

Press Release, June 2022

Proudly launching new LGBTQ+ heritage project:

Where East meets West: Celebrating South Asian LGBTQ+ Heritage through the Club Kali Network

Coinciding with PRIDE 2024, Club Kali has been awarded a grant of £ £85,079.00 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund for an exciting project, entitled 'Where East meets West: Celebrating South Asian LGBTQ+ Heritage through the Club Kali Network'.

This project documents and showcases the rich history of the Club Kali from its inception in 1995 to the present day. Club Kali is the UK's first ever safe space for LGBTQ+ South Asian people to connect and celebrate their diverse heritage. It was set up by Dj Ritu MBE and Rita as a London-based club night, and it soon developed into an inclusive and welcoming LGBTQ+ community space that has made a huge difference to people's lives in the UK and beyond. Now it's time for this unique and pioneering heritage to be shared with the wider public.

Our team will record 30 oral histories from key stakeholders, and collect a wide range of memorabilia related to its history. The collated materials will be used to create an exhibition, a podcast series, and other learning resources. To deliver this project, Club Kali will collaborate with a wide range of local and national organisations including archives and community groups, including Goldsmiths', LGBTQ+ History Month, Social Broadcasts, LGBTQ+ Consortium, and Naz and Matt Foundation. The collection will be added to Bishopsgate Institute's permanent collection.

The project will provide opportunities for a wide range of people to participate and engage. Calls for participation will commence later this month, with the project scheduled to be completed by October 2025.

Commenting on the award, Co-founder Rita Hirani (she/her) said: "We are thrilled to have received this support thanks to National Lottery players, and are confident the project will create a lasting legacy that will help educate and empower British society and the next generation, so that Club Kali's South Asian LGBTQ+ heritage can be celebrated."

To find out more, please contact;

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Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. Club Kali Network's 'Where East Meets West' project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.