OUT OF THE SHADOWS:  
A Timeline of Boulder LGBT History

Since the Stonewall riots in 1969, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people have been advanced in many ways and in places small and large. Much is known about the struggle and advances in LGBT rights that have taken place on national and state stages. Much less is known about the path toward equal rights for LGBT people in Boulder. This is Boulder’s story.
1970s

1970
- Boulder Gay Liberation Front is formed at CU
- Monthly dances at Hidden Valley Ranch draw thousands

1971
- Boulder Gay Liberation Front publishes first issue of monthly newsletter, Gayly Planet
- First Gay marches; NYC, LA, San Francisco
- Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) of the Rockies is founded
- Colorado repeals sodomy laws—first state in the west, third in US

1972
- Boulder City Council adopts Human Rights Ordinance, including sexual orientation
- Metropolitan Community Women's Center is founded
- First gay person, Jim Foster, addresses National political convention
- Ithaca Statement on Bisexuality is issued by Quakers National Bisexual Liberation Group forms
- Rainbow flag, lesbian feminist publication, is founded in Denver
- Lesbian Caucus and Boulder Gay Liberation run side by side
- Brighton Center is founded in Denver
- Boulder County Clerk Clela Rorex grants marriage licenses to same-sex couples
- Boulder Socialist-Feminist/Feminist-Socialist Collective is formed
- Rainbow flag becomes emblem of Gay Pride

1973
- American Psychiatric Association decides homosexuality is not a disorder
- Big Mama Rag, lesbian feminist publication, is founded in Denver
- First Gay person, Jon Voller, addresses National political convention
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1974
- Referendum: Sexual Orientation is removed from Boulder’s Human Rights Ordinance
- Recall election: Tim Fuller is recalled and Pen Tate barely survives recall effort
- National Coalition of Black (later Lesbians and Gays formed
- First Gay persons, Jon Voller, address National political convention
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1976
- Gay and Lesbian class is taught at CU
- Rainbow flag becomes emblem of Gay Pride
- First Gay Rights March takes place in DC
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1977
- ADA, San Francisco
1980 Democratic party endorses homosexual rights platform.
Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association is founded.

1981 First known reports of GRID (later called AIDS) appear.

1982 Anti-gay slurry bomb in theater showing the film, “Cruising”.

1983 First Gay Games are held.

1984 Gay Freedom Association is founded in Denver.

1985 Boulder Public Health Dept. starts HIV testing and public education.
CU Regents reject motion to add sexual orientation to non-discrimination policy.
The Lesbian Connection is founded.

1986 ACT UP holds first major demonstration.
Barney Frank comes out.

1987 Bolder Public Health Dept. starts HIV testing and public education.
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1988 Weekly Friday Afternoon Clubs for LGBT community are held at local restaurants.
Campus Lambda initiates poll tax for LGBT faculty and students at CSU.


1990s

1980 Protestors ignite stick bomb in theater showing the film, “Cruising”.

1983 Informal community networks care for men infected with HIV/AIDS.

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1985 Boulder Public Health Dept. starts HIV testing and public education.
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1986 Feminist-Socialist/Socialist-Feminist Collective makes international news with its “Sodomy Patrol”
Informal care center for important LGBT community-building events, spaces.
Slide show on lesbians, “Dykes of Our Lives,” shown for first time.


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1991 Weekly Friday Afternoon Clubs for LGBT community are held at local restaurants.
Campus Lambda initiates poll tax for LGBT faculty and students at CSU.

1992 First person in CO is diagnosed with GRID (later called AIDS) (not a gay man).

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Boulder Queer Collective forms; first Q Town meeting is held.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Goddard Theatre begins.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Skim Gallina is discharged from the Air Force for being gay.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Lambda Rising queer studies conference begins.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Denver County PFLAG is established.</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Coach Bill McCartney endorses Amendment 2.</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>City of Boulder adopts Domestic Partnership registry.</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Boulder Valley Safe Schools Coalition is formed.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Rainbow Alley opens in Denver.</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Several million dollars are raised for the Quilt.</td>
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### 2000s

**2000**  
- 2000 Small Business Administration gives LGBT people access to business loans

**2001**  
- 2001 CU School of Education’s Gay-Straight Alliance is founded
- 2001 Fred Martinez Jr. is killed in Cortez in a hate crime

**2002**  
- 2002 MT's Real World casts Pedro, gay man with AIDS
- 2002 Marlboro College adopts policy that students are permitted to bring to campus their partners of the same gender
- 2002 "Resonance: Women’s Chorus of Boulder" is founded

**2003**  
- 2003 Campus Crusade for Queers is founded
- 2003 Colorado's LGBT Life Line is created
- 2003 CU Trans-form is founded
- 2003 Bridges is founded
- 2003 "Hilton's The Way Things Should Be" about 1970s gay Boulder is published
- 2003 CO School of Education’s Gay-Straight Alliance is founded

**2004**  
- 2004 "Resonance: Women’s Chorus of Boulder" is founded

**2005**  
- 2005 CU’s Gather is founded
- 2005 Small Business Administration gives LGBT people access to business loans

**2006**  
- 2006 Prop 8 bar closes in Denver
- 2006 Jesse Perlis of Boulder becomes first openly gay non-incumbent elected to Congress
- 2006 "Word Is Out" becomes a virtual bookstore

**2007**  
- 2007 Boulder Valley School District adds gender identification to its non-discrimination policy
- 2007 CO legislature amends hate crimes to include sexual orientation
- 2007 Colorado passes law allowing same-sex couples to adopt
- 2007 CO passes law allowing same-sex couples to adopt
- 2007 CO passes law protecting same-sex orientation and gender identity/expression
- 2007 CO passes Domestic Partner law

**2008**  
- 2008 Proposition 8 bars same-sex marriage
- 2008 US Senate fails to pass Federal marriage amendment
- 2008 Colorado passes hate crimes to include sexual orientation
- 2008 Montana passes constitutional amendment. Marriage is only between one man and one woman
- 2008 Angie Zapata is killed in hate crime in Greeley
- 2008 Colorado passes housing and public accommodations anti-discrimination law

**2009**  
- 2009 First murder prosecution under hate crimes law involves transgender victim
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**2010**  
- 2010 SUPREME COURT LEGALIZES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

**2011**  
- 2011 US Supreme Court strike down DOMA laws
- 2011 US Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage
- 2011 FOIA passed in Colorado

**2012**  
- 2012 Massachusetts Supreme Court legalizes same-sex marriage
- 2012 Colorado passes law protecting same-sex orientation and gender identity/expression
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