

Pat Parker/Vito Russo Library Vision Statement

The need for queer and trans community spaces focused on sharing resources, information, and art, is as urgent today as when the Library was founded in 1991. Currently, the U.S. is in the midst of a historic wave of anti-LGBTQ+ book bans, homophobic and transphobic curriculum restrictions, and a frightening wave of increased anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and attendant acts of violence. Book suppression is on the rise across the country, with a particular emphasis on suppressing books about gender and sexuality. Libraries have always played a critical role in the resistance and survival of marginalized people; the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Library is no exception.

We seek to build on the rich history of community organizing and mutual aid that brought the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Library into existence. We vision the library as a queer and trans centered space that supports research of and exposure to the diverse history of the community, a space where patrons are welcome and nourished (by art and ideas) and are challenged and inspired to grow more liberated queer and trans futures.

The Library's collection is an eclectic mix of acquired and donated materials (books and video) that reflect the interests and needs of the community of library patrons over the decades. We seek to update the collection and fill critical gaps in knowledge and representation as well as to preserve the community-based nature of the Library's collection.

The Library was co-founded with [The Publishing Triangle](#) and is named in honor of two major figures who championed LGBTQ+ causes in their professional and personal lives. The late lesbian poet Pat Parker, author of "Movement in Black," was hailed by many as a "lead voice and caller" in the lesbian-feminist cultural scene. The late gay film historian Vito Russo was the author of "The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies," released as a motion picture in 1996.