



Wrocław is a city with over a thousand years of turbulent history. Its state affiliation and religious and social structure have changed several times over the centuries. People of many nationalities and ethnic groups have left their mark on the Wrocław landscape. The city was a prominent place for the emancipation of women and the LGBT+ community, and it is also the place of origin of activists who were among the first in the world to draw attention to the lack of accessibility for people with disabilities. What united all of them was Wrocław.

Even today, the diversity of our city is one of its greatest assets. We celebrate it by constituting a community where everyone has a chance to be themselves. We make sure that we are equal in diversity because Wrocław is a City of Equality.

Let us take a walk along the diversity track in the centre of Wrocław.

## 1 Old Town Promenade (Promenada Staromiejska)

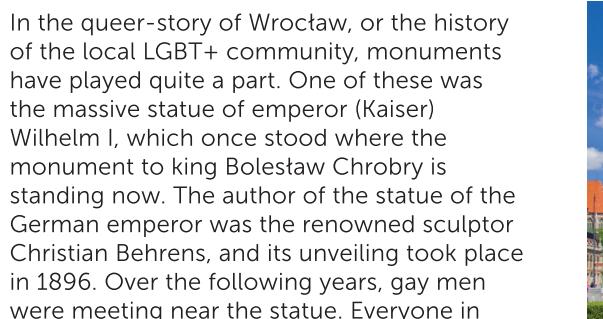
✉ ul. Świdnicka

In the queer-story of Wrocław, or the history of the local LGBT+ community, monuments have played quite a part. One of these was the massive statue of emperor (Kaiser) Wilhelm I, which once stood where the monument to king Bolesław Chrobry is standing now. The author of the statue of the German emperor was the renowned sculptor Christian Behrens, and its unveiling took place in 1896. Over the following years, gay men were meeting near the statue. Everyone in Wrocław – at that time Breslau – and beyond knew the statue's location, the place was also often reproduced on postcards. Over time, the Nazis started to take advantage of this knowledge, making raids on the men meeting there, and locking them up. German law, specifically its Section 175, which criminalized non-heteronormative men, provided the legal basis for such actions.

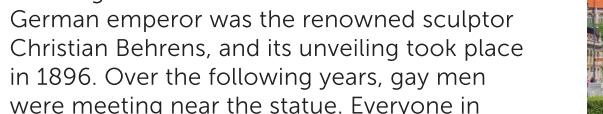
## 2 Mediatheque (Mediateka)

✉ Plac Teatralny 5

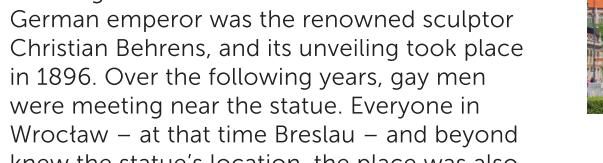
The seat of Mediatheque, a branch of the City Public Library, is the building that formerly belonged to the famous coffee roastery



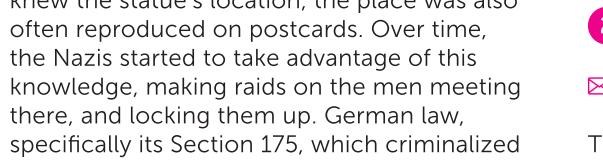
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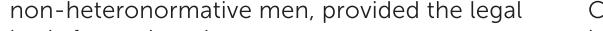
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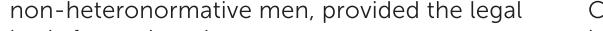
The Wroclaw Opera, photo from the WPM UMW collections



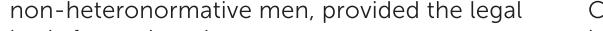
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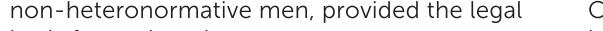
Orpheus, photo from the WPM UMW collections



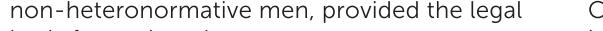
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White Stork Synagogue, photo from the WPM UMW collections



House of Hanna Krzesinska and Eugeniusz Geppert, photo from the WPM UMW collections



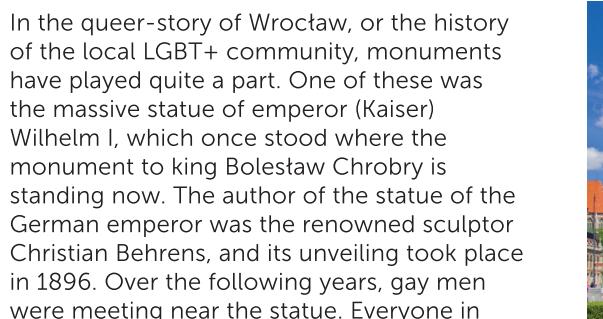
The statue of Kaiser Wilhelm survived the war almost intact but was demolished after 1945. However, the tradition of the meetings survived – gay people were still gathering for several decades on the spot where the monument once stood. For this reason, the Old Town Promenade, of which the square with the monument is a part, is often called the Rainbow Route by the LGBT+ community.

In 1970, the Lublin-based actor and social activist Jan Snarski recalled the Promenade and its neighbouring cafes as follows: "Comparing Lublin with Wrocław, I noticed an incredible difference – in Wrocław, the gay life was thriving, day and night."

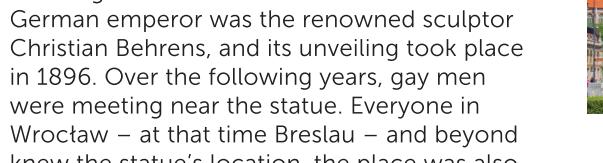
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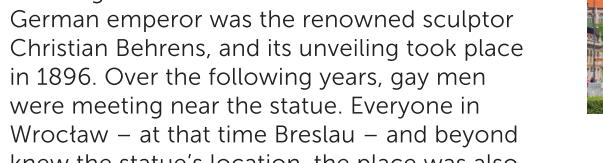
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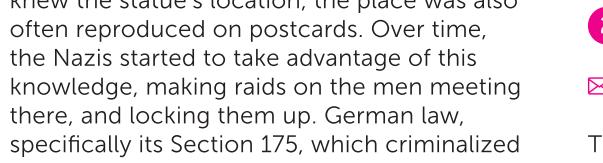
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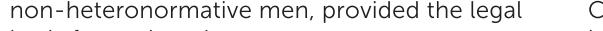
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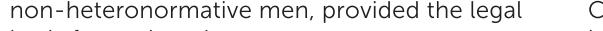
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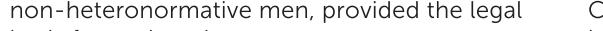
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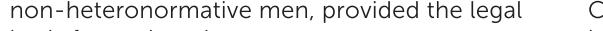
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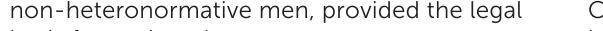
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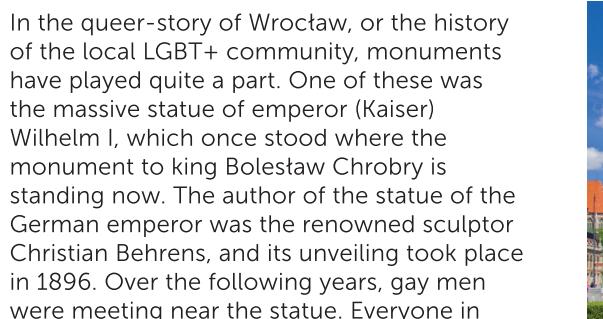
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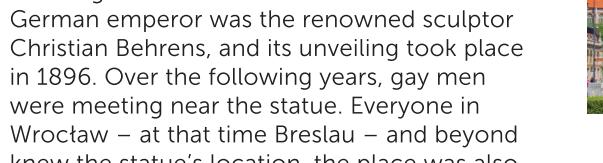
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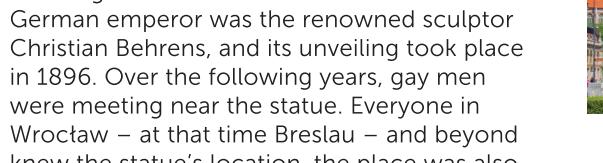
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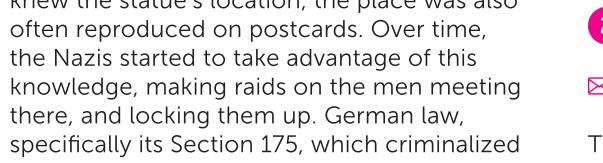
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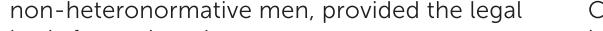
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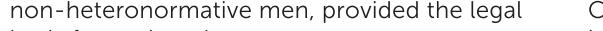
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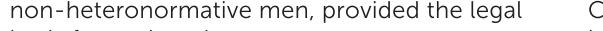
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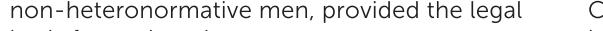
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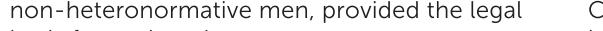
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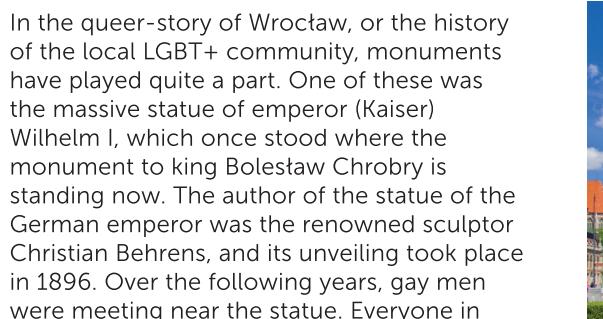
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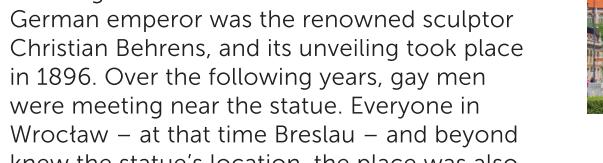
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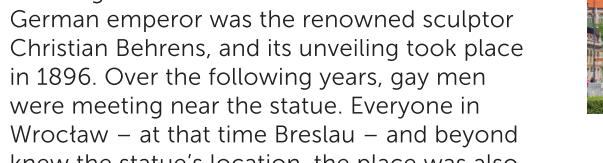
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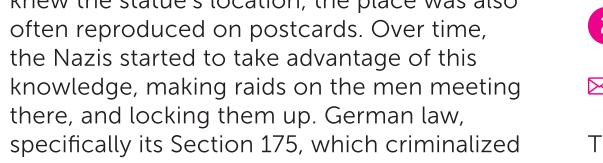
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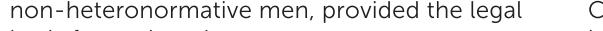
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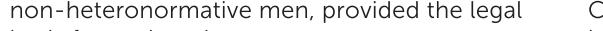
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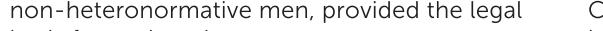
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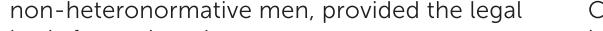
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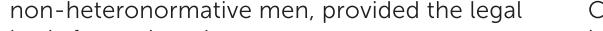
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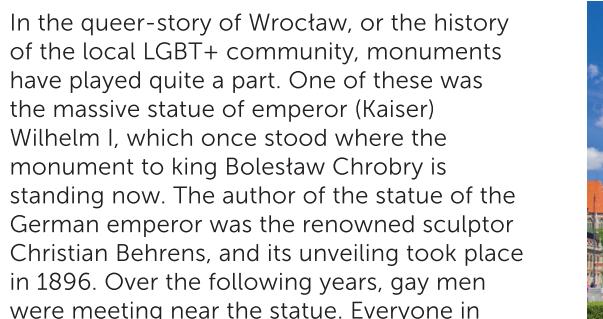
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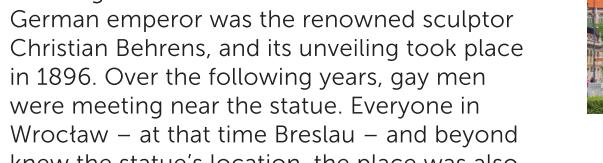
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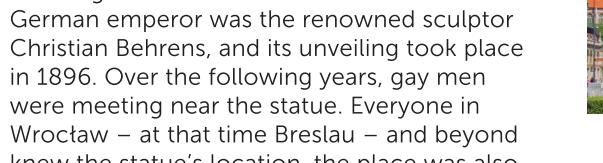
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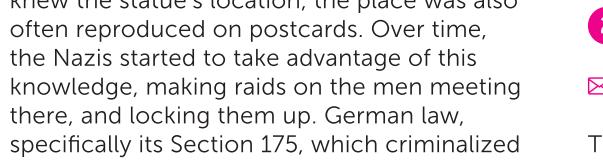
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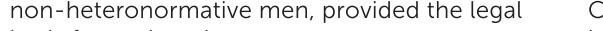
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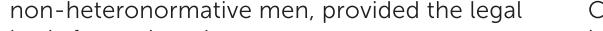
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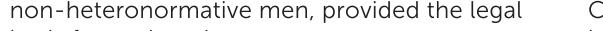
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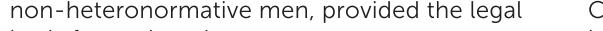
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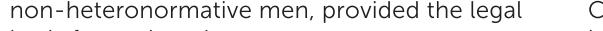
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