

A Guide to TSA and UBC27 Pride 2022



SECOND CUP

GLAD DAY
BOOKS ▾ COFFEE ▾ COCKTAILS

O'GRADY'S

TSA



CARPENTERS
& ALLIED WORKERS
LOCAL 27

TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

SOPHIE

**Ready for today's Pride
Parade?**

**We are so excited to be
marching for the second
time ever and this time
joined by the Carpenters
Union Local 27 in
representation of the
AEC Industry!**

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**CARPENTERS
& ALLIED WORKERS
LOCAL 27**

**This year we are
celebrating and
remembering queer
spaces across
Toronto—places that
have provided safe
havens and played a
significant role in the
history of the city's
LGBTQI2S+ community**

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**CARPENTERS
& ALLIED WORKERS
LOCAL 27**

**...and before they make
their big debut down
Yonge Street we wanted
to introduce you to some
of these spaces and why
they matter!**

**So get ready for a quick
overview of (some) of
Toronto's Queer Spaces!**

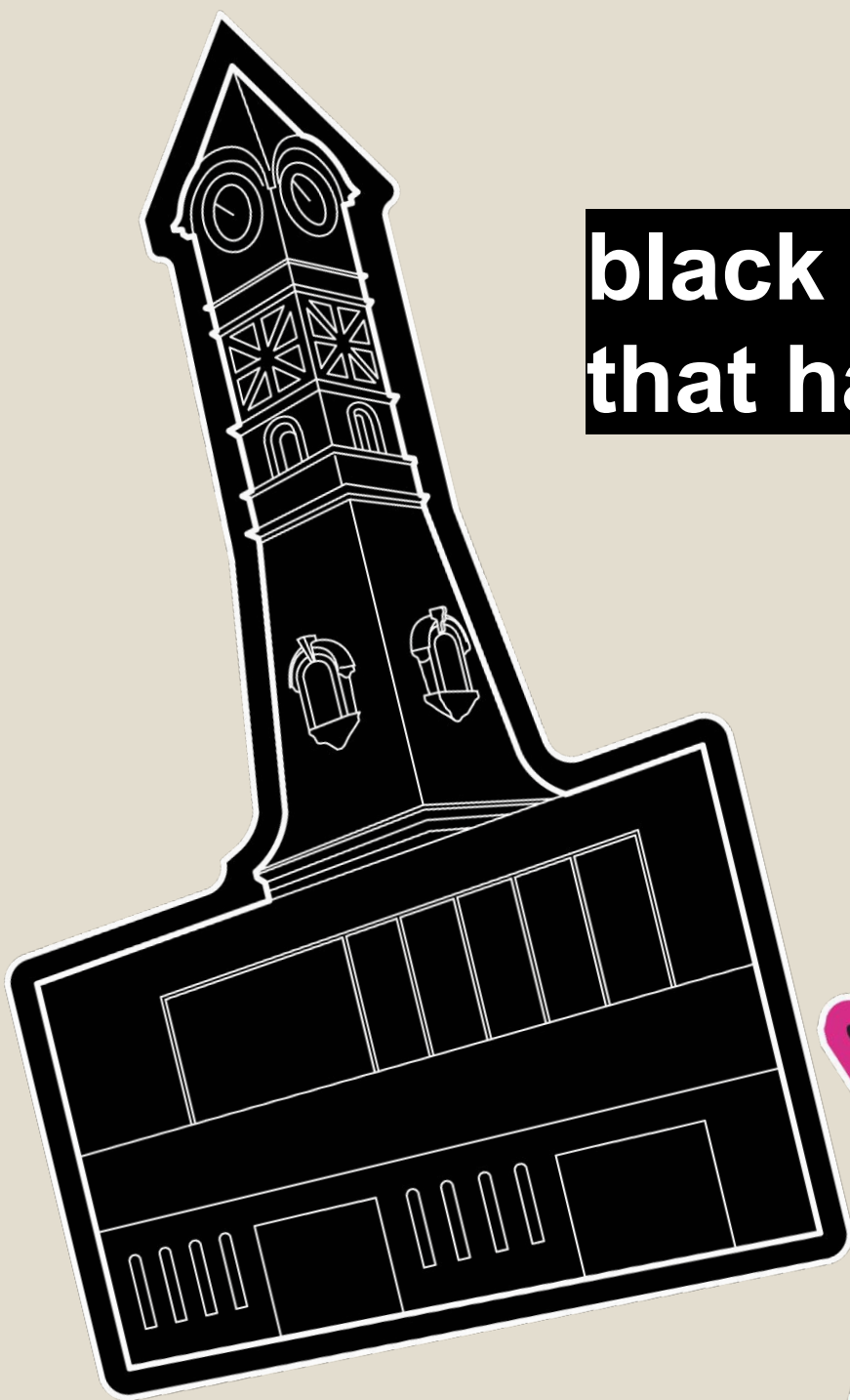
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**CARPENTERS
& ALLIED WORKERS
LOCAL 27**

Featuring over 30 spaces all around the city, you'll see two different building colours at the parade with years corresponding to the period they served the queer community.



**black for Queer Spaces
that have been lost**

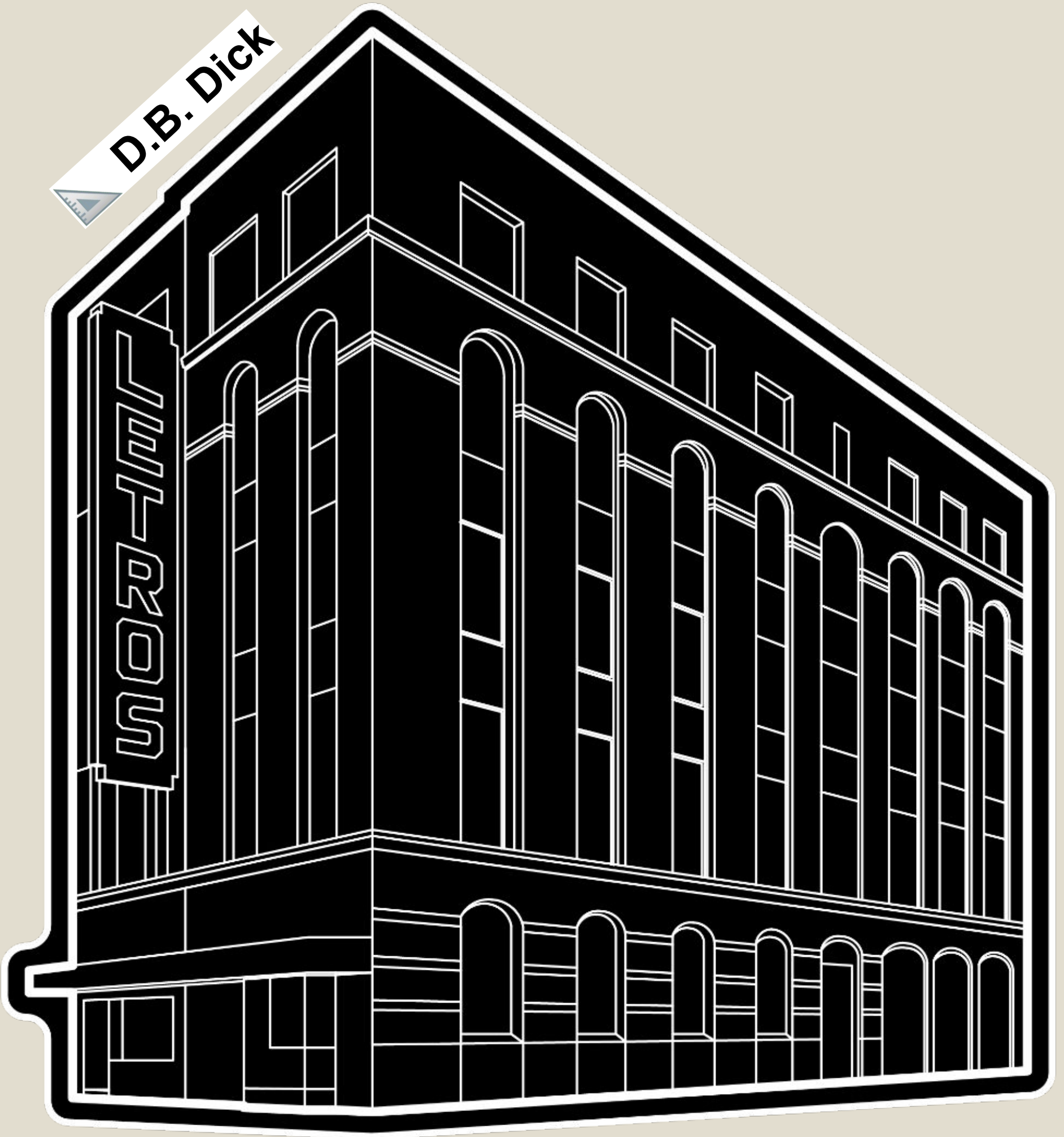


**...and magenta for those
that are still here today!**

**Some spaces are very
old, predecessors to the
modern Village we see
today...**

Letros Tavern

1947-1972

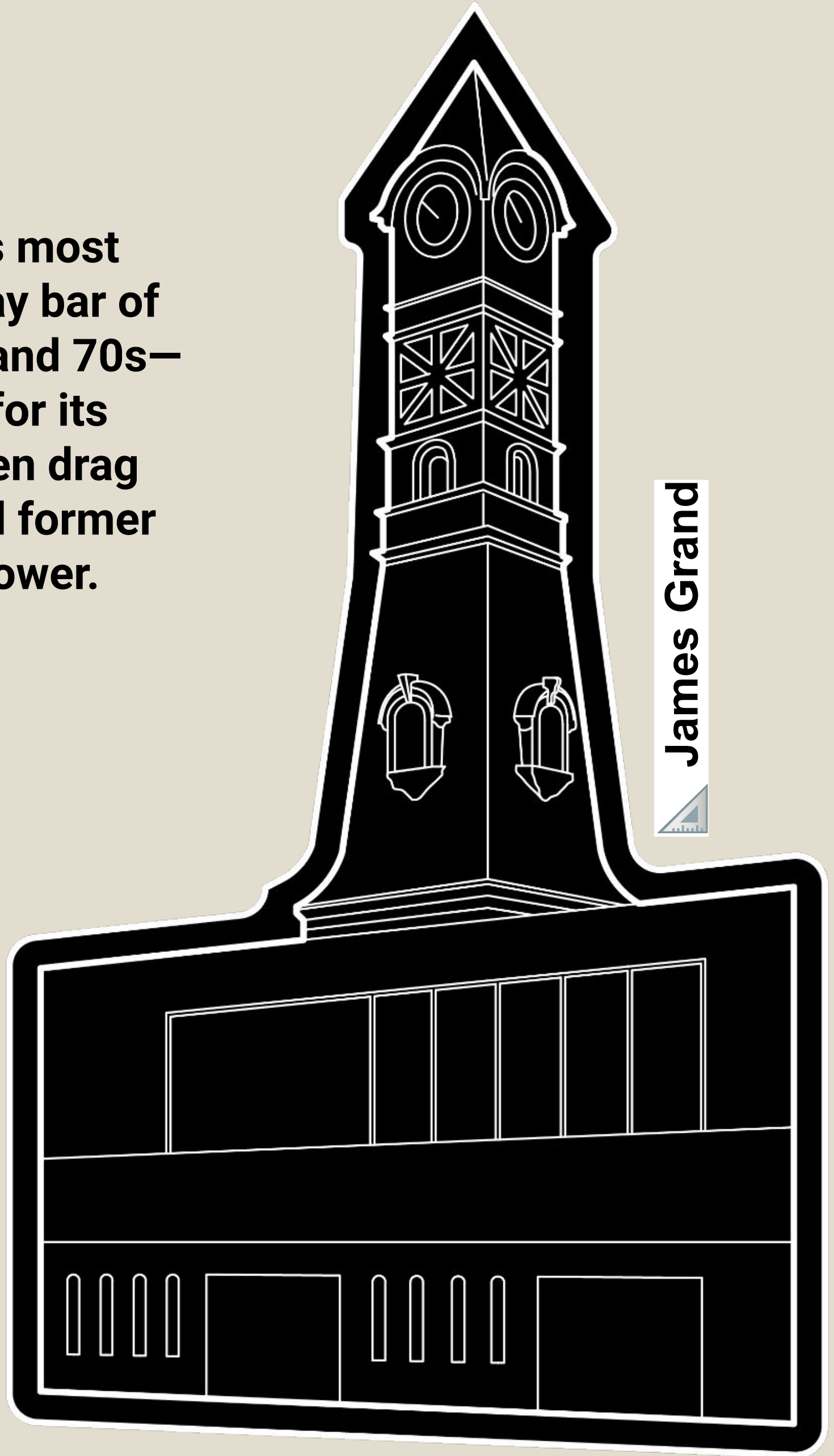


Opened in the 1940s directly across the King Eddy Hotel, many consider it the city's first exclusively gay and lesbian bar.

St Charles Tavern

1951-1987

Toronto's most iconic gay bar of the 60s and 70s—famous for its Halloween drag balls and former firehall tower.



James Grand

Cecil Community Centre

1971-Present



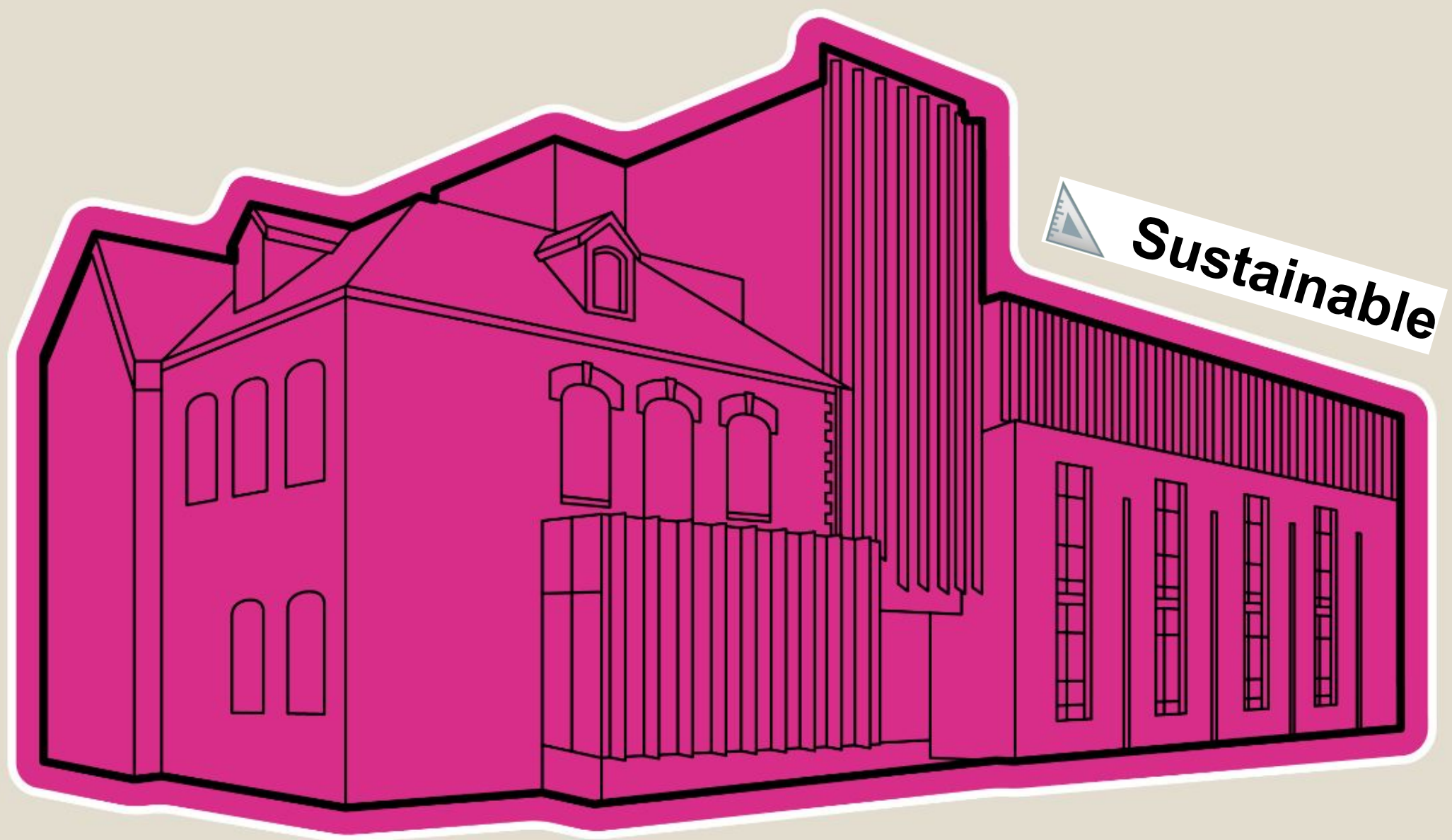
A church, then synagogue, then community centre, it was the 1970s home of CHAT (Community Homophile Association of Toronto) and the starting point of Toronto's first Pride March in 1972.

 **Knox & Elliot
and Matsui Baer Vanstone**

**While others have just
been recently
completed, adding to
Toronto's LGBTQI2S+
culture and serving
important groups within
the community...**

Friends of Ruby

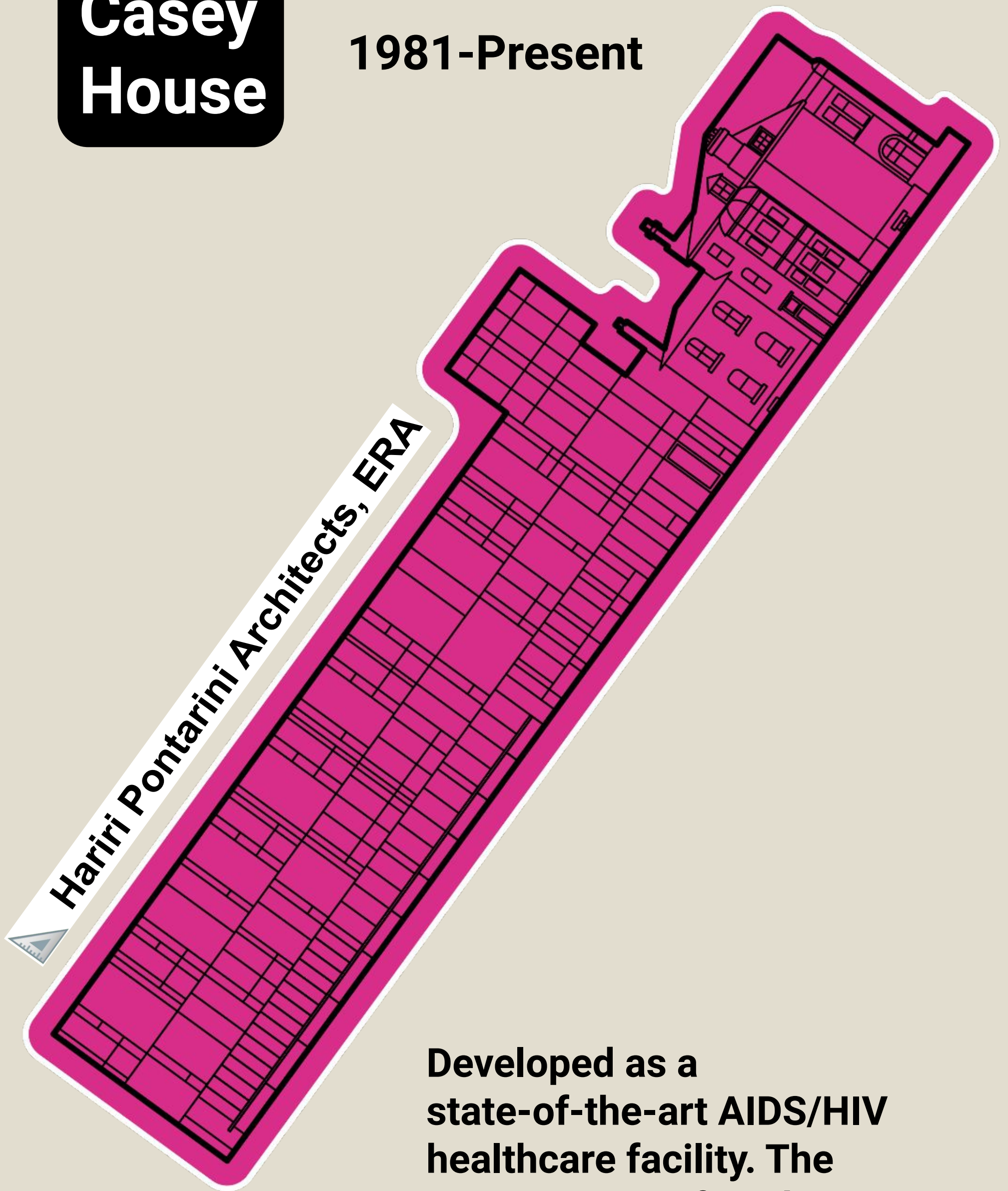
2020-Present



Recently opened, this purpose-built transitional housing for LGBTQI2S+ youth is the first of its kind in Canada.

Casey House

1981-Present



Developed as a state-of-the-art AIDS/HIV healthcare facility. The multi-material façade is meant to recall a quilt to commemorate those lost to AIDS.

**Some of them are
landmarks in queer
history—sites of
important events that
helped shape queer
Toronto today!**

One of the bathhouses targeted by the police during “Operation Soap.” The raids marked a turning point for the gay community as protests erupted against police brutality and in search of equal rights.

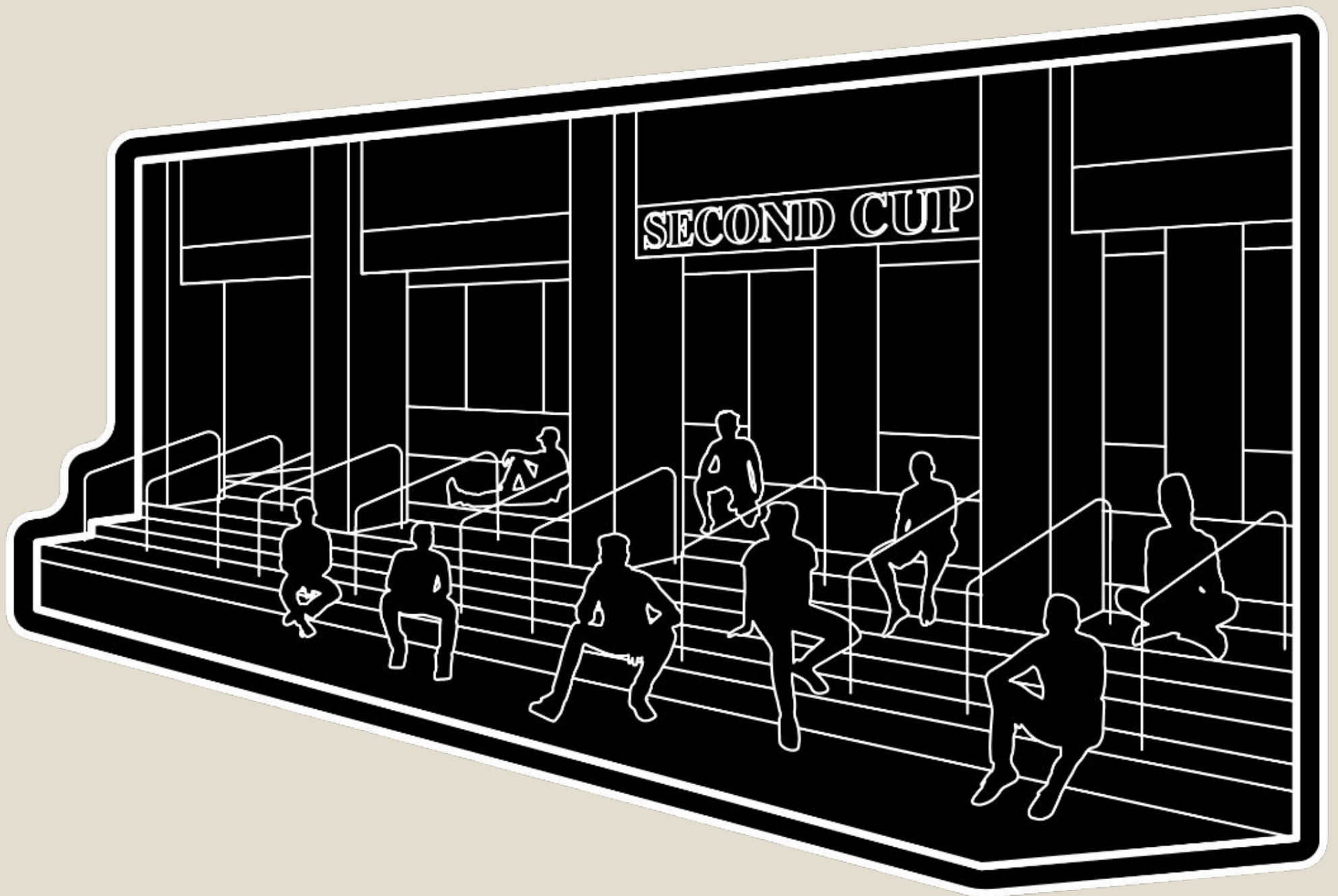


1974-1980s

The Barracks

1984-2005

The Steps



So popular it became a regular location in “The Kids In the Hall,” this 80s and 90s 24/7 hang out space at Church and Wellesley was the heart of the Village. It was enclosed in the early 2000s to prevent loitering—the same social behaviour that had made them such an important community space.

Hanlan's Point

1950s-Present

You won't need your pants at this popular Toronto beach—home of Toronto's first Gay Day Picnic in 1971 and the city's only clothing optional public space.



Allan Gardens

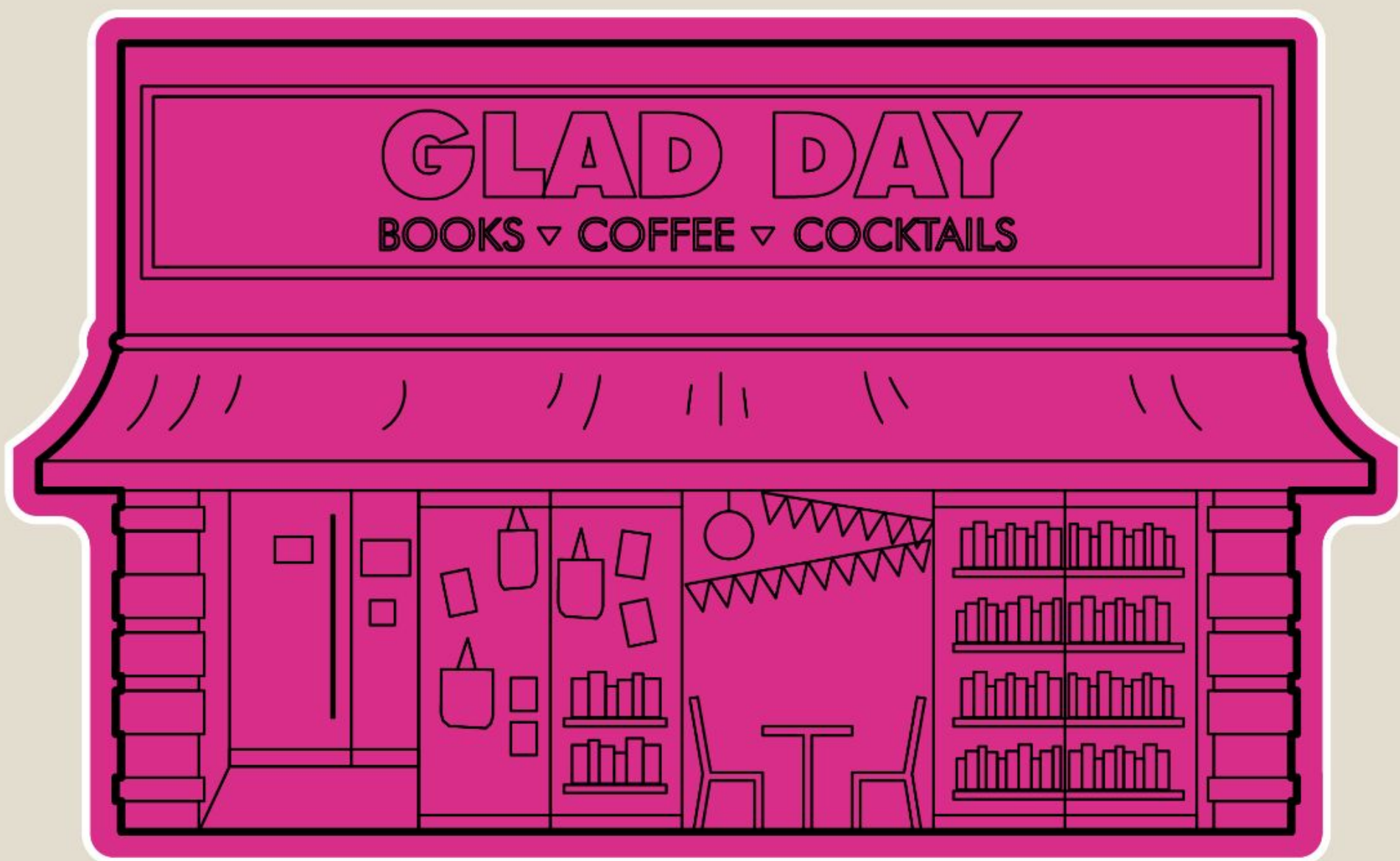
1880s-Present



With plenty of foliage and distance from the street, this Toronto park was an early spot for gay cruising in conservative Toronto. The park continues to host many queer events, including the end point of the Dyke March.

 **Robert McCallum**

The world's oldest queer bookstore, this establishment has moved four times before opening its Church Street location in 2016. Not just a bookstore, it is a cultural hub in the Village hosting community events and performances.



1970-Present

Glad Day Bookshop

**Many of them are part of
the Church and
Wellesley Village, a
community of bars,
businesses and
community spaces that
began in the 80s and
considered by many as
the centre of queer life in
Toronto...**

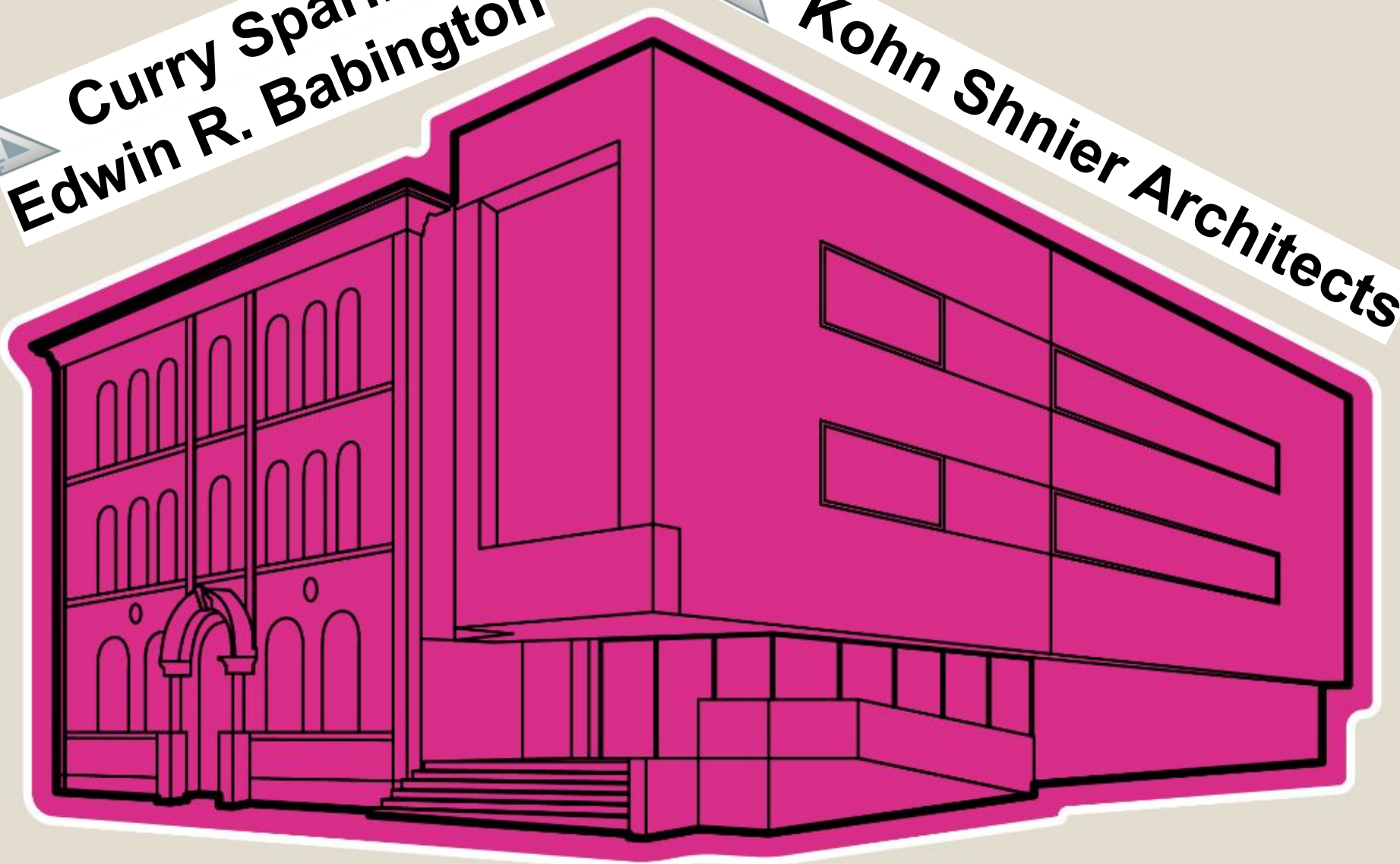
1976-Present

The 519

Saved from demolition and converted into the city's first community centre where programming is dictated by a volunteer board, the building began serving the queer community after a controversial vote to allow a gay youth group to use their space. Today this centre not only serves its neighbourhood, but the LGBTQI2S+ community across the city.

Curry Sparling,
Edwin R. Babington

Kohn Shnier Architects

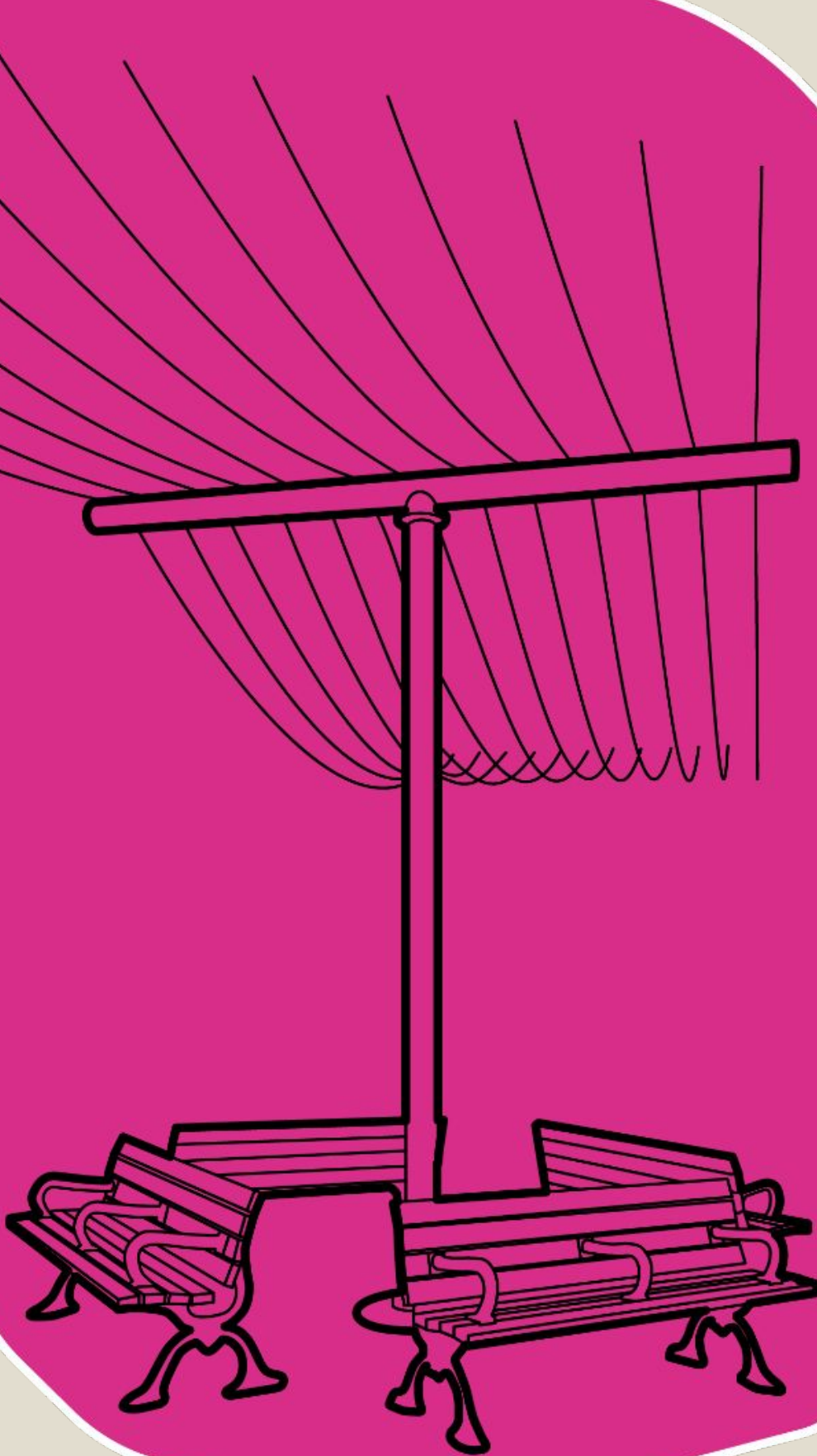


2014-Present

Barbara Hall Park

Formerly known as Cawthra Square Park, it was renamed in 2014 in honour of former mayor Barbara Hall—known for advocacy on human rights and LGBTQ issues. It is home to many events, performances and Toronto's AIDS memorial.

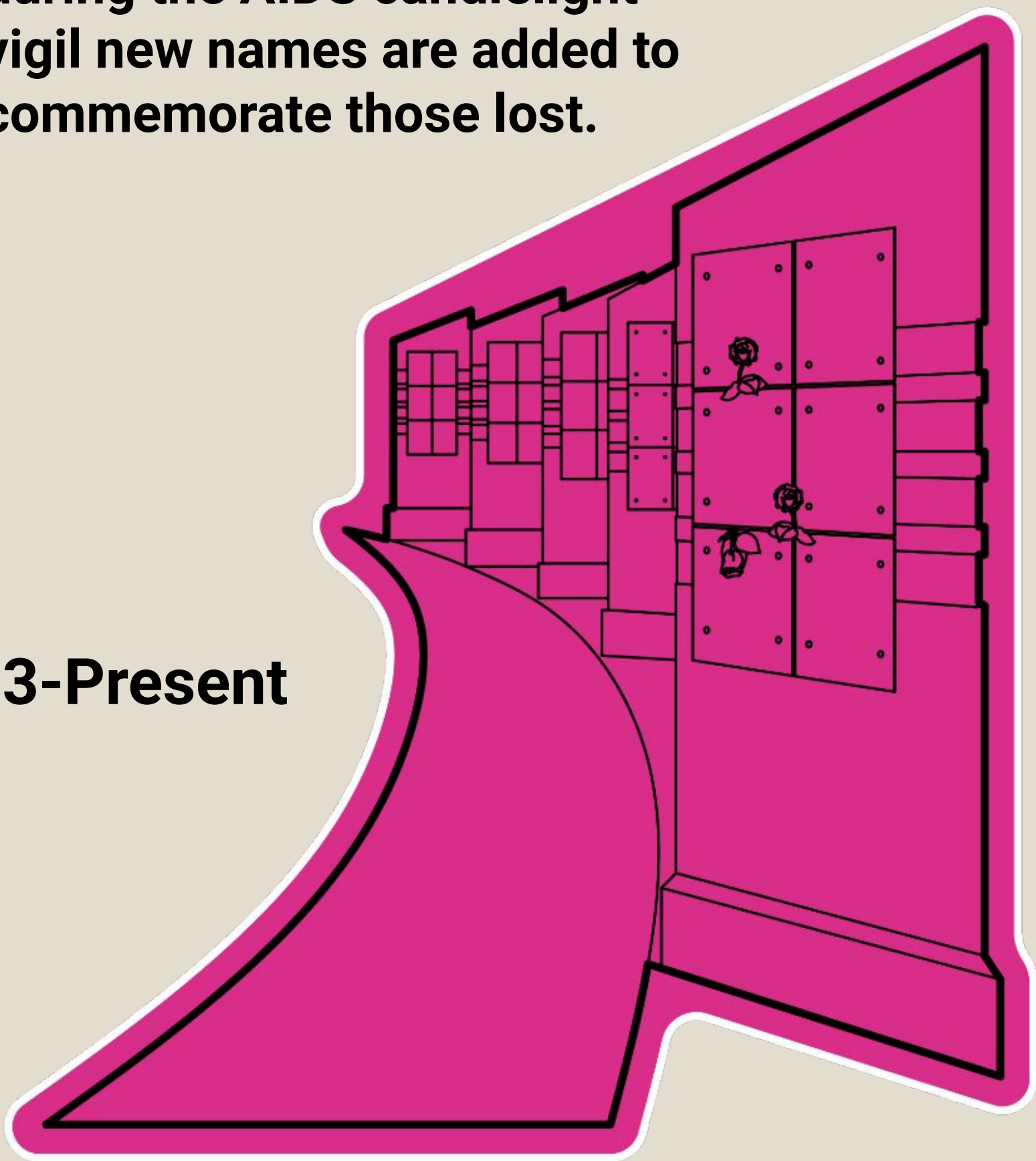
Thinc Design



The AIDS Memorial

Replacing temporary annual memorials with a permanent place for remembrance, this is a place for “one person to have a cry, or a thousand people to hold a demonstration.” Each year during the AIDS candlelight vigil new names are added to commemorate those lost.

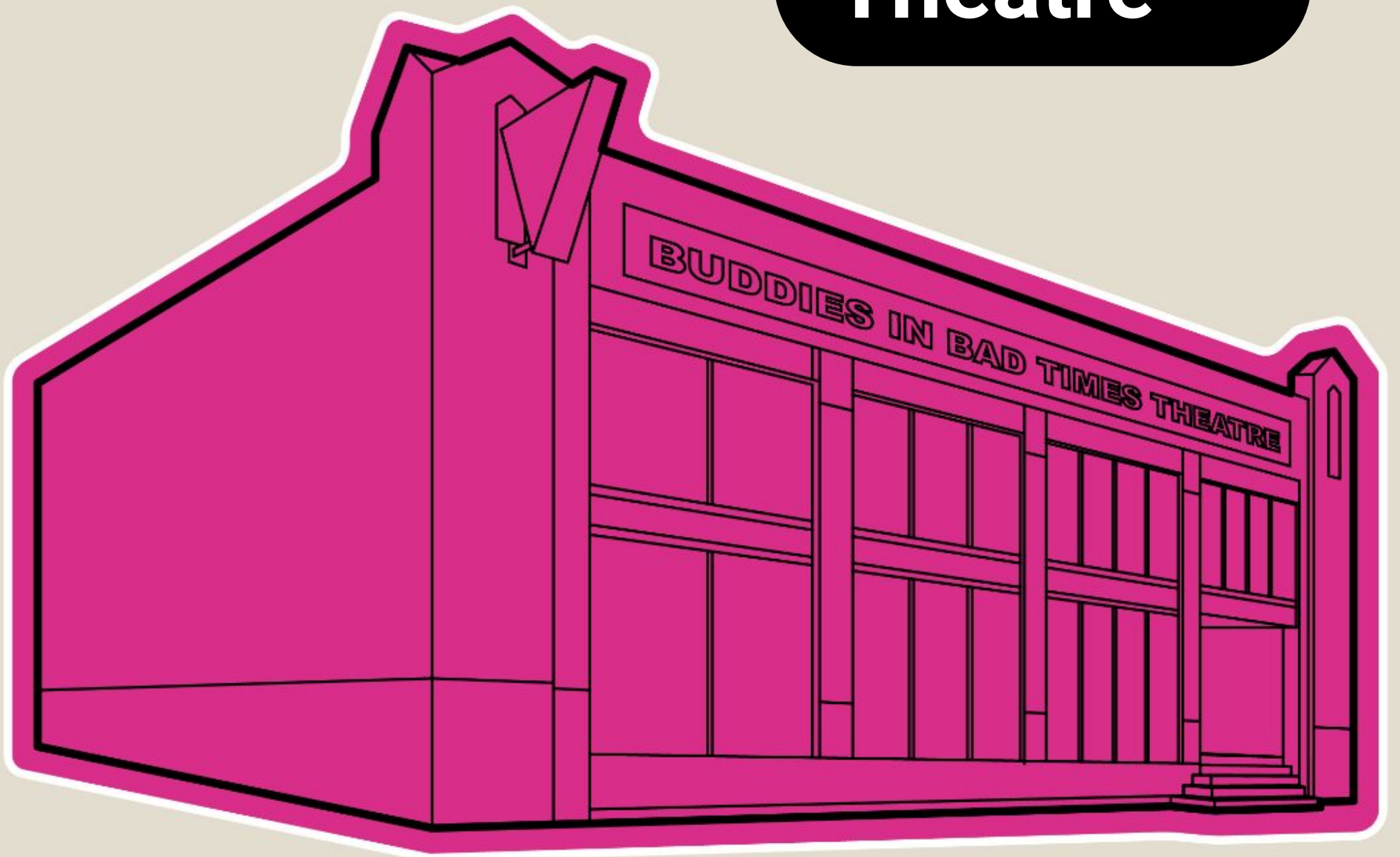
1993-Present



Patrick Fahn

1991-Present

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre

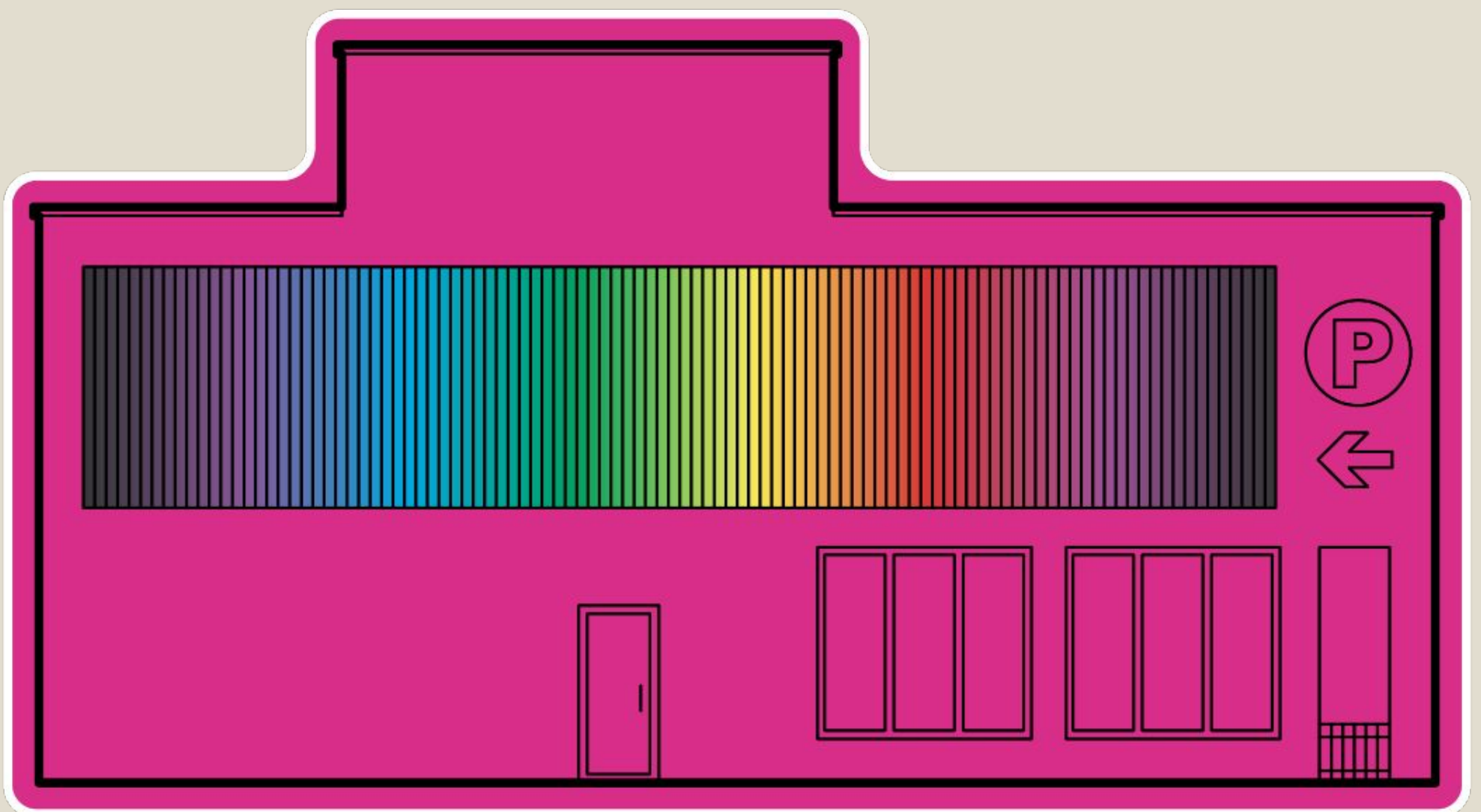


Architect Harold J. Smith

A mechanic's garage, a hardware store, a car showroom, a rehearsal space—this building is now home to Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, the world's largest and longest-running queer theatre and a long time supporter of queer artists and avant-garde productions.

Full Spectrum

2014-Present



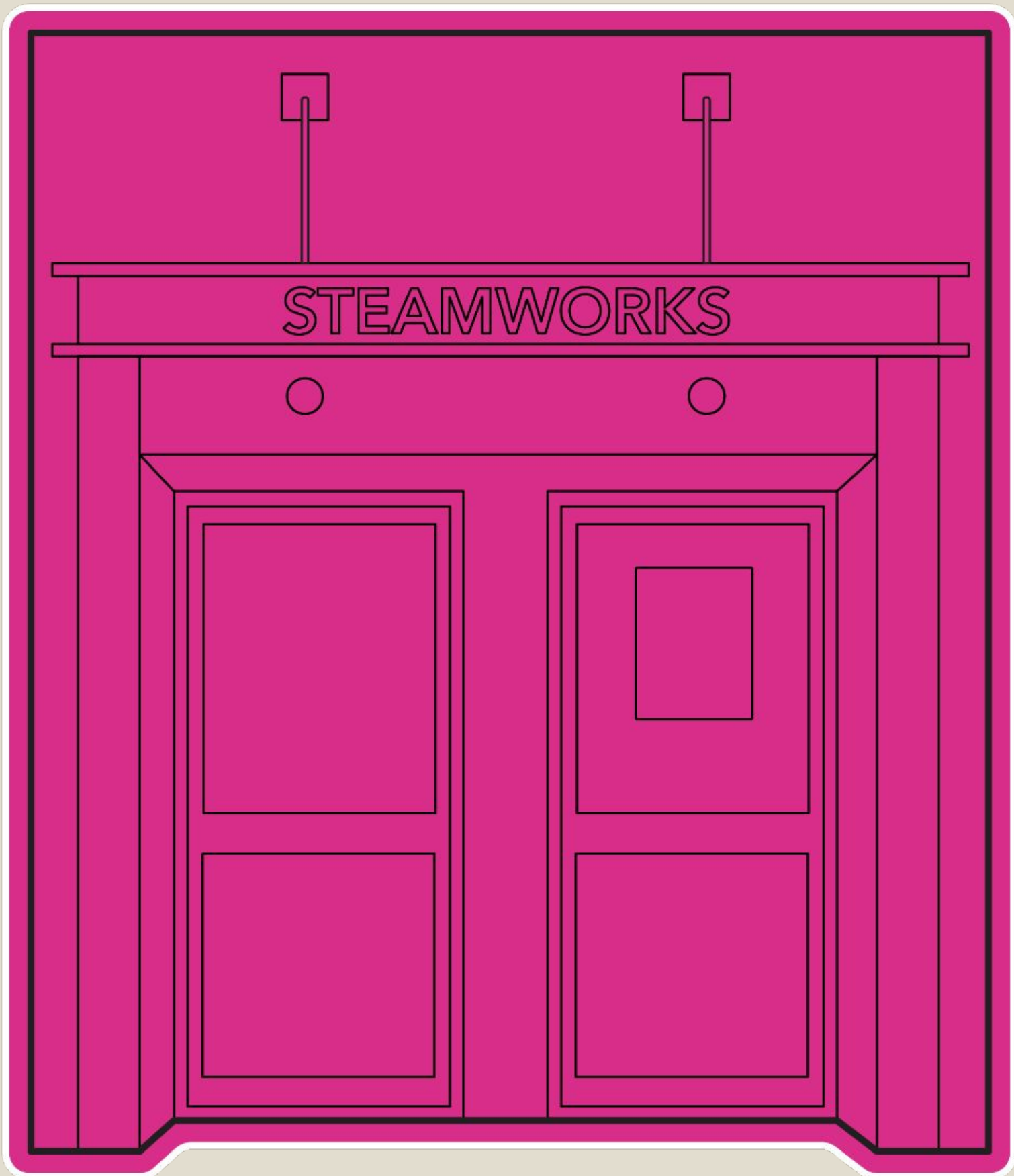
 **Public Studio**

This colourful sculpture at Church and Maitland offers both visions of joy and reflection—102 coloured panels capture the visible spectrum and celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQI2S+ community, while the reverse acts as a permanent vigil commemorating the lives lost to AIDS.

Steamworks

2004-Present

McIntosh Poris Associates

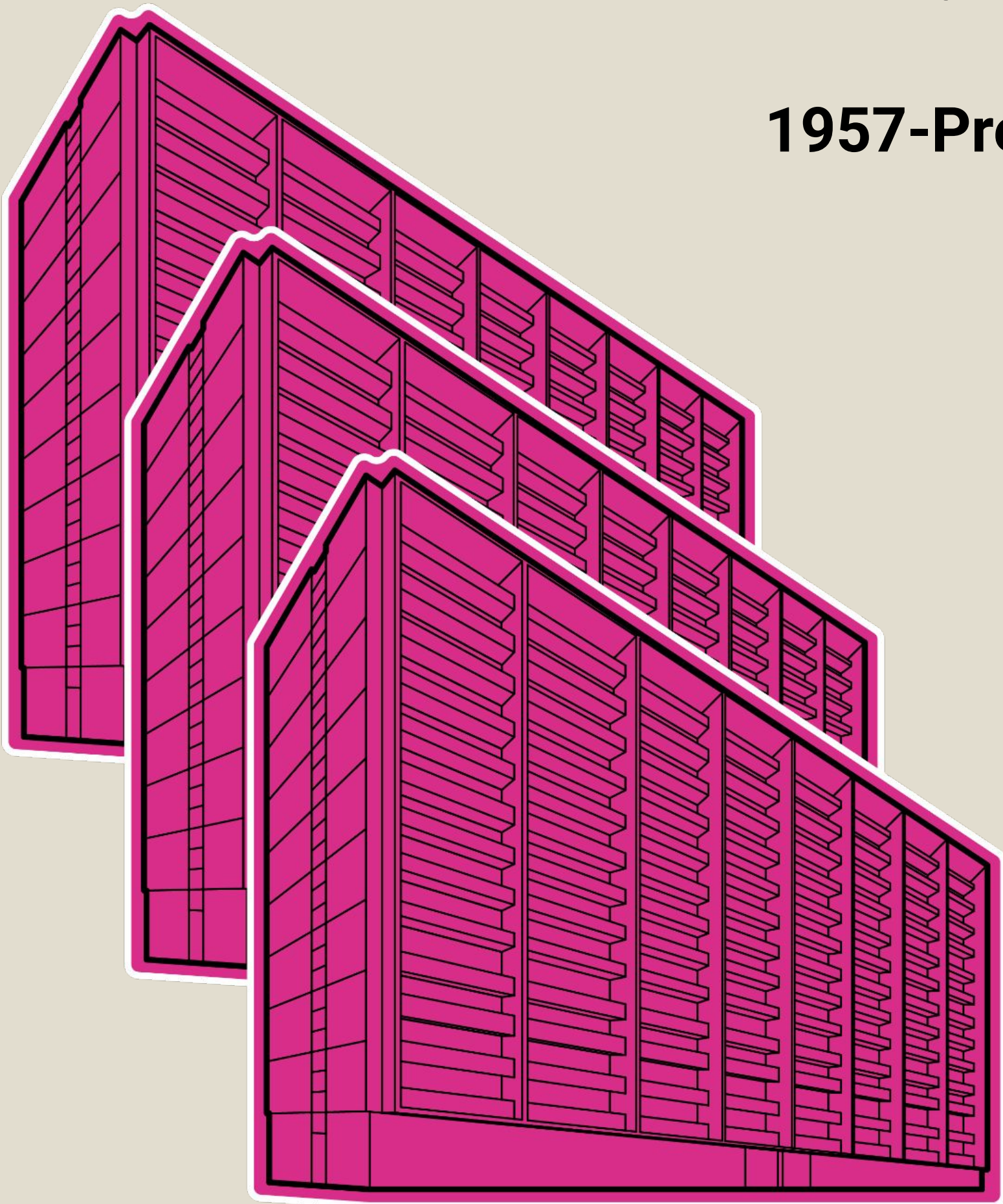


A relative newcomer to the Toronto gay bathhouse scene, Steamworks boasts an AIA Michigan Honor Award—quite the departure from the mostly anonymous spaces that housed many of the city’s earliest bathhouses.

City Park Apartments

When opened in 1957, they were Canada's largest residential development and downtown's first modern high-rise apartments. Dense housing with plenty of units provided the perfect home for many young, single people looking for freedom in the big city.

1957-Present



Peter Caspari

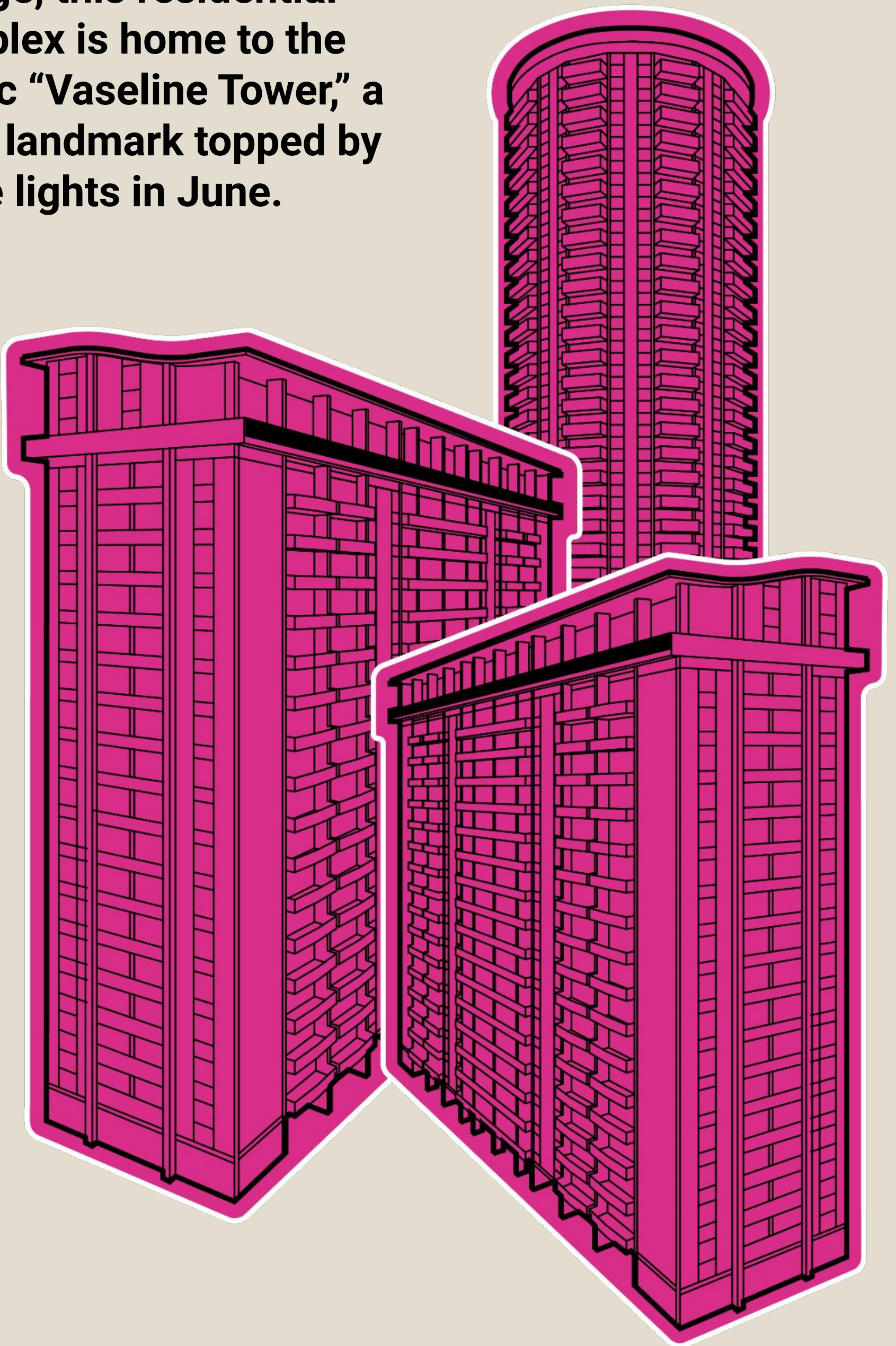


Village Green

1965-Present

Bringing more density (and bachelor units) to the Village, this residential complex is home to the iconic “Vaseline Tower,” a local landmark topped by Pride lights in June.

John H. Daniels



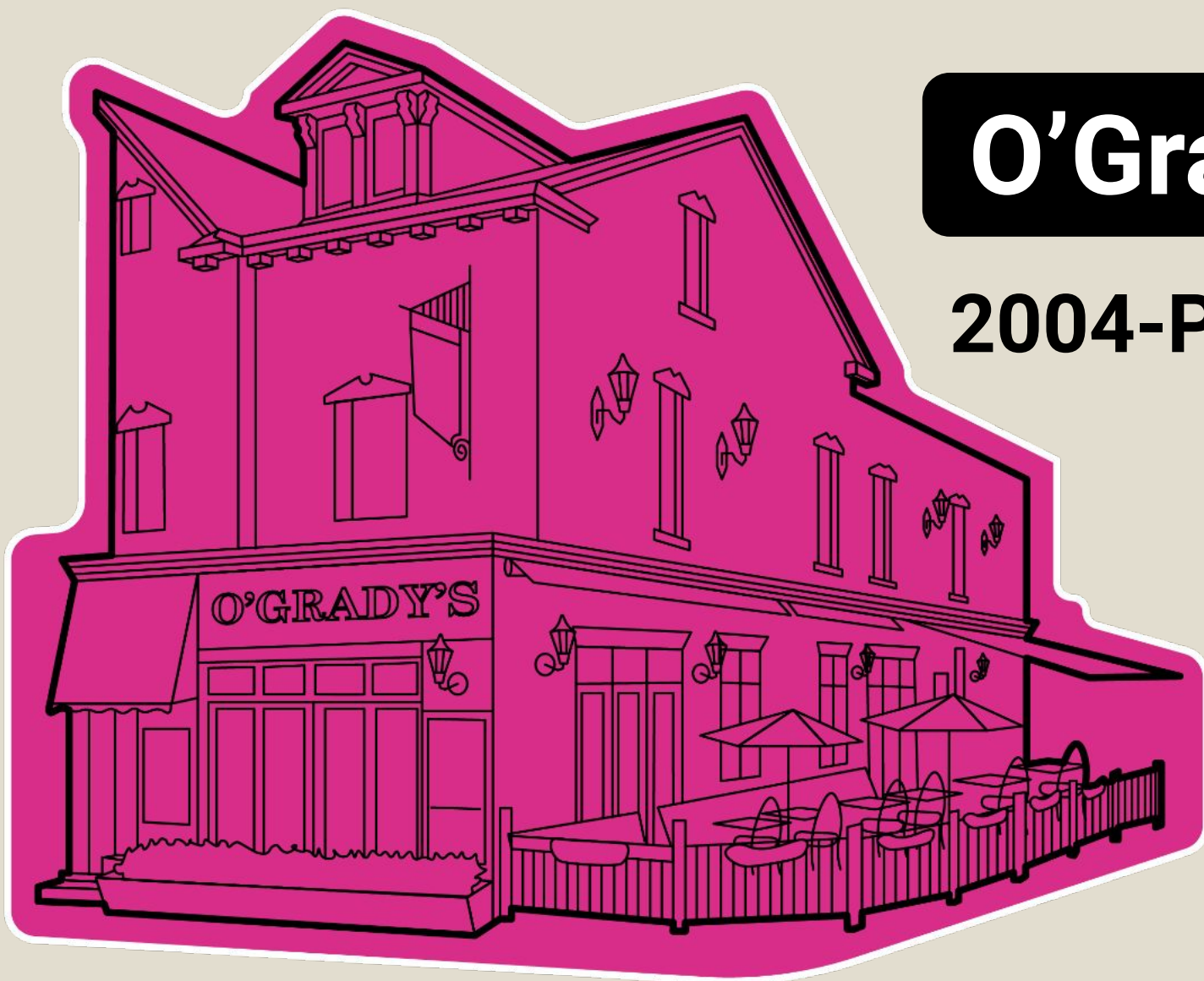
**..and you can't talk
about the Village without
talking about the many
bars and restaurants
that are integral to the
LGBTQI2S+ community!**

1989-Present

**Woody's
& Sailor**



Occupying a portion of a former residential building, this Village institution was one of the first gay bars in the city to have fully open windows towards the street – a turning point for Church Street. Legend has it that at one point its beer sales rivaled those of Skydome and Maple Leaf Gardens.



O'Grady's

2004-Present

When the CBC and the Maple Leafs moved out of the neighbourhood in the 1990s, many former steakhouses were transformed into queer friendly watering holes, including these two Village staples.

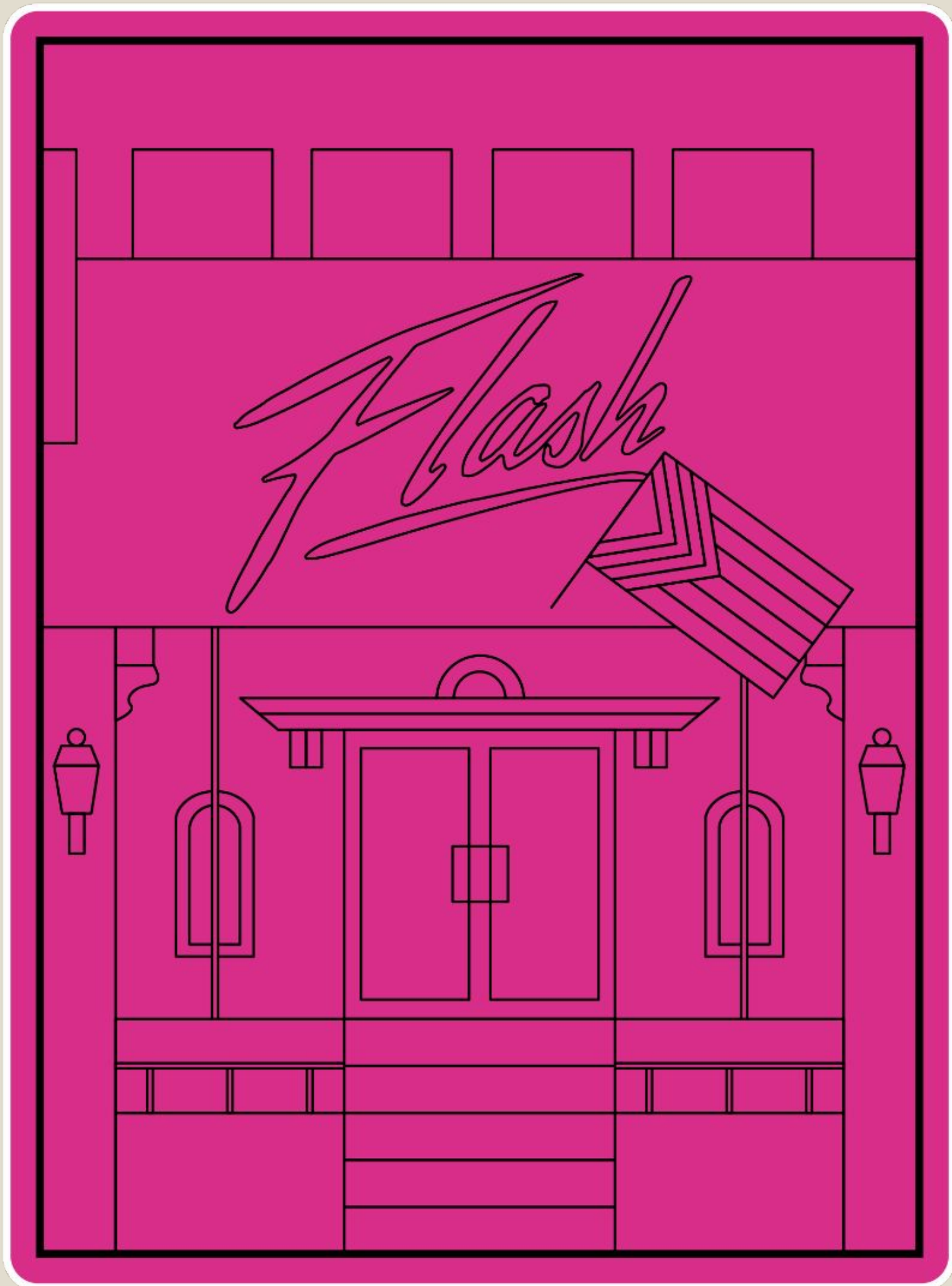


2000-Present

Hair of the Dog

Flash

2010-Present



A building with many lives, what is now a private members club catering to the LGBTQI2S+ community was once home to the long-serving Bigliardi's Steak House, a neighbourhood staple for over 30 years.

1994-Present

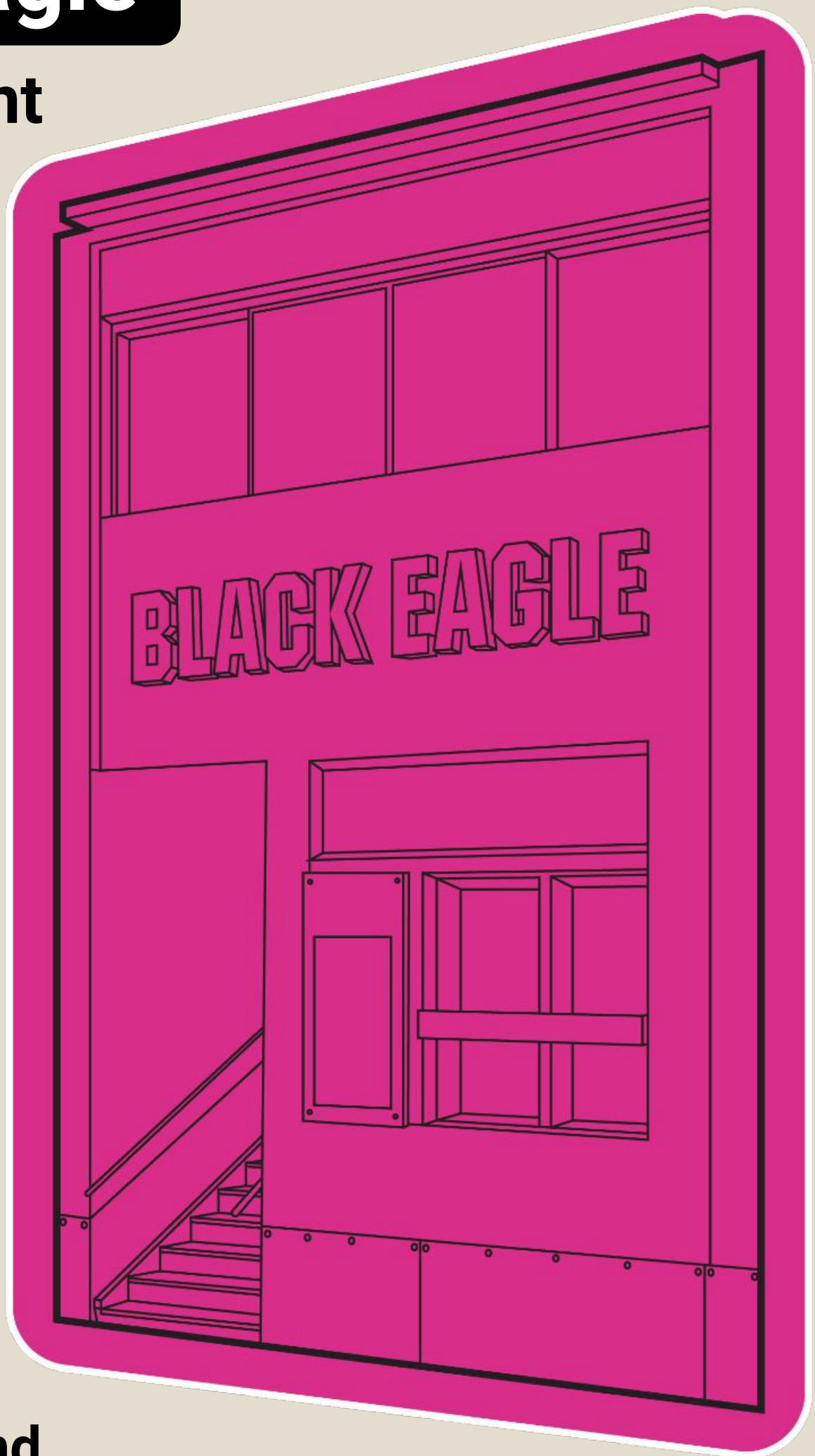
Crews & Tangos



All hail the (drag) queens! Built as residences in the late 1800s, these twin structures are now an entertainment destination known for its vibrant dance floors and internationally renowned drag performances and pageants.

Black Eagle

1994-Present



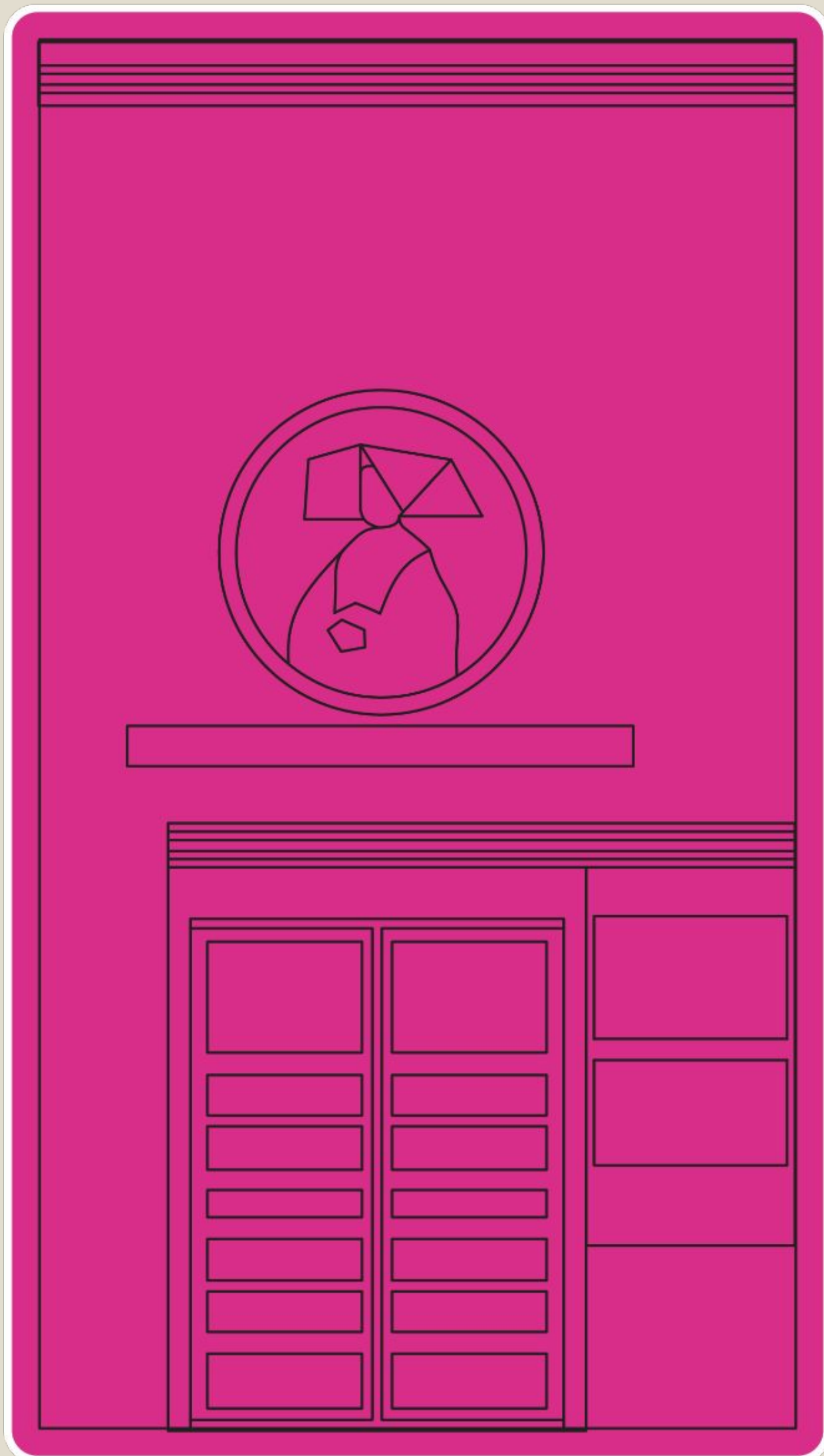
With a name and traditions linking back to New York's 1970s "The Eagle's Nest," this Toronto bar belongs to a network of establishments across the globe serving the leather and kink communities.

**...and we can't forget
those important
community spaces
outside of the Village!**

El Convento Rico

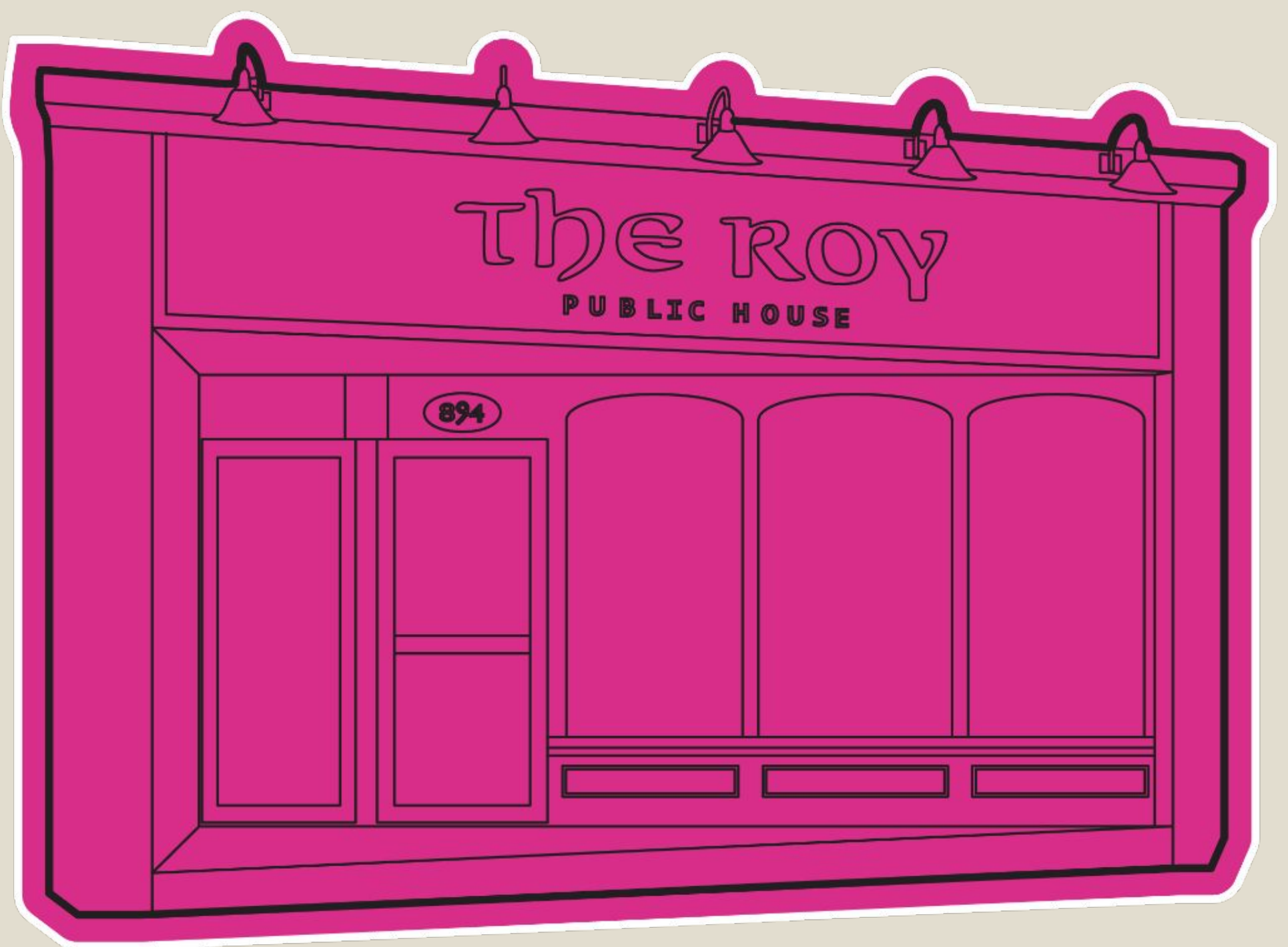
1992-Present

Celebrating 30 years as a destination for Latin music and live drag, this Little Italy nightclub was opened by Ecuadorian immigrant Maritza Yumbra as a safe space for the gay and trans community.



The Roy

2009-Present



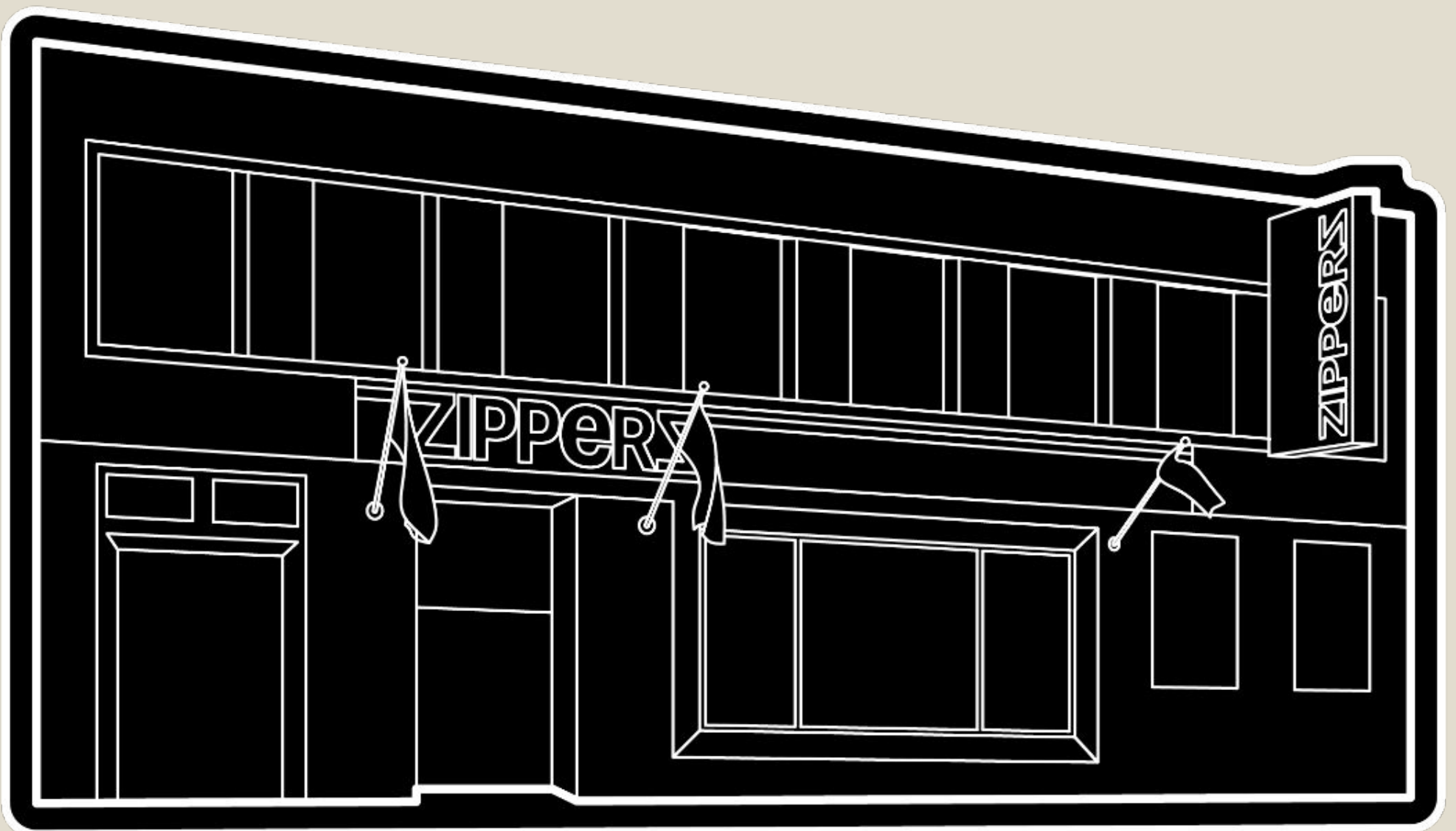
A popular queer outpost outside the Village, this time in Leslieville. The Roy is part of a new generation of queer spaces in the city that differ from their predecessors by serving as a gathering space for the queer community and the surrounding neighbourhood.

**... and while we
celebrate those spaces
that continue to serve
the queer community, we
also remember those
that are gone - within the
Village and across the
city...**

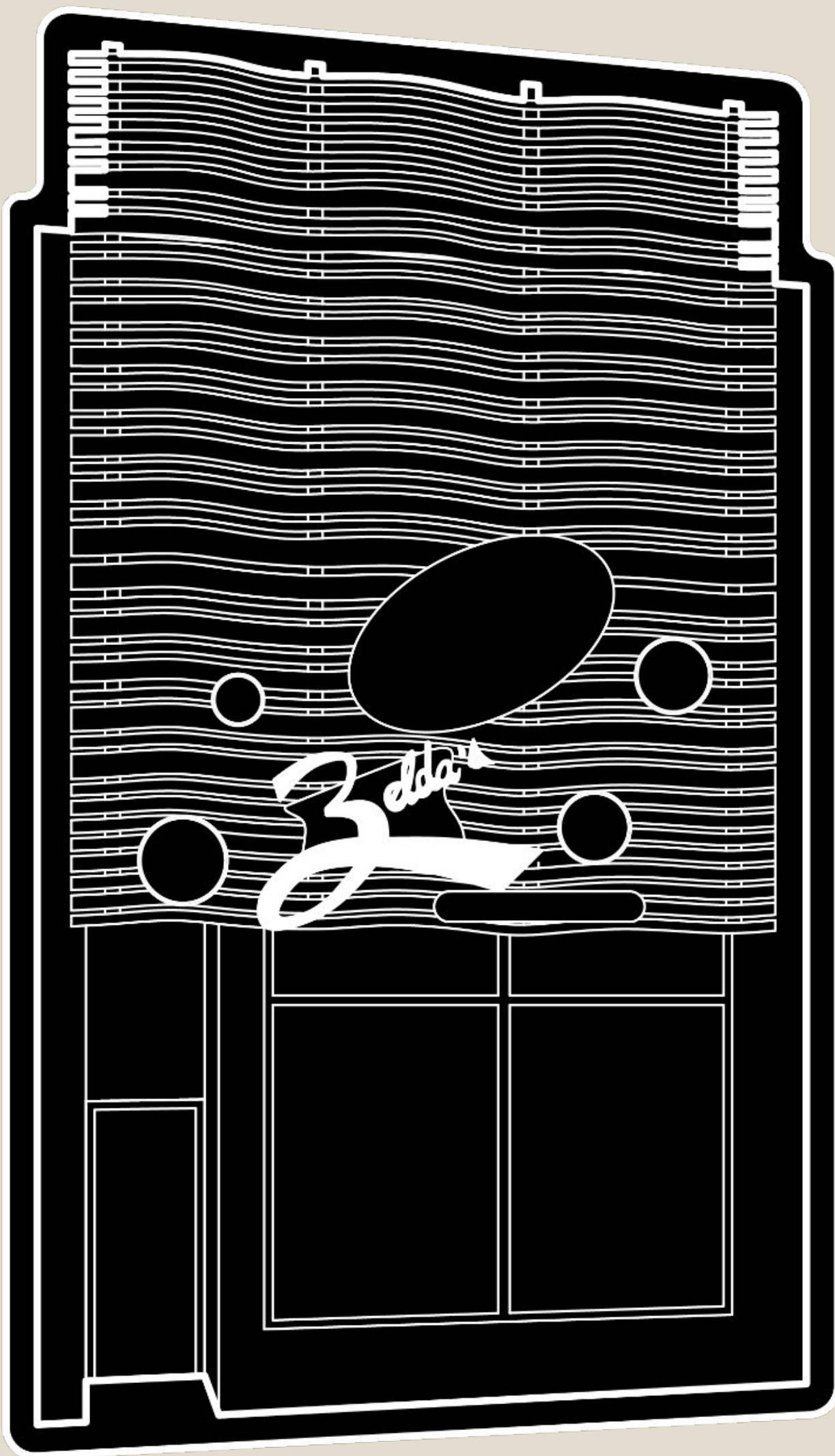
Zipperz

1998-2016

Opened as “Buttons,” Zipperz hosted cabarets, drag shows, dancing, and even a piano bar! It created a welcoming space for an older queer crowd after other similar venues closed.



After being priced out of their lease on Church Street, Zelda's packed up shop and moved (overnight) to their new location on Yonge. A popular drag restaurant, Zelda's helped launch the careers of many queens. A fire brought this legendary venue to a close.



Zelda's

1997-2012

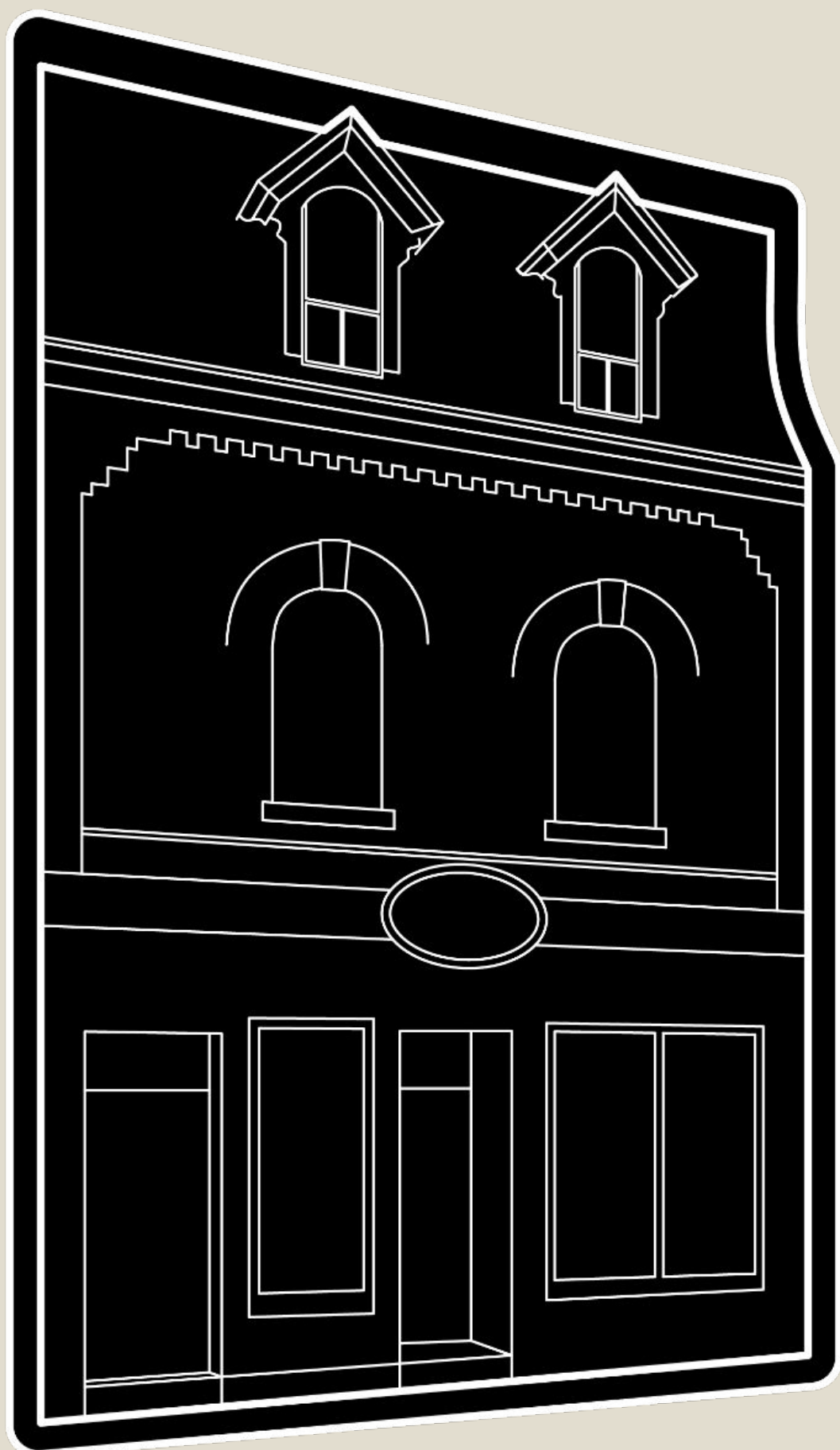
Church on Church

2012-2016



Formerly the location of another gay bar, George's Play (by the same owner as Flash), Church on Church shuttered after four short years. After Church on Church closed, Blyss nightclub took over for only 8 months, and the address remains vacant today.

A recently lost queer dive bar, Lipstick & Dynamite was located on the west end, a part of a stretch known as “Queer Street West.” An online fundraiser was started to save the bar, but was ultimately unsuccessful.



**Lipstick &
Dynamite**

2014-2021

The Beaver

2006-2020

“The first gay bar west of Yonge,” this West Queen West establishment became a legendary queer outpost outside the Church-Wellesley Village, offering something different for those who dared venture past Ossington.



**...and of course, a
special shout out to the
institution and place
where the knowledge of
Toronto's queer history
is carefully researched
and kept...**

The Canadian Gay and Lesbian Archives

1973-Present

Founded out of *The Body Politic*—a monthly gay liberation magazine that ran in the 1970s-80s—the Archives (as it's known today) is the only national Canadian LGBTQI2S+ archive, and one of the largest queer archives in the world.



That's it! Those are the 30+ Queer Spaces that will be marching down Yonge Street as part of our TSA + UBC27 float!



**So come cheer us on
and don't forget to tag
us when you see us on
Yonge Street today
shortly after 2:00 PM!**

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**...and tell us, what is
your favourite queer
space in the city?**

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& ALLIED WORKERS
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**A special thanks to all
the contributors who
drew and researched
these queer spaces**

Spencer Lu
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Kurtis Chen

**...and to all our
volunteers who helped
us put together this
year's Pride float!**