

Finding Aid to the FTM International records

(#2006-25)

Repository: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society

Collection Title: FTM International records

Collection Number: 2006-25

Physical Description: 2.1 linear feet (2 cartons, 1 oversized folder)

Creator: FTM International, Lou Sullivan, Jamison Green

Date (inclusive): 1986-2005

Language of Material: English, Japanese

Abstract: FTM International (FTMI) is the largest and oldest continuously running organization serving the transmasculine community and their allies. The records of FTM International document the organization's history and its social, cultural and political work.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], FTM International records (2006-25), The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Conditions Governing Access:

Collection is open for research, with the exception of the Correspondence series, which is restricted until April 1, 2026 at the request of the donor.

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Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated to the GLBT Historical Society by Heidi Bruins Green in April 2006.

Processing Information:

Finding Aid created by Marjorie Breyer in 2006, with significant updating and reformatting by Isaac Fellman in 2019.

This finding aid uses terminology for LGBTQ people that was in current use at the time of its latest draft. Descriptive language for queer identities evolves quickly and some of these terms may now be dated or even offensive. Finding aids are themselves historical documents; they reflect the moment in which they were written and often reflect the terms that subjects used for themselves. Please contact the GLBT Historical Society Archivist with questions or comments.

Biographical/Organizational History Note: FTM International (FTMI) is the largest and oldest continuously running organization serving the transmasculine community and their allies. In addition to its role as a peer support and networking group, FTMI campaigns to end shame and fear surrounding trans issues and to end economic marginalization of trans people.

FTM International was founded in 1986 by activist Lou Sullivan, who had previously worked with general-interest Bay Area trans support groups such as Golden Gate Girls/Guys. Sullivan began publishing the quarterly FTM Newsletter in September 1987, and worked tirelessly to promote understanding of FTMs and provide services to improve their lives. Before his 1991 death, Sullivan passed leadership of the organization to transgender activist and educator Jamison (James) Green. The group continued to expand throughout the nineties, meeting regularly, incorporating as a 501c3 nonprofit, and adding “International” to its name to reflect its worldwide growth. In addition to Sullivan and Green, FTM International presidents have included Drago Renteria, Dion Manley, Zion Free Johnson, and Levi Adler.

Scope and Content: The records of FTM International document the organization’s history and its social, cultural and political work. There are a wide range of record types in the collection, dating back to the organization’s founding in 1986. The records include materials related to the board of directors, conferences, publication of the newsletter and social events, art, artifacts, by-laws, correspondence, financial records, photographs and posters.

Indexing Terms:

Transgender people

Female-to-male transsexuals

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series 1. Organizational Records

Series 2. Newsletters

Series 3. Correspondence and Other Communication

The original order was maintained.

Series 1. Organizational Records 1986-2005

Physical Description: 15 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Materials in this series document FTM International's organizational structure and its cultural, social and political work. It includes materials regarding the establishment of the organization's by-laws and non-profit status; financial records; materials related to the first Board of Directors elections in 1997; scorecards that rate politicians on their support of transgender rights; materials on FTMI's boycott of the Human Rights Campaign; a photo of participants, programs and receipts related to the first-ever FTM conference, which was held in San Francisco in 1995; a near-complete run of fliers advertising FTM Get-Togethers between 1986-1991; materials from events sponsored by FTM International; posters and memorabilia from Trannyfest: Transgender and Transgenre Cinema; a Pride Parade banner made by Loren Cameron and carried in 1994, marking the first time a group of trans people openly marched under an FTM banner; two self-portraits by Cameron, from his triptych, "Distortions"; and the 2005 Men of FTM International Calendar.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically, by subject.

Access

Names and addresses of FTM International contacts may not be published for twenty years, until April 1, 2026, at the request of the donor.

Box/Folder

1/1-15

Oversized box

Series 2 Newsletters Circa 1991-1997

Physical Description: 16 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Series includes materials related to the operation and finances of the FTM Newsletter. The bulk of the series contains materials related to issues of the newsletter, such as submissions and editorial notes. There is also one Japanese-language newsletter. This series is complemented by a near-complete run of the FTM Newsletter, which can be found in the Historical Society's Periodicals Collection.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject, and chronologically by newsletter issue.

Access

Names and addresses of FTM International contacts may not be published for twenty years, until April 1, 2026, at the request of the donor.

Box/Folder

1/16-32

Series 3 Correspondence and Other Communication Circa 1979-1999

Physical Description: 57 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence from Lou Sullivan, James Green and other FTM newsletter editors. There are also membership lists and phone messages. Some of the correspondence from Sullivan was already arranged alphabetically.

Correspondence may contain publications from other organizations.

Arrangement

Lou Sullivan's original order was maintained. He arranged some of his files alphabetically. The rest of the correspondence and communication is arranged chronologically

Access

Access to the entire contents of this series is restricted for twenty years, until April 1, 2026, at the request of the donor. Please contact the repository for additional information.

Box/Folder 2/1-51 Sullivan, Lou, outgoing and incoming correspondence. Circa 1986-1996

Physical Description: 51 folders

Box/Folder

2/52-53

Green, James, and others, outgoing and incoming correspondence Circa 1991-2001

Physical Description: 2 folders

Box-Folder

2/54-56

Mailing lists and membership information Circa 1993-1999

Physical Description: 2 folders

Box/Folder 2/57 Phone messages Circa 1997-1999

Physical Description: 1 folder