

Lesbian Community Building

Lesbians and Gay men developed separate communities, cultures, and activist circles in the 1970s. The communities worked together and shared some common goals, like fighting discrimination based on sexual orientation. However, while Gay and Bisexual men were fighting the police entrapment and violence they faced, Cincinnati's burgeoning Lesbian Feminist circles were more focused on the issues at the intersection of homophobia and sexism.

The Lesbian Activist Bureau published Dinah beginning in the late 1970s and held community events like coffee nights and potlucks.

Lesbian feminist communities, communes, and organizations like Labrys were well documented in the pages of Dinah. The movement sought to reclaim and elevate female or feminine power and used imagery of Goddesses and ideas from Wicca and Pagan spiritualities. Some lesbian feminists also became separatists who eliminated or limited interactions with men.

In the late 1970s, a collective of women (or womyn or wimmin) came together to found a bookstore and a space for Feminists and Lesbians. The Crazy Ladies Bookstore became a key resource for the LGBTQ community from the 1980s to the 2000s.

Human Rights Ordinance

In 1977, after years of organizing, the Coalition for Cincinnati Human Rights Law petitioned the City Council to pass a sweeping ordinance in defense of human rights, including gender and sexuality among several other categories. Several local clubs and organizations signed on and pressed City Council to support the idea.

Artifact Images from top down:

Lesbian Activist Bureau Inc. Pinback c. 1979

Issue of Dinah c. 1979

Issue of Dinah c.1979

Crazy Ladies Bookstore Pinback c. 1990

Packet of Letters and Support,
Coalition for Cincinnati Human Rights c. 1977

