

# Submit Your Handwritten Letters

## Handwritten Letters & Photos: four first time in a FLINTA-centered space

*For inclusion in the multimedia and archival component for the upcoming documentary series  
Space for Sapphics: the Rise of Sapphic, Queer and Trans Third Spaces in New York City*

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

The *Space for Sapphics* filmmaker and director, Nic F. Anderson, is seeking people within the FLINTA spectrum (female, lesbian, intersex, nonbinary, trans and agender people) to submit handwritten letters, photos and other ephemera on their memories and experiences of the first time they went to a FLINTA-centered space – whether it was a bar, a DIY pop-up, a co-op café, a basement dance party or anything in between.

### These letters will be:

- Displayed during the first few screenings of the film
- Included in a public digital archive documenting the emotional and cultural legacy of these spaces.

### These letters might be:

- Donated to the Lesbian Herstory Archives or one of the LGBTQ+ museums, should there be interest.
- Mailed to the places you mention, should the owners want them for their space.
  - Potentially be permanently on display in these spaces, should the owners wish to do so.

People within the FLINTA spectrum (female, lesbian, intersex, nonbinary, trans and agender people) know there aren't many spaces for us. These spaces we do have are lifelines: places of visibility, safety, expression, connection, resistance and joy.

Don't overthink it – As long as your letter is legible, no one cares how "messy" your handwriting is or if you have perfect grammar because your raw, honest, emotional memories are ALWAYS going to be more interesting. Write from the heart. There are no "right" answers.

Your story will help shape a collective memory, highlight the importance, power and beauty of FLINTA spaces and honor those who fight to keep them alive (and open new ones).

These stories will not only document a cultural shift, but will hopefully inspire others to imagine what comes next. Thank you for your trust and participation. Nic can't wait to read your story.

# ELIGIBILITY

- Must be over the age of 18 – no exceptions
- Identify within the FLINTA spectrum
- Live in the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands or American Samoa.
  - ***NOTE: submissions outside of the U.S. or its territories will not be included in the project (the director will still read them though).***
- Go on the record (no pseudonyms or anonymous)
- Submit the consent form – [CLICK ME](#).

# THE SPECS / WHAT TO SEND

- Letters must be written on a WHITE sheet of paper and written in BLACK ink
  - Please only write on one side of the paper and not on both sides.
- Letters can be as long or as short as you want, as long as you answer the \_\_\_\_ main questions (see below)
- On a SEPARATE piece of paper, please include the following:
  - Your email address that you used for the consent form
  - If you're including photos → a description of the photo, if you've received permission from everyone in the photo, etc)
  - Any other information you think the filmmaker should know

# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN THE LETTER

**The main questions to answer:**

- **What was the space?**
  - Name
  - Type (bar, cafe, pop-up party, etc.)
- **Where was it?**
  - City/Town/Etc
  - State
  - Country (if your first time was at a place outside of the U.S.)
- **When was this experience?**
  - The exact date would be amazing, but if you cannot remember, totally fine! Please just make sure to include the year.
- **How old were you?**
- **How did you hear about the space?**
- **How did entering that space make you feel?**
  - Were you nervous? Excited? Feel at peace? Etc.
- **Why are FLINTA-centered spaces important?**
  - More details, the better!

Below are a series of prompts to help guide your reflection. Feel free to respond to as many or as few as you'd like, so long as you answer the main questions!

**Reflecting on beginning → questions to help orient the letter in time, place, and memory.**

- What were your expectations before walking in? Did anything surprise you?
- What did your life look like before this first experience?
- What did it feel like to be in that space?
- What did you notice?
- Who did you meet? Did you go alone? With friends?
- What do you remember most vividly? / Was there a specific moment (a sound, a person, or conversation) that stuck with you?

**Reflecting on visibility → questions to help you explain how the space affected your sense of self and identity (if at all)**

- How did you see yourself reflected in the space – in the people, the language, the atmosphere? Can you describe how that felt?
- Did that space offer you a label, identity, or community you didn't know you could claim?
- Did you start identifying differently after being in that space? (If applicable, did the new language you left with give you a clearer sense of self?)

- Were there moments where your gender, sexuality, or lived experience felt seen in a new way?  
Did the space or people inside of the space show you something you didn't know you were missing?
- How did that space help you move through internalized shame, fear, or confusion around your identity (if at all or applicable)?
- What do you wish there had been more of in that space?
- Was there anything? If so, how would you have changed it, if you could?
- Did the space feel truly inclusive of all FLINTA people (across race, class, disability, etc.)? If not, what would have made it better?
- How did that space honor or include your intersectional identity – race, class, disability, migration status, religion, body, etc.? (if at all or applicable)

**Reflecting on impact → questions to help you think about how this space transformed how you interest with the LGBTQ+ community**

- Did the space affect your life at all?
- How did that experience shift your understanding of community or belonging?
- Did it influence the way you understand yourself today or lead to any creative, political, or personal transformations?
- Did the space change how you moved through the world?
- What do you think your life would look like today if you hadn't found that space?
- Were you inspired to create or seek out more spaces like it? If so, how? If not, why?
- If you could say something to the people who created or ran that space, what would it be?

**Additional reflection questions → miscellaneous questions on FLINTA-centered spaces**

- What do you wish FLINTA-centered spaces of the future would look, sound, or feel like?
- Describe your dream FLINTA space.
- What kind of space would have changed your life earlier if it had existed?
- What does safety look like to you in a FLINTA space?
- What makes a space feel nurturing instead of just "tolerant" or "cool"?
- If you could build your own space from scratch, what would you prioritize?
- What do you need – emotionally, physically, spiritually – from FLINTA-centered community spaces going forward?
- How can we make these spaces more accessible, joyful, and sustainable for everyone?

# FAQ

## **What is the documentary about?**

*Space for Sapphics* is a documentary series that documents the rise of sapphic, queer, and trans spaces in New York City – places like BOYFRIEND co-op, Dave's Lesbian Bar and Red Light Disco. These spaces aren't just venues; they are radical acts of community care and cultural memory. [See more here!](#)

## **Do I have to submit the consent form?**

Yes, submitting the [consent form](#) is necessary to receive the mailing address AND required for submission inclusion. There are not any exceptions. Names and email addresses will be cross-referenced.

## **Can I submit a letter in another language?**

YES! Submissions in another language other than English are welcome! Please just include a translated version (typed is fine) so meanings and sentiment don't get lost.

## **What if I am physically unable to handwrite a letter?**

TOTALLY FINE! Make a note of that in the [consent form](#) and the filmmaker will reach out to you to make sure you receive any accommodations.

## **What if I'm unable to afford postage?**

TOTALLY FINE! Make a note of that in the consent form and the filmmaker will reach out to you with specific instructions on how to send a scan of your image.

## **Can I send photos along with my letter?**

YES!!! Even better! Send a COPY of the photo my way! PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you get permission from whoever is in the photos, if possible, before including them. If you are unable to get permission, please make a note of who you did not receive permission from (on a separate piece of paper) and the filmmaker will do their best to blur their face, but cannot promise.