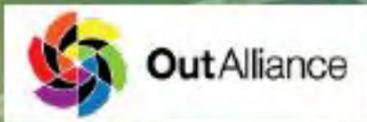


# 2nd LGBTQ Historic Walking Tour

Resistance in the '70's: Have We Come Full Circle?

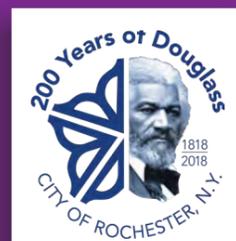


## LGBTQ LANDMARKS INITIATIVE

*Sharing our Pride of Place*

The Landmark Society launched this groundbreaking new initiative in 2016 to educate the Rochester community about the history of the local LGBTQ movement and to enhance the sense of pride about the place that our city occupies in the fight for civil rights & human dignity throughout our nation's history. Just as Rochester is celebrated for the instrumental role that it has played in the abolitionist and women's rights movements, so should it be recognized for its contributions to LGBTQ equality. The Landmark Society, with its preservation-based mission, is uniquely positioned to honor this history. We'd like to thank our partners that worked together to plan this walking tour, the City of Rochester, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Out Alliance, as well as our additional partners on the initiative: ImageOut, LGBT Giving Circle, Q Center at RIT, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Susan B Anthony Center at U of R, Trillium Health, U.S. Assemblyman Harry Bronson, U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand, WXXI and The Little.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



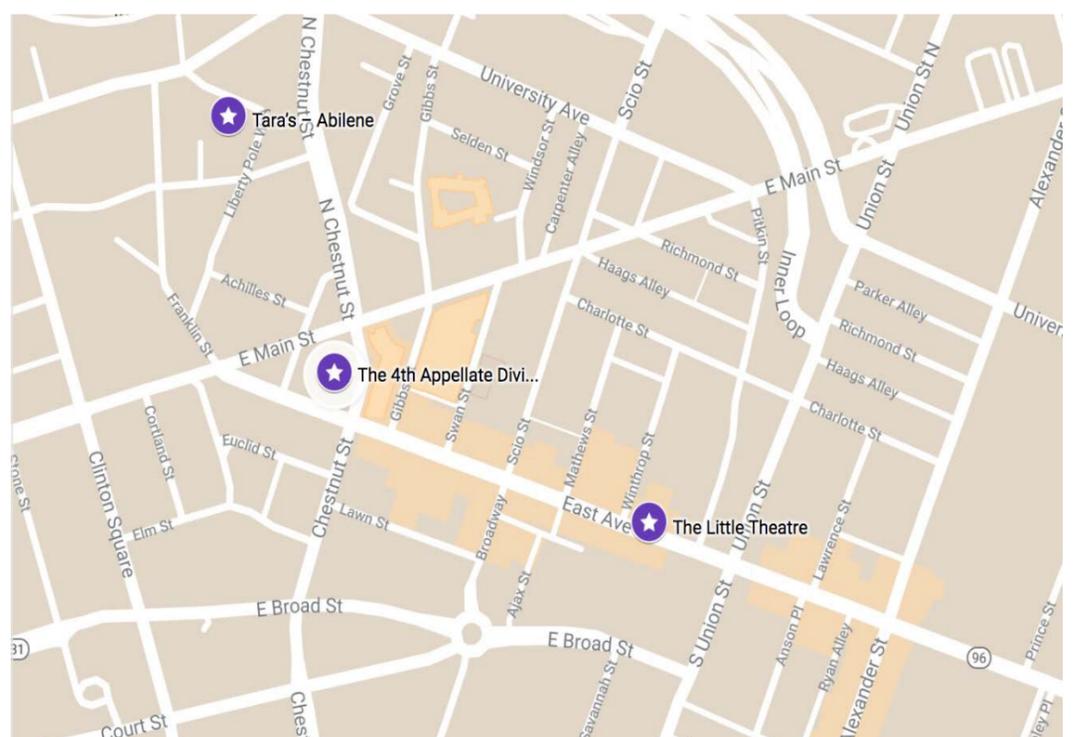
Contact: Larry Francer - [lfrancer@landmarksociety.org](mailto:lfrancer@landmarksociety.org) or 585.546.7029 X14, to get involved in the LGBTQ Landmarks project.

## TOUR PATH

On this walking tour, you'll discover the story of the LGBTQ Resistance movement that took place in Rochester's Lower *East End* and *Center City* neighborhoods during the '80's and '90's.

The tour begins in the Lower *East End*, west of the old Loop between Alexander and Main Streets, in Rochester's 5th Ward. Our first stop is the Little Theater, 240 East Avenue, and then moves to the 4th Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, 50 East Ave. Next we walk to *Center City*, the center and most built up of downtown Rochester's old 6th Ward, to our third and final tour stop Abilene Bar and Lounge - Tara's at 153 Liberty Pole Way.

The "modern" *East End's* history began roughly two decades ago with the maturation of the Little Theatre art film venue and the launching of the East End Festivals. With new developments, renovations, and existing residential areas, downtown Rochester's *Center City* is experiencing an exciting time of change and rebirth.





## The Little Theatre - ImageOut 240 East Avenue

“The City of Rochester is proud to continue the legacy of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass and to welcome all voices in charting our future.”  
- Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY

The theater was constructed in the Art Deco style by Edgar Phillips of Rochester and Frederick Pike of Buffalo at 240 East Ave. The distinctive style of the original theater, now Little Theatre 1, the signature building on East Avenue, has earned it a place on the National Register of Historic Places. In the 1920's, The Little Theatre began **RESISTING** current cultural trends by providing an "intimate" alternative to the large commercial movie houses of the day. This **RESISTANCE** continued in 1993, when the marquee on East Avenue read for the first time "The Lesbian and Gay Film Festival",

now ImageOut, featuring new work both dramatic and documentary from lesbian and gay media artists, and was first co-sponsored by the GAGV and the Rochester Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus. In its 89th year, the Little continues to **RESIST** mass merchandising trends in the entertainment industry by continuing the 1929 mission of The Little Cinema Movement, to show "art films that appealed to the intelligent and sophisticated." Continuing to **RESIST** the large scale movie theatre commercialism, and to provide ImageOut a "home", The Little has become more relevant in Rochester's blossoming independent artistic community.



## The 4th Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court

“You need to know your history to be adequately prepared for the future!”  
- Carol Ebersole-Weiss,  
HRC National Board of Governors & Western NY Coordinator



In 1896 the first session of the 4th Appellate Division of NYS Supreme Court was held in the County Office Building at 39 West Main Street. In 1963 it moved to the Hall of Justice on Exchange Blvd. Finally in 2000, the Appellate Division, Fourth Department Courthouse moved to 50 East Avenue. The Courthouse, named in memory of the Honorable M. Dolores Denman, former Presiding Justice, who was instrumental in locating the facility in Rochester's East End and inspired the construction and design of the elegant building, is a source of pride for the entire community. In 1990, the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley (GAGV) began a three year **RESISTANCE** against the City of Rochester, which had denied the non-profit group tax exemption. The central issue involved was whether the GAGV is a "real" non-profit, providing genuine educational and other service to a legitimate group of people within the community. Judge Andrew Siracuse ruled in 1993 that the city had violated the GAGV's civil rights, and the city appealed. The Alliance **RESISTANCE** was rewarded on Feb. 4, 1994, when the 4th State Appellate Court decided that Siracuse's ruling had been valid.



## Tara's – Abilene 153 Liberty Pole Way

“The Out Alliance is proud to partner with the Landmark Society and HRC on the Second Historic Walking Tour to recognize Rochester LGBTQ early history of resistance and advocacy.”  
- Out Alliance, Rochester, NY



Abilene, currently owned by Danny Deutsch, formerly Tara's, was built in the 1840s in the Greek revival style which features a symmetrical, formal shape. Abilene –Tara's was first owned by William Cochrane, an upholsterer on Front St., and then by Jirah B. Moseley, co-owner of Moseley and Motley, a flour dealership. In 1979, Tara's was purchased by "Buddy" Wegman who revitalized the building, creating Tara's Cocktail Lounge, reminiscent of the Tara homestead in Gone With the Wind with gold wallpaper, green velvet drapes and chandeliers. Today Abilene is one of the city's leading live music venues. In the 1930's, Tara's **RESISTANCE** history began when the building was sold to the Salvation Army, and became an emergency home for Destitute Women and Children. In 1983, Tara's second floor became the original office for AIDS Rochester, Inc., free of charge. Rochester's **RESISTANCE** to the AIDS Crisis had begun. Jackie Nudd was the first Executive Director. In 1990, AIDS Rochester moved to University Avenue. In 2009, AIDS Rochester merged with A Community Health Network to become Trillium Health at Monroe Square.

