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*The History Project to celebrate John Ward, Founder of GLAD,
and Tre'Andre Valentine, Executive Director of Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition*

The History Project, Boston's LGBTQ archives, is pleased to announce **John Ward as our 2021 HistoryMaker Awards honoree**. Awarded since 2009, the HistoryMaker Awards recognize community members and organizations who make history every day.

John Ward became Boston's first openly gay male attorney in 1977. In 1978, he founded GLAD - Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (now [GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders](#)) after undercover police targeted, entrapped, and arrested gay patrons of the Boston Public Library. In another first, in 1995, Ward was the first openly gay male lawyer to argue in front of the United States Supreme Court in *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston*. Ward has fought for LGBTQ rights throughout his career and GLAD brought marriage equality to Massachusetts in 2004 and the United States in 2015.

The event will also honor **Tre'Andre Valentine, the recipient of the Lavender Rhino Award**. Named after one of the early symbols of the Gay Liberation movement, the Lavender Rhino Award is presented to emerging activists or organizations whose impact on the local LGBTQ community deserves recognition.

Tre'Andre Valentine is the Executive Director of the [Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition](#) and formerly managed community engagement with [The Network/La Red](#). Valentine's impact on Boston's queer and trans community is unsurpassed, from his efforts to organize trans, nonbinary, and gender-expansive people to empower and advocate for themselves through building trans leadership, to his advocacy for equity and equal access at all levels and all intersections of identity, especially for trans and queer people of color.

"After an unprecedented year, I am so pleased that we'll be gathering to honor John and Tre'Andre's impact on LGBTQ rights in Boston and across the country," says Executive Director Joan Ilacqua. "It's especially important during this time to recognize work still necessary to ensure equal protections and rights for our community, especially those most marginalized among us impacted by systems of oppression and violence."

The History Project will celebrate the 2021 honorees with an early evening reception at the St. Botolph Club, featuring cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, on November 4, 2021. [Tickets, Host Committee, and Sponsorship opportunities are available via Eventbrite.](#)

About the HistoryMaker Award

The History Project has presented the HistoryMaker Award since 2009 to those whose lifetime achievements have had a significant and positive effect on Boston and Massachusetts' LGBTQ communities. Past recipients of the award include Congressman Barney Frank, State Representative Byron Rushing, GLAD's Civil Rights Project director Mary Bonauto, BAGLY executive director Grace Sterling Stowell, Abe Rybeck from the Theater Offensive, journalist Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Larry Kessler of AIDS Action Committee, activist and community organizer Orlando Del Valle, Mayor Denise Simmons, Dr. Thea James, Dr. Ken Mayer, and trans activist Nancy Nangeroni.

About the Lavender Rhino Award

Named after one of the early symbols of the Gay Liberation movement, the Lavender Rhino Award is presented to emerging activists or organizations whose impact on the local LGBTQ community deserves recognition. Previous Lavender Rhino honorees have included the LGBT Elders of Color, activist and organizer Corey Yarbrough, musician and composer Omar Thomas, attorney Allison Wright, Chastity Bowick and the Massachusetts Transgender Emergency Fund, and prison abolition advocate Michael Cox.

About The History Project

The History Project is the only organization focused exclusively on documenting and preserving the history of New England's LGBTQ communities and sharing that history with LGBTQ individuals, organizations, allies, and the public. Throughout the pandemic, The History Project has shifted its events, documentation, and archival access online. The organization offers free programming via Zoom several times per month, launched #QueerArchivesAtHome, a crowdsourced archives of queer experience and personal history, and has made accessible a new collection of Gay Community News photographs digitally.