2025 more than ever, demonstrated the power of our community and the importance of our mission.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors and members whose dedication makes this work possible.

Like many cultural institutions, LA&M is facing challenges including an increasingly hostile political environment, rising operational costs, and the evolving needs of our community. In spite of this, the community showed up, assisting us in raising the money for operational costs as well as for our Capital Campaign, enabling us to move forward with a much needed renovation that will protect our history for generations to come.

We approach the future with optimism, grounded in our history and energized by the possibilities ahead.

None of this work would be possible without you. Thank you for believing in the importance of preserving our histories and for standing with the Leather Archives & Museum.

In Leather and Service,
Billy Lane
President, Board of Directors

LA&M MISSION

This framework identifies the guideposts that align our work with our values, moving us toward our vision to become the model for what a 21st-century independent research library can and should be.

Our focus areas continually evolve, but our mission to make leather, kink, BDSM, and fetish accessible through research, preservation, education and community engagement remains the same. We are committed to our work, building an inclusive collection that encourages open-minded exploration.

VALUES

Inclusion - Continuously work to ensure we are inclusive of all voices who are a part of the history and culture we seek to preserve.

Preservation - Maintain and care for our collections to ensure future access.

Education - Create opportunities for others to connect and learn more about the stories represented in our collections.

Community - Bring communities together to experience shared culture and identity.

Professionalism - Perform all facets of our work at a high standard of excellence.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Develop and enhance engaging exhibits in the LA&M Galleries, online and at offsite locations.
- Build and maintain a robust collection.
- Create and deliver programs and experiences that nurture the desires of community members and those curious to learn more about our history, heritage and social life.
- Connect more deeply with the research community to have our collections used by scholars, students, journalists, writers, artists, filmmakers and others seeking to develop a wider understanding of our history and culture.
- Develop and distribute consistent and vibrant communication and marketing tools that represent our value and relevance in the world today.

VISION

The Leather Archives & Museum is the premier institution collecting and preserving histories of leather, kink, fetish and BDSM communities, providing transformative experiences both in person and online.

COLLECTIONS

While all of LA&M's work is important, its collections form the true heart of the organization. This is our history, our stories, told through personal correspondence, photographs, newsletters, magazines, leathers, gear, toys, artwork, posters, flyers, published books, pins, patches, banners, and much more.

Notable Collections



Anthony F. DeBlase Collection

Records related to Tony DeBlase's personal life and career as a writer, publisher, activist, and educator.



Midori Collection

Papers and ephemera related to Midori's travel and work as an educator and presenter.



Society of Janus Collection

Files related to the board of directors, events, correspondence, the Growing Pains newsletter and interviews with club members.



Dom "Etienne" Orejudos Collection

Personal papers, correspondence, original artwork, artwork copies and prints, and other material collected by or about the artist.

New Acquisitions

A selection of new acquisitions from 2025

- Archives of Galleria Domain 2 including photos and operation files
- Barking News magazine from publisher Kole Durant
- New accruals to the Male Spanking Community collection curated by Justin and Trevor
- Interview and the cremated remains of Sam Steward, donated by Michael Gifford and the Samuel M. Steward Estate
- Katharine Gates's collection of research materials concerning her book, *Deviant Desires: A Tour of the Erotic Edge*
- Additions to Nancy Ava Miller's collection related to People Exchanging Power

Newly Cataloged Materials

New Accessions Collections Processed New Entities New Events New Objects

119

8

738

55

1,648

RESEARCH



Kevin Henderson was selected as the 13th LA&M Visiting Scholar. Kevin is researching the NOW SM Policy Reform Project, the 1988 Dallas Conference, and

the 1987 and 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. This Visiting Scholars program is funded by Leather SINS/Kinky Kollege.



Thomas Choinacky was selected as LA&M's first Emerging Artist in Residence where they are working on the project "Why Do We Gather," examining club and

organization meeting records, photographs, newsletters and other ephemera. Thomas' research will lead to an exhibition and program at LA&M and online in Spring 2026.

Selected Research Work from 2025

Scholars, academics, writers, students, artists, filmmakers, and community members use the archival collections in hundreds of fascinating research topics:

- Disability and the kink and leather community.
- Fisting community and HIV/AIDS
- BDSM institutional regulation and criminalization
- Rubber and latex aesthetics and community history
- Clowns in fetish art
- Asexuality and asexual community members
- Leather care and bootblacking
- Uniform and sports gear fetishism
- Poppers and representation in advertising
- Latina/o Chicagoans
- Black and Latino/a gay pornography
- Mid-America Conference of Clubs
- Piercing, tattoos and body modification history
- Leather bars
- Trans women in kink and leather communities and trans fem erotica
- Oregon and BIPOC leather community
- Newsletter, zine and magazine design
- Male dominant heterosexual relationships

Researchers

123

Research Visits

178

Virtual Research Questions

197

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

As part of our mission to connect people with leather history and culture, LA&M hosts a variety of programs and events each month, allowing community members and curious individuals to explore and celebrate kink. Our capacity to do so relies on amazing group of volunteers who make our work possible.



LA&M hosted 40 kink classes in 2025, ranging from flogging to bondage to meditation. Over 1,000 people at various skill levels attended.



Gear Night is a monthly social event sponsored by Jackhammer. The event provides a welcoming space for people to wear gear and hang out.



Fetish, Erotica and Kink figure drawing began in 2020, and continues to create studio space both online and in person to draw our fetish models.



2025 was the 3rd year for the Fetish Film Forum, presented by John McDevitt. Each month, we screen fetish cinema with an opportunity to discuss afterwards with others.



We held the 1st Chicago Leather Pride Weekend which included an official proclamation from the city, a leather pride march, and the Fetish Follies.



LA&M provides space for many groups and special events, including Linkup Chicago, supporting black gay, bi, pan and trans men.

LA&M's lecture series connects the community with writers, artists and filmmakers creating contemporary works in the fetish genre.



The Etienne Auditorium welcomed people to a special screening of Orlando Bedolla's film Encuerados, highlighting Latino leather culture in Los Angeles.

Programs & Events

163

People Attending Programs

6,426

Volunteer Hours

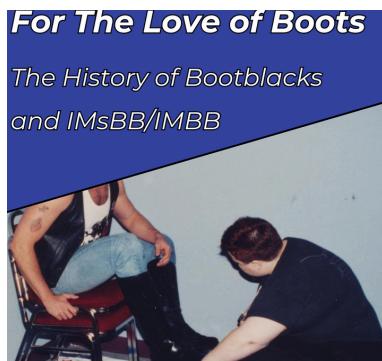
927

MUSEUM & EXHIBITIONS

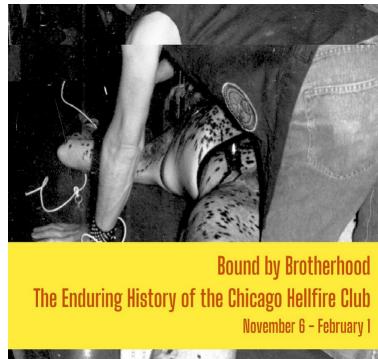
The LA&M galleries are the point where most visitors engage with our history and collections. They provide an opportunity to share our own vast materials, as well as loaned items from artists, historians and collectors in the broader fetish community.



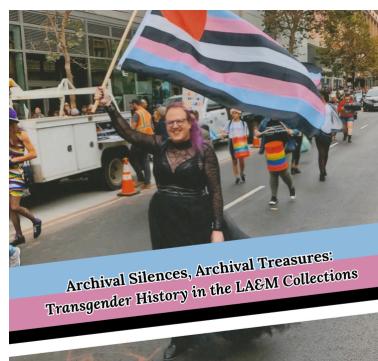
Photographs and artwork feature some of the leather community's great leaders and kinksters.



A look at the history of the heart and 'sole' of our community, and the critical role they play in the leather world.



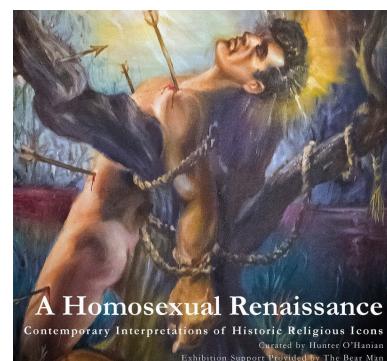
Members of the Chicago Hellfire Club curated an exhibit that shares the history of the club and its continued growth.



History from the trans leather and fetish communities are shared through photos, artifacts and archival records.



Justin & Trevor brought us the men's spanking community, including history, art, artifacts and of course, paddles.



A side-by-side look at current and historic queer erotic art and the Renaissance art that often inspired it.

New Exhibitions

5

Permanent Exhibitions

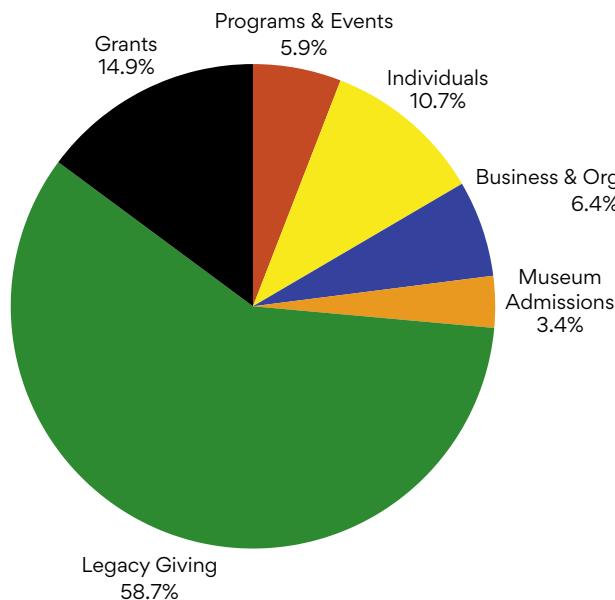
14

Museum Visitors

11,681

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

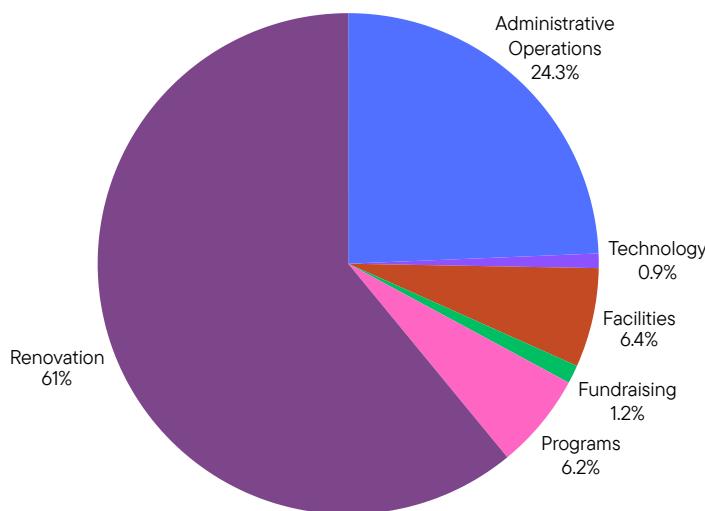
2025 Funds Raised



98% of LA&M's funding comes from within the fetish community. This includes our individual members, clubs like the Centaur MC, events such as Kinky College, and kink stores like Full Kit Gear.

In many years, legacy gifts are made as part of an individual's final wishes, helping to ensure that LA&M will be around for generations to come.

2025 Expenditures



Each year, LA&M spends the majority of its budget on the costs associated with managing its growing collections, developing and delivering programs, assisting researchers and the infrastructure that makes it all possible.

For 2025, much of the funding raised is set aside for the upcoming capital renovation project which will begin in 2026.

Total Number of Donors

506

Total Raised in 2025

\$1.3 MILLION

2025 DONORS & MEMBERS

Individuals

Aaron DeLee
 Akasha
 Al Parso-York
 Alan Dudley
 Alice Tidwell
 ALLEYCAT
 Annon George
 Anthony Aguinaldo
 Anthony Gene Carey
 Austin Abernathy
 Bill Calhoon
 Billy Lane & John Brook
 Biz Knapp
 black the bootblack
 Blue
 Bob Behr
 Bob Miller
 boy boy
 boy Ed
 Boy Michael
 Brad Sagarin
 Brett Peugh
 Bruce
 Brutus Wolfy
 C Pohler
 C. Theodore Tucker
 Carolyn and Tina Wilfried
 Cass Gillig
 Catherine Gross
 Ches Clark
 Chuck Russell
 Chuck TenBrink
 Copper
 Craig Bodoh
 Crash
 Cynthia
 DaddE
 Daddy Shadi
 Dan Weiss
 Darwin Corrin
 Dash Fleetwood-Boldt
 Davey Bones, Mr GNI
 Leather 2024
 David A. Smith, Mr. GNI
 2023 & Daniel G. Babb
 David Aguinaldo
 David Easterbrook
 David Farah
 David German
 David Manning, Toledo
 David Roux
 David Sugar
 David Wray
 Delane
 Dón José Sánchez
 Douglas Bonnell/Leather
 Steve
 Dr. K
 Ds
 Dylan Rhys Lewis
 Ernest
 Ed Careaga & Duncan
 Busser
 Edward Mogul
 Eric Charles Cherwin
 Eric Holland
 Eric Kinast
 Estate of Barry Johnson
 Etienne Spears
 Fred Nicholas-Bear

Frank Nowicki - MAL
 1993
 Frank Serafino
 G Yang
 G. Ronald Kastner
 G.P. Paul Kowal
 G.W. Leatherman
 Parks
 Gabriel Villalpando
 Gage Ryder
 Gayle Rubin
 Geoffrey Bleeker
 Mudd
 Gerald Stone IV
 Grant
 Gregory Story
 Guardian Brady
 Hal German
 Handler Chris - IPTC
 Intl Trainer 2023
 Heather Raquel
 Hoosier Daddy
 Hunter O'Hanian
 IDK
 J Gibbs
 Jack Bell
 Jack Morrison
 Jacob Duncan
 Jake Fuller
 James Lyons
 James Prock
 Jamie Ryan/hobbler
 Jay Campbell
 Jay Harcourt
 Jay Sosa
 JCubed
 Jennie Kay
 Jennifer Tyburczy
 JerBearChi
 Jeremy Dykes
 Jeroen Van
 Lievenoogen
 Jerry Moreau
 J-Hummingbird
 Jim Cassaro
 Jim Drew
 Jim Mason
 Jim Neumann
 Jim Petrone
 Jim Richards
 Jim Rinefield & Dan
 Anderson
 jimmy furnstahl
 Joe & Pete
 Joe A.
 Joel McGilvray
 JoeyRope
 John "Pup Red"
 Danaher
 John E.
 John McDevitt
 John Moore
 John P. Weir and
 Frank M. Theis
 John Rossi
 John Wise
 Jorel "Cluff" Reyes
 Joseph Geierman
 and B.J. Abbott
 Joseph Robert
 Josh M
 Josh Wright-Huynh
 Justin Broom
 Justin Paxton
 JW Rutkowski
 Kai Korpak
 Kaybee
 Keith Stattenfield and
 Loretta Beavers
 Keith W.
 Keron Woodrow
 Kevan Walsh - Navek
 LeatherMan
 Kevin Brown
 Kevin Eastman
 Kevin Henderson
 Kevin Hyland
 Kevin Kross
 Killian Pinks
 Kink Down South
 Kirin Wachter-Grene
 Kyle Curry
 Leather Brandon
 Lee Mandelo
 Leon Grossman
 Lisa Johnston
 Lucy Fox-Boots
 Lynn Schornick
 María Dolores A.
 Matienzo
 Marius Hofseth
 Mark Steinwachs &
 Jarred Wilson
 Mark Weisenberger
 Markus Cluff
 Master Bert Cutler &
 slave nadine
 MasterTxT's slave don
 Matias Gomez
 Constenla
 Matt Denney
 Michael Raven - IA
 Bear 2023
 Michael Skroch
 Midwest Fantasy
 Miguel Torres
 Mihajlo Gasic
 Mike Daggs & Kelley
 Wilt
 Mike Stallion Fry
 Mikey Bear
 Mischief
 Mistress Gothic
 MJ Candido
 Ms. Capitol Pride
 Leather 2009
 Nallen
 Nathan Shepard
 NCM Leather Family
 Neil M
 Owen Keehnen
 Pablo Anaya
 Patrick & Patrick
 Mulcahey
 Patrick Voisine
 Paul Belloni
 Paul King
 Pete Berman
 Peter Fiske
 Peter Flyzik
 Prairie Koziol and Rob
 Onorato
 Prince
 Pup Baldur
 Pup Balty
 Pup Data
 Pup Giggles
 Pup Maxx
 Pup Shadow
 Puppy Stolas
 Rachel Baker
 Randall Klett
 Randi Kemmler
 Randy L Gaston
 Ranger Scott Hukta
 Ray Briggs
 Ray Davis
 reb00t
 Reese Enghardt
 Reya Sunshine
 Rick Boehle
 Rob Anderson
 Robert Bienvenu
 Robert Daniel Reid
 Robert Ridinger
 Robert Ruschmeier
 Robert Stanhope
 Roger Grape
 Roger Scheid
 Ron Vogel
 Ron Volanti Jr.
 Ross Weber
 Ry Fox
 Ryan Rogers
 Sage Teir
 Scott Philips
 Shenzi
 Simone Justice
 SIR and boy
 Sir Ryan
 Sir Tom Matt
 slave porter
 Snax
 Spacecitypretty
 Stephen C Klein
 Stephen Fernandez
 Stephen Klinger
 Steve
 Steve "Corvo" M
 Steven Crespo
 submissivecop
 T Wayne Maples
 Tawse
 Ted Sollinger
 Terrell Dungee
 The Woodrow Leather
 Family
 Theo Estes
 Thom Butts
 Tim Altrock
 Tito Joey
 TJ Jones
 Todd Smoot
 Todd Webb
 Tony B
 Tony Moore
 Tony Pier
 Topher McCulloch
 Troy Kinser
 Tucker/Crane/Maffei
 Wendell Reid
 Will Biby
 Wyatt Ollestad
 Ya mama
 Zo P Vallas
 Zutty

Organizations & Businesses

Centaur MC
 Chicago Hellfire
 Club
 Chicago Rubber
 Club
 Crescent City
 Leathermen of New
 Orleans
 Foxhole University
 at Camp Out
 Poconos
 IanThom
 Foundation
 Impact
 John Paul Palatinus
 Trust
 Leather SINS Kinky
 Kollege
 Leather Solidarity
 Collective
 MAFIA
 Northeast Indiana
 Leather - 501c3
 NonProfit org - Fort
 Wayne IN
 PARAGON
 Cooperative & Club
 Philly Leather Pride
 Night LTD
 Ruth Foundation for
 the Arts
 Seattle Men in
 Leather
 SigMa Inc
 Texas After Violence
 Project
 Tides Foundation
 Kicking Assets Fund
 Trident International
 Windy City
 Twisted Tryst
 Vespertine Chicago
 - Daddy Sky Cotton
 ViiV Healthcare

COMMUNITY
 SUPPORT
 IS THE
 LIFEBLOOD OF
 OUR HISTORY

THANK YOU!

LA&M STAFF & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 Board of Directors

Billy Lane
President
Miguel Torres
Vice President
Jacob Mangin
Treasurer
Heather Raquel Phillips
Secretary
Alan Dudley
Catherine Gross
Edward Harris
Gayle Rubin
Mike Daggs
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Robert Miller
Robert Ridinger

LA&M Staff

Gary Wasdin
Executive Director
Mel Leverich
Archivist & Collections Librarian
Leslie Anderson
Leather Care Preservationist
Cody Jay
Operations Manager
Ken Hauan
Public Service Assistant
Austin Heereema
Archives Assistant
Lorca Jolene
CHC Archives Assistant

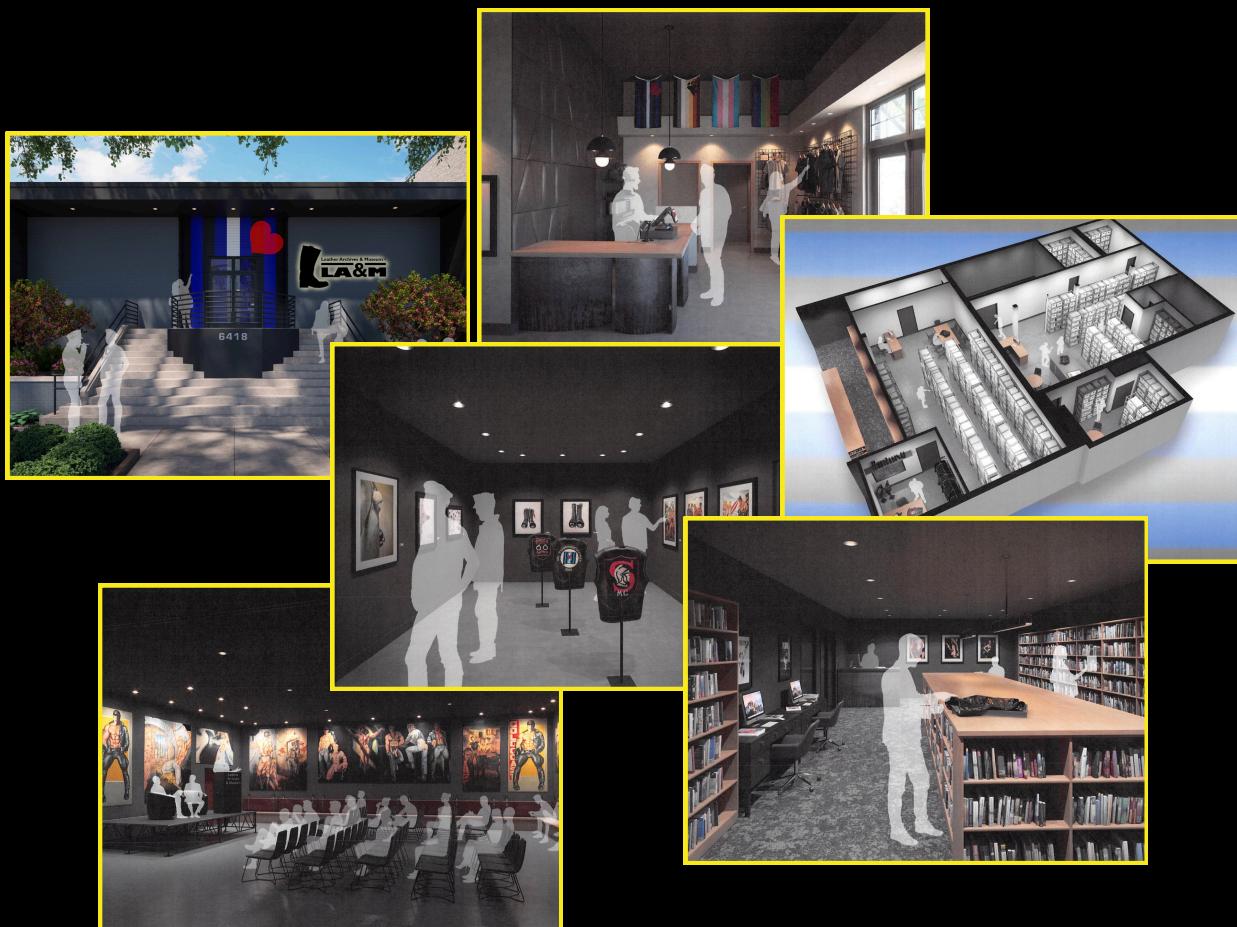
2025 Volunteers

Abraham	Dat	JJ	Nik
Adam	David	Jo	Och
Aiesha	DC boys of	Joey	Overdrive
AI	Leather	Jonathan	Patrick
Alex	Delta	Joshua	Peter
Alexis	Dev	Jules	Petra
Aliya	Dorian	Julie	Phobos
Amanda	Drake	Jupiter	Rebekah
Amelie	Eira	Justin	Rob
Andrea	El	Kaelan	Robert
Andres	Eli	Kassius	Robin
Andrew	Elizabeth	Kat	Rodrigo
Andy	Ella	Kevin	Roman
Annika	Elliott	Kieran	Rowan
Ari	Emi	Killian	Ruth
Atlas	Emily	Kit	Ryan
August	Emma	Kora	Sabine
Avi	Eric	Kyle	Sam
Ben	Evelyn	Kyrsten	Sazzy
Bill	Felipe	Liam	Shazaad
boy badu	Felix	Lily	Skippy
boy Pippin	Fern	Lindsey	Stefanie
boy Spark	Finch	Lizzy	Stephen
Brandon	Fito	Logan	subtlety
Brennan	Flynn	Lucie	T.J.
Brian	Frankie	Maddy	Tanner
Briana	Fred	Mads	Tiany
Cael	Garrett	Marco	Tito Joey
Casey	Gary	Margaret	Tony
Catherine	Grace	Marie	Tyler
Cesar	Grant	Marshal	Valentine
Chance	Gray	Mason	Vince
Chandler	Grey	Master Sebastian	Vitaliy
Chris	Hadley	Matthew	Wade
Christopher	Harm	Max	Wesley
Connor	Haze	Maxwell	Zoe
Courtney	Isobel	Michael	
Daddy G	Ivy	MischiefPup	
Damon	Jacob	Morgan	
Dan	Jake	Nat	
Dana	James	Natalie	
Danny	Jami	Nick	
Darwin	Jay	Nico	

THE YEAR AHEAD

2026 will be LA&M's most exciting and most challenging year yet, as we begin the first major renovation to our building. Built in the 1950's as a synagogue, it's a unique and charming space that is in need of some long overdue work.

- Make the building 100% accessible, with an elevator, new restrooms, and wider door and hallways ensuring the space is truly welcoming to everyone.
- Improve the building's climate control systems to keep our history dry and safe.
- Expand and improve the archives and research spaces to accommodate our growing collections and the many people who come to use them.
- Create improved exhibit spaces and museum flow so that visitors can see more of our rich history in thoughtfully curated exhibits.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT LA&M?

Workplace Giving

Legacy Gifts

Fundraising Events

Recurring Donations

Volunteering

Social Media Advocacy

Membership

THANK YOU!

leatherarchives.org

