



Beacon Hill resident, Arline Isaacson, has been granted the 2022 HistoryMaker Award.

The History Project is a Boston organization dedicated to documenting the history of New England's LGBTQ community.

The award ceremony was held on September 8 at the St. Botolph Club on Commonwealth Ave.

The HistoryMaker Awards have been held annually by The History Project since 2009 to recognize LGBTQ + community members and organizations who make history every day."

When asked about what the award recognition means to her, Isaacson replied, "I'm thrilled, and I'm honored, I love the History Project because they are The, with a capital T, organization working to achieve and to archive and to collect information about the history of the LGBTQ community in this state."

Isaacson, a seasoned local political lobbyist and consultant, has lived in Beacon Hill for over 30 years and has been working in the political landscape of Boston for more than 35 years.

Throughout her career she has become a champion figure in the fight for LGBTQ rights in Massachusetts. She currently works as President for her company, Isaacson Political Consulting, as well as serving as a board member for the Boston Women's Commission. She volunteers as Co- Chair of the Massachusetts GLBTQ Political, an organization for which she has worked for over 36 years.

"I got involved in LGBTQ issues as a volunteer back in the 80s. I just showed up one day for a volunteer lobby day," Isaacson said. "I had the good luck of being able to change a few legislators' minds on what was then called the Gay Rights Bill which was subsequently renamed the Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill."

Isaacson also acknowledged the group effort behind the success of her political efforts over the years.

"I'm very aware that the truth is, it really takes a village to get us the equality that we've won these last few decades... People like me, stand on the shoulders of a lot of LGBTQ activists who came before me." she said.

Throughout her career, Isaacson has actively lobbied for every significant LGBTQ issue in Massachusetts, including transgender equal rights, AIDS/ HIV legislation and many others. She was one of the key leaders in the fight for marriage equality in the state of Massachusetts, making the state the first in the U.S. to defeat a marriage equality ban.

"I think what made it easier to keep fighting on this over the years, was knowing that, if we didn't do it, we would never advance, we would never gain quality. There was no choice. Either you have to keep fighting or we're always going to lose," Isaacson said.

From: [https:// read.thebostonguardian.com/ the- boston- guardian;see-2022/09/09;c-4018880](https://read.thebostonguardian.com/the-boston-guardian;see-2022/09/09;c-4018880)