

WEBVTT

1

00:00:16.470 --> 00:00:17.699

Evan Taylor: Hello, Ben. Can you see me.

2

00:00:30.720 --> 00:00:31.890

Evan Taylor: Hello, Ben. Can you hear me.

3

00:00:32.280 --> 00:00:33.960

Evan Taylor: Yes, perfect.

4

00:00:34.410 --> 00:00:35.160

Ben Power: How you doing,

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00:00:35.520 --> 00:00:37.440

Evan Taylor: Really good. Thank you. How are you doing today.

6

00:00:37.830 --> 00:00:38.400

I'm good.

7

00:00:40.290 --> 00:00:45.150

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much for agreeing to do to do an interview. I'm so, so happy to actually get to meet you face to face.

8

00:00:45.240 --> 00:00:46.500

Ben Power: Yeah. Likewise,

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00:00:47.370 --> 00:00:48.090

Evan Taylor: Thank you.

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00:00:49.230 --> 00:00:49.560

Evan Taylor: So,

11

00:00:50.580 --> 00:01:06.270

Evan Taylor: As you know, we're doing these we're doing these it's oral history. So I'll, I'll do a little bit of an intro. Just for the record. So today is Tuesday, February 18 2020 and I'm here in Vancouver. My name is Evan Taylor I'm interviewing Ben power, Alan, where are you today.

12

00:01:07.050 --> 00:01:08.550

Ben Power: I'm good. I'm feeling great.

13

00:01:09.030 --> 00:01:10.170

Evan Taylor: And where are you, where are you located

14

00:01:11.160 --> 00:01:19.560

Ben Power: I'm located in Holyoke, Massachusetts inside the house that we call the pink lady.

15

00:01:20.730 --> 00:01:25.110

Ben Power: To Victorian at all the sexual minorities archives and I'm

16

00:01:26.130 --> 00:01:29.340

Ben Power: Seated in the Sylvia Rivera room.

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00:01:31.560 --> 00:01:35.190

Ben Power: Where the Leslie Feinberg library is housed.

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00:01:35.880 --> 00:01:40.770

Ben Power: Wow, that's actually behind me. You can see some of it.

19

00:01:41.400 --> 00:01:44.580

Evan Taylor: And so those were Leslie's actual books a

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00:01:44.820 --> 00:01:50.250

Ben Power: Blends least books, um, they're all a personal research library.

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00:01:50.730 --> 00:01:55.710

Evan Taylor: Wow, wow, I was reading online that's over 1200 bucks. I think he said on your website.

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00:01:55.950 --> 00:02:00.960

Ben Power: Well over 1200 in the SME and Leslie's is about 1500

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00:02:01.410 --> 00:02:02.400

Evan Taylor: Oh my goodness.

24

00:02:02.790 --> 00:02:04.170

Evan Taylor: Yes. Wow.

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00:02:04.470 --> 00:02:19.260

Ben Power: Yes. And then there's an additional 4000 books that circulate in a free lending library. It's called books on wheels. All of that is housed here in this House with which

26

00:02:22.350 --> 00:02:23.130

Evan Taylor: I'm sorry you cut out for

27

00:02:25.890 --> 00:02:27.960

Ben Power: You. Yes. What didn't you hear I'm

28

00:02:28.230 --> 00:02:30.390

Evan Taylor: Sorry, that's all house here in the house that is

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00:02:30.450 --> 00:02:31.410

Ben Power: My residence.

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00:02:31.680 --> 00:02:35.280

Evan Taylor: Ah, gotcha, gotcha. So you live amongst all of this history.

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00:02:35.400 --> 00:02:38.520

Ben Power: Knows I curated I curated

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00:02:39.300 --> 00:02:43.290

Evan Taylor: Incredible. I mean, even just looking at what's behind you is is amazing.

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00:02:44.190 --> 00:02:54.510

Ben Power: Now it's four floors over an old Victorian house. Wow. Yeah. So this is just a piece of it. This is Leslie's piece behind me.

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00:02:55.620 --> 00:03:05.190

Evan Taylor: Gotcha, gotcha. Well, thank you so much. I'm for doing that, that, that life work it's you know it's it's incredible to know that there's that that collection is actually available for us.

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00:03:05.370 --> 00:03:10.170

Ben Power: Yes, for free. Thank you. Community level, yes.

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00:03:10.890 --> 00:03:19.320

Evan Taylor: Well, let's let's start things off here and I'm going to go. I've got a bunch of just really quick sort of demographic questions, and then we'll get into the fun sort of conversational piece.

37

00:03:19.620 --> 00:03:20.100

Okay.

38

00:03:21.480 --> 00:03:24.900

Evan Taylor: So, then I've got your name. If you go he hits him pronouns.

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00:03:25.050 --> 00:03:25.710

Ben Power: That's right.

40

00:03:26.310 --> 00:03:27.510

Evan Taylor: And Hillary today, man.

41

00:03:28.410 --> 00:03:28.890

I'm

42

00:03:30.360 --> 00:03:32.310

Evan Taylor: 6969

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00:03:33.450 --> 00:03:34.650

Ben Power: Opening next month.

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00:03:35.520 --> 00:03:37.230

Ben Power: Congratulations. Thank you.

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00:03:38.280 --> 00:03:38.580

Ben Power: And

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00:03:38.730 --> 00:03:39.360

Evan Taylor: Where were you born in

47

00:03:39.840 --> 00:03:41.040

Ben Power: Chicago, Illinois.

48

00:03:42.090 --> 00:03:43.560

Evan Taylor: And you live now in Holyoke

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00:03:44.310 --> 00:03:44.940

Ben Power: That's right.

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00:03:45.390 --> 00:03:46.560

Evan Taylor: And how long have you been there.

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00:03:47.520 --> 00:03:49.590

Ben Power: I bought the house in 2015

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00:03:50.610 --> 00:03:56.130

Evan Taylor: And this was after you, the owner didn't wouldn't sell you the previous house that had been in for 30 years with the collection. Right.

53

00:03:56.340 --> 00:04:00.660

Ben Power: 32 years in Northampton, Massachusetts. Yes, correct.

54

00:04:02.160 --> 00:04:05.190

Evan Taylor: And I Are you employed or retired. What was your work.

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00:04:05.970 --> 00:04:16.500

Ben Power: Oh, well, I'm retired from my corporate work. I was a creative director in the insurance in high tech industries for 32 years but I

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00:04:17.610 --> 00:04:20.160

Ben Power: I became you know with life threatening illness in

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00:04:20.160 --> 00:04:31.980

2008

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00:04:34.110 --> 00:04:36.450

Evan Taylor: Lot of cutting out on your on your

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00:04:36.960 --> 00:04:40.980

Evan Taylor: Wi Fi. There is there is there a network that's, you know, a better network or

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00:04:41.490 --> 00:04:43.230

Evan Taylor: Is there a way to plug perhaps

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00:04:44.280 --> 00:04:45.840

Ben Power: Oh, it's plugging

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00:04:49.440 --> 00:04:51.390

Ben Power: It should be okay.

63

00:04:53.400 --> 00:04:59.160

Evan Taylor: Okay, sometimes it just takes a while to buffer and catch up. So me if there's if there's issues. I'll let you know as we go along.

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00:04:59.490 --> 00:05:03.120

Ben Power: Oh, hold on. Evan, I lost your picture. Just a second. Okay.

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00:05:10.020 --> 00:05:12.750

Ben Power: I have the audio. But I lost the picture.

66

00:05:14.310 --> 00:05:19.680

Evan Taylor: Sometimes that happens when the, when the the bandwidth is is busy.

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00:05:20.790 --> 00:05:21.240

Ben Power: Um,

68

00:05:23.160 --> 00:05:25.200

Ben Power: Let me see if I can. No.

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00:05:28.410 --> 00:05:28.980

Ben Power: No.

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00:05:42.750 --> 00:05:44.010

Ben Power: I'm going to help

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00:05:57.120 --> 00:05:57.810

Ben Power: Me see

72

00:06:15.840 --> 00:06:16.350

Evan Taylor: I'm still getting

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00:06:20.790 --> 00:06:22.440

Ben Power: Yes, no, I am too.

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00:06:22.770 --> 00:06:23.220

Okay.

75

00:06:25.710 --> 00:06:30.840

Ben Power: All I know they want me to sign up with my email. Hold on, let me just give them a human.

76

00:06:53.430 --> 00:07:02.700

Ben Power: So there's this long process it's taking me through to get my email address and then I need to confirm. I don't know if this is

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00:07:03.660 --> 00:07:03.930

I don't

78

00:07:05.130 --> 00:07:10.440

Evan Taylor: Know, I don't think so, because, because we're still on the line. So the email, shouldn't it wouldn't make a difference.

79

00:07:10.830 --> 00:07:11.430

Yeah.

80

00:07:13.290 --> 00:07:17.610

Evan Taylor: Are there. Do you have other programs that are running maybe that might be using up some of the internet bandwidth

81

00:07:18.870 --> 00:07:20.310

Ben Power: I, I don't

82

00:07:21.720 --> 00:07:26.520

Ben Power: I don't, um, it just what has happened is, it's

83

00:07:29.490 --> 00:07:34.650

Ben Power: It's just this window that says, get your own account for free. It's a zoom window.

84

00:07:35.760 --> 00:07:39.150

Ben Power: Hmm, and once my email address and I

85

00:07:41.430 --> 00:07:41.640

Ben Power: Mean

86

00:07:41.730 --> 00:07:49.260

Evan Taylor: I'm gonna try something I've never done this before, but there's a way that I can request to see if I can help support you from back here.

87

00:07:49.590 --> 00:07:50.070

Ben Power: Okay.

88

00:07:50.250 --> 00:07:52.290

Evan Taylor: So let me see if I can do this.

89

00:07:55.710 --> 00:07:58.830

Evan Taylor: So it's waiting for you to approve I requested transport from afar.

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00:07:59.100 --> 00:08:00.000

Ben Power: I just did.

91

00:08:00.330 --> 00:08:01.770

Evan Taylor: Okay, let's see what happens here.

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00:08:05.820 --> 00:08:07.800

Ben Power: I see you in a small window.

93

00:08:08.010 --> 00:08:11.790

Evan Taylor: This is good. I have, I think I have control of your screen right now.

94

00:08:12.630 --> 00:08:13.650

Ben Power: Okay, can you see

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00:08:14.340 --> 00:08:15.030

Evan Taylor: Yes.

96

00:08:15.210 --> 00:08:17.520

Ben Power: You see that message they're giving me

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00:08:17.760 --> 00:08:19.050

Evan Taylor: I do see that

98

00:08:19.320 --> 00:08:20.580

Ben Power: Oh, easy was that

99

00:08:22.410 --> 00:08:25.110

Ben Power: Yes. Okay, now it's gone. Okay.

100

00:08:25.290 --> 00:08:28.770

Ben Power: That's good, but we're in small windows.

101

00:08:31.380 --> 00:08:34.800

Ben Power: Um, are you getting a large picture or small victory.

102

00:08:34.830 --> 00:08:42.870

Evan Taylor: Got a small picture of you so far. But that's not bad. Let me just continue to take a quick look, they can see the desktop. You've got there.

103

00:08:43.290 --> 00:08:43.800

Ben Power: Oh,

104

00:08:43.890 --> 00:08:46.380

Evan Taylor: I can see the zoom, which is good.

105

00:08:47.430 --> 00:08:53.280

Evan Taylor: Larger active okay I can see you. I can see the smaller window of you, which is good.

106

00:08:55.830 --> 00:08:57.960

Evan Taylor: But as you say just can't see me so let's

107

00:08:57.990 --> 00:09:00.780

Ben Power: Say, You know, I can see you know in a small window.

108

00:09:01.260 --> 00:09:02.760

Evan Taylor: Okay, that's a good start.

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00:09:02.880 --> 00:09:06.690

Ben Power: I can see both of us in in small windows.

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00:09:09.420 --> 00:09:09.960

Evan Taylor: Hey,

111

00:09:10.740 --> 00:09:12.270

Ben Power: Maybe that's good enough.

112

00:09:13.410 --> 00:09:16.020

Ben Power: But I don't know what your recording will look like.



113

00:09:16.890 --> 00:09:21.900

Evan Taylor: It should be it. I don't know if I haven't actually done this particular thing before. So

114

00:09:22.770 --> 00:09:23.010

Ben Power: Hey,

115

00:09:23.070 --> 00:09:27.060

Evan Taylor: Now I'm just going to give up the remote control and see if that works out. How does that look for you.

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00:09:27.660 --> 00:09:28.740

Ben Power: I see you, it's better

117

00:09:29.040 --> 00:09:31.920

Evan Taylor: Fantastic. That is that, thank you. You just taught me a new skill.

118

00:09:32.250 --> 00:09:34.320

Evan Taylor: Good. Perfect.

119

00:09:35.790 --> 00:09:39.000

Evan Taylor: Wow, that that was actually that was actually really neat. I have never done that before.

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00:09:39.660 --> 00:09:42.780

Ben Power: Well, if that ever happens again your beard.

121

00:09:43.020 --> 00:09:43.860

Evan Taylor: Now, I know.

122

00:09:44.160 --> 00:09:49.470

Evan Taylor: You know, so it seems to be working fine for now. So maybe that was just a buffering that was happening.

123

00:09:50.400 --> 00:09:50.880

Ben Power: Okay.

124

00:09:51.240 --> 00:09:54.810

Evan Taylor: Okay, so let's just keep going and will troubleshoot as we go along with me, baby.

125

00:09:55.440 --> 00:09:59.700

Evan Taylor: Okay, very, um, so, yes. Yeah. So you're telling me about what you did for work.

126

00:10:00.450 --> 00:10:09.570

Ben Power: Oh, yeah. So it's a creative director or writer for marketing for high tech and financial services industry in Australia.

127

00:10:13.980 --> 00:10:14.310

Evan Taylor: Don't know.

128

00:10:15.360 --> 00:10:15.840

Evan Taylor: I'm getting that

129

00:10:17.490 --> 00:10:18.600

Ben Power: Yeah, so

130

00:10:18.660 --> 00:10:23.160

Evan Taylor: I'm going to what I'm going to do right now so okay with you. I'm going to stop my video.

131

00:10:23.790 --> 00:10:35.610

Evan Taylor: Okay, because I think first of all most important that we're getting you on video. That's your oral history. And I think if we stopped sharing my video, then you might actually the bandwidth might pick you up better.

132

00:10:36.030 --> 00:10:37.770

Ben Power: Okay, so

133

00:10:37.860 --> 00:10:43.020

Evan Taylor: I'm so sorry you can't see me, but I'll come back and then wave wave hello and goodbye, as we as we go along.

134

00:10:43.410 --> 00:10:45.090

Ben Power: Alright, that sounds like a plan.

135

00:10:46.200 --> 00:10:48.420

Evan Taylor: Until the only 22nd 2008

136

00:10:49.140 --> 00:10:49.710

Yes.

137

00:10:51.030 --> 00:10:59.760

Ben Power: Yeah, I got a life threatening illness. It's very rare one in 300,000 worldwide annually and it's

138

00:11:01.470 --> 00:11:01.740

Ben Power: An

139

00:11:05.670 --> 00:11:06.330

Ben Power: EPA

140

00:11:07.740 --> 00:11:10.290

Ben Power: Grant granuloma Towson poly enjoyed is so

141

00:11:12.240 --> 00:11:13.560

Ben Power: It's flattening

142

00:11:18.870 --> 00:11:20.100

Ben Power: My whole life long

143

00:11:22.560 --> 00:11:25.740

Ben Power: took a long time of diagnosis, but I survived it

144

00:11:31.050 --> 00:11:31.620

Okay, but you

145

00:11:32.820 --> 00:11:33.060

Ben Power: Gotta

146

00:11:33.120 --> 00:11:40.980

Evan Taylor: Come back online here for a second to say hello I'm your, I'm still getting a lot of cutting out, did you say you were actually like you've got the internet cord plugged in.

147

00:11:42.180 --> 00:11:46.470

Ben Power: Yes, yes. Well, the laptop cord is is plugged in.

148

00:11:48.180 --> 00:11:48.900

Ben Power: Um,

149

00:12:01.770 --> 00:12:02.040

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

150

00:12:03.930 --> 00:12:05.580

Evan Taylor: You see another room. You could try

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00:12:07.050 --> 00:12:10.740

Ben Power: I could try to to go where the modem is

152

00:12:10.950 --> 00:12:12.600

Evan Taylor: But yeah, let's do that.

153

00:12:12.720 --> 00:12:17.070

Evan Taylor: Let's do that. Thank you. Okay, I'll pause the recording while you get that going.

154

00:12:17.700 --> 00:12:18.210

Okay.

155

00:12:20.460 --> 00:12:29.010

Evan Taylor: So okay, so hopefully that hopefully that'll that'll that'll give us a lot more bandwidth. If not, we might have to look at doing a different kind of connection.

156

00:12:29.640 --> 00:12:30.180

Okay.

157

00:12:31.260 --> 00:12:31.650

Evan Taylor: Um,

158

00:12:32.670 --> 00:12:36.600

Evan Taylor: So where we got here. What, what's your level of education.

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00:12:37.350 --> 00:12:40.710

Ben Power: Oh, master's degree my bachelor's was in

160

00:12:41.790 --> 00:12:43.260

Ben Power: English and my

161

00:12:44.310 --> 00:12:44.640

Ben Power: Right.

162

00:12:48.570 --> 00:12:48.780

Evan Taylor: Now,

163

00:12:51.690 --> 00:12:55.020

Ben Power: You're still getting cutting out. See, I can hear you perfectly

164

00:12:55.230 --> 00:12:56.970

Evan Taylor: Are you able to plug into the modem.

165

00:12:58.230 --> 00:12:59.220

Ben Power: No, no.

166

00:12:59.280 --> 00:12:59.670

Okay.

167

00:13:01.110 --> 00:13:02.340

Ben Power: No. Okay.

168

00:13:02.640 --> 00:13:09.450



Evan Taylor: As long as you can hear me perfectly the recording might be might be might be fine. It might be something that's coming through on the other end. So there's times when that happens.

169

00:13:10.770 --> 00:13:16.620

Evan Taylor: And what's, what's your, your race, ethnicity, your, what's your religious background or cultural heritage.

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00:13:17.310 --> 00:13:20.490

Ben Power: So I'm second generation Polish American

171

00:13:22.740 --> 00:13:23.100

Ben Power: Yeah.

172

00:13:24.570 --> 00:13:29.370

Evan Taylor: And so you mentioned help a little bit. Do you have any visible or invisible disabilities that you deal with

173

00:13:29.940 --> 00:13:40.140

Ben Power: Yes, I'm deaf in one year completely deaf and I do have this illness that I have to manage through surgeries and

174

00:13:45.840 --> 00:13:51.510

Ben Power: In my airway. So every 10 months or so I have to have that dilated

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00:13:52.080 --> 00:13:52.710

Ben Power: Okay, in order

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00:13:53.340 --> 00:13:55.350

Ben Power: To breathe in order to breathe properly.

177

00:13:56.070 --> 00:13:58.560

Evan Taylor: And hello. He had the deficit that a lifelong

178

00:13:58.590 --> 00:13:59.070

Or that

179

00:14:00.180 --> 00:14:05.700

Ben Power: was caused by the stillness that I had only have it for about five years now. Gotcha.

180

00:14:05.760 --> 00:14:06.240

Gotcha.

181

00:14:07.350 --> 00:14:09.690

Evan Taylor: And what's your relationship or family status.

182

00:14:10.620 --> 00:14:13.650

Ben Power: Oh, I don't have any relation with them at all.

183

00:14:14.940 --> 00:14:32.460

Ben Power: We were from poor working class background by the boys identified is working class, but both parents are dead anyway. No four siblings that I don't have any contact or connection with the madness because of denied.

184

00:14:33.570 --> 00:14:35.310

Ben Power: childhood abuse.

185

00:14:36.360 --> 00:14:40.500

Ben Power: Including sexual abuse right okay why parents

186

00:14:41.910 --> 00:14:44.790

Evan Taylor: And if so, what was the last time you had contact your family was that

187

00:14:45.150 --> 00:14:46.200

Ben Power: A long time ago, or

188

00:14:46.590 --> 00:14:50.970

Ben Power: A long time ago. Yes. Um, it was like me see.

189

00:14:52.860 --> 00:14:54.570

Ben Power: Perhaps 15 years ago and my

190

00:14:59.430 --> 00:15:02.430

Evan Taylor: Family had chosen family or or partners.

191

00:15:03.360 --> 00:15:10.560

Ben Power: I'm single. Um, but my chosen family is around me, friends, pretty good.

192

00:15:14.400 --> 00:15:15.390

Ben Power: Friends, as well.

193

00:15:17.220 --> 00:15:21.120

Ben Power: And I'm, I'm really part of the fabric.

194

00:15:26.940 --> 00:15:30.300

Ben Power: So in a sense, the entire LGBT community.

195

00:15:31.500 --> 00:15:36.210

Ben Power: In New England is is my chosen family. Of course, yeah.

196

00:15:36.240 --> 00:15:38.850

Ben Power: That makes sense. Max my cat.

197

00:15:39.450 --> 00:15:42.300

Ben Power: He's, he's, he's my son.

198

00:15:45.180 --> 00:15:46.680

Evan Taylor: Those ones are always the most important ones.

199

00:15:48.300 --> 00:15:50.220

Ben Power: Are better than people

200

00:15:50.280 --> 00:15:51.600

Evan Taylor: Exactly, exactly.

201

00:15:52.860 --> 00:15:55.380

Evan Taylor: Um, I assume your sex assigned at birth with female

202

00:15:56.010 --> 00:16:00.720

Evan Taylor: Yes. And what's your current gender identity or hasn't been checked in that along the way.

203

00:16:01.830 --> 00:16:02.430

Ben Power: Um,

204

00:16:03.660 --> 00:16:08.010

Ben Power: I came out as transgender after I met Lou Sullivan in 1982

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00:16:09.690 --> 00:16:13.080

Ben Power: But looking back on it, I knew since I was four years old.

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00:16:15.000 --> 00:16:25.230

Ben Power: That I was a boy. Right, so I am technically a classic definition of transsexual. However, I have had no surgery.

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00:16:28.350 --> 00:16:28.680

Ben Power: And

208

00:16:31.290 --> 00:16:32.910

Evan Taylor: All you're cutting out a little bit here.

209

00:16:35.010 --> 00:16:37.620

Evan Taylor: With the network. See if I can do something a little bit different.

210

00:16:37.740 --> 00:16:38.610

Evan Taylor: The bandwidth here.

211

00:16:38.880 --> 00:16:39.210

Ben Power: Okay.

212

00:16:39.390 --> 00:16:40.290

Hold on just a second.

213

00:16:41.400 --> 00:16:43.770

Ben Power: I'll get up for a minute to get some notes.

214

00:16:43.890 --> 00:16:45.840

Ben Power: Already will be right back.

215

00:17:10.980 --> 00:17:16.140

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I switched up a little bit of a couple things on the net work. So let me that a lot, got a bit of improvement here.

216

00:17:17.250 --> 00:17:18.780

Evan Taylor: Um, where are we at

217

00:17:19.860 --> 00:17:24.450

Evan Taylor: How do you, how do you identify and categorize your sexuality and has that changed over time.

218

00:17:25.920 --> 00:17:29.400

Ben Power: No, it hasn't really changed except that well.

219

00:17:31.650 --> 00:17:38.340

Ben Power: I was in the lesbian community originally for 10 years and I didn't identify as a lesbian, though I didn't

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00:17:41.190 --> 00:17:41.610

Ben Power: Stone.

221

00:17:42.840 --> 00:17:43.920

Ben Power: Yeah, right. So,

222

00:17:44.670 --> 00:17:45.870

Ben Power: So much um

223

00:17:47.970 --> 00:17:52.950

Ben Power: But then after I met Lou Sullivan. I knew that I was a transgender man.

224



00:17:54.390 --> 00:17:55.590

Ben Power: I'm heterosexual

225

00:17:59.160 --> 00:18:03.120

Ben Power: trans man transgender man. I'm pretty binary

226

00:18:05.250 --> 00:18:05.730

Ben Power: Yeah.

227

00:18:06.960 --> 00:18:16.530

Evan Taylor: It's interesting, talking to folks. I mean that's that's very much that the the binary identities are very it's generational right. I mean, definitely. It's that was the only option.

228

00:18:18.030 --> 00:18:18.690

Evan Taylor: At the time,

229

00:18:18.810 --> 00:18:27.300

Ben Power: Yeah. You either are right, yeah. Yeah, he's a boy or girl, a man or woman. Right. Exactly. Yeah. Right. And

230

00:18:28.200 --> 00:18:36.780

Evan Taylor: I think I've got all of the the pieces together for demographic pieces so there any other pieces about your identity or better important to understand your work you've done over the years.

231

00:18:36.990 --> 00:18:40.950

Ben Power: Yeah, I'm an anti racist, anti classes pro feminist

232

00:18:42.570 --> 00:18:44.820

Ben Power: Activist. I've been an activist on

233

00:18:51.240 --> 00:18:52.650

Ben Power: Racism in Chicago.

234

00:18:54.720 --> 00:19:00.780

Evan Taylor: So I'm just gonna, is it does that, cutting out there heard that you've been an activist all your life since you since you live in Chicago.

235

00:19:01.050 --> 00:19:02.160

Evan Taylor: Yes, right.

236

00:19:02.220 --> 00:19:02.580

Gotcha.

237

00:19:03.840 --> 00:19:11.640

Evan Taylor: Um, let's let's let's move into something, the more the more fun stuff around activism. Do you do identify as an activist, or how do you relate to that term.

238

00:19:12.240 --> 00:19:16.320

Ben Power: I do identify as an activist as a trans activist.

239

00:19:17.340 --> 00:19:23.880

Ben Power: First of all, mm hmm, but also an anti classist activists and an anti racist.

240

00:19:25.950 --> 00:19:36.300

Ben Power: Activist. I will call myself a feminist. I know some men do. Right. But I identify as a feminist li  
me

241

00:19:36.360 --> 00:19:37.470

Evan Taylor: Don't tell me more about that.

242

00:19:38.190 --> 00:19:42.540

Ben Power: Well, I think that men. I'm sensitive to men.

243

00:19:45.030 --> 00:19:48.480

Ben Power: Dominating everything though women do or try to do

244

00:19:49.710 --> 00:19:56.070

Ben Power: And I think feminism is one area that's akin to racism, I can be

245

00:20:03.840 --> 00:20:10.800

Ben Power: I can, I can be an ally to women I being a feminist ally, but I don't want to

246

00:20:12.090 --> 00:20:14.190

Ben Power: Go into their moment and

247

00:20:15.300 --> 00:20:20.160

Ben Power: Somehow. Take it, take a part of it away by being

248

00:20:22.110 --> 00:20:31.620

Ben Power: A feminist movement. So in that sounds I you know I leave it to the women and I can support them by being a feminist Li

249

00:20:31.830 --> 00:20:45.210

Evan Taylor: Right, right. Well, thank you so good, excellent explanation. And it's, it's a, you know, here, up in Canada. We have a prime minister right now who very openly identifies as as feminist. And so I think it's very interesting to see.

250

00:20:45.870 --> 00:20:52.740

Evan Taylor: How that plays out globally. And what that makes you know what what what the perceptions are of Canada, when there's somebody who's taking up that kind of space.

251

00:20:53.100 --> 00:20:59.430

Ben Power: Oh yeah, when you your leadership, our leadership here is is crazy right now.

252

00:20:59.580 --> 00:21:01.890

Evan Taylor: Agreed agreed to. I'll take that understand

253

00:21:04.380 --> 00:21:08.190

Evan Taylor: When, when did you first sort of get involved in the activism sort of work.

254

00:21:10.590 --> 00:21:15.150

Ben Power: Um, I say when I was about 16 in Chicago.

255

00:21:16.260 --> 00:21:18.780

Ben Power: I'm robbing Jesse Jackson.

256

00:21:20.130 --> 00:21:32.820

Ben Power: Was working for economic uplift of black communities in Chicago through something that you called Operation Breadbasket so the idea was to

257

00:21:43.710 --> 00:21:44.130

Evan Taylor: Okay.

258

00:21:47.340 --> 00:21:55.920

Ben Power: Yeah so Operation Breadbasket was something the Reverend Jesse Jackson was developing in Chicago.

259

00:21:56.970 --> 00:22:00.300

Ben Power: In 1966 67 okay

260

00:22:01.350 --> 00:22:03.330

Ben Power: And I would travel from

261

00:22:04.410 --> 00:22:07.110

Ben Power: The white art or parents lived

262

00:22:08.340 --> 00:22:09.090

Ben Power: North side.

263

00:22:16.980 --> 00:22:19.140

Ben Power: And be a part of that organizing

264

00:22:20.520 --> 00:22:27.690

Ben Power: And during the same period. I was organizing against the war in Vietnam. Right.

265

00:22:28.770 --> 00:22:37.650

Ben Power: I was one of those people who was gassed at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

266

00:22:39.150 --> 00:22:39.690

Ben Power: President

267

00:22:40.710 --> 00:22:42.690

Ben Power: I was there with my older sister.

268

00:22:43.890 --> 00:22:45.330

Ben Power: Protesting that war.

269

00:22:46.350 --> 00:22:48.840

Ben Power: And the police came in on horseback.

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00:22:58.080 --> 00:22:58.320

Evan Taylor: Last

271

00:23:01.560 --> 00:23:03.690

Evan Taylor: Last, last thing I heard was the police came in on horseback.

272

00:23:06.210 --> 00:23:07.740

Ben Power: Cracking skulls.

273

00:23:09.090 --> 00:23:13.170

Ben Power: I'll never forget the song that and I was

274

00:23:32.100 --> 00:23:33.690

Evan Taylor: This is I'm getting a whole, this is

275

00:23:33.690 --> 00:23:37.170

Evan Taylor: Really getting quite crap, I'm getting really good

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00:23:38.550 --> 00:23:39.030

Ben Power: Oh,

277

00:23:39.840 --> 00:23:40.260

Can I

278

00:23:41.310 --> 00:23:48.930

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I'm a little bit one. I'm wondering if there's a different setting on your on your network and I do you mind if I do that thing where I take a look on the on the desktop again.

279

00:23:51.090 --> 00:23:58.590



Evan Taylor: Let's try that out. I'll pause this for a second and putting the recording back on now say, I don't think it's, I don't think this has to do with bandwidth

280

00:23:59.790 --> 00:24:00.330

Ben Power: OK.

281

00:24:01.470 --> 00:24:09.510

Evan Taylor: I will do the thing where I don't share it where I stopped sharing my video though so that hopefully that if there, if i is the issue then that'll that'll free up some of the some of the space.

282

00:24:10.050 --> 00:24:19.800

Evan Taylor: Okay, okay. Um, so yeah. So, pardon me, but if I if I stop you for a second, then they'll just get you to repeat, whatever you just said, just do we make sure that we've got it.

283

00:24:20.280 --> 00:24:21.960

Ben Power: Okay, sounds like a plan.

284

00:24:23.280 --> 00:24:32.130

Evan Taylor: Okay, so, um, so, yeah, you're talking about when the police came in, until they were actually like they had baton. They're actually like literally cracking skulls, not just figuratively.

285

00:24:32.700 --> 00:24:37.500

Ben Power: Literally, yes. And I ran and I felt like a coward.

286

00:24:38.760 --> 00:24:39.540

Ben Power: For running

287

00:24:40.800 --> 00:24:41.310

Evan Taylor: Really

288

00:24:42.210 --> 00:24:45.180

Ben Power: Yeah, so I had to ask myself,

289

00:24:46.860 --> 00:24:54.870

Ben Power: What kind of an activist. I was going to be right and i mean back then you had to be willing to go to jail.

290

00:24:55.830 --> 00:24:56.250

Ben Power: Right.

291

00:24:56.280 --> 00:24:56.850

Evan Taylor: Of course,

292

00:24:57.180 --> 00:24:58.260

Ben Power: And be injured.

293

00:24:59.700 --> 00:25:00.660

Ben Power: And I

294

00:25:01.920 --> 00:25:05.700

Ben Power: I didn't I, I wasn't willing to go to prison.

295

00:25:07.080 --> 00:25:07.800

Ben Power: So,

296

00:25:09.480 --> 00:25:12.270

Ben Power: This is why I developed into doing

297

00:25:16.410 --> 00:25:21.000

Ben Power: It's a quiet. It's a quiet activity that is revolutionary

298

00:25:22.080 --> 00:25:22.890

Ben Power: In my own

299

00:25:25.230 --> 00:25:26.190

Evan Taylor: Absolutely.

300

00:25:26.760 --> 00:25:29.430

Ben Power: And it's and it's really the opposite of that.

301

00:25:31.320 --> 00:25:37.710

Ben Power: It's a protest within my home and not on the streets and it is it is a safe place.

302

00:25:43.290 --> 00:25:45.270

Ben Power: Absolutely, absolutely.

303

00:25:45.720 --> 00:25:46.290

Evan Taylor: I think

304

00:25:47.280 --> 00:25:52.410

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking as well about that. It's its own an anti violence protest in that way.

305

00:25:53.460 --> 00:25:55.830

Ben Power: Yes. Mm hmm. Um,

306

00:25:57.480 --> 00:26:03.480

Ben Power: It's also a way to have voice marginalized folks, myself included.

307

00:26:05.430 --> 00:26:11.100

Ben Power: It's a way to have voice and voices justice because especially for us queers

308

00:26:12.750 --> 00:26:19.590

Ben Power: The silence around our lives and our histories and our literature is deafening.

309

00:26:22.740 --> 00:26:24.210

Ben Power: A remedy to that.

310

00:26:25.470 --> 00:26:25.770

Ben Power: Yeah.

311

00:26:26.730 --> 00:26:31.650

Ben Power: There are thousands of voices that I live with in the archives

312

00:26:33.540 --> 00:26:37.350

Ben Power: We have collections of individuals who are living and dead.

313

00:26:38.820 --> 00:26:47.700

Ben Power: And it's a place through LGBT q i can we can learn our own histories

314

00:26:48.720 --> 00:26:49.740

Ben Power: And celebrate

315

00:26:50.760 --> 00:26:52.200

Ben Power: The truth of who we are.

316

00:26:54.570 --> 00:26:54.690

Evan Taylor: And

317

00:26:55.200 --> 00:26:58.500

Evan Taylor: That is preserving that history so that we have access to that information.

318

00:26:58.740 --> 00:27:04.110

Ben Power: Yes, it's not walled off in an institution like college or university.

319

00:27:04.830 --> 00:27:05.580

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

320

00:27:05.700 --> 00:27:06.930

It's grassroots

321

00:27:08.310 --> 00:27:12.840

Ben Power: Community and it's free, and there's no denying anyone access

322

00:27:16.560 --> 00:27:20.490

Ben Power: Right, great rarely credential people come here.

323

00:27:21.780 --> 00:27:26.790

Ben Power: Right but but so do I'm queer youth.

324

00:27:29.400 --> 00:27:38.970

Evan Taylor: Of course, I mean, this is one of the things about making that accessible and free for the community is that you know that in itself is it's an anti capitalist movement.

325

00:27:40.320 --> 00:27:40.590

Ben Power: To

326

00:27:40.620 --> 00:27:41.940

Evan Taylor: Mobilize knowledge.

327

00:27:42.300 --> 00:27:49.380

Ben Power: That's right. And that's one of the reasons why Leslie farmer put their personal research library here.

328

00:27:52.860 --> 00:27:53.220

Ben Power: Here.

329

00:27:55.980 --> 00:28:06.120

Ben Power: I'm mostly wrote about the fact that this is the SME is a community grassroots archive and that's why Leslie chose to support it.

330

00:28:07.590 --> 00:28:12.570

Ben Power: With their own with their own books, their own personal materials.

331

00:28:13.980 --> 00:28:21.780

Evan Taylor: And coming from Leslie, that's probably about the biggest vote of confidence that what that one can get is the donation of their library.

332

00:28:22.260 --> 00:28:31.470

Ben Power: And yes, and mostly did that when I was undergoing the eviction from the house of 32 years

333

00:28:32.520 --> 00:28:40.020

Ben Power: Due to gentrification was really what was going on. Why was evicted gentrification and also

334

00:28:41.670 --> 00:28:42.690

Ben Power: displacing

335

00:28:48.780 --> 00:28:50.130



Evan Taylor: displacing trans people from where

336

00:28:51.150 --> 00:28:56.640

Ben Power: From where I'm from Northampton, Massachusetts, where the house was for 32 years

337

00:28:56.730 --> 00:28:57.450

Evan Taylor: Right, okay.

338

00:28:58.320 --> 00:29:02.130

Ben Power: Um, they wanted on the one and a half million dollars for those

339

00:29:04.020 --> 00:29:06.870

Evan Taylor: And what was that compared to the market value is that completely unreasonable.

340

00:29:07.230 --> 00:29:12.240

Ben Power: Yes, other houses in the neighborhood were more like 200,000 or less.

341

00:29:12.600 --> 00:29:13.650

Evan Taylor: Ah, OK.

342

00:29:14.850 --> 00:29:18.390

Evan Taylor: So it was a deliberate overpricing to price you out.

343

00:29:19.020 --> 00:29:23.400

Ben Power: Yeah, and also because that that city is has become

344

00:29:24.450 --> 00:29:26.190

Ben Power: gentrified I'm not the only

345

00:29:33.450 --> 00:29:36.660

Ben Power: Businesses had to close. They couldn't afford the rents.

346

00:29:38.340 --> 00:29:40.920

Ben Power: It's what's going on all over the United States.

347

00:29:42.810 --> 00:29:44.430

Ben Power: Longer being what it was.

348

00:29:45.780 --> 00:29:48.390

Ben Power: The Castro district has been gentrified

349

00:29:50.460 --> 00:29:51.060

Ben Power: I was

350

00:29:55.800 --> 00:29:57.840

Ben Power: Because I found a house twice as large

351

00:30:00.060 --> 00:30:02.460

Evan Taylor: And I seen the pictures online its glorious

352

00:30:03.780 --> 00:30:04.560

Ben Power: It's being

353

00:30:07.290 --> 00:30:08.010

Ben Power: It's being

354

00:30:08.970 --> 00:30:09.960

Evan Taylor: So when when you were

355

00:30:10.320 --> 00:30:19.350

Evan Taylor: When you were 16 and you were sort of first looking at, you know, what kind of an activist. You want it to be like, and trying to figure that out. Who were the the role models or mentors that you looked up to

356

00:30:20.430 --> 00:30:26.340

Ben Power: I looked up to Martin. The Reverend Martin Luther King Jr and the Reverend Jesse Jackson. Hmm.

357

00:30:27.690 --> 00:30:30.150

Ben Power: Because their belief in

358

00:30:31.710 --> 00:30:34.470

Ben Power: nonviolent civil disobedience.

359

00:30:35.160 --> 00:30:38.010

Ben Power: Right, right. So I looked up to that and

360

00:30:42.090 --> 00:30:43.350

Ben Power: I also

361

00:30:44.460 --> 00:30:47.220

Ben Power: I knew, I knew that education was

362

00:30:48.750 --> 00:30:49.650

Ben Power: A tool.

363

00:30:51.000 --> 00:30:53.820

Ben Power: To reach equality. I knew that early on.

364

00:30:55.080 --> 00:30:58.080

Ben Power: My own equality. I mean, I was the first person in my

365

00:30:59.280 --> 00:30:59.970

Ben Power: Family to

366

00:31:04.170 --> 00:31:04.920

Ben Power: Use that

367

00:31:06.810 --> 00:31:10.320

Ben Power: Education is the key to equality. Because when you think about it.

368

00:31:17.430 --> 00:31:17.550

Ben Power: Oh,

369

00:31:17.910 --> 00:31:18.450

Evan Taylor: Hey, I'm gonna

370

00:31:18.510 --> 00:31:19.050

Evan Taylor: Go back about

371

00:31:21.660 --> 00:31:23.340

Evan Taylor: Why is education. The key to equality.

372

00:31:25.080 --> 00:31:28.110

Ben Power: Because when you think about it, I'm

373

00:31:29.430 --> 00:31:34.920

Ben Power: Ignorance in stereo stereotypes about any group of people any marginalized.

374

00:31:38.700 --> 00:31:39.930

Ben Power: Is based on based on

375

00:31:40.410 --> 00:31:42.150

Evan Taylor: Ignorance cigarettes. Thank you.

376

00:31:42.870 --> 00:31:51.180

Ben Power: So education is the key to remedy that ignorance. Yes. And does

377

00:31:52.560 --> 00:31:54.210

Ben Power: It's the key quality.

378

00:31:54.540 --> 00:31:55.200

Mm hmm.

379

00:31:57.090 --> 00:32:03.480

Ben Power: And that's one very big, big key to to equality.

380

00:32:05.070 --> 00:32:07.200

Ben Power: Another another key is

381

00:32:08.280 --> 00:32:10.350

Ben Power: Visibility and voice and

382

00:32:12.510 --> 00:32:15.870

Ben Power: Any press cannot have

383

00:32:17.910 --> 00:32:21.450

Ben Power: Equality if they're silenced and invisible.

384

00:32:24.540 --> 00:32:30.960

Ben Power: Two things are particularly what is thrown against the queer communities. Silence

385

00:32:32.010 --> 00:32:32.610

Ben Power: And being

386

00:32:44.250 --> 00:32:44.520

Ben Power: No.

387

00:32:44.580 --> 00:32:46.080

Evan Taylor: Hang on, I'm getting absolutely nothing.

388

00:32:48.990 --> 00:32:49.710

Evan Taylor: Hold on, let me

389

00:32:50.010 --> 00:32:50.730

Ben Power: Let me go.

390

00:32:55.320 --> 00:32:56.700

Evan Taylor: Over first second

391

00:33:08.670 --> 00:33:10.110

Evan Taylor: Hey, there you go. Sorry about that.

392

00:33:11.760 --> 00:33:15.120

Ben Power: Message on the screen that says my speaker is not working.



393

00:33:18.030 --> 00:33:19.530

Evan Taylor: Can you, can you hear me when I talk

394

00:33:20.070 --> 00:33:21.360

Ben Power: Yeah. Can you hear me.

395

00:33:21.930 --> 00:33:22.860

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I can hear you.

396

00:33:23.550 --> 00:33:24.120

Ben Power: Okay.

397

00:33:24.900 --> 00:33:30.000

Evan Taylor: It might. It might have happened. Cuz I just I just switched the network. Well it but as long as you can hear me, then that's what's important.

398

00:33:30.660 --> 00:33:31.980

Ben Power: You know, I can hear you.

399

00:33:34.320 --> 00:33:41.790

Evan Taylor: So like last thing before I pause you there as we were talking about silence and and visibility and the how related those two those two things are

400

00:33:42.180 --> 00:33:46.050

Ben Power: For LGBT Q people that's that's the way we're oppressed.

401

00:33:46.110 --> 00:33:46.740

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

402

00:33:47.430 --> 00:33:51.840

Ben Power: And so having a space like this House and other spaces.

403

00:33:53.430 --> 00:33:54.990

Ben Power: Where we gather

404

00:34:06.450 --> 00:34:07.230

Evan Taylor: Absolutely.

405

00:34:08.790 --> 00:34:11.610

Ben Power: Fighting in visibility in the silence.

406

00:34:13.500 --> 00:34:22.470

Evan Taylor: And especially when you when you paint it that that hue of pink that you've got there, it's simple. It became it became you know it's it's a statement right

407

00:34:22.950 --> 00:34:23.580

Yes.

408

00:34:27.390 --> 00:34:28.860

Evan Taylor: When did you first sort of at

409

00:34:28.890 --> 00:34:29.190

Ben Power: First

410

00:34:29.670 --> 00:34:31.440

Evan Taylor: Start to gather the archives

411

00:34:32.850 --> 00:34:34.230

Ben Power: I didn't find it.

412

00:34:35.370 --> 00:34:37.680

Ben Power: It was founded in 1974

413

00:34:38.730 --> 00:34:39.660

Ben Power: By a lesbian.

414

00:34:41.070 --> 00:34:41.310

Ben Power: Hey,

415

00:34:48.060 --> 00:34:49.080

Ben Power: Every science.

416

00:34:50.520 --> 00:34:53.760

Ben Power: And I didn't have the library science piece.

417

00:34:55.110 --> 00:35:01.140

Ben Power: In my education okay she she mentioned mentored me like

418

00:35:03.300 --> 00:35:05.850

Ben Power: Why was she starting it was a lesbian library.

419

00:35:16.380 --> 00:35:17.550

Ben Power: All kinds of good stuff.

420

00:35:18.900 --> 00:35:19.320

Ben Power: And

421

00:35:20.370 --> 00:35:23.700

Ben Power: Then when the center closed in, she moved to Boston

422

00:35:36.000 --> 00:35:41.760

Ben Power: Now, it grew and grew and grew. It's all materials donated by the Community.

423

00:35:43.260 --> 00:35:43.770

Ben Power: And

424

00:36:01.110 --> 00:36:05.370

Ben Power: Since then, it's really, I mean, oh it since I moved it to master.

425

00:36:06.600 --> 00:36:09.150

Ben Power: It has grown exponentially. I mean,

426

00:36:10.410 --> 00:36:13.290

Ben Power: What used to fit in one room now.

427

00:36:16.320 --> 00:36:18.000

Ben Power: In a four level house.

428

00:36:18.750 --> 00:36:20.370

Evan Taylor: Wow. Oh my goodness.

429

00:36:21.000 --> 00:36:21.480

Yeah.

430

00:36:23.940 --> 00:36:35.280

Evan Taylor: And so when when you sort of first first started opening up the archives with the for your like in your own home. You know, like for yourself what, how did that sort of

431

00:36:36.750 --> 00:36:43.530

Evan Taylor: Change it or did it maybe change any of how you, how you curated them, was it different, because it was now in your home.

432

00:36:48.840 --> 00:36:49.650

Ben Power: Um,

433

00:36:56.190 --> 00:36:58.740

Ben Power: It was, it was more personal.

434

00:37:00.720 --> 00:37:06.000

Ben Power: And I curated in a way where I sit with people.

435

00:37:07.440 --> 00:37:10.260

Ben Power: And really get at what their questions are

436

00:37:11.070 --> 00:37:12.330

Or what they're researching

437

00:37:13.560 --> 00:37:15.270

Ben Power: And then I show them.

438

00:37:16.410 --> 00:37:21.510

Ben Power: The places in the estimate or they're likely to find what they're looking for.

439

00:37:26.040 --> 00:37:34.470

Evan Taylor: And how did you learn about archiving. Was this just something that you know you picked up and bent and bent toward from sort of the previous iterations of it or did you ever

440

00:37:34.650 --> 00:37:35.520

Evan Taylor: Get a formal training.

441

00:37:36.090 --> 00:37:43.740

Ben Power: No, I never had formal training Barbara Henry mentoring me on basics and I just developed the systems.

442

00:37:47.940 --> 00:37:54.000

Ben Power: Particularly the book classifications. I mean, it started out with having maybe

443

00:37:56.190 --> 00:37:56.820

Ben Power: oh eight.

444

00:38:07.350 --> 00:38:12.720

Ben Power: We're only about lesbians and now our subject files fill like six

445

00:38:16.470 --> 00:38:20.040

Ben Power: Four drawer file cabinets, one for each community.

446

00:38:22.290 --> 00:38:23.760

Ben Power: I just expanded it.

447

00:38:26.280 --> 00:38:26.910

Ben Power: Play then

448

00:38:28.140 --> 00:38:36.600

Ben Power: Then, read the original founder Barbara Henry would have done, but the some of the naming is political.



449

00:38:40.230 --> 00:38:45.300

Ben Power: You know, call the history books history. We call them our story.

450

00:38:47.010 --> 00:38:47.610

Ben Power: Um,

451

00:38:49.050 --> 00:38:58.380

Ben Power: I don't call the mental health books mental health system. We call it mental illness system break right

452

00:38:59.640 --> 00:39:02.760

Ben Power: So some of the naming is political itself.

453

00:39:03.060 --> 00:39:17.640

Evan Taylor: Of course, and this these are ways to I again what I'm hearing is ways to bring visibility to, you know, the, the power that these words have these approaches have when we call something mental health, that really is not health whatsoever. For instance,

454

00:39:18.180 --> 00:39:19.560

Ben Power: Yeah. Yes.

455

00:39:20.640 --> 00:39:26.520

Evan Taylor: What, what are some other way. I'm really interested in the language piece of it. Like, what are some other ways that the language has changed over time that you're using.

456

00:39:27.450 --> 00:39:33.810

Ben Power: Um, well, like for biographies and autobiographies memoirs.

457

00:40:14.970 --> 00:40:18.030

Ben Power: Yeah, we call it section books bullshit.

458

00:40:21.480 --> 00:40:26.760

Ben Power: It's like a trigger warning right on the shelf before you look at them.

459

00:40:29.400 --> 00:40:31.500

Ben Power: Some of these books that are

460

00:40:37.620 --> 00:40:41.520

Ben Power: You know, you could argue that Janice Raymond's book.

461

00:40:43.050 --> 00:40:46.770

Ben Power: transsexual empire belongs there, right.

462

00:40:48.360 --> 00:40:52.650

Ben Power: But, you know, a book by the doctor, Dr. Money.

463

00:40:53.970 --> 00:40:55.140

Ben Power: may belong there.

464

00:41:09.480 --> 00:41:11.970

Ben Power: That we know what they're writing about us.

465

00:41:12.630 --> 00:41:14.400

Ben Power: Right now.

466

00:41:15.540 --> 00:41:20.760

Ben Power: There's only about 100 of those books here, but there is a section for them.

467

00:41:21.900 --> 00:41:25.380

Evan Taylor: And I heard that you call it bullshit. But what would you have called it otherwise.

468

00:41:27.270 --> 00:41:29.460

Ben Power: No, just would have called post

469

00:41:32.280 --> 00:41:36.780

Ben Power: I'm saying it's like when you get when you get online, you get a trigger warning.

470

00:41:37.170 --> 00:41:41.370

Ben Power: Gotcha. You can choose to look at that post or not.

471

00:41:42.630 --> 00:41:53.820

Evan Taylor: Right, so you say you're keeping track of what's being said so that people have access to it, but not necessarily giving it the credibility of being an actual genre in any way other than a load of crap.

472

00:41:54.120 --> 00:41:54.810

Ben Power: That's right.

473

00:41:57.060 --> 00:41:58.920

Ben Power: You got it, and

474

00:41:59.010 --> 00:42:00.420

Evan Taylor: What and what are some of the

475

00:42:01.020 --> 00:42:13.290

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking about some of the very early trans materials that you might that you might have in the archives. And what are some of the ones that for you personally that that are, you know, really meaningful. Like, I don't know, I'm thinking that somebody

476

00:42:13.980 --> 00:42:17.820

Evan Taylor: The, the early newsletters and magazines that would have been coming out and trans communities.

477

00:42:19.020 --> 00:42:25.560

Ben Power: Um, oh, we have all of them i mean the the magazines and newsletters.

478

00:42:27.360 --> 00:42:28.830

Ben Power: You know, we have transgender data.

479

00:42:30.660 --> 00:42:31.110

Evan Taylor: Right.

480

00:42:31.290 --> 00:42:31.770

Right.

481

00:42:33.870 --> 00:42:34.170

Ben Power: I mean,

482

00:42:35.370 --> 00:42:36.720

Ben Power: I can name all of them.

483

00:42:37.530 --> 00:42:43.050

Evan Taylor: What are the ones that are like most meaningful to you personally that you you know I don't use of the early days or

484

00:42:43.200 --> 00:42:43.650

Where you're

485

00:42:44.700 --> 00:42:47.100

Ben Power: Sure, like so. In 1986

486

00:42:48.690 --> 00:42:56.070

Ben Power: Who Sullivan wrote up a little pamphlet, it was called. Oh, it's not more than a pamphlet, but it was

487

00:42:57.420 --> 00:42:58.800

Ben Power: It was called information.

488

00:43:00.870 --> 00:43:08.340

Ben Power: Right. All right, yes transvestite. And he sent that book to the

489

00:43:09.450 --> 00:43:09.960

Ben Power: AMA

490

00:43:13.980 --> 00:43:17.910

Ben Power: People who come to the archives might want to read this book.

491

00:43:18.990 --> 00:43:21.450

Ben Power: No, I want, I wanted to read this book.

492

00:43:23.070 --> 00:43:26.310

Ben Power: So I read it and his contact info was in the back.

493

00:43:27.720 --> 00:43:32.940

Ben Power: And I said, I called him and I said, I gotta fly out Samson's gonna meet you

494

00:43:49.980 --> 00:43:51.570

Ben Power: Four hours in this kitchen.

495

00:43:53.520 --> 00:43:57.240

Ben Power: And in the middle of it. He said, I have to get up and take my AZT

496

00:43:59.370 --> 00:44:00.150

Evan Taylor: And did you know that

497

00:44:01.740 --> 00:44:06.990

Ben Power: Yes, I did. And at the same time I was gaining

498

00:44:08.340 --> 00:44:09.600

Ben Power: The most pivotal for

499

00:44:21.480 --> 00:44:27.120

Ben Power: me and asked me to take over his group that he started F to him.

500

00:44:28.530 --> 00:44:34.080

Ben Power: And I said, I can't do that. I've got my career in Boston. I had a lover in Boston.

501

00:44:38.850 --> 00:44:39.810

Ben Power: I'm in my life.

502

00:44:41.190 --> 00:44:47.070

Ben Power: I, I didn't have any other transmit. I know a new right so

503

00:44:48.810 --> 00:44:52.110

Ben Power: In 19 we see would be

504

00:44:54.060 --> 00:44:55.080

Ben Power: 92



505

00:44:56.370 --> 00:44:58.440

Ben Power: Because Lou died in 1990

506

00:44:59.880 --> 00:45:12.030

Ben Power: Or 9191 so I started the first trans masculine support group on the east coast.

507

00:45:13.320 --> 00:45:19.980

Ben Power: In 1992

508

00:45:21.060 --> 00:45:22.680

Ben Power: And I ran that

509

00:45:24.840 --> 00:45:28.440

Ben Power: Until I facilitated that until 2014

510

00:45:35.760 --> 00:45:36.840

Ben Power: Until 2020

511

00:45:37.890 --> 00:45:38.910

Ben Power: Until 2014

512

00:45:40.650 --> 00:45:42.480

Ben Power: I swell and I started up

513

00:45:44.640 --> 00:45:47.520

Ben Power: The two point O version of it again.

514

00:45:58.140 --> 00:46:01.470

Ben Power: And I modeled it after the way who ran his group.

515

00:46:03.240 --> 00:46:07.530

Evan Taylor: And he still running the, the second, the second iteration of it in the same model.

516

00:46:08.640 --> 00:46:15.810

Ben Power: Yes, but I've been asking guys to to sure the duty of facility.

517

00:46:20.940 --> 00:46:22.050

Ben Power: Right, right.

518

00:46:23.190 --> 00:46:23.400

Ben Power: And

519

00:46:23.640 --> 00:46:39.210

Evan Taylor: What have you noticed I'm I'm interested in the fact that you started it so you know 92 and now here we are 22 it's such a such a big and such a big gap. And I'm wondering, what have you noticed that are the concerns that are very different now and 2020 than they were in 1992

520

00:46:40.950 --> 00:46:45.570

Ben Power: There was much more complexity of identities now. Hmm.

521

00:46:47.070 --> 00:46:52.680

Ben Power: So, and even pronouns, but we have many that are

522

00:47:13.350 --> 00:47:14.370

Evan Taylor: What's that last thing you said there.

523

00:47:17.790 --> 00:47:26.460

Ben Power: Are a sexual identification gay identification my sexual identification that so

524

00:47:27.960 --> 00:47:29.400

Ben Power: Our particular group.

525

00:47:31.560 --> 00:47:39.060

Ben Power: embraces all of these complex identities. Some of our newer now when I started the group.

526

00:47:40.770 --> 00:47:42.210

Ben Power: It was a little simpler.

527

00:47:43.500 --> 00:47:44.550

Ben Power: It seemed like

528

00:47:51.240 --> 00:47:55.500

Ben Power: Or straight trans men. And that was all that was talked about

529

00:47:55.830 --> 00:47:56.520

Right.

530

00:47:57.630 --> 00:48:08.340

Ben Power: We didn't have the concept of non binary or gender fluid or gender non conforming, we didn't have that we didn't have that yet.

531

00:48:09.390 --> 00:48:14.520

Ben Power: So today we have more choices of identifications right

532

00:48:16.290 --> 00:48:20.640

Ben Power: We have in Massachusetts. Now I don't know if you heard this.

533

00:48:21.720 --> 00:48:25.530

Ben Power: But on our drivers licenses and birth certificates.

534

00:48:26.760 --> 00:48:28.050

Ben Power: We can put em.

535

00:48:30.960 --> 00:48:31.440

Evan Taylor: Oh, there's an

536

00:48:32.550 --> 00:48:32.940

Ben Power: Option.

537

00:48:33.450 --> 00:48:47.460

Ben Power: There's an excellent. Yeah. Interesting. Yeah, we're both adding the group, right. Some people feel kind of makes us more vulnerable. Like, if police would stop us or something. Mm hmm.

538

00:48:48.510 --> 00:48:50.940

Evan Taylor: Do you notice differences between sort of

539

00:48:52.140 --> 00:48:58.320

Evan Taylor: older folks who came of age, you know, maybe in like pre 2000 versus the folks who are a little bit younger.

540

00:48:59.670 --> 00:49:01.500

Ben Power: And what, in what ways

541

00:49:01.650 --> 00:49:05.610

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking specifically around this piece around identification about how vulnerable. They feel

542

00:49:06.270 --> 00:49:13.650

Ben Power: Oh, um, you know, I think around identities. There's a difference. I think this is the broad statement.

543

00:49:22.650 --> 00:49:26.490

Ben Power: The way that we were raised wants to think in binaries.

544

00:49:27.780 --> 00:49:29.820

Ben Power: In terms of gender right

545

00:49:30.990 --> 00:49:32.550

Ben Power: And I'm

546

00:49:34.620 --> 00:49:39.000

Ben Power: Speaking for myself, I can understand when

547

00:49:40.680 --> 00:49:44.160

Ben Power: Someone identifies is non binary or gender non conforming

548

00:49:52.440 --> 00:49:53.490

Evan Taylor: Pardon me, I would you say

549

00:49:55.350 --> 00:49:58.470

Evan Taylor: I heard you say you can understand when somebody identifies as gender non conforming

550

00:50:00.180 --> 00:50:02.310

Ben Power: Yes, but I'm

551

00:50:03.600 --> 00:50:07.740

Ben Power: Pretty invested in my own masculinity in

552

00:50:21.990 --> 00:50:25.350

Ben Power: This little message that speaker is not working.

553

00:50:27.600 --> 00:50:31.320

Evan Taylor: I want now. I wonder if that's maybe connected to the cutting out we were getting there.

554

00:50:32.640 --> 00:50:36.300

Ben Power: You know where you can see my computer. Can you see the desktop.

555

00:50:36.780 --> 00:50:39.390

Evan Taylor: And let me, I'll do that request thing again.

556

00:50:40.440 --> 00:50:44.280

Ben Power: Okay, okay, look at this message. It's coming up.

557

00:50:45.480 --> 00:50:47.100

Ben Power: Oh, well, it's gone.

558

00:50:48.840 --> 00:50:54.210

Ben Power: Anyway I message was coming up. It said your speakers not working.

559

00:50:57.150 --> 00:51:01.560

Evan Taylor: I wonder, I wonder if that's, I wonder if that's what it is because it didn't seem to be the bandwidth, no matter what we tried

560

00:51:03.450 --> 00:51:07.800

Ben Power: No, no, I got the volume on and I can hear you.



561

00:51:08.520 --> 00:51:12.480

Evan Taylor: Oh, and I can hear you. I can hear you as well. So I assume that the recordings picking that up.

562

00:51:14.160 --> 00:51:15.870

Ben Power: Okay, okay, let's

563

00:51:16.890 --> 00:51:18.090

Evan Taylor: Stop that part. Okay.

564

00:51:19.350 --> 00:51:25.710

Evan Taylor: I'm sorry. So I think at one of the other things I'm really interested in is that there's some of the changes over time, politically, in terms of

565

00:51:26.040 --> 00:51:40.380

Evan Taylor: How we've been organizing, as a community, you know, so you've seen it go from lesbian and gay activism to LGBT to LGBT Q to queer to what are some of the you know how he related to these these various iterations of a political movements.

566

00:51:51.270 --> 00:51:52.080

Ben Power: Just a second.

567

00:51:52.590 --> 00:51:53.280

No problem.

568

00:51:56.760 --> 00:51:57.270

Ben Power: I'm

569

00:51:59.850 --> 00:52:01.440

Ben Power: Actually gonna have a lozenge

570

00:52:03.690 --> 00:52:05.820

Evan Taylor: Chatting chatting for a while. That makes sense.

571

00:52:07.620 --> 00:52:08.130

Ben Power: Okay.

572

00:52:13.980 --> 00:52:23.040

Ben Power: Was in early movements like the women's liberation movement in Chicago, Lesbian Feminist movement movement in Chicago and then

573

00:52:24.330 --> 00:52:29.970

Ben Power: The early Pride marches. I mean, Chicago, at its first pride in 1970

574

00:52:31.170 --> 00:52:33.900

Ben Power: And I would go to those in March.

575

00:52:35.460 --> 00:52:38.550

Ben Power: And I, you know, as long as they were marches for

576

00:52:41.670 --> 00:52:43.560

Ben Power: I felt very comfortable marching

577

00:52:46.920 --> 00:52:49.350

Ben Power: When I moved here to Western

578

00:52:51.840 --> 00:53:01.290

Ben Power: The largest march here is in Northampton, Massachusetts. Okay, it draws now today 30,000 people

579

00:53:02.520 --> 00:53:09.390

Ben Power: Um, but it's like it's a big celebration that is very corporate sized

580

00:53:10.020 --> 00:53:11.010

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah.

581

00:53:11.430 --> 00:53:13.020

Ben Power: And it's sort of like

582

00:53:14.040 --> 00:53:16.980

Ben Power: Becoming a tourist attraction for the town.

583

00:53:18.090 --> 00:53:21.540

Ben Power: Rather than the rights or rights March.

584

00:53:21.900 --> 00:53:22.470

Zoo.

585

00:53:24.750 --> 00:53:25.650

Ben Power: When I did.

586

00:53:29.130 --> 00:53:31.560

Ben Power: I did two things with my frustration.

587

00:53:33.300 --> 00:53:34.800

Ben Power: In 2008

588

00:53:35.910 --> 00:53:43.080

Ben Power: I co founded a trans rights march okay was called the New England transgender Pride march.

589

00:53:45.420 --> 00:53:48.060

Ben Power: From mad for its first three years.

590

00:53:53.820 --> 00:53:55.860

Ben Power: The other thing I did was that

591

00:54:21.630 --> 00:54:22.260

Evan Taylor: Anything, sorry.

592

00:54:27.030 --> 00:54:30.840

Ben Power: So I started this group called queer insurgency.

593

00:54:31.710 --> 00:54:36.000

Ben Power: Okay. In 2011 and what it was for.

594

00:54:37.170 --> 00:54:42.270

Ben Power: Wants to go to the Pride march and pick at it.

595

00:54:44.280 --> 00:54:49.830

Ben Power: And we and we picketed we were holding signs that said

596

00:54:51.030 --> 00:54:52.530

Ben Power: What about racism.

597

00:54:54.390 --> 00:54:57.510

Ben Power: What about transgender visibility.

598

00:54:58.530 --> 00:55:00.360

Ben Power: questioning them because

599

00:55:03.840 --> 00:55:05.130

Ben Power: corporate event.

600

00:55:07.620 --> 00:55:08.130

Ben Power: So,

601

00:55:09.870 --> 00:55:14.760

Ben Power: We had to pick it and I don't go to it anymore. I mean, I don't go to it because

602

00:55:15.960 --> 00:55:20.190

Ben Power: It's like a marketing Expo kind of a feeling to it.

603

00:55:20.940 --> 00:55:22.020

Right, right.

604

00:55:24.720 --> 00:55:30.360

Evan Taylor: When you were sort of thinking back that very first march that you went to and 1970

605

00:55:30.630 --> 00:55:31.710

Ben Power: Yeah, in Chicago.

606

00:55:31.830 --> 00:55:37.320

Evan Taylor: What, what was the, what was the environment like what was the the sort of the feeling the emotionality around

607

00:55:39.930 --> 00:55:45.270

Ben Power: Well, we were angry because this was the year right after Stonewall

608

00:55:46.590 --> 00:55:51.150

Ben Power: Were you know people were put in prison in the riots.

609

00:55:52.200 --> 00:55:54.420

Ben Power: In Chicago, at its own share of

610

00:55:55.710 --> 00:56:00.690

Ben Power: Black riots. So we felt very free

611

00:56:01.890 --> 00:56:03.510

Ben Power: To express our anger.

612

00:56:05.040 --> 00:56:08.640

Ben Power: At you know how we were we were being treated in that era.

613

00:56:09.810 --> 00:56:10.020

Ben Power: Where

614

00:56:11.130 --> 00:56:15.420

Ben Power: You know, you could lose your job for going to a Pride march.

615

00:56:17.820 --> 00:56:19.680

Ben Power: Your family could kick you out.

616

00:56:23.130 --> 00:56:24.990

Ben Power: You could be expelled from school.



617

00:56:26.070 --> 00:56:29.100

Ben Power: Hmm. We had no rights and so

618

00:56:30.270 --> 00:56:33.150

Ben Power: It was very courageous to even go in March.

619

00:56:34.320 --> 00:56:36.840

Ben Power: About there was a sense of anger and certain

620

00:56:39.690 --> 00:56:40.170

Ben Power: Sense of

621

00:56:40.410 --> 00:56:41.100

Ben Power: sense of pride.

622

00:56:41.610 --> 00:56:47.310

Ben Power: In but you know sort of pride in order to lift us up.

623

00:56:48.390 --> 00:56:53.790

Ben Power: Right when there were, it was still illegal sodomy was still illegal.

624

00:56:55.320 --> 00:57:03.840

Ben Power: You know, the very way that we had sex was illegal. Right. And I'm to the religious people we were immoral.

625

00:57:06.450 --> 00:57:13.830

Ben Power: You know, and many of our families disowned us. Mm hmm or expelled us so

626

00:57:15.060 --> 00:57:17.520

Ben Power: It was a very different scene. It was

627

00:57:24.810 --> 00:57:31.950

Ben Power: LGBT movement again right the gay rights movement, as it was called, then after the black

628

00:57:34.830 --> 00:57:39.540

Ben Power: We actually I can trace in the archives here.

629

00:57:40.830 --> 00:57:45.780

Ben Power: The individuals who were a block and queer who brought to

630

00:57:51.060 --> 00:57:54.480

Ben Power: Kidding, no civil disobedience.

631

00:57:54.930 --> 00:57:55.500

Right.

632

00:57:56.850 --> 00:57:58.350

Ben Power: To have those players.

633

00:58:00.120 --> 00:58:07.320

Ben Power: gay man Baird Ruston and a lesbian name Ernestine Eckstein. Mm hmm.

634

00:58:08.610 --> 00:58:15.120

Ben Power: This was before Stonewall, even the late 60s. They were persuading us

635

00:58:24.150 --> 00:58:25.860

Ben Power: To pick it in Washington.

636

00:58:26.280 --> 00:58:40.140

Ben Power: Okay, outside the White House and every year in Philadelphia. Okay, this happened even before the Stonewall rebellion in 1969

637

00:58:41.310 --> 00:58:46.560

Ben Power: So when you ask about what were the early Pride marches like

638

00:58:48.060 --> 00:58:53.580

Ben Power: They were pickets they were mass protest marches.

639

00:58:54.990 --> 00:58:55.620

Evan Taylor: Right.

640

00:58:58.200 --> 00:59:01.080

Ben Power: They were not anything like they are today.

641

00:59:02.640 --> 00:59:06.660

Evan Taylor: And when did you see your house, what, when did that shift happen. I wouldn't you notice it.

642

00:59:09.300 --> 00:59:11.040

Ben Power: I noticed it when

643

00:59:13.440 --> 00:59:20.040

Ben Power: The focus of national lesbian and gay organizations began to

644

00:59:32.220 --> 00:59:33.180

Ben Power: Military

645

00:59:33.480 --> 00:59:34.110

Evan Taylor: Okay, yeah.

646

00:59:35.640 --> 00:59:41.700

Ben Power: The struggle for, you know, being able to serve in the military openly.

647

00:59:42.240 --> 00:59:44.610

Ben Power: Right, and then

648

00:59:45.660 --> 00:59:47.760

Ben Power: The struggle for equal marriage.

649

00:59:50.160 --> 00:59:53.400

Ben Power: Once marriage was achieved.

650

00:59:55.080 --> 01:00:00.540

Ben Power: In this, I saw you know state by state Massachusetts was the first date.

651

01:00:03.240 --> 01:00:03.630

Evan Taylor: Okay.

652

01:00:04.800 --> 01:00:11.760

Ben Power: Now that it's national its Federal law, you know, this level of marriage equality.

653

01:00:13.830 --> 01:00:18.930

Ben Power: It says, Though many lesbians and gays is gender folk

654

01:00:24.090 --> 01:00:24.570

Evan Taylor: Think what's

655

01:00:25.050 --> 01:00:27.090

Ben Power: The thing. What's the Stroh

656

01:00:28.740 --> 01:00:31.350

Ben Power: Should be over because it

657

01:00:31.710 --> 01:00:33.420

Evan Taylor: Has been war. Right, right.

658

01:00:34.050 --> 01:00:36.870

Ben Power: I'm in the workplace.

659

01:00:38.460 --> 01:00:42.240

Ben Power: Marriage those mainstream parts of

660

01:00:57.180 --> 01:00:58.020

Ben Power: Over

661

01:01:00.000 --> 01:01:03.900

Ben Power: trans folk, we're actually started the kicking

662

01:01:12.510 --> 01:01:16.410

Ben Power: We have rights that are being taken away know by this current president

663

01:01:18.000 --> 01:01:19.260

Ben Power: transgender rights.

664

01:01:19.440 --> 01:01:19.920

Right.

665

01:01:21.090 --> 01:01:32.790

Evan Taylor: I think that's really interesting that you talk about that shift. I'm sort of starting with the, the, the, perhaps odd desire for queers to want to be in the military.

666

01:01:33.480 --> 01:01:34.860

Ben Power: You know, right.

667

01:01:35.220 --> 01:01:49.650

Evan Taylor: And now, where we where we are. And as it is, you know, I think it's very interesting that that you saw that as sort of the beginning so you know startup that shift. And here we are now in a place where as trans people were now arguing for the exact same thing.

668

01:01:50.190 --> 01:01:57.330

Ben Power: I know. It breaks my heart that's going to be the national priority is trans military

669

01:01:57.750 --> 01:02:03.660

Evan Taylor: Right. Yeah, exactly. I hear Leslie Feinberg right now, you know, turning over

670

01:02:04.230 --> 01:02:06.660

Ben Power: I know. It breaks my heart to

671

01:02:07.050 --> 01:02:07.620

Yeah.

672

01:02:08.820 --> 01:02:16.500

Evan Taylor: When, when I'm sort of, how do you feel nowadays. Do you go to to to marches or pride celebrations of any kind.

673

01:02:16.950 --> 01:02:17.460



No.

674

01:02:20.430 --> 01:02:25.560

Ben Power: I don't, I can't stand to see the corporate martyrs.

675

01:02:26.370 --> 01:02:26.760

Great.

676

01:02:28.200 --> 01:02:30.060

Ben Power: You know, yeah, rising

677

01:02:32.310 --> 01:02:34.050

Evan Taylor: The rainbow body shirt off.

678

01:02:34.590 --> 01:02:38.640

Ben Power: Yeah, like, Yeah, you know, I can just can't.

679

01:02:40.440 --> 01:02:43.110

Ben Power: It's it's sold out. It really has sold out.

680

01:02:43.980 --> 01:02:49.980

Ben Power: Hmm, go to something that's a protest right or it's demanding or rights.

681

01:02:51.690 --> 01:02:58.530

Evan Taylor: And this is something that you look at. So I'm thinking as well, but all the the actors and you've done around class and race is this sort of

682

01:02:59.040 --> 01:03:07.950

Evan Taylor: Do you have any involvement in things like the Black Lives Matter movement or things like that are those sort of more the grassroots movements that you support and look at nowadays.

683

01:03:09.810 --> 01:03:14.670

Ben Power: I do my activism in my home with the estimate

684

01:03:17.100 --> 01:03:17.670

Ben Power: With the

685

01:03:18.870 --> 01:03:20.100

Ben Power: Damn support group.

686

01:03:21.150 --> 01:03:23.460

Ben Power: That meets here.

687

01:03:36.420 --> 01:03:37.800

Evan Taylor: Can you repeat that last sentence there.

688

01:03:40.770 --> 01:03:53.970

Ben Power: Yeah, I will go and join in a class system anti closest demonstration right or an anti right because we've had racial incidents here.

689

01:03:55.200 --> 01:03:57.540

Ben Power: With the police abusing black men.

690

01:03:58.830 --> 01:04:04.710

Ben Power: In North Hampton, and I will go to those I will go to those demonstrations.

691

01:04:05.790 --> 01:04:07.800

Ben Power: Gotcha him about me. Yeah.

692

01:04:09.180 --> 01:04:09.750

Evan Taylor: And I'm

693

01:04:10.110 --> 01:04:22.380

Evan Taylor: Thinking. This is also back to that original PC. We're talking about about, you know, people being willing to go to jail or be injured that you have to be willing to do that in some ways in activism and I'm hearing that that's still the case.

694

01:04:22.920 --> 01:04:25.800

Evan Taylor: In the things around you know race and class activism.

695

01:04:26.460 --> 01:04:30.180

Ben Power: Yes, yes, my key activism.

696

01:04:31.980 --> 01:04:33.600

Ben Power: Is devoting my life.

697

01:04:34.680 --> 01:04:38.580

Ben Power: To a national LGBT q i hate archives

698

01:04:40.320 --> 01:04:41.520

Ben Power: It's my life work.

699

01:04:42.540 --> 01:04:42.690

And

700

01:04:43.740 --> 01:04:48.450

Ben Power: That's my that's that's that's the core of my activism.

701

01:04:48.480 --> 01:04:54.810

Ben Power: Yes, in the core of my legacy. Mm hmm, which others will have when I'm gone.

702

01:04:56.220 --> 01:05:04.380

Ben Power: This body of work. The collection of spirits and lives in this house.

703

01:05:07.980 --> 01:05:09.150

Evan Taylor: Sorry that I want me to make

704

01:05:11.310 --> 01:05:15.330

Evan Taylor: The collection of spirits in live in the house. And then that's why they're cut out after that.

705

01:05:15.930 --> 01:05:18.090

Ben Power: Though will be remembered.

706

01:05:19.290 --> 01:05:23.220

Ben Power: Well, you may have forgotten or diminished.

707

01:05:23.730 --> 01:05:26.520

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. Yeah, we're completely disappeared.

708

01:05:27.030 --> 01:05:31.110

Ben Power: Yes, you know, you can't, I can't tell you how my heart breaks when

709

01:05:32.250 --> 01:05:34.440

Ben Power: An 18 year old will come here.

710

01:05:36.600 --> 01:05:39.330

Ben Power: And they won't even know Leslie Feinberg, this

711

01:05:40.110 --> 01:05:42.300

Ben Power: Right. Or I ask

712

01:05:43.560 --> 01:05:44.370

Ben Power: Is that them.

713

01:05:45.510 --> 01:05:48.990

Ben Power: How the Stonewall Riot affects them.

714

01:05:50.850 --> 01:05:52.260

Ben Power: All right, was

715

01:05:52.500 --> 01:05:53.280

Evan Taylor: Uh huh.

716

01:05:53.730 --> 01:05:56.790

Ben Power: At the age of 20 at the age of 25

717

01:05:58.410 --> 01:05:58.860

Ben Power: So,

718

01:05:59.910 --> 01:06:00.360

Ben Power: Um,

719

01:06:01.410 --> 01:06:05.430

Ben Power: This is a place where all of that can be taught and remember

720

01:06:07.020 --> 01:06:13.050

Evan Taylor: And I think, you know, going back to what we were just saying around, you know, the this as that as a life work.

721

01:06:13.320 --> 01:06:21.000

Evan Taylor: And you know, you have to be and I appreciate so much that an early age, you have to figure out what kind of an activist. You want it to be because

722

01:06:21.330 --> 01:06:33.210

Evan Taylor: When you decided to take on nonviolent activism and when you decided, particularly to to make this you know your home its own protest you kept yourself a lot you know and like that's

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01:06:33.270 --> 01:06:51.390

Evan Taylor: That's you can't do activism. If you're not here. And you know this. I see as a way that you're able to create a lot of, you know, to, to, to really mark out some space and territory for your people for your community, without having to, you know, put your life at risk in that way.

724

01:06:51.900 --> 01:06:52.380

Right.

725

01:06:53.790 --> 01:07:01.170

Ben Power: But there's something about education, too, because when I was a child, and I knew how different I was

726

01:07:03.090 --> 01:07:20.850

Ben Power: And I know, I know. It was a boy with a girl, blah. Right. Right. And we didn't have any words for that and you couldn't talk about that. Did you even have language for that. Mm hmm. I knew that I was, I was not going to survive.

727

01:07:21.930 --> 01:07:25.530

Ben Power: Unless I got all the education. I could get

728

01:07:26.880 --> 01:07:36.360

Ben Power: Right. It's no different. Now my belief in education as being essential is why curate this archive.



729

01:07:39.360 --> 01:07:51.240

Evan Taylor: And I'm hearing that way that education is not just you know that it's both, you know, the key to survival and equality and progress and like it's that education is really the core of how it is that we make change in the world.

730

01:07:51.720 --> 01:07:57.660

Ben Power: That's right, that's right. That's what I believe. Yeah, that's absolutely right.

731

01:08:01.140 --> 01:08:02.970

Ben Power: Oh, I think another

732

01:08:05.040 --> 01:08:07.590

Ben Power: Piece of what influenced me that

733

01:08:08.910 --> 01:08:12.420

Ben Power: A queer archive queer education.

734

01:08:13.800 --> 01:08:15.450

Ben Power: Needed to be offered

735

01:08:17.370 --> 01:08:18.720

Ben Power: College movement.

736

01:08:19.830 --> 01:08:21.810

Ben Power: Historically Black Colleges.

737

01:08:22.320 --> 01:08:22.830

Ben Power: Amen.

738

01:08:23.520 --> 01:08:30.900

Ben Power: That remain historically black colleges are the exact same reason I'm talking about

739

01:08:32.310 --> 01:08:33.120

Ben Power: Which is

740

01:08:34.230 --> 01:08:35.400

Ben Power: To study what is

741

01:08:37.650 --> 01:08:38.400

Evan Taylor: The study what is

742

01:08:38.670 --> 01:08:39.180

Ben Power: It. What is

743

01:08:39.450 --> 01:08:41.460

Ben Power: What is overlooked by the mainstream

744

01:08:43.200 --> 01:08:49.380

Ben Power: The studies study what is not available in mainstream schools.

745

01:08:49.680 --> 01:08:50.340

Mm hmm.

746

01:08:51.930 --> 01:08:58.230

Ben Power: You know Very minimally our colleges are starting to have

747

01:09:00.660 --> 01:09:02.130

Ben Power: gender identities.

748

01:09:02.700 --> 01:09:14.160

Ben Power: Great, but you're not going to get that in grammar school, middle school, high school and you should get that education.

749

01:09:16.560 --> 01:09:19.920

Ben Power: Yes, to me, is filling the gap.

750

01:09:21.210 --> 01:09:22.290

Ben Power: In education.

751

01:09:23.760 --> 01:09:25.560

Ben Power: That is out there that's really

752

01:09:28.860 --> 01:09:32.880

Ben Power: Yes, they don't understand who we are. They're afraid of

753

01:09:34.230 --> 01:09:36.900

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Right of us, I mean,

754

01:09:38.130 --> 01:09:42.360

Ben Power: Black trans women are being killed and you know this.

755

01:09:52.740 --> 01:09:55.950

Ben Power: So, um, Black trans women are being murdered.

756

01:09:57.270 --> 01:09:59.040

Ben Power: An extremely high rate.

757

01:09:59.490 --> 01:10:00.150

Evan Taylor: Yes.

758

01:10:00.360 --> 01:10:02.760

Ben Power: way out of proportion to their numbers.

759

01:10:03.810 --> 01:10:09.720

Ben Power: Population and what's underneath that is ignorance.

760

01:10:10.080 --> 01:10:17.190

Ben Power: Mm hmm. It's hatred that is oh hatreds are based in ignorance.

761

01:10:17.550 --> 01:10:20.790

Ben Power: Yes, so that the remedy.

762

01:10:22.380 --> 01:10:24.690

Ben Power: remedy is education.

763

01:10:25.050 --> 01:10:28.050

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Stop that ignorance.

764

01:10:29.580 --> 01:10:42.600

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I think it's really interesting you mentioned that, because in this this these oral histories. We've been recording and the the cohort of folks that were able to interview is overwhelmingly white trans folks.

765

01:10:43.410 --> 01:10:48.900

Evan Taylor: And, you know, I've done a lot of work to try and you know access indigenous folks and folks of color.

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01:10:49.380 --> 01:11:04.950

Evan Taylor: But it's been very difficult and it, it took a while for me to realize why that was and it was simply numbers I'm trying to interview folks who transitioned. Many years ago, and simply the, you know, trans women of color didn't make it as a cohort.

767

01:11:06.360 --> 01:11:14.940

Evan Taylor: So it's interesting how many of the folks that I'm interviewing who are in their 70s and so forth are. It's the white folks that that made it that far.

768

01:11:16.440 --> 01:11:19.380

Ben Power: Yeah, I know. Yeah.

769

01:11:20.100 --> 01:11:24.750

Evan Taylor: And I think what you're saying about that. So, so much of that is is ignorance and when you compound.

770

01:11:25.020 --> 01:11:33.720

Evan Taylor: The issue of being a woman with being trans with being a person of color with whatever poverty or class issues might be going on all of those multiple locations. But, you know,

771

01:11:34.410 --> 01:11:40.380

Evan Taylor: Ignorance. You know it, it multiplies to a place where people are so ignorant of you that you were completely invisible.

772

01:11:41.310 --> 01:11:42.480

Ben Power: Right, yeah.

773

01:11:45.090 --> 01:11:50.730

Evan Taylor: What are some of the most in terms of some of the biggest political changes and that you've that you've seen

774

01:11:51.180 --> 01:12:00.960

Evan Taylor: You know, particularly around around trans and, you know, trans rights and what are the biggest sort of pivotal moments that you look back and go, Oh, that was a huge shift everything changed that.

775

01:12:08.880 --> 01:12:11.190

Ben Power: I don't know if we've reached it yet.

776

01:12:12.630 --> 01:12:13.560

Evan Taylor: Interesting.

777

01:12:14.670 --> 01:12:16.230

Ben Power: I don't know if we've reached it yet.

778

01:12:18.120 --> 01:12:19.920

Evan Taylor: What do you think it might look like when we do

779

01:12:21.210 --> 01:12:24.840

Ben Power: Oh, whoa. See, we don't have a federal trans rights bill.

780

01:12:26.250 --> 01:12:26.460

Right.

781

01:12:27.570 --> 01:12:28.980

Ben Power: And even the bill that

782

01:12:30.270 --> 01:12:38.490

Ben Power: The Progressive Democrats want called the Equality Act, you know, there should be a federal Equality Act.

783

01:12:39.810 --> 01:12:42.720

Ben Power: But for protection and housing and employment.



784

01:12:50.400 --> 01:12:51.870

Evan Taylor: Last, last thing I heard you say was housing.

785

01:12:54.510 --> 01:12:55.260

Ben Power: Housing

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01:12:56.970 --> 01:13:01.560

Ben Power: Reduction in housing and schools and employment.

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01:13:11.880 --> 01:13:14.790

Ben Power: But that hasn't passed yet federally

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01:13:16.530 --> 01:13:18.900

Ben Power: And even if it does

789

01:13:20.070 --> 01:13:29.820

Ben Power: We're just world, sort of like our community is like attack and add on, you know, it's really most for the lesbians and gays, but

790

01:13:31.020 --> 01:13:36.660

Ben Power: I'm I mean there's been some progress, but I don't think there's been a tipping point.

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01:13:38.310 --> 01:13:39.540

Ben Power: For trans people.

792

01:13:39.900 --> 01:13:42.960

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. I was wondering if you were going to use that phrase.

793

01:13:43.620 --> 01:13:45.240

Ben Power: Yeah, I don't think there has been yet.

794

01:13:45.630 --> 01:13:46.110

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm. I

795

01:13:46.860 --> 01:13:48.720

Ben Power: Mean we state by state.

796

01:13:49.770 --> 01:13:53.850

Ben Power: I mean, I live in most liberal state in the United States. Okay.

797

01:13:56.130 --> 01:13:56.910

Ben Power: So,

798

01:13:58.950 --> 01:14:07.230

Ben Power: But it's not it's not nationwide. I mean, there are predictions in the State of Massachusetts in housing and

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01:14:10.440 --> 01:14:22.650

Ben Power: Their city by city of have their own ordinances and nothing nothing federal yet. Gotcha. Okay. And as you mentioned previously,

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01:14:23.850 --> 01:14:27.240

Ben Power: Like NC t and national

801

01:14:29.580 --> 01:14:36.690

Ben Power: Organization here they're talking, they're talking about wanting to push for trans in the military.

802

01:14:38.640 --> 01:14:44.040

Ben Power: Right. And I don't think that's going to be a tipping point either when that's achieved.

803

01:14:45.330 --> 01:14:48.450

Evan Taylor: Yeah, she said she lived in air quotes

804

01:14:48.810 --> 01:14:58.140

Ben Power: It was it was in place. Actually, under President Obama and then taken away by Trump right so

805

01:15:01.620 --> 01:15:13.740

Evan Taylor: In terms of like looking at how in the future. What are the, you know, obviously, for you, you, the, the, the re achieving a military military inclusion does not necessarily the goal.

806

01:15:14.910 --> 01:15:21.600

Evan Taylor: What, what if you could, you know what, what goals, would you have for the trans community in terms of rights or progress.

807

01:15:23.040 --> 01:15:30.420

Ben Power: Um, well, first of all, I'd like to see trends history talk, starting in the grammar school level.

808

01:15:30.780 --> 01:15:38.160

Ben Power: I'm in middle school and all you know the way up to high school and college and I'd like to see trans literature.

809

01:15:40.890 --> 01:15:42.810

Ben Power: Right. Great grammar school.

810

01:15:47.790 --> 01:15:49.470

Ben Power: I would like to see healthcare.

811

01:15:52.260 --> 01:15:52.590

Ben Power: Healthcare

812

01:15:54.180 --> 01:15:55.290

Ben Power: Healthcare where

813

01:15:56.610 --> 01:16:02.580

Ben Power: Trans people could get gender confirming surgery for me.

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01:16:04.170 --> 01:16:07.410

Ben Power: Right, right. Universal Healthcare

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01:16:09.480 --> 01:16:10.050

Oh,

816

01:16:12.900 --> 01:16:15.690

Ben Power: I would like to see. Let's see.

817

01:16:18.390 --> 01:16:20.880

Ben Power: I think that white trans people.

818

01:16:28.920 --> 01:16:29.580

Evan Taylor: Need to start working

819

01:16:32.310 --> 01:16:38.550

Ben Power: segregated from each other right yeah i would i would like to see

820

01:16:39.690 --> 01:16:47.340

Ben Power: integration within our trans movement. Mm hmm real true integration.

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01:16:48.960 --> 01:16:51.990

Ben Power: Meaning in the leadership meeting and the rank and file.

822

01:16:59.790 --> 01:17:00.240

Evan Taylor: That lesson.

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01:17:02.700 --> 01:17:06.630

Ben Power: Trans people don't even talk about that much integration.

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01:17:07.470 --> 01:17:08.820

Evan Taylor: Yeah, no, not at all.

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01:17:09.240 --> 01:17:11.520

Ben Power: Not at all really yeah you know

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01:17:13.920 --> 01:17:14.310

Evan Taylor: It's never

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01:17:14.790 --> 01:17:25.950

Evan Taylor: It's never been part of the the the the the trans not agenda is not the word, but it's the, the approach to equality has never really been an intersection approach, if you will.

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01:17:26.910 --> 01:17:29.580

Ben Power: That's right, it needs to be.

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01:17:31.050 --> 01:17:32.430

Ben Power: It was going to succeed.

830

01:17:34.380 --> 01:17:45.870

Evan Taylor: And obviously, you're going to tell me that education is one of the key pieces to that, how, how does, how is it anything beyond like obviously we know we'd like to see that in public schools and so forth. And what are the more

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01:17:47.100 --> 01:17:53.550

Evan Taylor: Grassroots education, you know, changes, you'd like to see that are maybe more community based as opposed to institutional

832

01:17:55.200 --> 01:18:05.250

Ben Power: You know, well, one of my hopes for this place is to become a school. Hmm. And we have we developed our own

833

01:18:06.450 --> 01:18:08.280

Ben Power: Presentations based on

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01:18:09.720 --> 01:18:12.240

Ben Power: Figures in pre Stonewall history.

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01:18:14.310 --> 01:18:21.690

Ben Power: We go out and take those PowerPoints into the community and teach about we uncovered, for example.

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01:18:22.740 --> 01:18:29.460

Ben Power: We uncovered a person named Marion Turner, who is at the

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01:18:35.460 --> 01:18:37.050

Evan Taylor: Say, I just want make sure I mean

838

01:18:37.410 --> 01:18:40.860

Ben Power: He just wanted me to join Marian Turner.



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01:18:43.500 --> 01:18:43.980

Ben Power: Turner.

840

01:18:45.240 --> 01:18:50.520

Ben Power: Was an African American or black American who was living in

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01:18:51.720 --> 01:18:54.000

Ben Power: North Hampton, and it's turn of the

842

01:18:55.020 --> 01:19:04.200

Ben Power: 20th century late at night. Yeah. And this person was living out as both a man and a woman.

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01:19:04.920 --> 01:19:05.610

Evan Taylor: I really

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01:19:05.940 --> 01:19:11.850

Ben Power: Yes. And we did extensive research. We looked through the newspapers of that era.

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01:19:12.870 --> 01:19:14.700

Ben Power: And they were involved in

846

01:19:16.740 --> 01:19:34.260

Ben Power: Slavery movements. They were involved in interest in getting black youth to move up north to have better conditions economically right they were involved with thinkers like Sojourner Truth.

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01:19:35.850 --> 01:19:36.900

Ben Power: Who were

848

01:19:43.080 --> 01:19:48.870

Ben Power: Wow. Yeah. And we teach that locally, that's part of our local history.

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01:19:50.220 --> 01:20:01.620

Ben Power: But more work like that needs to be done. The kind of work that Leslie fiber good when they wrote transgender warriors right the first the first history book right

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01:20:02.190 --> 01:20:03.780

Ben Power: Mm hmm. More that

851

01:20:05.460 --> 01:20:13.710

Ben Power: Public educational forums and also publishing those histories needs to be done. Yes.

852

01:20:15.330 --> 01:20:20.730

Evan Taylor: And something I really appreciate as well to assess where as we're talking about this that you've been around to see

853

01:20:21.390 --> 01:20:33.810

Evan Taylor: How the company be the technology available to us has changed how we do education. So I'm interested to hear from you what things were like in terms of doing this kind of education pre internet

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01:20:34.230 --> 01:20:43.080

Evan Taylor: Because that you know that's that's going to be what folks are listening to this and 50 or 100 years you know they're not going to be leaving imagine a world without the internet. So can you tell me a bit about how

855

01:20:43.380 --> 01:20:48.630

Evan Taylor: You know how activism and education was happening in those pre 2000 sort of thing.

856

01:20:49.260 --> 01:20:51.000

Ben Power: Yes. Well, the Internet.

857

01:20:52.170 --> 01:20:58.800

Ben Power: To a great extent as replace the need for physical space.

858

01:20:59.340 --> 01:21:03.450

Ben Power: Hmm, physical spaces where people gather

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01:21:04.320 --> 01:21:17.340

Ben Power: Right. Okay, so before the internet. Everything was based on people gathering together physically. Yeah, whether that was in a storefront

860

01:21:18.450 --> 01:21:26.460

Ben Power: In a rented storefront like the Lesbian Feminist center in Chicago or whether that was in a black Community Church.

861

01:21:27.030 --> 01:21:45.990

Ben Power: Right, or whether that was on the street because no one could afford to rent a space, right. So that's one big difference. And it's no surprise that we don't have spaces. Today you

862

01:21:47.670 --> 01:21:53.460

Ben Power: Know archives or the old notes. Yes. May has a space.

863

01:21:54.450 --> 01:21:59.790

Ben Power: Right. You're the one archives as a space and Hollywood.

864

01:22:00.840 --> 01:22:08.580

Ben Power: The lesbian history archives as a space in Brooklyn, etc, etc.

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01:22:10.920 --> 01:22:18.750

Ben Power: They transgender archives in University of Victoria as a space.

866

01:22:20.520 --> 01:22:26.100

Ben Power: But when you think about it, all of our other spaces. Since the internet came about.

867

01:22:27.120 --> 01:22:30.990

Ben Power: Have slowly closed and closed and closed.

868

01:22:33.270 --> 01:22:34.050

Evan Taylor: Yeah, that's

869

01:22:34.560 --> 01:22:35.940

Ben Power: Not even

870

01:22:38.280 --> 01:22:44.550

Ben Power: Including bookstores queer bookstores.

871

01:22:44.700 --> 01:22:45.510

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and

872

01:22:46.740 --> 01:22:56.490

Ben Power: They're gone. Mm hmm, including most of our gay bars are gone. Yes.

873

01:22:58.080 --> 01:23:02.190

Ben Power: So that is because physical space.

874

01:23:03.750 --> 01:23:05.550

Ben Power: Was taken over.

875

01:23:06.870 --> 01:23:07.860

Ben Power: Internet

876

01:23:08.580 --> 01:23:10.980

Ben Power: social space.

877

01:23:12.780 --> 01:23:18.930

Ben Power: Well, we had to in my generation pre Internet was we had a we had to get a space.

878

01:23:19.950 --> 01:23:21.840

Ben Power: And you had to do flyers.

879

01:23:22.470 --> 01:23:23.610

Evan Taylor: Right and

880

01:23:23.790 --> 01:23:30.240

Ben Power: Put flyers up all over the place and do mailings through the postal mail.

881

01:23:31.470 --> 01:23:35.010

Ben Power: Of those flyers or publications

882

01:23:36.060 --> 01:23:37.560

Ben Power: Everything was physical

883

01:23:39.480 --> 01:23:39.990

Evan Taylor: Right.

884

01:23:40.170 --> 01:23:43.530

Ben Power: Right, it is it's digital

885

01:23:45.240 --> 01:23:48.210

Ben Power: So one of the things. Yes. May as done

886

01:23:49.230 --> 01:23:53.610

Ben Power: Digitally is that all of our transgender owning

887

01:23:54.690 --> 01:23:59.310

Ben Power: Have been scanned and they're digitized on the

888

01:24:00.360 --> 01:24:02.640

Ben Power: Digital transgender Arcata

889

01:24:03.660 --> 01:24:04.230

Evan Taylor: Right.

890

01:24:04.500 --> 01:24:11.730

Ben Power: Right, okay. But that still doesn't solve the problem I'm though the lack

891

01:24:12.780 --> 01:24:13.350

Ben Power: Of

892

01:24:15.330 --> 01:24:15.600

Ben Power: This

893

01:24:17.640 --> 01:24:19.800

Ben Power: We, we have started to have a

894

01:24:19.800 --> 01:24:20.700

Problem.



895

01:24:21.780 --> 01:24:25.230

Ben Power: Coming together physically in groups.

896

01:24:25.530 --> 01:24:29.520

Ben Power: Yes. And so there's this alienation.

897

01:24:30.750 --> 01:24:32.730

Ben Power: And aloneness that we feel

898

01:24:33.450 --> 01:24:39.690

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Despite the social media, despite Facebook and Instagram, and all of them.

899

01:24:40.620 --> 01:24:43.020

Ben Power: Yeah, probably because of them.

900

01:24:45.420 --> 01:24:53.310

Ben Power: So this is another thing that motivated me to start up again the East Coast at the M group in person.

901

01:24:54.990 --> 01:25:00.180

Evan Taylor: Right to make an actual hold that space for inter face to face in person connection.

902

01:25:00.720 --> 01:25:06.900

Ben Power: Yes, and support. Yes. And I can tell you it is multi racial

903

01:25:08.400 --> 01:25:14.280

Ben Power: It is well it's ended by black and brown people as well as white. It's almost like

904

01:25:15.540 --> 01:25:20.040

Ben Power: 33% for each of those ethnicities represented

905

01:25:20.640 --> 01:25:23.910

Evan Taylor: For you, good for you. It's, it's, it's hard to get a group that's that integrated

906

01:25:24.210 --> 01:25:33.480

Ben Power: Well, it's early because of the holy of where we are now is a majority Brown community part of that order, we can let Phoenix.

907

01:25:34.770 --> 01:25:38.940

Ben Power: And block because it's more affordable than gentrified North Hampton.

908

01:25:39.750 --> 01:25:40.770

Ben Power: Right, right, right, right.

909

01:25:42.750 --> 01:25:47.730

Evan Taylor: How have you seen language change, you know, from free internet time to now.

910

01:25:50.310 --> 01:25:54.180

Evan Taylor: Because I noticed this when he went when he said the word. LAUGHTER Next, which you know wasn't really

911

01:25:54.540 --> 01:26:01.800

Evan Taylor: widely publicized until after the Pulse nightclub shootings and that became sort of when that word was means me came in mainstream

912

01:26:02.400 --> 01:26:10.620

Evan Taylor: So I'm interested in some of the words that may be folks were using around, you know about trans folks and within the community, much earlier that perhaps are out of fashion now.

913

01:26:11.820 --> 01:26:12.300

Ben Power: Oh,

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01:26:19.020 --> 01:26:21.270

Ben Power: Gee, let's see, well,

915

01:26:25.980 --> 01:26:26.160

Evan Taylor: Sorry.

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01:26:27.900 --> 01:26:33.090

Ben Power: I don't know whether the lesbian community uses stone watch anymore.

917

01:26:33.750 --> 01:26:34.350

Right.

918

01:26:36.870 --> 01:26:40.560

Ben Power: I don't think, um, let me see what other terms.

919

01:26:43.980 --> 01:26:48.750

Ben Power: Well transsexual itself as a word is falling away.

920

01:26:50.160 --> 01:26:50.730

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

921

01:26:51.660 --> 01:26:57.000

Ben Power: Um, it's considered an old fashioned word of course transvestite is an old fashioned word

922

01:26:58.230 --> 01:27:01.830

Ben Power: Um, of course, homosexual is an old fashioned word

923

01:27:05.070 --> 01:27:08.340

Ben Power: I've often wondered why the word lesbian indoors.

924

01:27:10.200 --> 01:27:12.660

Ben Power: Now was an old word and it's still there.

925

01:27:13.110 --> 01:27:16.050

Ben Power: Right. And I don't like it. But what are you gonna do

926

01:27:17.760 --> 01:27:21.210

Ben Power: It so sexualized and way.

927

01:27:22.710 --> 01:27:25.560

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Well, that's okay, I guess.

928

01:27:25.860 --> 01:27:29.670

Evan Taylor: Not and that's, that's an interesting point. I'm also wondering about

929

01:27:30.270 --> 01:27:45.870

Evan Taylor: How do you personally relate to the words like have you found yourself having to adapt and learn new things like about how the things are being, you know, how about how words are used, or have you found that basically our community keeps making up new words for the same old thing.

930

01:27:47.940 --> 01:27:51.180

Ben Power: Yeah, it's a little bit of the latter going on right

931

01:27:51.210 --> 01:27:57.240

Ben Power: Okay. Um, but some of it is getting more specific.

932

01:28:06.630 --> 01:28:08.700

Ben Power: I thought that I was a cross dresser.

933

01:28:09.210 --> 01:28:12.510

Ben Power: Great. Well, you know, and then

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01:28:13.950 --> 01:28:19.290

Ben Power: I had to examine know it's more about my as far as who I am, then the clothes I wear

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01:28:20.640 --> 01:28:23.670

Ben Power: And admit to myself I was a transsexual

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01:28:25.830 --> 01:28:29.280

Ben Power: One who couldn't medically transition so

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01:28:30.990 --> 01:28:31.740

Ben Power: I started meeting.

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01:28:32.370 --> 01:28:34.770

Evan Taylor: With that sort of part of your identity or Western medical

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01:28:37.170 --> 01:28:41.790

Ben Power: medical reason why can't, okay. Couple of medical reasons.

940

01:28:42.330 --> 01:28:48.780

Ben Power: Why it's tragic. Okay, yeah. So then I would call myself a non up

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01:28:49.950 --> 01:29:01.770

Ben Power: transsexual. Right. Right. Um, I don't know if people use the term non operative know as much as they did in the like 80s.

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01:29:02.970 --> 01:29:09.750

Ben Power: Um, so yeah language changes and evolves. So it seems to be

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01:29:11.460 --> 01:29:14.700

Ben Power: I can't figure out the difference between, for example.

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01:29:15.870 --> 01:29:18.750

Ben Power: non binary and gender non conforming

945

01:29:19.620 --> 01:29:20.400

Evan Taylor: Right.

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01:29:20.730 --> 01:29:22.830

Ben Power: To me, they're both the same thing, but

947

01:29:23.880 --> 01:29:24.360

Ben Power: Oh,

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01:29:26.940 --> 01:29:31.710

Evan Taylor: Okay, but if you go and ask a six year old, they probably have very, very clear ideas on what that means for them these days.

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01:29:31.920 --> 01:29:32.400

Yeah.

950

01:29:33.750 --> 01:29:35.190

Ben Power: Yeah. Yeah, I agree.



951

01:29:37.410 --> 01:29:48.240

Evan Taylor: In terms of sort of looking at these things. What do you think is possible for like this this hypothetical six year old, we just brought up what is possible for that person in the world that you know you could have never imagined when it, when you were young.

952

01:29:50.370 --> 01:29:52.710

Ben Power: Even having the language.

953

01:29:53.970 --> 01:29:55.830

Ben Power: About gender identities.

954

01:30:01.980 --> 01:30:03.810

Ben Power: Excuse me. No problem.

955

01:30:06.960 --> 01:30:09.360

Ben Power: So six year old.

956

01:30:11.130 --> 01:30:13.050

Evan Taylor: Yeah, what's what's possible for them in the world now.

957

01:30:14.490 --> 01:30:18.990

Ben Power: Well, if they're if we bring education to them.

958

01:30:21.090 --> 01:30:27.060

Ben Power: Everything that we adults know about gender identities, we should be teaching them.

959

01:30:27.600 --> 01:30:30.090

Ben Power: Mm hmm and sexual orientations.

960

01:30:30.840 --> 01:30:31.260

Evan Taylor: Right.

961

01:30:31.710 --> 01:30:34.620

Ben Power: We should be teaching them by that by that age.

962

01:30:34.980 --> 01:30:36.000

Evan Taylor: Yeah yeah

963

01:30:36.270 --> 01:30:41.160

Ben Power: And then in if I was six in 1956

964

01:30:42.270 --> 01:30:42.600

Evan Taylor: Right.

965

01:30:42.930 --> 01:30:44.730

Ben Power: And the only thing I knew of

966

01:30:46.080 --> 01:30:53.580

Ben Power: Oh, the only thing that existed in my mind in my when I was exposed to.

967

01:30:57.150 --> 01:30:57.840

Evan Taylor: Was what, sorry.

968

01:30:59.070 --> 01:31:00.300

Ben Power: Straight people

969

01:31:00.570 --> 01:31:01.650

Evan Taylor: Ranks right

970

01:31:01.740 --> 01:31:08.580

Ben Power: We called it or sexual three people. Mm hmm. And that's all that existed in my world.

971

01:31:08.940 --> 01:31:09.480

Right.

972

01:31:11.280 --> 01:31:16.470

Ben Power: And I was, you know, apart from that, but didn't have any language.

973

01:31:16.860 --> 01:31:17.430

Mm hmm.

974

01:31:18.450 --> 01:31:24.150

Ben Power: So we are people that go without knowledge of ourselves.

975

01:31:24.780 --> 01:31:33.600

Ben Power: Right, and that's very dangerous because that's that's a key to why we feel feel badly about ourselves.

976

01:31:33.900 --> 01:31:34.530

Evan Taylor: Yes.

977

01:31:34.740 --> 01:31:46.980

Ben Power: Why we feel second class citizenship. Mm hmm. Less than because we're not even taught our own language. I don't think a 16 year old today is

978

01:31:48.210 --> 01:32:00.540

Ben Power: Is being taught unless they're going out on their own on the internet and learning thing. Right, right, which I suppose as possible unless their parents, stop them. Mm hmm.

979

01:32:01.500 --> 01:32:11.310

Evan Taylor: I mean I think mostly these days. I think most six year olds would would would at least be able to tell you you know that that street, wasn't it like that gay the gay people exist.

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01:32:11.460 --> 01:32:13.860

Evan Taylor: They might not know about trans, but they at least know about gay

981

01:32:14.160 --> 01:32:16.290

Ben Power: I agree with you. Yeah, no.

982

01:32:16.710 --> 01:32:22.800

Evan Taylor: But I mean, it's also taken you know as we're as we're looking at the map that's that's taken almost 70 years to get there.

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01:32:23.250 --> 01:32:28.350

Evan Taylor: Yes, so I hope it doesn't take another 70 years before six year olds know what transits

984

01:32:29.250 --> 01:32:29.850

Ben Power: I know

985

01:32:31.050 --> 01:32:32.760

Ben Power: archives are so important.

986

01:32:33.870 --> 01:32:38.010

Evan Taylor: Well, this is it. This is exactly the thing I mean about this. This project is as well. And I try and

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01:32:38.190 --> 01:32:40.830

Evan Taylor: Make sure that I talked about this with everyone because

988

01:32:41.160 --> 01:32:51.840

Evan Taylor: The this work that we're doing just here today talking is itself a revolutionary act that couldn't have happened. No, nevermind the technology that we're in different locations but

989

01:32:52.320 --> 01:33:00.060

Evan Taylor: This is the act of the two of us getting together and having this conversation, you know, would have been almost unthinkable you know 50 years ago.

990

01:33:00.360 --> 01:33:01.530

Ben Power: And then

991

01:33:01.740 --> 01:33:08.760

Evan Taylor: You know that we're actually going to be archiving this that it's going to be deposited to places that we expect that, you know, people will listen to it in 100 years or whatever.

992

01:33:09.000 --> 01:33:14.430

Evan Taylor: And that in itself. You know, it's something that you don't even need I was I'm almost 40

993

01:33:15.120 --> 01:33:22.050

Evan Taylor: So, you know, just just over just over half your age, but even for myself. I didn't have any access to anything like I there was no

994

01:33:22.290 --> 01:33:32.250

Evan Taylor: You know, there was no books in the library. I remember when transgender warriors came out, because it was this revolutionary thing that all of a sudden, we have a history that had never existed before. No one knew about

995

01:33:33.450 --> 01:33:46.530

Evan Taylor: And I think that's, you know, this you know itself like we are now creating an entire collection of work that's going to be accessible to people in ways that we probably can't even imagine because we won't be there to live.

996

01:33:47.370 --> 01:33:48.090

Yes.

997

01:33:49.380 --> 01:33:55.530

Evan Taylor: And I think it's also inherently intergenerational work in the sense of looking at, you know, you're not going to have

998

01:33:56.160 --> 01:34:00.600

Evan Taylor: A bunch of 20 year olds doing oral histories with each other right it's only going to be

999

01:34:00.930 --> 01:34:10.080

Evan Taylor: You know, somebody of, you know, around my age, who's interested in history has been around just long enough to know what's there and what isn't there and just now trying to find that out and research it

1000

01:34:10.440 --> 01:34:18.840

Evan Taylor: And it's going to be me. You know, people my age, talking to people like you and being able to actually pass on that knowledge between generations of trans folks.

1001

01:34:19.350 --> 01:34:23.340

Ben Power: You know that's that's one big plus for digital

1002

01:34:25.200 --> 01:34:27.720

Ben Power: Um, I mean, when I when when

1003

01:34:29.100 --> 01:34:36.360

Ben Power: When Baird Ruston was around and helping to organize that massive market.

1004

01:34:37.980 --> 01:34:38.460

Evan Taylor: Right.

1005



01:34:39.420 --> 01:34:42.150

Ben Power: In junior I was

1006

01:34:43.590 --> 01:34:51.780

Ben Power: Oh, what was I maybe it was maybe 15. Okay. Wouldn't it be wonderful if I had a way

1007

01:34:52.920 --> 01:34:57.090

Ben Power: To speak directly with Bayard Ruston and find out.

1008

01:34:57.420 --> 01:35:03.540

Ben Power: Right directly from his strategies and tactics for liberation.

1009

01:35:04.860 --> 01:35:07.890

Ben Power: Know, and I didn't know that access

1010

01:35:09.000 --> 01:35:14.640

Ben Power: To me was unreachable right or or or Harvey Milk.

1011

01:35:15.180 --> 01:35:15.900

Evan Taylor: You know,

1012

01:35:16.230 --> 01:35:21.720

Ben Power: They have direct access to speak to someone of a different generation.

1013

01:35:21.930 --> 01:35:25.680

Ben Power: Yes. When I was young, I didn't have that possibility.

1014

01:35:25.920 --> 01:35:33.120

Evan Taylor: Well, I mean I without trying to make you feel old. I think that there really wasn't a generation really much before you folks, you could talk to

1015

01:35:33.750 --> 01:35:44.580

Evan Taylor: There was no one who was really living in a community out that way. You know, there's the odd person but like there wasn't community leadership in the way. And I think that we, we see it now since doll.

1016

01:35:45.690 --> 01:35:50.160

Ben Power: Yeah, I mean, there were, excuse me, my voice gets then

1017

01:35:52.140 --> 01:35:54.600

Ben Power: There were sporadic outbursts, but not

1018

01:35:55.650 --> 01:35:57.540

Ben Power: You know, like comes cafeteria.

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01:35:58.110 --> 01:36:02.520

Ben Power: Right, others the trans people just got sick of things and

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01:36:03.540 --> 01:36:05.520

Ben Power: Started to fight against the police.

1021

01:36:05.760 --> 01:36:07.200

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Um,

1022

01:36:08.310 --> 01:36:10.080

Ben Power: But not like a nationwide.

1023

01:36:11.790 --> 01:36:12.510

Ben Power: Movement.

1024

01:36:14.490 --> 01:36:17.070

Ben Power: Although, you know what I argue is that

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01:36:18.090 --> 01:36:19.620

Ben Power: The underpinning of the

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01:36:20.670 --> 01:36:21.930

Ben Power: The modern LGBT

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01:36:23.700 --> 01:36:27.390

Ben Power: Started with one archives one archives

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01:36:28.020 --> 01:36:29.880

Ben Power: Published one magazine.

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01:36:30.990 --> 01:36:51.180

Ben Power: And they were publishing this in the 40s and 50s right 60s, and they were these still are one of the largest lesbian, gay archives in the world, right. The one magazine that they sent out by mail.

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01:36:52.800 --> 01:36:58.530

Ben Power: Was an intellectual magazine. They actually had a whole issue in it.

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01:37:00.030 --> 01:37:00.510

Ben Power: Okay.

1032

01:37:01.860 --> 01:37:06.990

Ben Power: The covered question was gay marriage, question mark.

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01:37:07.830 --> 01:37:17.310

Ben Power: In 1958 me you got a whole special issue on trans people.

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01:37:18.510 --> 01:37:38.760

Ben Power: I mean, that wasn't a cross dressers know transvestites that was thinking it was being done through one archives and it's pumping of one magazine way prior to Stonewall or competence character.

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01:37:39.240 --> 01:37:42.330

Ben Power: Wow, wow, is out that thinking

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01:37:43.800 --> 01:37:48.300

Ben Power: Being spread through the mail through one magazine.

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01:37:52.200 --> 01:38:02.820

Ben Power: People wouldn't even think and concepts of we deserve marriage or if I'm cross dressing. I deserve to do so freely.

1038

01:38:03.840 --> 01:38:08.250

Ben Power: Unless there was one magazine. The rest of the system.

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01:38:09.330 --> 01:38:19.530

Ben Power: That they the federal postal service stop them from being able to send it through the mail.

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01:38:22.140 --> 01:38:28.800

Ben Power: It wasn't salacious. It was all text and they had to go to the Supreme Court.

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01:38:30.030 --> 01:38:31.110

Ben Power: To can they got

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01:38:32.460 --> 01:38:34.050

Evan Taylor: Just being able to use the least

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01:38:34.830 --> 01:38:41.880

Ben Power: Yeah. First Amendment right, but it interrupted their magazine for about a year from publishing

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01:38:43.830 --> 01:38:43.980

Evan Taylor: Their own

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01:38:44.340 --> 01:38:45.540

Evan Taylor: legal arguments.

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01:38:46.110 --> 01:38:54.660

Ben Power: Yeah, but they want and they publish some more. We have the whole run one magazine here in the estimate

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01:38:54.780 --> 01:38:55.200

Wow.

1048

01:38:56.310 --> 01:39:00.660

Ben Power: I'm so those people who are older, for me, most of those folks are dead.

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01:39:00.780 --> 01:39:01.260

Uh huh.

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01:39:02.280 --> 01:39:04.620

Ben Power: And actually we think that

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01:39:05.700 --> 01:39:15.900

Ben Power: The gay and lesbian movement started with Stonewall, and it was American. And that's really not a true viewpoint at all.

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01:39:16.950 --> 01:39:26.010

Ben Power: Like the first way gay and lesbian movement was in Germany, it wasn't, it was in Berlin in the 30s.

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01:39:27.930 --> 01:39:38.880

Ben Power: It was what Hitler rose to power to help destroy, among other things, great lawyer lawyer destroyed literally

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01:39:39.990 --> 01:39:44.130

Ben Power: 10s of thousands of gay people and lesbians.

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01:39:48.090 --> 01:39:49.620

Ben Power: And death.

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01:39:54.330 --> 01:39:59.100

Ben Power: You know, Hitler was in part a response to

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01:40:00.120 --> 01:40:00.300

Ben Power: The

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01:40:02.970 --> 01:40:04.770

Ben Power: Liberation emancipation.

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01:40:05.100 --> 01:40:14.730

Ben Power: Okay. He called it degenerate art. If it was homosexual use out to destroy quote terms.

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01:40:16.380 --> 01:40:20.910

Ben Power: Right game night game men were killed with pink triangles.



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01:40:23.310 --> 01:40:36.150

Ben Power: Let's be in this we're putting the camps and they is separate symbol, I believe it was a yellow star patch okay to identify them.

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01:40:37.980 --> 01:40:44.280

Ben Power: We don't realize that 10s of thousands of our own were killed. And lastly,

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01:40:45.750 --> 01:40:46.350

Evan Taylor: Hmm.

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01:40:48.120 --> 01:40:59.520

Ben Power: That's what put an end to the first wave German homosexual rights movement, our rights movement did not start in America. It started

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01:41:00.750 --> 01:41:07.140

Ben Power: In Germany, in the 1930s and Berlin was the focal point of it.

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01:41:09.600 --> 01:41:10.410

And it's interesting.

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01:41:11.520 --> 01:41:12.120

Evan Taylor: Because, I mean,

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01:41:12.720 --> 01:41:14.640

Evan Taylor: The Holocaust itself is such

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01:41:15.690 --> 01:41:15.900

Evan Taylor: A

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01:41:17.580 --> 01:41:23.010

Evan Taylor: Culturally racialized etc you know event that

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01:41:23.190 --> 01:41:24.660

Evan Taylor: In that way, that queer

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01:41:24.660 --> 01:41:31.980

Evan Taylor: History is already, you know, we can deny it, but we're wrapped up in an intersection all analysis of how it is that oppression happens

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01:41:32.910 --> 01:41:35.490

Ben Power: You know among mostly Feinberg his books.

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01:41:36.870 --> 01:41:39.810

Ben Power: The largest section is

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01:41:45.630 --> 01:41:46.320

Evan Taylor: Trends what's

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01:41:46.950 --> 01:41:47.250

Trending

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01:41:48.840 --> 01:41:49.320

Ben Power: On

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01:41:50.640 --> 01:41:58.290

Ben Power: anti Semitism rain you dish in Jewish experience. Okay.

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01:41:59.610 --> 01:42:18.270

Ben Power: The reason for that is twofold. Leslie was a secular Jew and also because Leslie new the ratio of that is to me as first first wave almost sexual emancipation movement.

1080

01:42:18.270 --> 01:42:18.840

Huh.

1081

01:42:20.970 --> 01:42:30.390

Ben Power: And this is all these books in here about Hitler and the Nazis all in the context of what they did.

1082

01:42:33.540 --> 01:42:42.090

Ben Power: Right, our print or probably also Jewish some not some who were gypsies, you know,

1083

01:42:43.770 --> 01:42:44.460

Ben Power: So,

1084

01:42:45.900 --> 01:42:52.050

Ben Power: When we go back in time. Yes, there was a lot happening before the Internet.

1085

01:42:54.390 --> 01:42:56.370

Evan Taylor: And how do you see that the internet has

1086

01:42:57.390 --> 01:43:01.710

Evan Taylor: Has changed thing. Oh, hello. Oh my god. What a cutie.

1087

01:43:05.880 --> 01:43:08.190

Evan Taylor: That face that face is just priceless.

1088

01:43:13.680 --> 01:43:16.830

Evan Taylor: I can't tell if I can't tell if this cat looks grumpy all the time.

1089

01:43:17.250 --> 01:43:20.130

Ben Power: Or just right now he's very happy.

1090

01:43:21.630 --> 01:43:22.920

Ben Power: Yes, that face.

1091

01:43:23.040 --> 01:43:23.640

Evan Taylor: Yeah, that's

1092

01:43:27.810 --> 01:43:35.580

Evan Taylor: So, so that's it. So the internet has obviously been one of the hugest changes, you know that you've seen in culture i would i would i would guess.

1093

01:43:37.470 --> 01:43:38.010

Ben Power: Yeah.

1094

01:43:39.150 --> 01:43:46.290

Evan Taylor: How do you see that the internet is actually has it galvanized queer and trans movements or political politics in any way.

1095

01:43:47.460 --> 01:43:52.680

Ben Power: Oh yeah, I mean, the ability to communicate with many people in an instant.

1096

01:43:53.760 --> 01:43:55.200

Ben Power: Is a powerful tool.

1097

01:43:56.340 --> 01:43:57.660

Evan Taylor: Right, yeah.

1098

01:43:57.900 --> 01:44:03.540

Ben Power: Why organized using Facebook. I do Facebook events very frequently.

1099

01:44:04.890 --> 01:44:05.940

Ben Power: Organized events.

1100

01:44:07.050 --> 01:44:09.600

Ben Power: Or physical events using Facebook.

1101

01:44:10.320 --> 01:44:10.590

Right.

1102

01:44:14.250 --> 01:44:16.380

Evan Taylor: So taking the place wiring in that way.

1103

01:44:17.670 --> 01:44:20.370

Ben Power: Yeah, it's taking the place of the postal mail.

1104

01:44:20.760 --> 01:44:24.060

Ben Power: Great friend. Well, we still create flyers.

1105

01:44:25.260 --> 01:44:27.540

Ben Power: Because on the campuses, there are still

1106

01:44:28.740 --> 01:44:29.220

Ben Power: Places.

1107

01:44:32.880 --> 01:44:35.100

Ben Power: So, but, I mean, the reaches

1108

01:44:36.900 --> 01:44:41.370

Ben Power: The potential to reach more numbers of people is what the internet gives us

1109

01:44:41.880 --> 01:44:48.750

Ben Power: Right, right. Simultaneously, I can invite 600 people to a Facebook of that.

1110

01:44:49.710 --> 01:44:50.460

Mm hmm.

1111

01:44:51.690 --> 01:44:53.460

Ben Power: You know, so

1112

01:44:54.330 --> 01:44:55.170

Evan Taylor: What about in terms of

1113

01:44:55.200 --> 01:45:04.200

Evan Taylor: Education. How do you see that, how do you see the internet has facilitated education or, or, you know, maybe, maybe, and also hinders it

1114

01:45:05.970 --> 01:45:08.040

Ben Power: Um, no. I think it helps so

1115

01:45:09.240 --> 01:45:12.630

Ben Power: Well, putting the social media side.

1116

01:45:13.140 --> 01:45:14.460

Ben Power: Right, right, is that



1117

01:45:14.520 --> 01:45:21.780

Ben Power: That's either a minefield of eight or something very positive depending

1118

01:45:22.890 --> 01:45:31.620

Ben Power: Ha ha ha ha. But I'm like the digital transgender archive.net yes now website.

1119

01:45:32.940 --> 01:45:36.510

Ben Power: Is rich it's rich in knowledge and it's all

1120

01:45:37.110 --> 01:45:52.470

Ben Power: Digital huh oh we need we need more projects like that right for our history for art. I mean, I don't know. I'd have to look, they're probably trans artists web individual websites.

1121

01:45:54.270 --> 01:45:54.630

Evan Taylor: Right.

1122

01:45:55.560 --> 01:45:56.190

Ben Power: Um,

1123

01:45:56.490 --> 01:46:02.010

Evan Taylor: That's, that's a really good point. I mean, it's where there isn't a centralized online hub of trans art.

1124

01:46:02.520 --> 01:46:03.000

Ben Power: No.

1125

01:46:03.420 --> 01:46:04.650

Evan Taylor: No, that's a really good point.

1126

01:46:04.920 --> 01:46:07.380

Ben Power: Where there could be or trans. Music

1127

01:46:08.880 --> 01:46:09.570

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

1128

01:46:09.750 --> 01:46:11.010

Ben Power: Your hands photography

1129

01:46:12.720 --> 01:46:17.790

Ben Power: Trans fashion. I mean, I mean, I think the internet gives us a lot.

1130

01:46:20.430 --> 01:46:28.110

Ben Power: Right, right. But the downside of it is, it is really, I think, contributing to loneliness.

1131

01:46:28.770 --> 01:46:35.790

Ben Power: Yeah, yeah. I mean, we need to have the internet and do all those good things with it.

1132

01:46:36.810 --> 01:46:52.560

Ben Power: But I still think we need to get together in spaces that we own it. Hmm, you know, and that's what this house is going to be. We're going to have community ownership of it starting a capital campaign.

1133

01:46:54.150 --> 01:46:56.550

Ben Power: For the community, which is through our

1134

01:46:57.750 --> 01:46:58.740

Ben Power: Nonprofit

1135

01:46:58.980 --> 01:47:05.280

Ben Power: Right, I started a nonprofit for in 2011 to purchase the house from me.

1136

01:47:06.600 --> 01:47:07.650

Ben Power: Then the whole thing.

1137

01:47:09.420 --> 01:47:09.840

Evan Taylor: So,

1138

01:47:09.870 --> 01:47:10.320

Evan Taylor: So tell me,

1139

01:47:12.690 --> 01:47:16.500

Ben Power: How it works. Yeah. Well, right. Right now I have the mortgage

1140

01:47:18.150 --> 01:47:22.380

Ben Power: Right. So there's a certain amount that needs to be paid off.

1141

01:47:23.460 --> 01:47:27.900

Ben Power: And I founded a nonprofit but we

1142

01:47:37.920 --> 01:47:41.250

Evan Taylor: See you founded the nonprofit nonprofit in 2011 was this

1143

01:47:41.580 --> 01:47:42.210

Yes.

1144

01:47:43.260 --> 01:47:47.310

Ben Power: So that one of the reasons was so that we would have a board of directors.

1145

01:47:47.760 --> 01:47:50.400

Ben Power: Right, made up of our own people.

1146

01:47:51.810 --> 01:47:59.430

Ben Power: LGBT QA and so that we can go out and do a capital campaign.

1147

01:48:01.980 --> 01:48:02.670

Evan Taylor: Okay.

1148

01:48:03.690 --> 01:48:06.000

Ben Power: Mortgage so

1149

01:48:07.050 --> 01:48:13.170

Ben Power: It's doable. It's by the time we do it will be only about \$100,000 so

1150

01:48:14.250 --> 01:48:20.400

Ben Power: So that our nonprofit will own the house right not me.

1151

01:48:21.030 --> 01:48:24.840

Ben Power: Gotcha. Right. Because as I'm aging.

1152

01:48:26.250 --> 01:48:29.100

Ben Power: I want to make sure this house is owned by the Community.

1153

01:48:29.700 --> 01:48:35.310

Evan Taylor: Wow, that is, that's just such an amazing idea like, I don't think that's ever been done in history before

1154

01:48:36.060 --> 01:48:39.720

Ben Power: Well, it has been done by the lesbian history archives

1155

01:48:40.080 --> 01:48:41.190

Evan Taylor: How they did it. Okay.

1156

01:48:41.550 --> 01:48:46.860

Ben Power: They bought a building. They raised the money they have a nonprofit that bought the building.

1157

01:48:47.880 --> 01:48:50.340

Ben Power: And it's in Brooklyn. Yeah.

1158

01:48:50.820 --> 01:48:54.810

Evan Taylor: And so that nonprofit just that it's sort of self sustaining at this point.

1159

01:48:55.110 --> 01:48:59.070

Ben Power: That's right. And no one, no one can take it away from us.

1160

01:48:59.790 --> 01:49:04.500

Evan Taylor: That's amazing. That's really that's i mean it's it's it's that's that's for thought as what the

1161

01:49:05.820 --> 01:49:08.640

Ben Power: Rest of my life's work to achieve that. Yes.

1162

01:49:09.030 --> 01:49:22.230

Evan Taylor: Yeah, and and just, I mean, it's a, it's a, it's a, it's a gift. It's a donation to the next generation that that's all sorts of people amass wealth or something like that and you're amassing knowledge and information.

1163

01:49:22.530 --> 01:49:23.100

Ben Power: That's right.

1164

01:49:23.370 --> 01:49:27.450

Evan Taylor: And that is worth a lot more than the dollars and cents.

1165

01:49:27.660 --> 01:49:29.430

Ben Power: Literature history in art.

1166

01:49:30.390 --> 01:49:32.400

Ben Power: That's incredible. You know,

1167

01:49:32.820 --> 01:49:47.460

Evan Taylor: Um, so I had this this question that I asked folks and but I don't think it's actually I don't think I need to ask it, because I think I just gotten a great explanation of it, Mike. My question I asked Moses what activists legacy. Would you like to leave or be remembered for

1168

01:49:48.240 --> 01:49:48.780

You know,

1169

01:49:50.640 --> 01:49:57.090

Ben Power: The SM a and also the transcript East Coast FM group.

1170

01:49:57.810 --> 01:49:59.730

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Um,

1171

01:50:01.380 --> 01:50:01.890

Ben Power: Yeah.



1172

01:50:03.000 --> 01:50:07.950

Ben Power: But my my legacy will be this body of knowledge and

1173

01:50:07.980 --> 01:50:10.800

Evan Taylor: Obvious obvious, it's been incredible amassing

1174

01:50:11.130 --> 01:50:12.240

Ben Power: Its enormous

1175

01:50:12.540 --> 01:50:13.140

Ben Power: Its massive

1176

01:50:13.590 --> 01:50:15.060

Ben Power: It's a massive at this point.

1177

01:50:16.830 --> 01:50:25.470

Evan Taylor: If you have to like looking all the way back to yourself back when you were 16 and then, you know, sort of, at that very first rally that you were, you know, experiencing.

1178

01:50:26.490 --> 01:50:34.710

Evan Taylor: And then, you know, all of the work that you've done that you've done in that. Meantime, what's the, what's the best advice that you have to pass on to the next generation about how to do activism.

1179

01:50:38.400 --> 01:50:38.760

Hmm.

1180

01:50:42.270 --> 01:50:43.560

Ben Power: That's a good question.

1181

01:50:46.650 --> 01:50:48.240

Ben Power: What I usually tell

1182

01:50:49.770 --> 01:50:54.030

Ben Power: Them. It's okay. Okay, um,

1183

01:50:55.260 --> 01:51:00.390

Ben Power: Start start from where they are right and use

1184

01:51:01.710 --> 01:51:06.900

Ben Power: Whatever resources, they may have hmm. Um,

1185

01:51:08.610 --> 01:51:13.620

Ben Power: I started this in a rented apartment right

1186

01:51:14.670 --> 01:51:17.070

Ben Power: Everybody, if you want to do something.

1187

01:51:20.190 --> 01:51:21.900

Ben Power: You can do it out of your apartment.

1188

01:51:22.980 --> 01:51:25.350

Ben Power: Right, you can start a support group.

1189

01:51:27.150 --> 01:51:35.160

Ben Power: You can do that either in person or teleconferencing. Right. Right. But start with where you are.

1190

01:51:35.820 --> 01:51:39.570

Ben Power: I'm identify two things.

1191

01:51:40.830 --> 01:51:49.650

Ben Power: What you want to work for and change. Right. What is it that you personally need to change.

1192

01:51:50.820 --> 01:51:57.300

Ben Power: And how can you use the resources that you have right now.

1193

01:51:58.050 --> 01:51:58.590

Evan Taylor: Um,

1194

01:51:59.310 --> 01:52:03.300

Ben Power: You may have an apartment. Most people do, or a house.

1195

01:52:05.070 --> 01:52:13.500

Ben Power: You know, or you may have resources in the college or university are going to. Mm hmm.

1196

01:52:15.330 --> 01:52:18.510

Ben Power: But first of all, know what you want to work for. What do you

1197

01:52:19.530 --> 01:52:23.520

Ben Power: What do you want to change and what I wanted to work for

1198

01:52:24.690 --> 01:52:33.720

Ben Power: Was I wanted to work to stop my own oppression. Right. I was oppressed and still am.

1199

01:52:34.770 --> 01:52:37.020

Ben Power: Because of my sexual orientation.

1200

01:52:38.130 --> 01:52:39.360

Ben Power: Gender identity.

1201

01:52:41.310 --> 01:52:42.600

Ben Power: My class.

1202

01:52:43.080 --> 01:52:56.400

Ben Power: Right. And now to certain extent because of my disability. Haha. So I would say it works the best when you're doing activists.

1203

01:52:57.600 --> 01:52:58.020

Ben Power: Right.

1204

01:52:59.310 --> 01:53:03.060

Ben Power: To heal your own oppressions

1205

01:53:04.980 --> 01:53:05.400

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

1206

01:53:05.940 --> 01:53:08.550

Ben Power: Because it's always going to be plural productions.

1207

01:53:09.090 --> 01:53:12.150

Ben Power: Right. So that's what I tell people

1208

01:53:12.420 --> 01:53:20.340

Evan Taylor: Oh, it's beautiful. I love that. And particularly, I think I what I like about it is so much of you know that the idea of starting where you're at, because it

1209

01:53:20.550 --> 01:53:26.460

Evan Taylor: It allows people the freedom to not feel like they need to, you know, have all these know everything, you know,

1210

01:53:26.760 --> 01:53:34.770

Evan Taylor: How all these resources have access to everything. It means you know he just started these very small ways and that change often starts, you know, in a conversation on a living room floor.

1211

01:53:35.460 --> 01:53:37.950

Ben Power: And how you prevent burnout.

1212

01:53:39.300 --> 01:53:41.550

Ben Power: Is to work for your own cause

1213

01:53:43.080 --> 01:53:48.600

Ben Power: Low cost causes right in obviously how I've survived.

1214

01:53:49.620 --> 01:53:57.660

Ben Power: To be going into obvious 70 next month is to do just them to work against my own oppressions

1215

01:53:58.230 --> 01:54:00.480

Evan Taylor: Yes, I love that.

1216

01:54:00.570 --> 01:54:05.010

Ben Power: Well, if there's another group of people that want my help.

1217

01:54:06.090 --> 01:54:08.280

Ben Power: Like black community.

1218

01:54:11.280 --> 01:54:13.620

Ben Power: They want my help. I will help them.

1219

01:54:15.690 --> 01:54:24.240

Ben Power: But that's another role is very different right see myself then as a helper and not a leader.

1220

01:54:25.320 --> 01:54:26.400

Evan Taylor: Right. Yes.

1221

01:54:26.460 --> 01:54:27.630

Ben Power: Yeah, you know,

1222

01:54:29.160 --> 01:54:34.710

Ben Power: So start where you are. Identify your own oppressions work against your own oppressions

1223

01:54:37.140 --> 01:54:45.420

Ben Power: Yeah, yeah, even if you do think you don't have any or you can't do it as someone else to do it with you.

1224

01:54:46.560 --> 01:54:47.130

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

1225

01:54:48.330 --> 01:54:53.400

Evan Taylor: And I like the idea of also just understanding that having, having a roof over your head is a resource to start with.

1226

01:54:54.390 --> 01:54:55.620

Ben Power: Oh, space, it's

1227

01:54:57.120 --> 01:54:58.020



Ben Power: It's precious

1228

01:55:00.210 --> 01:55:00.540

Ben Power: And that's

1229

01:55:02.190 --> 01:55:06.720

Ben Power: That's a model that the second wave feminist movement used

1230

01:55:09.360 --> 01:55:12.630

Ben Power: They call them consciousness raising groups.

1231

01:55:12.900 --> 01:55:14.040

Evan Taylor: Right. Yes.

1232

01:55:14.280 --> 01:55:16.020

Ben Power: You need to others apartments.

1233

01:55:16.920 --> 01:55:17.880

Yes.

1234

01:55:19.170 --> 01:55:27.900

Evan Taylor: Well, it's amazing how many people I've talked to who tell me you know oh I started this support group over this place or whatever. And the very first place that the support group Matt was there was their kitchen.

1235

01:55:28.650 --> 01:55:33.870

Ben Power: Exactly yeah kitchen or the dining room look back, you know,

1236

01:55:34.830 --> 01:55:48.450

Evan Taylor: And so I've asked you a little bit about about, you know, how, how you can see things next generation. And if you, you know, if you can sort of click that button and just press the button and everything would change over

1237

01:55:48.480 --> 01:55:52.710

Evan Taylor: Overnight work for trans communities will be your WHAT WERE YOUR DREAMS.

1238

01:55:53.460 --> 01:55:57.270

Ben Power: Um, we would be respected and

1239

01:55:58.350 --> 01:55:59.610

Ben Power: Got over us.

1240

01:56:00.630 --> 01:56:02.580

Ben Power: Oh, excuse me.

1241

01:56:06.930 --> 01:56:08.280

Ben Power: Sorry, I get some water.

1242

01:56:08.610 --> 01:56:09.660

Evan Taylor: No problem at all.

1243

01:56:10.200 --> 01:56:11.850

Ben Power: What happens when you're almost 70

1244

01:56:14.520 --> 01:56:17.160

Evan Taylor: And what I'm getting you to talk and talk and talk so

1245

01:56:18.930 --> 01:56:23.160

Ben Power: We would be respected, we would be seen in some ways.

1246

01:56:25.020 --> 01:56:31.710

Ben Power: Evolved human beings on the realities of genders.

1247

01:56:32.280 --> 01:56:33.690

Ben Power: Great world.

1248

01:56:35.640 --> 01:56:37.200

Ben Power: We would have full rights.

1249

01:56:38.400 --> 01:56:39.090

Ben Power: We would

1250

01:56:40.470 --> 01:56:48.480

Ben Power: Nobody would be murdering a trans person because we would be thought of as spiritual leaders.

1251

01:56:49.740 --> 01:56:50.820

Ben Power: Political leaders.

1252

01:56:52.020 --> 01:56:52.680

Ben Power: Um,

1253

01:56:54.690 --> 01:56:58.260

Ben Power: We would all have access to free healthcare. Yeah.

1254

01:57:01.170 --> 01:57:06.870

Ben Power: We wouldn't be completely integrated racially, ethnically, working side by side.

1255

01:57:08.730 --> 01:57:11.100

Ben Power: All pulling in the same directions.

1256

01:57:12.720 --> 01:57:15.840

Ben Power: group consensus model.

1257

01:57:17.130 --> 01:57:21.690

Ben Power: One one person speaks at a time. The other people listen

1258

01:57:22.290 --> 01:57:23.430

Ben Power: Yeah, um,

1259

01:57:26.220 --> 01:57:27.270

Ben Power: Let's see.

1260

01:57:28.500 --> 01:57:31.020

Ben Power: We will have equality. I mean, I think.

1261

01:57:35.100 --> 01:57:39.720

Ben Power: We have a big old personal computer because

1262

01:57:40.830 --> 01:57:45.120

Ben Power: In addition to this laptop this personal computer can

1263

01:57:46.500 --> 01:57:47.100

Ben Power: Collect

1264

01:57:48.120 --> 01:57:49.440

Ben Power: Rent, you can, you know,

1265

01:57:49.710 --> 01:57:50.280

Evan Taylor: Oh, right, yeah.

1266

01:57:51.210 --> 01:58:03.000

Ben Power: It on the side of it. Excuse me. The other side of it. I have printed out in like 48 point type equality, it's

1267

01:58:04.470 --> 01:58:05.700

Ben Power: It's based in there.

1268

01:58:07.020 --> 01:58:16.320

Ben Power: That's what we would have we would have required you know all measures, all kinds of aspects of life.

1269

01:58:17.460 --> 01:58:24.810

Ben Power: Our history or history, literature and art would be valued and taught in schools.

1270

01:58:26.100 --> 01:58:32.850

Ben Power: Our children would know who are heroes. And heroes of work in our

1271

01:58:33.960 --> 01:58:37.680

Ben Power: People wouldn't be asking me, who was Leslie farmer.

1272

01:58:39.750 --> 01:58:41.760

Ben Power: They would know that in grammar school.

1273

01:58:42.180 --> 01:58:42.930

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

1274

01:58:43.740 --> 01:58:51.180

Ben Power: You know, it's the same. It's very parallel. It's the same but yellow struggle.

1275

01:58:52.560 --> 01:58:59.970

Ben Power: To a black people struggle is that yeah we're there. She rose and heroes aren't taught

1276

01:59:01.860 --> 01:59:04.020

Ben Power: Although we are starting to see

1277

01:59:05.190 --> 01:59:07.560

Ben Power: Some children's books come out about

1278

01:59:11.250 --> 01:59:12.930

Evan Taylor: Great. Yeah, great. Yeah.

1279

01:59:13.380 --> 01:59:23.190

Ben Power: When you saw that black community did that with more children's books being published about black heroes and she rose so

1280

01:59:24.690 --> 01:59:32.940

Ben Power: Yeah, you got a lot of work to do, no boss, but in my worldview. It's all about educating so

1281

01:59:32.940 --> 01:59:33.420

Ben Power: On so

1282

01:59:36.390 --> 01:59:46.320

Evan Taylor: If I, if I'm in, in some point in the future if someone is to write a book about you as as one of their heroes. And what would you want them to call it.

1283



01:59:56.520 --> 01:59:59.430

Ben Power: The color, the color boxer

1284

01:59:59.910 --> 02:00:00.780

Boxer

1285

02:00:01.980 --> 02:00:06.360

Ben Power: Yes. Have you heard that song by Paul Simon the box.

1286

02:00:06.450 --> 02:00:07.980

Evan Taylor: I do know that song.

1287

02:00:08.370 --> 02:00:12.720

Ben Power: All right, this evening, going back and listen to the words more carefully.

1288

02:00:12.990 --> 02:00:14.310

Evan Taylor: Okay, that's what I'm going to do that.

1289

02:00:15.450 --> 02:00:17.790

Ben Power: perfectly describes me perfectly

1290

02:00:18.840 --> 02:00:19.560

Evan Taylor: Beautiful.

1291

02:00:20.910 --> 02:00:31.290

Evan Taylor: Um, is there anything about sort of the, the, the, the history of of activism that you've done around the archives that I haven't asked about that you really want to make sure we get on the record.

1292

02:00:31.950 --> 02:00:32.580

Um,

1293

02:00:40.140 --> 02:00:41.520

Ben Power: I'm looking at my notes.

1294

02:00:42.900 --> 02:00:44.190

Evan Taylor: Please do. Take your time.

1295

02:00:44.490 --> 02:00:48.270

Ben Power: So yeah, there's, there's two things. Great.

1296

02:00:50.460 --> 02:00:57.870

Ben Power: Within the archives. Here is the whole set of personal correspondence that I

1297

02:01:00.030 --> 02:01:00.720

Was element.

1298

02:01:02.340 --> 02:01:04.620

Ben Power: From 1986 to 1990

1299

02:01:06.360 --> 02:01:08.430

Ben Power: His letters that he sent me

1300

02:01:09.720 --> 02:01:11.220

Ben Power: Letters that I sent him.

1301

02:01:12.480 --> 02:01:16.170

Ben Power: And they're not available anywhere else. They haven't been published.

1302

02:01:17.400 --> 02:01:19.320

Ben Power: In the other thing is that

1303

02:01:19.410 --> 02:01:20.460

Are they been digitized.

1304

02:01:22.380 --> 02:01:22.920

Ben Power: No.

1305

02:01:24.360 --> 02:01:24.990

Ben Power: Wait a minute.

1306

02:01:27.000 --> 02:01:29.130

Ben Power: They have been but names have been

1307

02:01:30.360 --> 02:01:34.080

Ben Power: They have been digitized. Did you know transgender archive.

1308

02:01:34.470 --> 02:01:36.600

Evan Taylor: Good. Okay, good. I want to make sure there's a backup.

1309

02:01:37.320 --> 02:01:43.530

Ben Power: Yeah, there is. But the names some names have been locked out great. I'm

1310

02:01:44.580 --> 02:01:45.030

Ben Power: In

1311

02:01:46.200 --> 02:01:48.660

Ben Power: Oh, and then I started in

1312

02:01:50.040 --> 02:01:51.030

Ben Power: Support Group.

1313

02:01:52.260 --> 02:01:56.190

Ben Power: For s AMP people who are trends.

1314

02:01:57.570 --> 02:02:01.110

Ben Power: And it was called. I called it, she likes

1315

02:02:02.160 --> 02:02:03.540

Ben Power: And it ran from

1316

02:02:05.520 --> 02:02:06.000

Ben Power: T

1317

02:02:07.980 --> 02:02:09.480

Evan Taylor: 83 to

1318

02:02:09.480 --> 02:02:12.390

Ben Power: 88 to 96 to

1319

02:02:12.390 --> 02:02:13.830

Evan Taylor: 96. Oh my goodness. Wow.

1320

02:02:14.220 --> 02:02:15.420

Ben Power: Yeah, in my home.

1321

02:02:16.500 --> 02:02:21.120

Ben Power: Again, people, people can use their own spaces for things

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02:02:24.120 --> 02:02:29.490

Evan Taylor: Well, that's something I will, I will make sure to add as well when when I'm thinking about back to the beginning when we just do that demographic thing.

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02:02:30.210 --> 02:02:36.390

Evan Taylor: Of there's that that that that SM identity is particularly important to how you've done activism, because it was like

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02:02:36.630 --> 02:02:38.220

Evan Taylor: 13 years of work.

1325

02:02:38.370 --> 02:02:41.940

Ben Power: Yes. Well, it's part of my sexuality.

1326

02:02:42.480 --> 02:02:48.060

Evan Taylor: Right yeah yeah and and also when you reminds me of what you're talking about. When you're saying

1327

02:02:48.390 --> 02:02:58.740

Evan Taylor: Starting from where you are and what you know who you are and what impressions you face and then that way you know then activism can become fun because you're involving yourself and your own sexuality or whatever.

1328

02:02:59.100 --> 02:03:08.370

Ben Power: That's right, yes. So you set out to create CREATE THE WORLD YOU WANT TO SEE yeah your own space.

1329

02:03:12.300 --> 02:03:25.530

Ben Power: And don't do it alone. You know, I can I do alone. There are scores of volunteers and interns and we have 12 people on our board. So, you know,

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02:03:27.120 --> 02:03:29.460

Ben Power: You need help people need help, don't do it alone.

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02:03:29.880 --> 02:03:39.300

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I'm gonna turn. I think we're doing pretty good here with the back and forth. So as we're wrapping up. Now I'll turn. My turn my video back on here so we can have a decent goodbye.

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02:03:39.600 --> 02:03:42.630

Evan Taylor: Okay, right, start back. Can you see me now.

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02:03:43.110 --> 02:03:44.940

Ben Power: Yes, thank you. Great.

1334

02:03:45.000 --> 02:03:54.810

Evan Taylor: Hello again. And so what one of the things I like to do at the end is of these interviews is I try to find a thread that sort of weaves through

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02:03:55.410 --> 02:04:04.350

Evan Taylor: The stories that we've been talking about because I, you know, we talked about the old times, we talk about the future. We talk about everything in between. And I'd like to sort of see what's, what are the constants that happened for folks.

1336

02:04:04.590 --> 02:04:15.060

Evan Taylor: And. And so, as I've been sort of taking notes as even as you've been talking and there's a there's a few things that I just that that stuff that stuck out that just happened over and over and over again.

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02:04:15.780 --> 02:04:25.200

Evan Taylor: And there's two words, particularly that our education and space and these are the two things that I heard you talk about the beginning and over

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02:04:25.800 --> 02:04:32.970



Evan Taylor: Throughout throughout. And I think it's really important to talk about this because I just, I love so much of what you've described because

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02:04:33.210 --> 02:04:46.080

Evan Taylor: That that helps and just this moment. You know, like when people are going to look at this 100 years and see, you know, the all the books behind you and and and just seeing that this is a, it's a, it's a manifestation of not just

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02:04:46.260 --> 02:05:00.240

Evan Taylor: books and writing, but it's it's a manifestation of knowledge. It's a manifestation of presence in the world. And you know, I look at those books and what I see behind you is trans people saying I was here, right.

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02:05:00.480 --> 02:05:02.700

Evan Taylor: We are people saying I mattered my life.

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02:05:02.760 --> 02:05:04.050

Evan Taylor: Mattered I did something

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02:05:04.350 --> 02:05:05.280

Ben Power: And there's

1344

02:05:05.340 --> 02:05:14.850

Evan Taylor: One thing that I think we can that we can do it all in the world. It's to to honor where we've come from and to prepare the world for the next generation and

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02:05:17.820 --> 02:05:21.570

Ben Power: I'll leave you leave you with this lead to ponder.

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02:05:22.710 --> 02:05:24.030

Ben Power: Nazi Germany.

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02:05:25.110 --> 02:05:28.470

Ben Power: Under the Nazis. They burned Magnus.

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02:05:31.290 --> 02:05:31.920

Evan Taylor: Right.

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02:05:31.980 --> 02:05:35.610

Ben Power: Res archive was on sexualities

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02:05:35.970 --> 02:05:36.720

Evan Taylor: Mm hmm.

1351

02:05:37.290 --> 02:05:38.220

Ben Power: They burned it

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02:05:39.150 --> 02:05:42.330

Ben Power: Right, I live with that notion of

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02:05:44.220 --> 02:05:54.450

Ben Power: Purposeful destruction of knowledge, doesn't mean the kid and being able to keep oppressing people. Yes. Yeah.

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02:05:54.840 --> 02:05:55.530

Evan Taylor: Absolutely.

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02:05:55.590 --> 02:06:07.650

Ben Power: I mean, I failed to mention is that not only were our people put in the camps, but archive in Berlin, the magnus Hirschfeld Arca was burned to the ground. Right.

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02:06:07.860 --> 02:06:12.390

Evan Taylor: Yeah, I've seen pictures of pictures of that. And it's, it's something that you're just looking at it going

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02:06:13.830 --> 02:06:15.960

Evan Taylor: You know what was in there. You know what knowledge could go

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02:06:16.200 --> 02:06:24.120

Ben Power: On and you have to think why was that so threatening the burden as an act of war. Mm  
hmm.

1359

02:06:25.020 --> 02:06:30.150

Evan Taylor: Well, and that way, access to knowledge is itself the cornerstone of progress of

1360

02:06:30.240 --> 02:06:32.160

Evan Taylor: Change of of equality.

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02:06:32.640 --> 02:06:37.080

Ben Power: Is where our codes and libraries are so important. Mm hmm. I

1362

02:06:37.320 --> 02:06:41.970

Evan Taylor: I didn't even realize until I started doing this work with the with the archives and working  
with here in Canada.

1363

02:06:42.210 --> 02:06:53.670

Evan Taylor: I didn't realize I mean it was kind of one of those things like oh well you know i mean  
someone's got that stuff in a library somewhere, but it never occurred to me that that literally people  
are devoting their lives to gathering this stuff, preserving it

1364

02:06:53.760 --> 02:06:55.080

And making sure it's accessible.

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02:06:56.160 --> 02:07:07.170

Evan Taylor: And I remember like I remember the very first time I went to find a book on trans stuff in the Library at the University and you know it was 1520 years ago, but there was, you know, there was a shelf. There was a shelf.

1366

02:07:08.070 --> 02:07:13.320

Evan Taylor: And then I'm talking to folks like you who say we didn't have a shelf. That's why I've got four floors, the shelves behind me now.

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02:07:14.820 --> 02:07:15.780

Ben Power: Good. I see them.

1368

02:07:19.380 --> 02:07:19.980

Ben Power: That's good.

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02:07:20.040 --> 02:07:35.040

Evan Taylor: I'm thinking I'm thinking I'm thinking of, you know, just where you started. From the moment of saying, Okay, how do I want to do this and work out what what what kind of man, do I want to be in the world. And that's, you know, what kind of archivist do I want to be and your activism.

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02:07:35.730 --> 02:07:43.500

Evan Taylor: Took that form, I think, is just something that is is a is a greater gift for the next generation than you can possibly measure because

1371

02:07:44.070 --> 02:07:59.490

Evan Taylor: When I have this one shelf. Now I can say to people, don't look for the one shelf. There's a four story building like that has it all in there and the fact that it's so personal to you that you literally live, you know, among it

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02:08:00.600 --> 02:08:01.530

Ben Power: I think is the only

1373

02:08:01.590 --> 02:08:06.510

Evan Taylor: Is the only way to really show how just how important this is to people's lives.

1374

02:08:06.630 --> 02:08:09.450

Ben Power: Yes, yes, thank you for realizing that

1375

02:08:09.780 --> 02:08:16.260

Evan Taylor: It's, it's so it's just so amazing to me to, you know, and even just this conversation just done a couple of hours just chatting with you.

1376

02:08:16.500 --> 02:08:27.120

Evan Taylor: You know, this is the this is this is my Lou Sullivan moment you know that I get to talk to somebody who has been there done that and Ed's has literally paved the way and made it possible.

1377

02:08:27.720 --> 02:08:39.240

Evan Taylor: By perhaps just for the first time making this knowledge accessible to people when it never has been before, and that that is it's truly a revolutionary act i have i am so

1378

02:08:40.140 --> 02:08:46.860

Evan Taylor: I'm I don't even know what the word is I met Leslie Feinberg once at a, at a talk, many, many years ago and

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02:08:47.490 --> 02:08:57.300

Evan Taylor: When I first started talking to you and you were describing yourself. I was just sitting there thinking like that. I feel like I'm talking to somebody from the same family, if you will, you know,

1380

02:08:59.430 --> 02:08:59.550

Ben Power: I

1381

02:09:00.120 --> 02:09:00.900

Evan Taylor: Felt a kinship.

1382

02:09:01.980 --> 02:09:03.990

Ben Power: Yeah yeah yeah it is.

1383

02:09:05.340 --> 02:09:07.200

Ben Power: Leslie was the first person.

1384

02:09:09.210 --> 02:09:13.830

Ben Power: Who told me he said you are a leader in history, um,

1385

02:09:14.910 --> 02:09:17.460

Ben Power: Yeah, you said this to me.

1386

02:09:18.480 --> 02:09:20.100

Ben Power: No one ever said that to me.

1387

02:09:21.660 --> 02:09:23.310

Ben Power: Why I hope you

1388

02:09:23.340 --> 02:09:28.590

Ben Power: Know it and take that seriously good empower me. I mean, I'm still running on that energy

1389

02:09:30.900 --> 02:09:33.450

Evan Taylor: And this is how I feel about this conversation is just, you know,

1390

02:09:33.480 --> 02:09:39.960

Evan Taylor: Being able to talk to you being able to just hear those early stories and and and see it, you know, see.

1391



02:09:40.560 --> 02:09:45.270

Evan Taylor: See, they see that history. Like I feel like I'm talking to, to history right now in the in that way.

1392

02:09:45.540 --> 02:09:56.820

Evan Taylor: And and the fact that you've been able to preserve so much of it that it's not just for my generation, but now my generation is now responsible for passing it down to the six year olds right and powerful.

1393

02:09:57.450 --> 02:10:01.380

Ben Power: Books also protected me against my abusive parents

1394

02:10:02.430 --> 02:10:03.810

Ben Power: I would run away from home.

1395

02:10:04.830 --> 02:10:10.080

Ben Power: And go to the Chicago Public Library branch and I would read one book after another.

1396

02:10:12.870 --> 02:10:16.680

Ben Power: Great, thanks to find me.

1397

02:10:18.360 --> 02:10:28.320

Ben Power: There's got to be a character in here. That's like me. And I thought, I never found it, but I was reading, reading, reading, reading and it kept me out of the house.

1398

02:10:28.950 --> 02:10:36.180

Ben Power: Absolutely. But that was part of my thinking when I started working with this archive was

1399

02:10:37.740 --> 02:10:39.540

Ben Power: I deserve to have books about me.

1400

02:10:40.020 --> 02:10:43.650

Ben Power: Mm hmm. Now I'm surrounded by books about me.

1401

02:10:45.090 --> 02:10:47.730

Ben Power: But initially, it was to get me away from these

1402

02:10:49.980 --> 02:10:57.180

Ben Power: Sometimes brutal parents. Right. You know, and it was so safety. This is safe activism.

1403

02:10:57.660 --> 02:10:58.260

Mm hmm.

1404

02:10:59.910 --> 02:11:02.520

Ben Power: Activism for physical cowards.

1405

02:11:05.340 --> 02:11:08.100

Evan Taylor: For people who need to stay alive long enough for their activism.

1406

02:11:08.700 --> 02:11:09.090

Down.

1407

02:11:10.740 --> 02:11:11.340

Ben Power: Like, man.

1408

02:11:11.700 --> 02:11:14.340

Evan Taylor: Yeah I would totally i would i still think yeah

1409

02:11:14.640 --> 02:11:17.520

Evan Taylor: I'm gonna I'm gonna argue with you for just two seconds because I get to for a

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02:11:17.520 --> 02:11:21.540

Evan Taylor: Second, not for cowards, that what I see behind you right

1411

02:11:21.540 --> 02:11:35.850

Evan Taylor: There. When I look at all of those books that is courage, because it takes courage to be able to actually start to draw those boxes and define not just yourself but also a community and to be able to build on that. I think that takes courage and just stay alive.

1412

02:11:37.440 --> 02:11:38.610

Evan Taylor: To see things exactly

1413

02:11:38.790 --> 02:11:39.240

Ben Power: Exactly.

1414

02:11:39.720 --> 02:11:41.850

Ben Power: You know, I feel like I'm like this guard dog.

1415

02:11:43.980 --> 02:11:45.450

Ben Power: The of the mainstream world.

1416

02:11:45.840 --> 02:11:47.490

Ben Power: Yeah, nothing it as well.

1417

02:11:48.150 --> 02:11:58.650

Evan Taylor: You're protecting it and you brought that library inside instead of you having to leave the home to go find safety elsewhere. Now you live in that safe space and you know share that safe space and open it up to other people.

1418

02:11:58.830 --> 02:11:59.610

Ben Power: Where the

1419

02:11:59.670 --> 02:12:01.260

Evan Taylor: Magic is the only word I can think

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02:12:01.710 --> 02:12:03.990

Ben Power: Over 600 people in here. Come here.

1421

02:12:04.770 --> 02:12:05.310

Evan Taylor: Wow.

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02:12:05.400 --> 02:12:05.820

That is

1423

02:12:07.290 --> 02:12:09.120

Ben Power: My connection with community to

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02:12:09.960 --> 02:12:10.950

Evan Taylor: Well, you're creating it.

1425

02:12:11.910 --> 02:12:17.190

Ben Power: No, but there's no, we haven't talked about love their community love

1426

02:12:17.820 --> 02:12:20.280

Ben Power: Yes, Mo, for me I for them.

1427

02:12:21.330 --> 02:12:21.780

Evan Taylor: Yeah.

1428

02:12:21.840 --> 02:12:29.790

Ben Power: What was important here. But when I think about turning seven year I think about Miss. Miss Major

1429

02:12:31.020 --> 02:12:35.490

Ben Power: This major says, Miss Major Griffin Gracie. He's older than I am.

1430

02:12:35.880 --> 02:12:48.660

Ben Power: Yeah, and she offers her services for trans women who are homeless basically out of Earth space. Right. Right. And she says, I'm still fucking year

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02:12:49.020 --> 02:12:57.210

Ben Power: Mm hmm. The reason she's still fucking here is because she's so motivated to keep helping other trans women.

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02:12:57.480 --> 02:12:58.170

Yes.

1433

02:12:59.550 --> 02:13:00.060

Evan Taylor: And I

1434

02:13:00.270 --> 02:13:01.380

Ben Power: Made this little note here.

1435

02:13:01.620 --> 02:13:03.240

Evan Taylor: To myself, he said something about

1436

02:13:04.290 --> 02:13:05.970

Evan Taylor: This idea of being seen.

1437

02:13:06.330 --> 02:13:07.500

Evan Taylor: In community and being

1438

02:13:07.500 --> 02:13:09.810

Evan Taylor: Seen by the community and Leland scene.

1439

02:13:10.020 --> 02:13:14.580

Evan Taylor: And the importance of that for our wellness and just simply to survive.

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02:13:14.700 --> 02:13:26.160

Ben Power: We don't survive if we're not exactly yeah and it's older people survive longer or motivated by something that keeps them alive, literally.

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02:13:26.370 --> 02:13:27.960

Evan Taylor: Yes, yeah.

1442

02:13:28.350 --> 02:13:35.520

Ben Power: You know, so the books and my friends are on the shelves to maybe one day I'll write a book and it'll be on the show.

1443

02:13:36.930 --> 02:13:38.700

Evan Taylor: Well, let me know. I'd love to read it if you do

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02:13:39.030 --> 02:13:39.540

Okay.

1445

02:13:41.190 --> 02:13:43.770

Evan Taylor: Thank you so much, man. I just really appreciate this last couple of

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02:13:43.770 --> 02:13:44.100



Evan Taylor: Hours.

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02:13:44.220 --> 02:13:52.170

Evan Taylor: Like I said, it's just it's it's heartwarming for me and it's it's totally my blue Sullivan moment that I get to talk with somebody who has absolutely

1448

02:13:52.830 --> 02:13:56.790

Evan Taylor: Defined a community in a sense of bringing it into

1449

02:13:57.390 --> 02:14:11.490

Evan Taylor: The way that Lou brought the idea that gay trans men could be a thing and i what i what i see you know behind you and you know in in all of the the the archives that you're curating. And what I, what I see is that you've defined

1450

02:14:12.030 --> 02:14:21.960

Evan Taylor: A History of our people in our community that we otherwise wouldn't have and and that is you know it's it's literally the most important legacy that one can leave.

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02:14:22.650 --> 02:14:28.920

Evan Taylor: So I can't thank you enough. And I just, I will, I will, I will hold this conversation quite dear to me for the rest of my life.

1452

02:14:29.220 --> 02:14:30.780

Ben Power: Thank you. Thank you so much.

1453

02:14:30.840 --> 02:14:35.460

Evan Taylor: Thanks to my friend, I'll be in touch. I'll send you a copy of this once we get all the files generated and all that.

1454

02:14:35.820 --> 02:14:37.740

Ben Power: Okay. Good work, brother. I love you.

1455

02:14:37.980 --> 02:14:39.660

Evan Taylor: Thanks. Love you too, man. Thank you.

1456

02:14:40.860 --> 02:14:41.460

Evan Taylor: Bye for now.