



# City of Chicago



R2021-935

Office of the City Clerk

## Document Tracking Sheet

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	9/14/2021.
<b>Sponsor(s):</b>	Vasquez, Jr. (40)
<b>Type:</b>	Resolution
<b>Title:</b>	Congratulations extended to Leather Archives & Museum on 30th anniversary
<b>Committee(s) Assignment:</b>	

**RESOLUTION: HONORING THE LEATHER ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM'S 30th ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS**, in August of 1991, the National Gay and Lesbian Archives was founded in Chicago by Chuck Renslow and Tony DeBlase to preserve, uplift, celebrate, and collect materials of historical and cultural significance to the LGBTQ community; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization, responding to the needs in the community for a dedicated archive specific to the kink and leather communities, shortly thereafter changed its name to the Leather Archives & Museum, also known as the LA&M; and

**WHEREAS**, the LA&M's mission to collect, preserve and make accessible the history and culture of the leather and kink communities has made it an international destination for scholars, researchers, writers, artists and filmmakers, drawing over 7000 visitors annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Mr. Leather festival, founded and held annually in Chicago and one of the largest leather events in the world, supports the LA&M with festival proceeds and retains its material archives at the LA&M; and

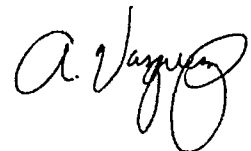
**WHEREAS**, the LA&M moved into its current location in Rogers Park in 1999, and continues to serve as a community gathering place for the queer kink community, a gallery space presenting the work of contemporary and historic queer and fetish artists including iconic fetish artist and Chicago native Dom "Etienne" Orejudo, and a working library, archive, and research space; and

**WHEREAS**, educational programs run by the LA&M help to connect the public and the queer and kink communities with the history of marginalized individuals and organizations that has historically been neglected or overlooked by scholarly research; and

**WHEREAS**, the LA&M is a non-profit governed by a board of directors made up of leaders in the leather and kink community, a longtime Chicago establishment of cultural and historical significance, and an inductee of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame; *now therefore*:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That we, the City Council of the City of Chicago, assembled here on this 14th day of September, 2021, do honor the Leather Archives & Museum on its 30th anniversary, and extend our congratulations and good wishes for its years of contributions to our City; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a suitable copy of this Resolution shall be prepared for presentation as a token of our esteem.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Vasquez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andre Vasquez, Jr.  
Alderman, 40th Ward