

LGBTQ+ AND PHILANTHROPY

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The lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) movement and philanthropy began in the 1800s with secret societies working to defend LGBTQ+ people (Hunt & Mullinnix, 2019). In the 1940s, homosexual rights groups entered the public realm in the Western world. The Mattachine Society, founded in 1950 by Harry Hay and Chuck Rowland, was the primary organization for gay men as an oppressed cultural minority (Morris, 2019). Other significant LGBTQ+ organizations on the West Coast included One, Inc., founded in 1952, and Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian support network founded in 1955 by Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin (Morris, 2019).

These organizations provided information and outreach to thousands of people through meetings and publications. Cory published *The Homosexual in America* in 1951, claiming that gay men and lesbians were a legal minority group, but it would not be until 1973 that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its diagnostic manual (Morris, 2019).

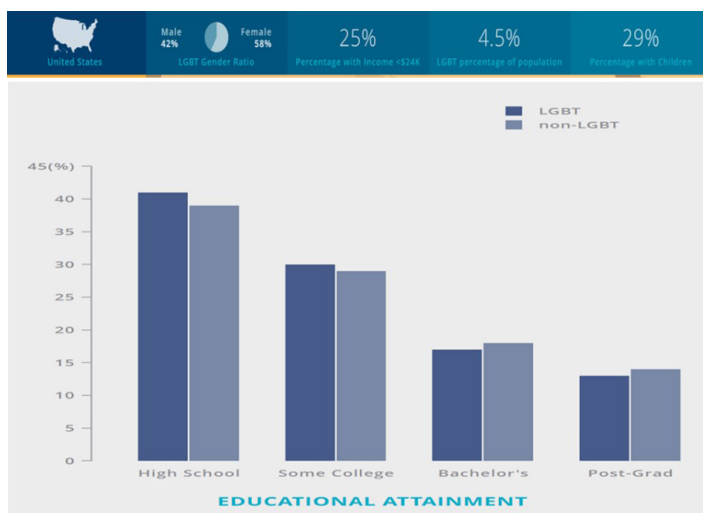
According to Morris (2019), the first openly gay minister was ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1972, expanding religious acceptance for LGBTQ+ men and women of faith. Soon thereafter, additional gay and lesbian church and synagogue groups emerged. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), formed in 1972, offering family members greater support roles in the gay rights movement. Politically, the LGBTQ+ movement and action exploded with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign, the election of openly gay and lesbian congressional representatives, like Elaine Noble and Barney Frank, and, in 1979, the first march on Washington for gay rights.

The increasing expansion of a global LGBTQ+ rights movement suffered a setback during the 1980s when the gay male community was decimated by the AIDS epidemic. Demands for compassion and medical funding led to renewed coalitions between men and women as well as angry street theater by groups like the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and Queer Nation. Enormous marches on Washington drew as many as one million supporters in 1987 and again in 1993. Right-wing religious movements, spurred on by the belief that AIDS was God's punishment, also expanded. A new right-leaning political coalition of lobby groups seeking to create religious exemptions from any new LGBTQ+ rights protections competed with national LGBTQ+ organizations in Washington.

The LGBTQ+ community became more widely recognized with the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement, women’s liberation, and anti-Vietnam War movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The LGBTQ+ community gained national attention following the Stonewall Riots of 1969, and philanthropic organizations benefiting this community, such as the Gay Liberation Front, arose. The emergence of the AIDS crisis of the 1980s pushed LGBTQ+ issues to the forefront of equality movements. This movement was furthered in the western United States by Harvey Milk, leading the LGBTQ+ community to new philanthropic heights in the 1990s and early 2000s with focus on issues such as marriage equality, the right to raise children, workplace equality, and mental and physical health services, as well as transgender rights.

Since the 1990s, LGBTQ+ communities have undergone enormous transformations. The emergence of lesbian and gay families that differed from previous, “traditional” families created a new field of family law and established foundational struggles for LGBTQ+ people’s rights (Faderman, 2015). A series of landmark court rulings continued to expand LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. In June 2003, the Supreme Court ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas* that the state’s prohibition of consensual private same-sex conduct violated the constitutional right to privacy.

In June 2013, the court ruled in *United States v. Windsor* that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996, prohibiting federal recognition of same-sex marriage at the state level, was unconstitutional. On June 26, 2015, another historic victory for LGBTQ+ rights and equality emerged when the United States Supreme Court ruled that the US Constitution grants same-sex couples the right to marry (Human Rights Watch, 2015). This was indeed an important historical step that expanded the rights of LGBTQ+ people, supports them, and supports their international recognition. Following this, same-sex marriage became legal in other countries including France, Canada, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.



The number of individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ has increased in the U.S. and across the world. Surveys conducted in the United States between 2005 and 2009 estimated that “3.5% of adults in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual and an estimated 0.3% of adults are transgender” (Gates, 2011). A ten-year post follow-up study confirmed the previous findings, reporting that 4.5% of the country identified as LGBTQ+ a decade later (Gallup, 2018; Williams Institute, 2020).

Figure 1 : United States Population Identified as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

As shown in Figure 1, the increasing presence of the LGBTQ+ community at various educational levels has become notable. LGBTQ+ nonprofits have become remarkably

responsive to the needs of these groups to achieve justice and equal opportunities. For example, in its recognition of the pioneering organizations that advocated for this segment of society and ushered in a major transformation, Funders for LGBTQ Issues (2019) applauded the courageous role of such organizations in promoting social justice and enhancing the wellness of LGBTQ+ communities as follows:

This transformation was made possible by the bold and courageous activists who refused to stand by as LGBTQ people were pushed to the margins of society. The story of our own founding is one of courage as our founders insisted that philanthropy response to the needs of LGBTQ people.

In addition, the philanthropic behaviors of individual donors to LGBTQ+ organizations has expanded to promote civil rights, public health, and mutual understanding. However, the LGBTQ+ rights movement continues to demonstrate some activities in the West to expand LGBTQ+ rights and recognition so that this minority group can be successful and coexist.

LGBTQ+ and philanthropic organizations are mainly grassroots and advocacy organizations, as well as arts and cultural organizations. Some organizations, such as the True Colors Fund, underwrite basic needs for homeless LGBTQ+ persons so they can find shelters that accept and respect them, and they work to reduce violence to LGBTQ+ persons. Infrastructure organizations like the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law provide research on underserved populations within the LGBTQ+ population, including unhoused LGBTQ+ youth. Grassroots organizations typically perform community education on LGBTQ+ issues and try to integrate local communities with local LGBTQ+ communities.

Foundation funding for LGBTQ+ issues reached a record high of \$153.2 million in 2014, and 33% of the funding for these organizations came from public and private LGBTQ+ foundations, with the remaining 67% coming from community foundations, corporations, and non-LGBTQ+ public and private foundations. Same-sex couples are believed to support LGBTQ+ organizations but are also likely to engage in other forms of philanthropy. According to Maulbeck and Kan (2016), 79% of same-sex couples donated to organizations that support LGBTQ+ causes; however, this only accounted for 15% of overall contributions.

The 2019–2020 Resource Tracking Report: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations reveals that the LGBTQ+ funding industry has expanded significantly. In 2002, fewer than 1,600 grants totaling \$30 million were included in their initial report; in 2020, as shown in Figure 2, they reviewed 5,707 awards totaling more than \$200 million (Funders for LGBTQ+ Issues, 2022).

Total Annual LGBTQ Grant Dollars, 2009-2020



Figure 2: Total Annual LGBTQ Grant Dollars, 2009-2020

In line with long-standing patterns, the majority of U.S. foundation funding for LGBTQ+ communities and problems in 2019 and 2020 was provided by private foundations. Private foundation support for LGBTQ+ communities declined by 21% between 2018 and 2020, although it still made up 36% of total funding as indicated in Figure 3.

Sources of LGBTQ Funding by Funder Type (2019-2020)

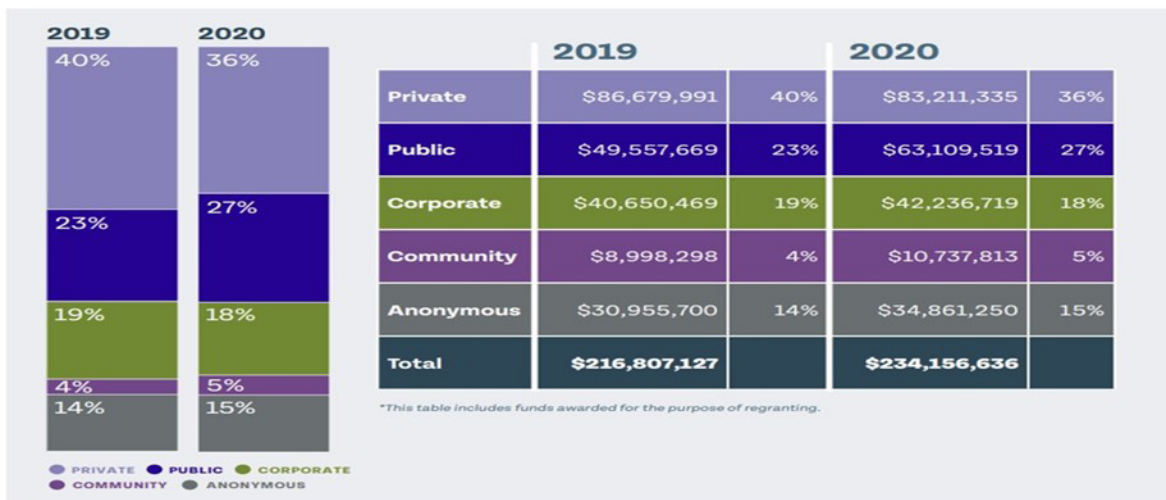


Figure 3: Sources of LGBTQ Funding by Funder Type (2019-2020)

In terms of providing job opportunities for this segment of society, non-profit organizations

not only advocate for LGBTQ+ people but push for active job recruitment/hiring. However, the percentage of LGBTQ+ individuals varied depending on a foundation's focus, with gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals comprising 22.8% of the staff and board at foundations with a social justice or LGBTQ+ focus and 11.6% of the staff and board at foundations with another focus. In all of this, philanthropy has an important role to play in advancing LGBTQ+ equality and enhancing the lives of LGBTQ+ people.

Nonprofit organizations have had a significant impact advocating for marginalized groups in American society throughout the history of LGBTQ+ philanthropic efforts. These organizations promise to continue to advocate for increased philanthropic resources for LGBTQ+ communities.

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