

Ohio Lesbian Archives: Grant Progress Report for *Lesbian Feminist and LGBTQ+ Community Preservation Project*

August 26, 2026

1. Estimated Percentage of Project Completed

Ohio Lesbian Archives (OLA) successfully hired and onboarded a project archivist, Niel White, to carry out the work outlined in this project. To date, Niel has processed approximately 12 cubic feet of the total 34.5 cubic feet of archival material covered by this grant, placing the project at approximately 34% complete.

2. Summary of Expenses

Archival supplies have not yet been ordered. An order consistent with the grant's \$1,500 supply allotment has been compiled and is expected to be placed within the next 1–2 weeks.

3. Staff and Volunteer Time

The grant-funded project archivist has spent approximately 31 hours on the project thus far. OLA staff and volunteers have contributed an additional 50 hours of matching time, supporting the archivist's work and OLA's, broader processing efforts, and marketing. In total, approximately 81 hours have been dedicated to the project to date.

4. Project Timeline

The project is on track to be completed by December 31. With approximately 34% of the collection processed and a project archivist fully onboarded and actively working, OLA anticipates no delays in meeting the grant period's completion date.

5. Publicity

Please find an attached sample from OLA's August newsletter highlighting the project and our hired project archivist, Niel White. OLA will also be sharing updates on the project on social media through both images and videos.

OLA Staff Announcement:

Niel White

Meet Our Project Archivist: Niel White

We're thrilled to welcome Niel White as OLA's project archivist! Niel, who holds a Masters in Library and Information Science with hands-on experience in archival processing, is leading the work of organizing, preserving, and describing over 34 cubic feet of records documenting Cincinnati's lesbian feminist and LGBTQ+ community history from 1979 to 2007. That means surveying each collection, arranging materials, rehousing them in archival-quality storage, and writing detailed finding aids so these histories are finally searchable and accessible to researchers, educators, and community members alike.

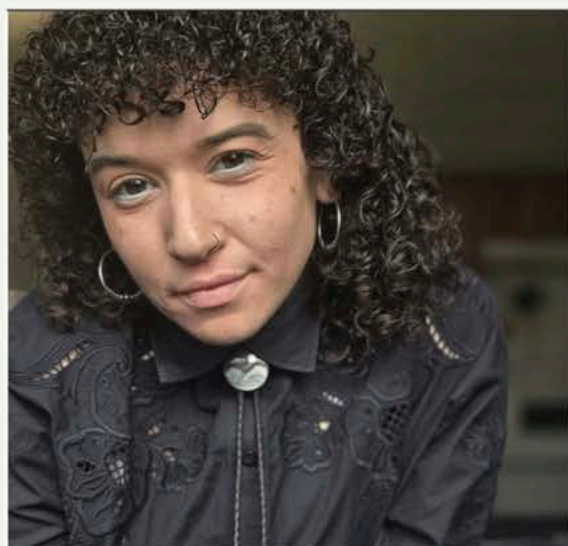
This position was made possible in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB), through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration. But this was also made possible by YOU. Thanks to the incredible support of our Give OUT Day donors, who helped us raise \$10,000 in June for the preservation of at-risk materials, OLA has the staffing and resources to move this vital work forward.

Welcome, Niel!

Learn more about OHRAB and their grant program:



Niel's Bio:



Meet OLA's Project Archivist:

Niel White (she/they) is the current Project Archivist for the Ohio Lesbian Archives. They have a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Denver and a B.A. in Art History from Bowling Green State University. She holds a deep interest in thoughtful description practices, especially in regard to Queer collections and communities. They have worked in varied roles in order to support this interest, with the most recent position being a Research Assistant for a digital archives project called Illuminate. Illuminate is a joint project of the Ohio Humanities, Columbus Metropolitan Library's Local History and Genealogy Department, and the Legacy Fund of Columbus that focuses on showcasing Central Ohio LGBTQ+ history through panel exhibitions, a digital collection, and in-depth primary source research.

Niel also has prior experience working with Emory University's Resource Description department on catalog and metadata remediation efforts using the Homosaurus (an LGBTQ+ linked vocabulary).