FFRPL and the Rochester Public Library are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The Rochester Public Library
The Local History & Genealogy Division of the Rochester Public Library preserves and ensures widespread access to inclusive resources and information about the diverse history of Greater Rochester and all of its residents.

Collections
The division holds one of the largest archives of LGBTQIA+ history in New York State, comprised of more than 21 individual collections. Most of the material was acquired through the efforts of Evelyn Bailey and the 'Shoulders to Stand On' documentation project. The library is committed to preserving and providing public access to the collections in perpetuity.

Programs/Exhibits
Since 2018 the library has worked with community partners to present the Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues, a 'Shoulders to Stand On' program, sponsored by FFRPL. The program contextualizes LGBTQIA+ life in Rochester against the backdrop of social justice issues.

In 2019, the library partnered with diverse stakeholders in the LGBTQIA+ community to create 'Stonewall: 50 Years Out,' a large-scale exhibition on the history of LGBTQIA+ life and activism. The exhibit was sponsored by FFRPL.
The history of Rochester's LGBTQIA+ community is full of unique, amazing and iconic stories that must continue to be captured and stored.

The Evelyn Bailey Shoulders to Stand On Endowed Fund at the Friends & Foundation of the Rochester Public Library was established in 2021 to provide staff and resources to preserve and promote the history of Rochester's LGBTQIA+ community.

"The Endowed Fund will allow the Local History & Genealogy Division to hire an LGBTQIA+ Outreach Archivist to care for the collections I placed there, expand the archive to include the people, organizations, and stories that I have not been able to chronicle, and share LGBTQIA+ history through public programs."
– Longtime LGBTQIA+ activist, educator and historian Evelyn V. Bailey
(October 27, 1946 – July 13, 2022)

“...the community in Rochester is far and away at the forefront of preservation of LGBTQ culture.”

2023 Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues Keynote Speaker:
Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr., Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute of African & African-American Studies and Frederick Douglass Associate Professor of African American Literature and Culture at UofR.

Learn more and contribute to this important legacy project:
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