



YERBA BUENA
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

701 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Conjuring Power: Roots & Futures of Queer & Trans Movements

Presented by YBCA in collaboration with the GLBT Historical Society | March 13–August 23, 2026

Conjuring Power is a multimedia exhibition exploring the resilient beauty, cultural richness, and fierce resistance of Bay Area queer and trans communities. Broadly organized as a journey through time, this multimedia exhibition explores how queer and trans communities harness creativity to build culture, sustain one another, and strengthen movements across generations.

We invite educators to use this guide to assist students in exploring the show, and to help them consider its themes and content.

Resource for Educators | Pre-visit Lesson By Tate Jawdat, for YBCA's Educational Programs

This lesson incorporates the Think–Pair–Share strategy, originally developed by Frank Lyman (1981) as part of cooperative learning research.

GROUNDING (5 min)

Discussion Prompts:

- When we visit this exhibit, we are stepping into stories that are real, powerful, and personal.
- What do we need from each other to move through that space with care?

Chart student responses and agree on 4-5 norms.

ACTIVATE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE (5 min)

Allow students to silently reflect on this prompt for 30 seconds to one minute. Encourage students to take notes while they reflect and organize their thoughts. Students will share something their partner said.

Think-Pair-Share (TPS) Prompt:

- What moments, people, or movements come to mind when you think about Queer and Trans history in the Bay Area?

Discussion Prompts:

- What patterns or themes do you notice?
- Whose stories might be missing?



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FRAME VISIT FOR YOUR CONTEXT (5 min)

“When we go, we may not have time to read everything. We’ll be looking for three things.”

Provide 2-3 focus questions (will depend on your context).

Sample focus questions:

- How have Queer and Trans people resisted?
- Who created change?
- How can existing be a form of resistance?
- How can we honor our ancestors and elders?
- What does it mean to heal collectively?
- What unfinished work remains?
- What power lies in envisioning the future?

HISTORICAL TOUCHPOINTS (5 min)

“Before we go, I want to give you four anchor ideas. These aren’t the whole story - just touchpoints to help you recognize what you’ll see.”

1. Despite attempts to erase Queer and Trans people from history - they have always existed.
2. The Bay has long been a place where Queer and Trans people moved for safety, community, and possibility.
3. The survival and strength of the Queer and Trans community can be credited to grassroots organizing, mutual aid, drag communities, and the tireless work of Queer and Trans activists. Change wasn’t automatic - it was built.
4. In response to systems built to ignore, silence, and eradicate Queer and Trans people, the community organized and reshaped activism - centering care and self-acceptance as political acts.

PREPARING FOR VISIONING (2-3 min)

“At the end of our visit you will be asked to envision the future. You won’t be envisioning any random future, but one rooted in what you’ve learned from the images and voices in the exhibit.”

Sample prompts:

- After learning about ... a future I want to see includes...
- The contributions of ... motivate me to fight for...