

Exchange: PRIDE PANEL

Pride represents visibility, celebration and protest. The panel discussion will focus on the origins of queer resistance and community rooted in the San Francisco urban landscape.

Our panel includes a photographer and multidisciplinary designer who archived queer lives and spaces in the 1980s and 90s; a journalist, author, educator and nightlife historian who specializes in dance music and club history; and a professor of critical gender studies and history whose research looks at cultural geographies, identities and creative expression.

We will use SOMA as a springboard for this conversation as a neighborhood that is currently undergoing a major transformation, and has played an important role in the formation of queer communities and resistance. The goal of this Exchange is to share some perspectives of a queer cultural history in San Francisco and to start a conversation among our architects, planners and designers as we work to shape the future urban landscape.



Melissa Hawkins

Melissa is a photographer and multidisciplinary designer. She holds a degree in industrial design from San Francisco State University and studied product design at Brunel University in England. Artwork by Hawkins has appeared in group and solo exhibitions in San Francisco at Cell Space, Flash Art, Frisbee Street Galleries, LincArt and New Langton Arts. She received a “best idea” prize from the San Francisco Renaissance Center and was a finalist in the *SF Weekly* Mastermind Competition. Her photographic oeuvre of the 1980s and 1990s captured San Francisco’s queer community. Many of the images were taken in the South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood in clubs popular during the era.

Photo Credit: Alfred George Bailey ©2019



Marke B

Marke is the author of “Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens” (Lerner Books, October 2019) and “Into the Streets: A Young Peoples’ History of Protest in the United States” (Lerner Books, June 2020). He publishes local news and culture site 48hills.org and co-owns the Stud nightclub as part of the Stud Collective, the country’s first nightlife cooperative. He has been writing about San Francisco nightlife, arts, and queer issues for 22 years, and is a dance music columnist and educator with the internationally renowned Red Bull Music Academy. A former board member of the GLBT Historical Society Museum and Archives, Marke collaborated with photographer Melissa Hawkins to curate the blockbuster “SoMa Nights: The Queer Club Photography of Melissa Hawkins” show at the GLBT History Museum. Marke will be kicking off the San Francisco Pride Main Stage on Sunday, June 30th, speaking about queer youth and resistance.



Renu Cappelli, PhD

Renu has been teaching in the fields of gender studies and Queer Theory for over a decade, at various institutions including UC Berkeley, Stanford University, UC San Diego, and CCA. Most recently she taught in the doctoral program in Human Sexuality at CIIS, and currently teaches history in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at SFSU. Renu has been residing in the Bay Area since 1999, and also has a private practice in psychotherapy here in San Francisco. Her doctoral research brought cultural geography and art history together to explore identity and creative expression.



Ariane Fehrenkamp (moderator)

Ariane is a senior Project Manager at Perkins+Will currently working on Buildings 12 and 15 on San Francisco’s Pier 70 project. She has over 13 years of professional experience in Architecture having worked on a diverse range of project types. Notable projects include Pier 27 Cruise Terminal, the Building “O” apartments in the Dogpatch, and 220 Golden Gate Avenue which renovated the historic Central YMCA in the Tenderloin into 174 units of housing for formerly homeless individuals. Prior to receiving her Master’s degree in Architecture from UC Berkeley, Ariane worked in the editorial office at Sculpture Magazine where she wrote a monthly column featuring notable, recently-completed public art commissions from around the globe. Ariane has volunteered as a set designer for theatrical commissions at San Francisco’s Old Mint and the Performance Art Institute. She also served with Center Women Present, an arts and entertainment committee at the LGBT Center, and has guest lectured at San Quentin as part of the Prison University Project.

