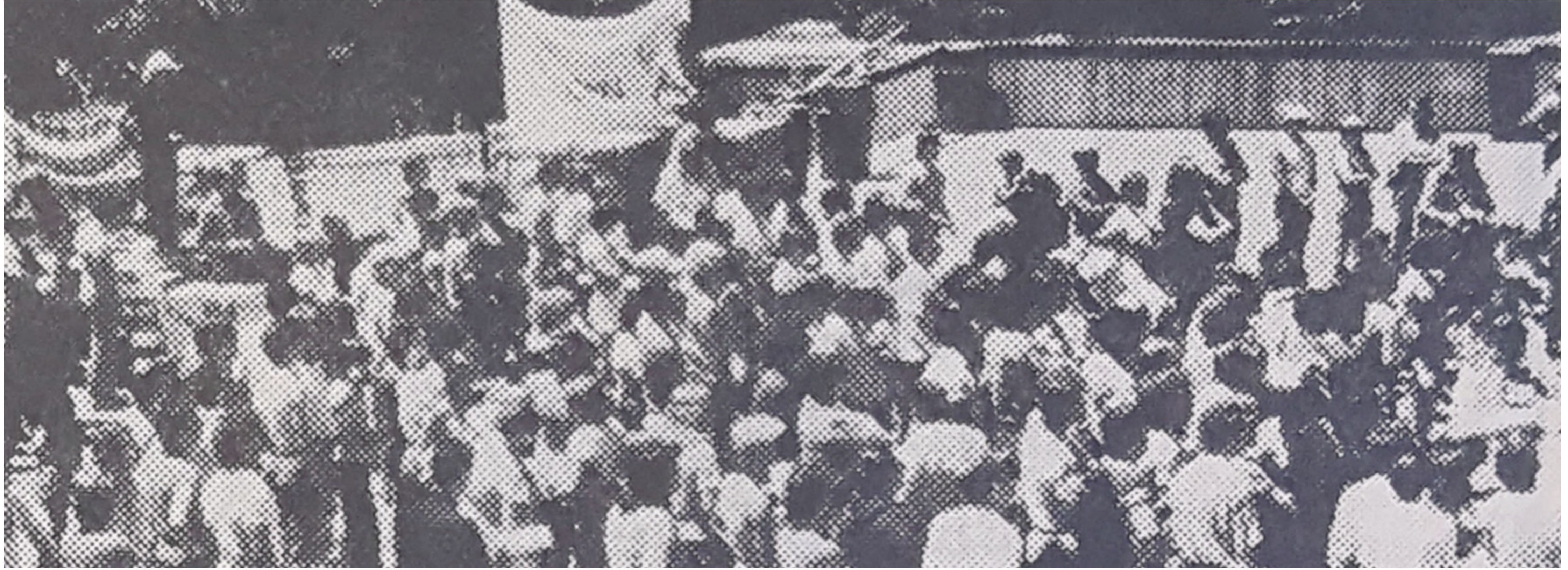


VIBRANT KIN

Fifty Years of Activism: A Continuing Conversation



How did Cincinnati go from forbidding city government from protecting LGBTQ people to having the highest possible Municipal Equality Index score from Human Rights Coalition? In 1967, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people had almost no legal rights to love who they wanted or express their gender. In 2015, a Cincinnati became the named plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that won marriage equality for same-gender couples all over the United States. How did we come so far in just half a century? Not in a straight line.

Progress was often difficult and sometimes slid backwards. It took resilience. It took messy coalitions of people with different identities and political beliefs. Sometimes the moments of greatest oppression generated the most powerful resistance.

"50 years of activism" covers only a tiny sliver of Cincinnati's LGBTQ history, and this exhibit couldn't possibly capture every event, issue, and detail of the movements driven by our community during that time. This exhibit is just the beginning of the conversation and of recognizing Cincinnati's rich LGBTQ history. Join the conversation by contributing your own memories and reactions.

A note about language:

The words used to describe our community have changed drastically in the last 50 years, and continue to evolve. Today, the terms "Lesbian" "Gay" "Bisexual" and "Transgender" are generally accepted, while "Queer" is still debated within the community. This exhibit uses "LGBTQ" to describe a broad community of people who love people of the same gender or who cross the boundaries of gender.

In some historical examples, words are used that were widely accepted at the time, for example "Transsexual" or "Homosexual". Although there is not a perfect way to reconcile quickly changing language, the goal of terminology in this exhibit is to respect the identities of individuals discussed.