

**Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis
Additional Information Sheet**

Location:

Wired Women / Wired Women Dance (WWD) were held at numerous locations, including:

Soulard Preservation Hall	1921 S. 9th St.
Nites	212 N. Vandeventer Ave.
Unitarian Church	5007 Waterman
Heartbreak Hotel	700 S. Broadway
Sheldon Concert Hall	3648 Washington Ave
Webster University	470 East Lockwood Avenue

Additional Information:

Wired Women, organized by Mary Carpenter, Connie Lane, and Barbara Lau, was the largest lesbian women's organization in St. Louis in the 1980s. WWD created spaces across the city where lesbian women could feel safe to interact with other lesbians and create a community. Wired Women hosted events throughout various venues in St. Louis. Carpenter stated that at the time of her retirement, Wired Woman had \$10,000 in funds, a mailing list consisting of 1200 women in St. Louis, and that many lesbians living in St. Louis in the 1980s and 1990s could say they had been to a Wired Women event.¹

Heartbreak Hotel was the site of the first Wired Women dance "Sister Solstice strut" and continued to host weekly dances on Thursdays from June 1983 until the bar's sudden closure in January 1985. Dances, concerts, and performances were also held at various local venues:

Webster University was the site of a production of "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" put on by Wired Women in April 1984. Wired Women received hate mail and there were protests surrounding the play. This play brought Wired Women to the forefront of the St. Louis new lesbian scene.

First Unitarian Church served as the primary location for dances for four years (April 1985-1989).

Events at **Soulard Preservation Hall** included: dance benefit for EFA November 19, 1988; Wired Women Dance January 21, 1989; Valentine's Dance February 11, 1989; St. Pat's Dance, a benefit for Challenge/Metro March 17, 1989; and Wired Women's (Beach) Dance! May 20, 1989.

Occasional programs, usually featuring local talent, were held at **Nites** bar in 1989.

At **Sheldon Concert Hall** from 1989 to 1992 Wired Women hosted concerts downstairs and after the concert, held dances upstairs. WWD claimed to have broken the attendance record at the Sheldon. These dances welcomed St. Louisans of all backgrounds but were especially catered to lesbian women as a place to interact and meet other women

¹ Mary Carpenter and Barbara Pfaffe, interview by Jacob Honigman, October 29, 2017, transcript.

in a safe place. These dances were nonsmoking and featured free childcare, providing a welcoming atmosphere for all who wished to attend.

Events at the Sheldon included: Kate Clinton & Deidre McCalla (with Blue Fox) March 12, 1988; Pride mixer dance June 25, 1988; New Year's Eve dance 1988; 6th Anniversary dance, July 15 1989; Valentine Gala with Del Rubio Triplets and Jasmine, February 10, 1990; Halloween Costume Dance October 27, 1990; "Two Nice Girls" with June & Jean Willington, February 15, 1992; and many others.

For additional history see:

The State Historical Society of Missouri, *St. Louis Lesbian & Gay Archives Collection (S0545)*, Series 3, Box 5, Folder 175: Wired Women Productions, Inc., 1985-92 (assorted flyers).

Washington University, Department of Special Collections, *St. Louis LGBTQ+ Research Collection (WUA00438)*, Series 1, *Pride Guide 1992* (Wired Women article)

Washington University, Department of Special Collections, *Documenting the Queer Past in St. Louis Collection (WUA00478)*, Oral Histories