Start a Conversation

QUEER CALIFORNIA
UNTOLD STORIES

This exhibition is a place to have conversations about things that have not always been talked about. Use this guide to start talking with other visitors.

Be open and listen with care.

The rainbow flag is a sign of welcome and a symbol of pride for many LGBTQ+ people. Read the statement at WHAT GETS LEFT OUT. Take a moment to look at the rainbow flag.

Ask Someone: What does the rainbow flag symbolize for you? Where did you first see this flag? How did it make you feel?

In PLACES TO GATHER, explore the photographs and stories of some of the bars, clubs and other spaces where LGBTQ+ people gathered in California.

Ask Someone: Where and with whom do you feel comfortable to be your full and complete self? What is it about those places and people that make you feel safe?

This exhibition includes queer bodies and sexual content because they are central to the experience of LGBTQ+ communities. It is your choice to view the explicit sexual content. It is indicated like this:
Language has the power to shape our view of other people. Look at the terms defined on the WHAT WE ARE CALLED wall.

Ask Someone: Pick out one or more terms you identify with and one or more that you don’t. What did you choose and why? If you are new to these terms, don’t worry—you don’t have to use them perfectly overnight.

Queer

Often used as an insult in the past, queer is now a celebratory term embraced by many who live and love outside of the heterosexual, fixed-gender model.

Gender identity and expression goes beyond male and female. How you want your gender to appear to the world is your decision. Take a look at Laura Aguilar’s “Plush Pony” photographs in IN THE BODY.

Ask Someone: What are the challenges and benefits of presenting your true self and body to the world?

Find the TIMELINE on the back wall.

Ask Someone: Which moments do you relate to? In your opinion, what is the most important event on the timeline? What change do you hope for the future?

Explore Further: Take a few moments to pose your own questions. Check out other resources: Gender Spectrum, PFLAG’s Straight for Equality, It Gets Better Project, GLSEN.

Thank you for joining the conversation.