**DRAFT**

**Celebrating LGBTQ lives (title/themes tbc!)**

An exhibition that celebrates LGBTQ lives through the stories, creativity and histories of the local community. It will explore the way people have expressed their identity, and challenged mainstream opinion of who and what they are. The exhibition will connect with audiences by celebrating *people*, LGBTQ communities past and present; by exploring *power* the challenge for equal rights; and *presentation*, the backdrop of LGBTQ representation in the media and how this has evolved.

**People:**

Creating identity through communities

Themes: Stories around individuals ‘coming out’ past and present. The diversity of LGBTQ communities. The communities we create, family and friends networks, ‘family albums’, rainbow families. Historically, how Brighton has been a place of liberty or sanctuary for many. How the scene has changed over the years, a history of LGBTQ socialising in B&H, a look at hidden histories and an underground community. LGBTQ language and code (dress, polari). Exploration of places, venues, performances and scenes in Brighton and Hove over the years. Look at LGBTQ scene today, how we are connected, local - global.

**Power**

Challenging society for equal rights

Themes: Legacy; how older generation has changed the world for younger people. Defining moments of radical change in the LGBTQ community. The various social and political campaigns that have contributed to a wider acceptance of LGBTQ community in Brighton & Hove. (Section 28, politics, protest, performance, AIDS, Gay Liberation, Pride, civil partnerships). How these achievements have affected national and global stage. Journey is not over, but evolving.

**Positive representation**

How do we see ourselves?

How are LGBTQ communities reflected in the world, how do we learn about each other? This section shows how the LGBTQ community has questioned and challenged society to change negative representations of the community to a more nuanced, positive depiction of LGBTQ lives. This dialogue often amusing, poignant and sometimes shocking, between LGBTQ and media, will be explored through various TV, newspapers, radio, film, pop, social media, arts . ( E.g. ‘Man Alive’ 1967 first openly gay man on TV, films ‘Fruit Machine’1988, Fashion Vince’s Man Shop in Brighton, artists Aubrey Beardsly, entertainment industry, LGBTQ pioneers, ‘Julian and Sandy’ radio show in polari, Brighton drag balls). Reflection of LGBTQ Brighton on national and global stage, reputation and impact beyond Brighton.

The exhibition will engage audiences through: Oral histories, film, text, labels, objects, letters, photos, creative work, video diaries, further information folders, publications.

* **Interactives**

Potential for AV commissions from LGBTQ community. Large wall space for display that builds throughout the life of the exhibition (e.g. map people can add to, video diaries, public donations of photos, messages, objects that grow throughout exhibition), wall space could be creative commission or project.

* **Resource area**

A sociable meeting space in the gallery that provides LGBTQ information, publications, resources and useful links, which also functions as a space for community conversations (a ‘live’ wall space for news, comments, feedback). This space is to be bookable and be able to hold events.

* **Events and activities programme**

To be programmed and commissioned by LGBTQ community.

* **Changing displays programme - optional**

We have 3-4 spaces within the gallery that could host a programme of changing displays, as created and delivered exclusively by LGBTQ community. This could be object based case in Resource area, AV can deliver films, visual displays, performance, the wall space could also be part of a changing programme. Up for discussion!

**How can you be involved in creating this exhibition?**

* Deciding direction and content of the display (Oct-Nov)
* Deciding the look of the display and how things are displayed (objects, what interactives would appeal, photos, hearing stories, looking at films, reading further information) (Nov)
* Creating content; the exhibition is to be told through people’s stories, photos, objects, film and any other suggested means (animation, video diaries etc). This will be generated through workshop sessions, drop ins, sharing of archives and channelling the work of other interested LGBTQ projects that wish to contribute. (Nov-Jan)
* All material (the precious stuff!) will then be documented by interested volunteers, all text (panels, leaflets and labels) to be produced by the community too. (Nov-Jan)
* The material will then be selected and curated by the LGBT working group through facilitated sessions (Feb/March)