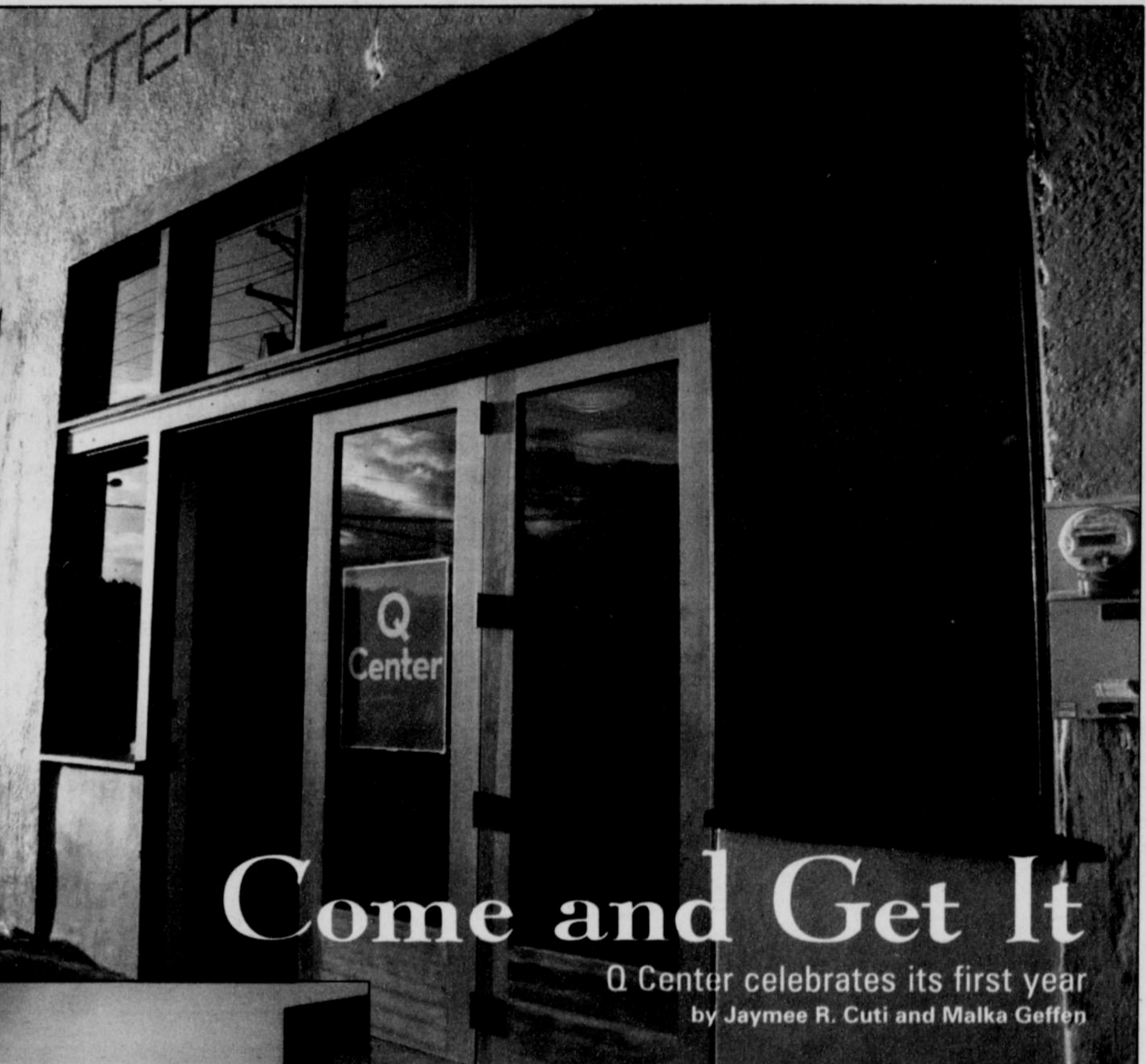




Top: Monthly family playdates are a big hit with the parents.
 Middle/bottom: "What Is Queer Art?" kicked off Q Center's arts and culture programming with 200 attendees.



Come and Get It

Q Center celebrates its first year
 by Jaymee R. Cuti and Malka Geffen

You asked for it, Portland. The queer community said it wanted a center, and one year ago this month, Q Center was born. The center we've begun to know and love, still in its infancy, has some powerful energy behind it and promises to provide a significant place in queer Portland's future.

It all began in 2002, when future Portland City Commissioner Sam Adams gathered members of the queer community to discuss the feasibility and desirability of a center. Out of this ad hoc group, a board of directors was formed in 2003, co-chaired by David Martinez and Gwenn Baldwin. The board created the LGBTQ Community Fund, a nonprofit organization. It constructed a feasibility survey titled "Out with It" to assess the larger community's interest and demand for a center. More than 1,600 individuals and 30 companies responded that, indeed, Portland needs, wants and can support a queer center. Survey results showed a clear interest in youth services, art and cultural activities, events for queer families and senior services. In 2005, Susan Remmers was brought on as the interim executive director to get things moving with leadership recruitment, programming and site selection. The decision to push forward with Q Center was announced to the public at Portland Pride 2005.



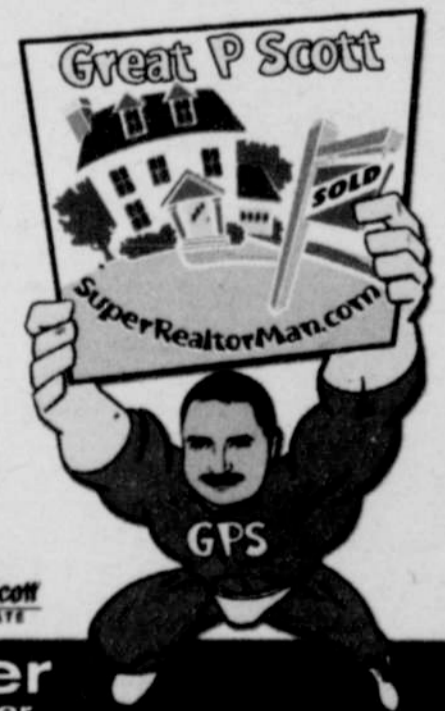
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