

TOWN MEETING 1978-2028: SYMPOSIUM

ART LEAGUE HOUSTON

Saturday June 7, 10am - 5:30pm

Sunday June 8, 10am - 5:30pm

Registration Opens Early May – Click [HERE](#) to join mailing list

Join us for a two-day symposium grounded in the legacy of [Town Meeting 1](#), the pivotal 1978 convening of 4,000 queer Houstonians at the Astro Arena that shaped Houston's queer community for decades to come, as we collectively envision the 50th anniversary of Town Meeting 1 in 2028.

Organized by queer Houston artists Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin, the symposium combines expert panels of community elders, scholars of queer visual culture, activists and community stakeholders, with community building activities and experimental, artist-lead programming such as commissioned manifestos, guided movement, vocal and visual arts focused workshops.

Habr  interpretaci n al espa ol disponible (Spanish language interpretation will be available)

Presenters and Sessions include:

Keynote Address

Annise Parker

Meeting in a Hotbed of Activity: plenary on the many contemporaneous queer movements and organizations in late-70s Houston

Larry Bagneris | Deborah Bell | Judge Phyllis Frye | Harrison Guy

Creating a Scene: plenary on queer historical visual culture

Dr Andy Campbell | Dr C. Ondine Chavoya | Dr Che Gossett

Diving into Houston's Queer Archives: panel discussion

JD Doyle | Joyce Gabiola | Alexis Melvin | Judy Reeves | Brian Riedel

Queer Manifestos

Koomah | Lovie Olivia | Sixto Wagan

Intergenerational Stories: panel and open discussion hosted by:

Kevin Anderson

Digital Humanities, Curricula, and Research: workshop

Dr Rachel Afi Quinn | Dr Leandra Zarnow

Following our Bodies, Intersections for Listening: movement workshop

Jasmine Hearn

Vocal Workshop

Chris Giarmo

The Progressive Tea Party: meme workshop

Phillip Pyle II

Town Meeting 1: a performance lecture

Nick Vaughan & Jake Margolin

Creating a Platform: community listening session on Houston's queer agenda

Dreaming Toward 2028: "Open Space" meeting collectively imagining programing/collaborations to coincide with Town Meeting 1's 50th Anniversary in 2028.

The symposium will be documented by queer Houston poets, and these poems along with other material generated during the symposium will be compiled into a chapbook/handbook to be distributed free of charge to all participants in Fall 2025.

Poet Documentarians:

francine j. harris | Jadine Pluecker | Stalina Emmanuelle Villarreal

Montrose Block Party!

On Saturday evening Art League Houston is hosting a block party with vendors and food trucks following the symposium.