

“...we need to share our stories, not of just pain, but of slivers of joy of power. Because it's important for you to see someone who looks like me with my stories to be intentionally placed here. Because if not us, then who will?”

Heather C Lou aka hclou at Art, Music, and Radical Self Love on Feb 14, 2021

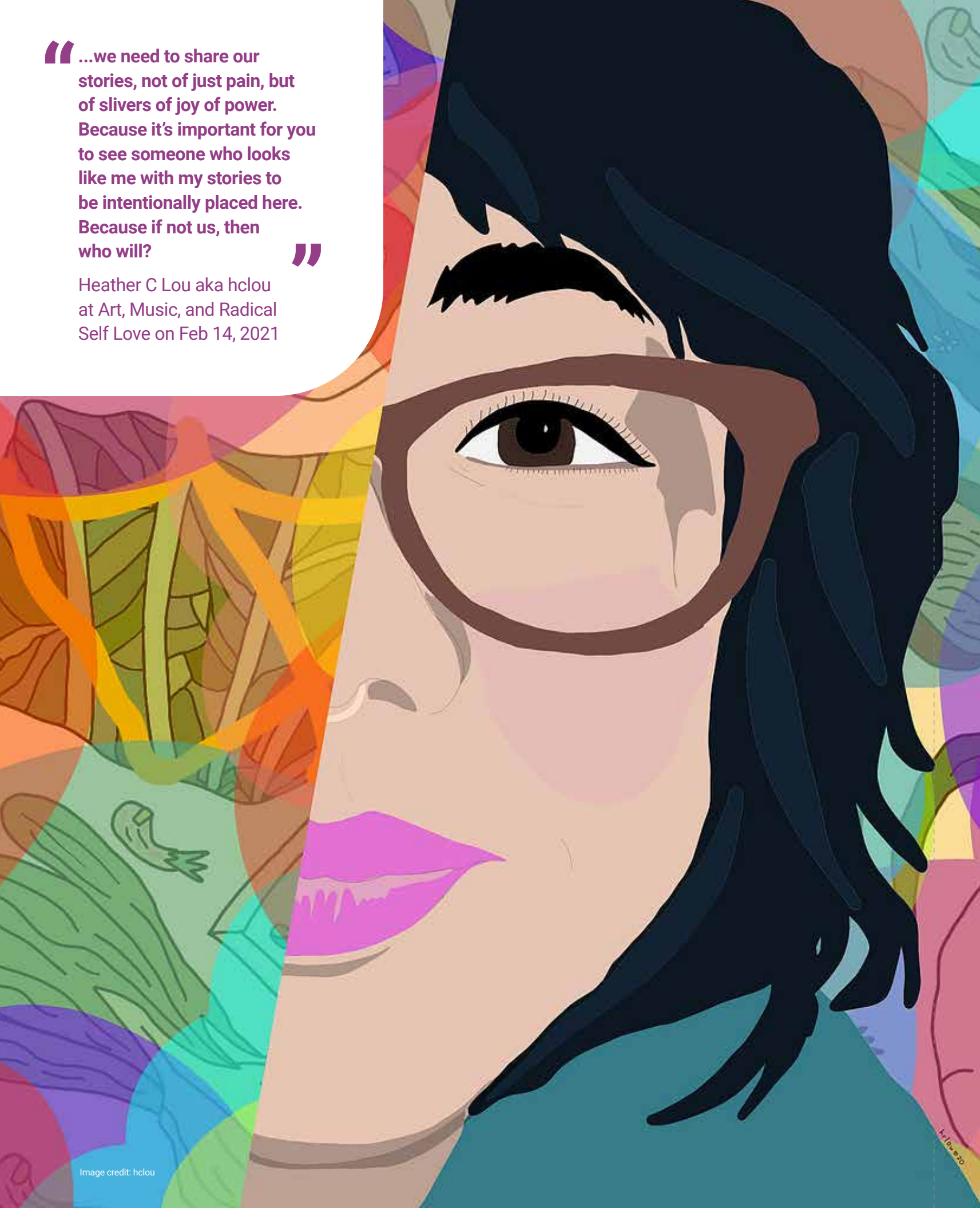


Image credit: hclou

Our 2021/2022 theme is Justice

Telling Queer History is excited to explore, learn, and connect across the same theme “Justice” with a queer lens throughout our 2021/22 program year. We acknowledge that these themes, like our identities, are intersectional and interconnected, that we need to work towards each one simultaneously to reach justice for all. We will use our four events to highlight five areas of justice through a queer lens. You are invited to join us for all four gatherings or just the ones you feel called to.

All gatherings are donation based, all ages, substance free, ASL interpreted, and when online live captioned.

October 10, 2021

Housing Justice – virtually co-hosted by the Tretter Collection

December 12, 2021

Racial Justice - virtually curated by Voices for Racial Justice

February 13, 2022

Environmental Justice through art - virtual

April 10, 2022

Fast Friends 2022 - hybrid fundraiser

June 12, 2022

Food and Economic justice - hopefully in person with food included - 9th anniversary!

Ways you can get involved



Join our Board of Directors

We are looking for LGBTQ+ with board experience to help us build. Requires about 4-8 hours of volunteer work each month.

Become a sustaining donor

Go to our [GiveMN page](#) or go directly there via the QR code above.

Volunteer on a committee

Join our Fast Friends Fundraiser, community outreach, or finance committees.

Join us at a gathering

Reach out if you want to be a storyteller or community partner.

Contact RJ at hello@tellingqueerhistory.com for more information.

www.tellingqueerhistory.com

hello@tellingqueerhistory.com

Thank you, donors

Kristi Adams
Emmy Anderberg
Dedicated to The sex working femmes forever in the folds of our histories
Anonymous x 7

Rebecca Aylesworth
Rachel Bedor
Anna Bergdall
Joan Biren
Dedicated to Rebecca Lawrence
Hilary Bobel
Mikko Bonilla-Sunsin
Erin Bryan
Brenda Busse
Ryan Clanton
Dedicated to Rebecca Lawrence

Page and Jay Cowles
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Diana Fraser
In memory of Lucy Swift

Diana Fraser
Dedicated to RJ in honor of the 2021 Program Work
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Dedicated to Rebecca Lawrence
Joanne Garlich
Sophia Ginis
Patricia Good
Emma Gravelle
Noelle Gray
In honor of Cate Hesser's birthday!
Becca Greenstein
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Elizabeth Loeb
Gretchen M Lucken
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bold = monthly sustaining donors

Telling Queer History is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
EIN 84-3928844



Annual Report Fiscal year 2020-2021

“We are valid we are here we are queer...and it takes us remembering that it's not about whether or not we are deserving of love. But oftentimes, whether or not the world creates space, for us to be received, and to be loved. And so Telling Queer History is one of those spaces, a space where we can say, I am deserving, I am worthy, I don't have to earn this, it is inherent.”

Blair Imani at Fast Friends Fundraiser on April 14, 2021

Image credit: Maggie Shannon



We envision an intersectional LGBTQ+ community dedicated to authentic conversations that strengthen a sense of belonging, connection, agency, and hope, where all voices are heard, valued, and respected.

The mission of Telling Queer History is to connect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer + people across generations and identities through storytelling gatherings, which bring communities together to foster compassion, empathy, and healing.

Dear Friend of Telling Queer History,

We have been feeling the distance between each person. Some went to the ancestors too soon.

People logged in to our gatherings to connect with queer stories from this big little town of the Twin Cities, from all over including the UK and California.

People demanded justice for our neighbor George Floyd in streets around the world. The night of the attempted coup of the U.S. Capitol, I connected to a queer person in Dublin, Ireland. She too had chanted his name and marched for justice for his murder, as well as for the murder of a Black man, also named George, killed by police in her city. A central gathering space for South Minneapolis queers, Powderhorn Park, along with many other parks became home to unsheltered neighbors who usually go unseen. I watched my housed neighbors both show up in miraculous ways and hide in fear and anger. **Our stories, our liberation, our lives feel so intimately connected even as (and maybe**



“ And I’ll end by saying that I’m actually looking forward to coming out in different ways. With other identities as well as I grow older.[.] Now I’m turning 51 in a little bit, so I’m excited about the possibilities. I feel like that’s one of the things that queerness has taught me is this expansiveness that there’s, you know, there’s not a, I haven’t arrived. I have not arrived.”

Rocki Simoës at Out of the Closet into the Polls on Oct 11, 2021



more so) as we stayed home as much as possible. New connections were formed as we did not have the spaces and people we were used to connecting with. Out of this grief we are still processing, we are still healing, and more grief is coming this year. What has given you hope this year? What has lifted your spirit? This interconnection and massive call for justice is what inspired our theme for the 21/22 program year.

We hope you join for some or all of the gatherings. (list on the back page)

On March 24th I slipped on my stairs and suffered a concussion two weeks before our virtual annual fundraiser. I was no longer able to use my eyes, as my brain could not process the images enough for them to focus. Many people showed up to be my hands and eyes, adding items to our online fundraiser, creating marketing, taking care of me as I was mostly bedridden for weeks. As a trauma survivor, I know how to push through and get the tasks done. I showed up for our fundraiser, which ultimately raised more than twice the goal, with minimal use of my brain and body. Thankfully I did not have to keep pushing. **My board granted me two months of medical leave to recover. I think that saved me.** The only thing you can do to help a brain injury is to rest, to not use your brain. I learned meditation, slept as much as possible, went to medical appointments 3 to 4 times a week. Slowly, slowly I am recovering. It’s been five months now and I am back at work part time. I still get headaches and my ears ring when I push my body too far. This injury has changed how I am in the world and in some ways who I am. Multi-tasking is a thing of my past. **Having a steady income, even a part-time one, has made it possible for me to heal. Thank you for supporting Telling Queer**



Thank you to the performers, MC, interpreters, event manager, and TQH board pictured here during zoom tech rehearsal for Fast Friends 2021. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped behind the scenes.

History, and in doing so, supporting me. I hope to build a connected and healing community that can offer this kind of collective support to anyone in need. We all deserve to be so held.

I am proud to say that the many years of work that has gone into growing Telling Queer History bore fruit this year even as we struggled. We applied for five grants over fiscal year and won four of them; MRAC’s Equity Response Grant (\$2,500), MRAC’s Flexible Support Grant (\$15,000), MN Humanities CARES Act funds (\$7,500), and an additional Tegan and Sara Foundation grant towards building a reserve fund (\$2,000). These funds supported our strategic planning session with two facilitators in Sept 2021, will compensate our Media Manager, and give us a little financial safety net.

This year our programming included the following events. You can watch/listen to recordings on our YouTube channel.

- October: Out of the Closet into the Polls - featuring Rocki Simoes, Quinn Villa-Gomez, Melissa Harl, and Alfonso Wenker.

- December was our first open mic hosted by Paul Nemeth, co-founder of OutSpoken.
- February our annual art and radical self love featured Heather C Lou (visual artist) and David Portillo (opera singer)
- In April our second virtual fundraiser was stunning with host Blair Imani of “Smarter in Seconds”, songs by Venus de Mars and Mikko Blaze.
- In June, our 8th anniversary as an organization, we took a month off while I was on medical leave.

We still have a lot of internal building to do as a new nonprofit. We are shifting from a volunteer-run community organization to a funded nonprofit. We are looking for people excited to join in that building process. Please see our request for board members and volunteers, and contact me if you are interested.

Thank you for all the ways you have supported and shown up for Telling Queer History.

Warmly,
Rebecca (RJ) Lawrence
Executive Director

Meet our new Media Manager!

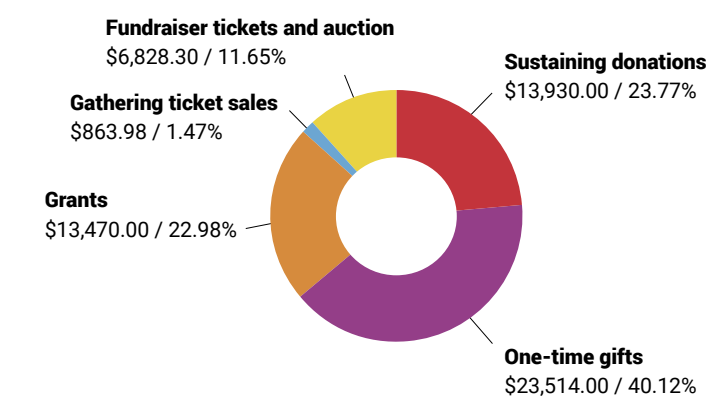


Taylor Wicklund (she/they) joins Telling Queer History as our first Media Manager. They have a background in movement building, nonprofit development, and social research. Inspired by traditions of transformation and community co-creation, Taylor came to embodied justice work through their studies in critical race theory and human geography. Taylor shared why they are excited to join TQH: “I believe healthy communities need mutually supportive, relational spaces allowing safety to share stories that are too often silenced. Organizations like Telling Queer History facilitate such spaces that foster individual empathy, perspective building, and ultimately, collective healing and liberation. I have loved my time on the team so far and have been jazzed and honored to be in relationship with the people who make up Telling Queer History. Thank you for being you!”

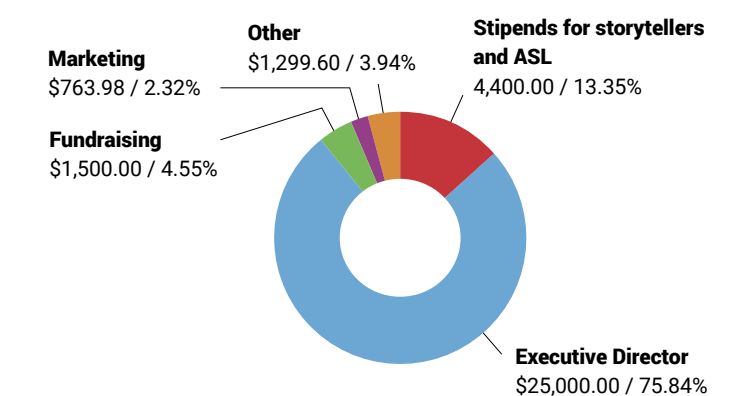
Taylor enjoys spending her free time among friends and with her two dogs, Moose & Honey.

Fiscal report FY20/21

FY 20/21 Income



FY 20/21 Expense



“ When it comes to coming out and that process is remembering that whether or not we have that language to define ourselves is not what makes us valid. We are valid. We are here. We are queer. And whether or not we are even comfortable with the term queer, we are still part of this community. And that is something beautiful and something that cannot be taken away. But it’s also not something that can be given. And so having spaces like Telling Queer History is so crucial because it is intergenerational, it is multicultural, multi religious, secular, people coming together to tell their truths. And I think adapting this to a virtual space is so crucial. Because when we meet people within our community, we are already so isolated from one another, not because there’s anything wrong with us, but because of that perpetual fear that at least I experienced, of what if they find out something about me that I don’t totally know yet about myself, that they don’t like. And it takes us remembering that it’s not about whether or not we are deserving of love. But oftentimes, whether or not the world creates space, for us to be received, and to be loved. And so Telling Queer History is one of those spaces, a space where we can say, I am deserving, I am worthy, I don’t have to earn this, it is inherent.”

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