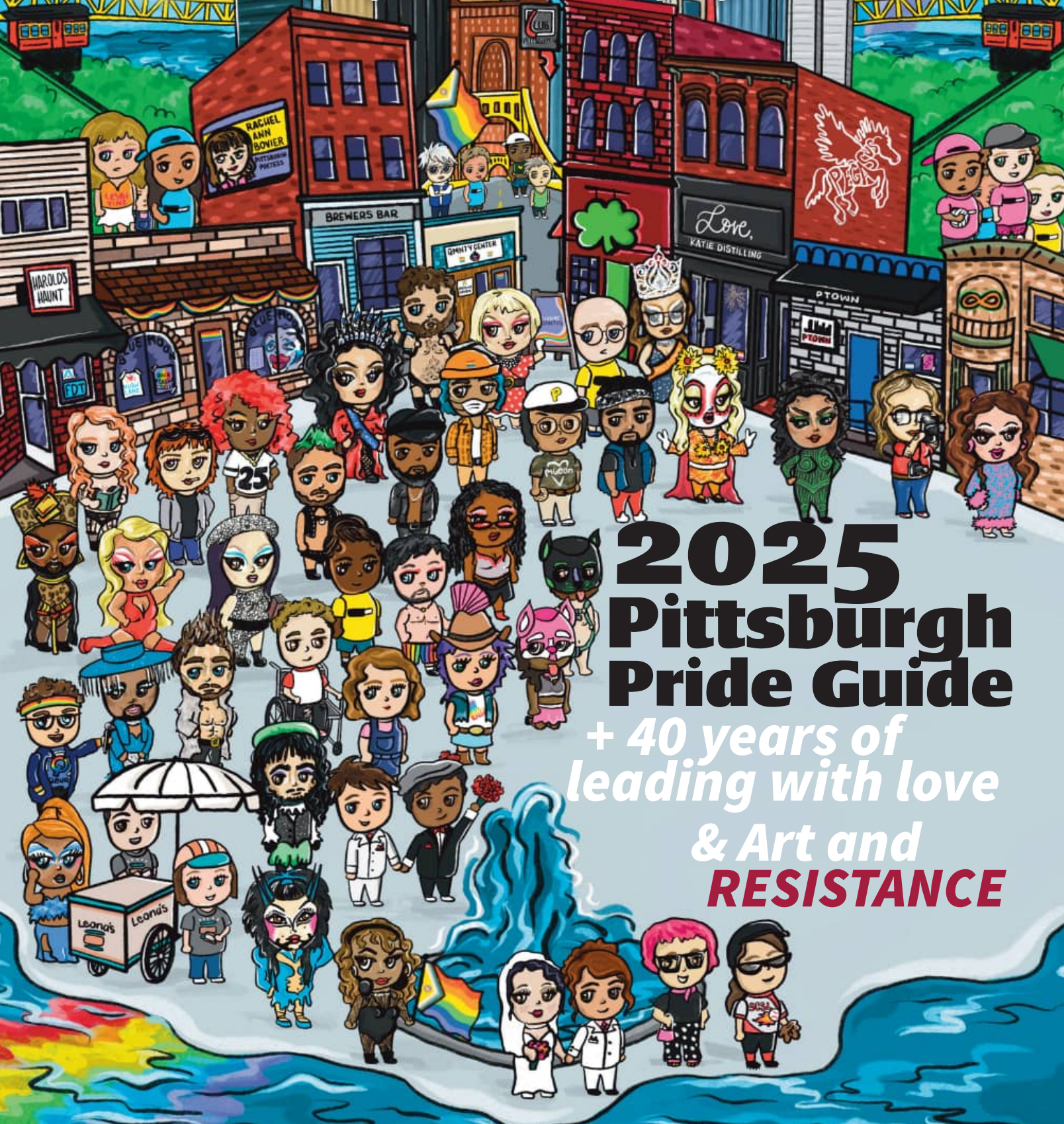




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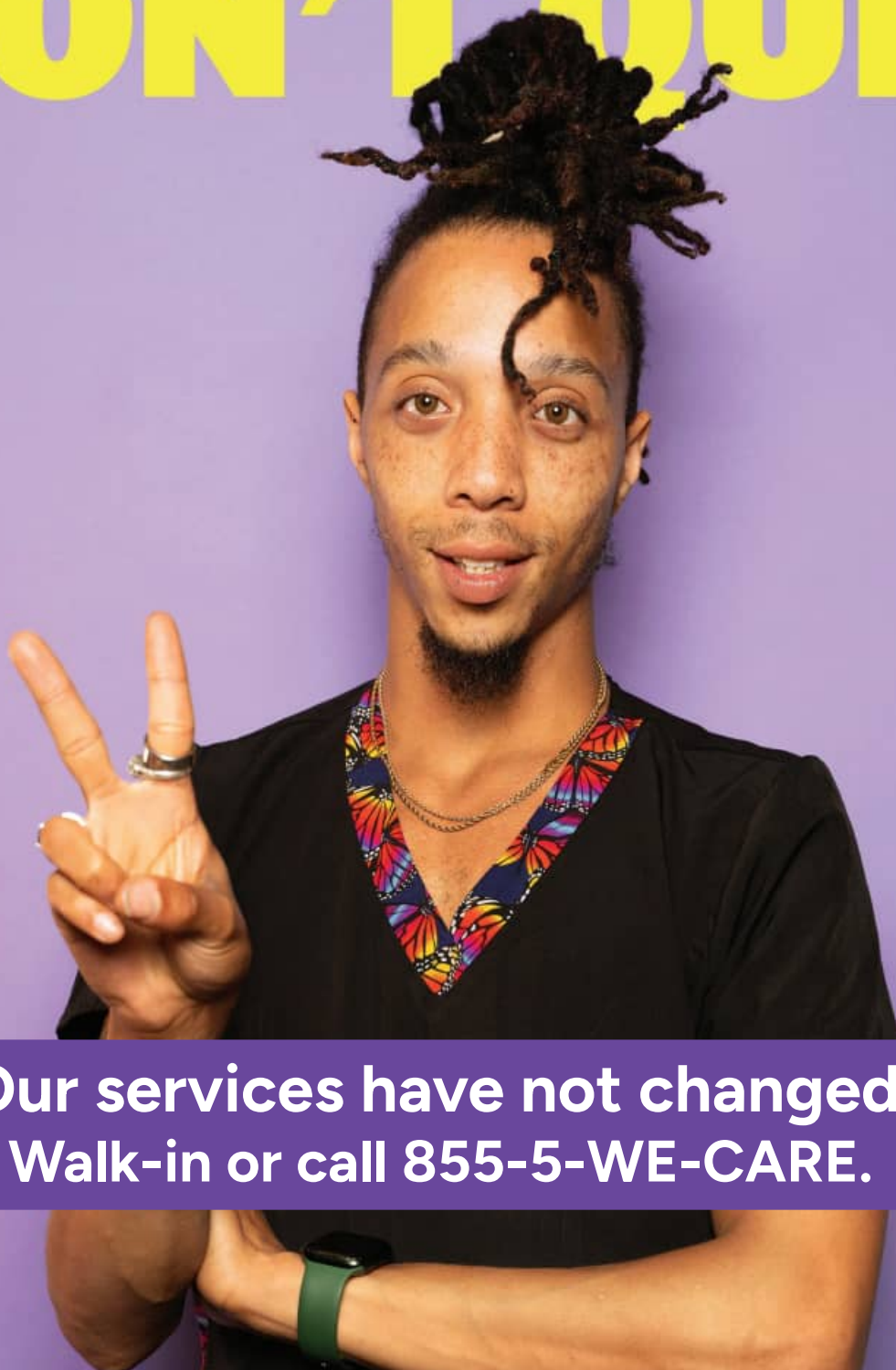
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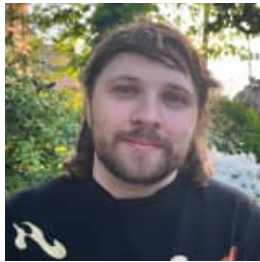
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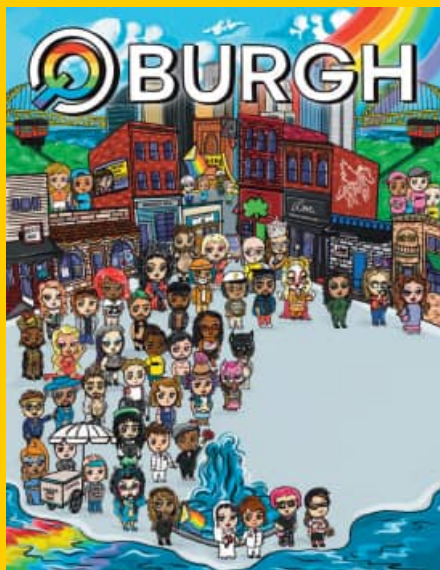
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ON THE COVER

Illustration of Pittsburgh LGBTQ spaces and community members by Jess Schweitzer of Happy Lil Canvases. Can you find everything?



For the forgotten,
the unwanted, the
abandoned and
alone. For all outsiders.

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Contents

20
**Projecting
Pride**



<i>From The Co-Creators.....</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>What's Queer & Going On.....</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Fairness and Tolerance</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>An Equitable Pittsburgh for All</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Where Love Led The Way</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Most Beautiful</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Projecting Pride</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Loud Proud and Marching.....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Pride Month Itinerary</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Pride Parade Route</i>	<i>32</i>
<i>In Solidarity.....</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Care Without Conditions</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>A Voice of Jazz.....</i>	<i>39</i>
<i>Thirty Years Proud.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Happy Lil' Canvases</i>	<i>56</i>
<i>Queer Vision</i>	<i>51</i>
<i>Queer Symbology</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Pride is More Than a Season</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>The 'Idol' We Need Now</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Trans at the Heart of Pride</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Inside Leather</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Editorial Cartoon</i>	<i>73</i>
<i>Bold Path Forward</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Pittsburgh Pink Pages.....</i>	<i>76</i>

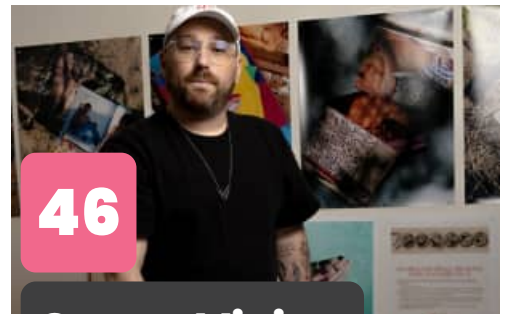


16 **Most
Beautiful**



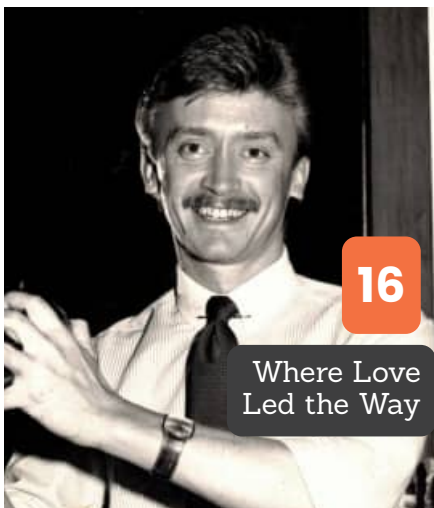
39

A Voice of Jazz



46

Queer Vision



16

**Where Love
Led the Way**



60
**The 'Idol' We
Need Now**



FROM THE CO-CREATORS

THE POWER OF WE: A LIFETIME IN PRIDE AND COMMUNITY

Serving as the Local Grand Marshal for Pittsburgh Pride this year is truly an honor. While I've always looked forward to Pride, this recognition has prompted me to reflect on my past. I agree that the selection for Grand Marshal is often based on past accomplishments, yet I feel my work is not quite finished. Never did I imagine, especially 44 years ago at the age of 21, that a casual gay pickup softball game would change the course of my entire life, leading me to a lifetime of community building – something I now cannot imagine my life without.

In this forced reflection, I find the greatest satisfaction in knowing that this has been a shared journey. I've witnessed the evolution of our community's identity, from G, then G&L, L&G, LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQ+, and so on. For me, there has always been a "we" in community. Nothing I have done has been singular; it has always been the result of a successful "we." Over the years, these partnerships, connections, collaborations, and, most importantly, enduring friendships have flourished. That is the power of "we."

One last thought when looking back: in a lifetime of shared community victories, it should come as no surprise that we've faced defeats. Hence, with our current federal administration, we should not be deterred but strengthened. These times will not define us solely by our identity, but by our ability to survive and exist. We are resilient, and together, united, we will emerge even stronger.

My sincere gratitude extends to the countless organizations I've been a member of and the numerous others with whom I've had the privilege to work together. However, my deepest thanks and appreciation go to our community for a lifetime filled with truly wondrous memories, with way more to come.

Together in Pride,

Jeff Freedman
Co-Creator, QBurgh
Pittsburgh Pride Parade Grand Marshal 2025



**Pride is
celebration,
survival,
resistance,
revolution.**

PRIDE IS PROTEST, PRIDE IS POWER

As we prepare for this year's Pride season, we do so with fire in our hearts, the beat of resilience in our veins, and the unshakable knowledge that we are built for this fight. Pride is not just celebration, it's survival. It's resistance. It's revolution.

The truth is, these are heavy times. Across the country, our community, especially our transgender siblings, continue to be targeted by violence, bigotry, and policies designed to erase us. From bomb threats at LGBTQ+ centers to book bans that try to erase our stories, the attacks are real, and the stakes are high. Fear-mongering voices in politics and media have fueled a wave of hatred that aims to isolate and silence us.

But they will not win. They don't understand the depth of our strength.

We come from a family of revolution. We are the descendants of Stonewall, of protest lines and picket signs, of chosen families who have always found ways to survive, resist, and thrive. Revolution is written in our blood. We are not going anywhere.

And through it all, the steady heartbeat of queer joy, of life, of defiance continues. It always will. No matter who sits in power. No matter how loud their hate gets.

We deserve to thrive. To love. To dance. To build a world where every queer person can live free and full. We have already made history by simply existing. Now we must shape the future boldly, joyfully, and together.

Let our anger become action. Let our grief fuel our solidarity. Let our radical, messy, and beautiful love light the way forward.

This is our moment. And we're just getting started.

With fierce Pride and revolutionary love,
Jim Sheppard
Co-Creator
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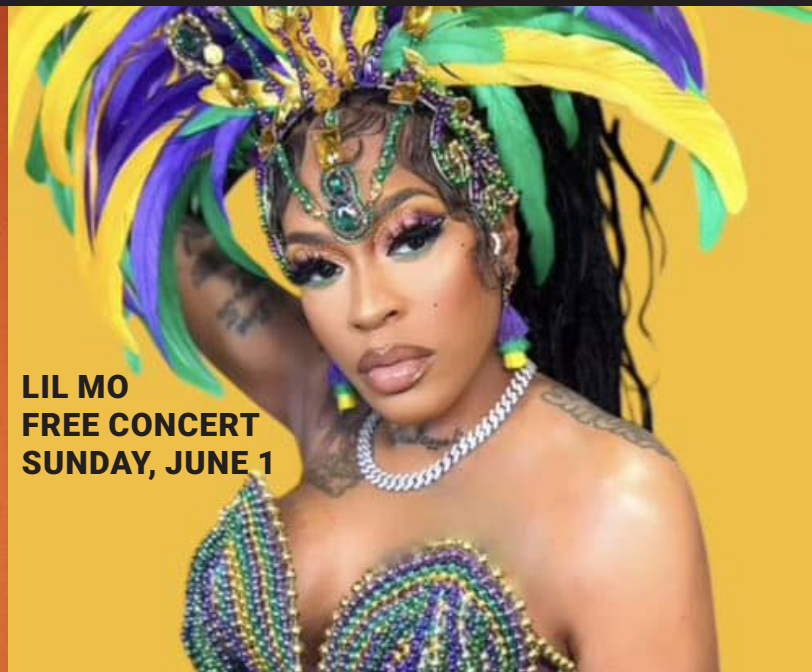
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FREE CONCERT
SUNDAY, JUNE 1**



**LIL MO
FREE CONCERT
SUNDAY, JUNE 1**



WHAT'S **QUEER** & GOING ON? MAY

18

Star Crossed Drag Brunch

@ Franklin on Penn

24

Rocky Horror Picture Show

@ Rowhouse Lawrenceville

22

Karaoke Thursday with Eddieoke

@ P Town

25

BIGGER GAYER PICNIQ

@ Allegheny Commons Park West

28

412 Step

@ Belvedere's Ultra Dive

29

Glitzburgh Pride Pageant

@ 5801

30

ALL OUT MUSIC FESTIVAL

@ Stage AE

31

Pittsburgh Pride Festival Day 1 & David Archuleta Concert

@ Allegheny Commons Park West

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MORE PRIDE EVENT DETAILS **PAGE 30**

JUNE

**Pittsburgh Pride
Weekend**
May 30 – June 1
See Page 30

6

**Pirates
Pride Night**
@ PNC Park

7

**New Castle
Pride**
@ Cascade Park

7

**Pittsburgh
Dyke March**

7

**OUTrageous Bingo
Pride Edition**
@ Rodef Shalom

8

Ross Pride
@ Ross Township
Municipal Building

14

**Lawrenceville
Pride**
@ 118 52nd Street

14

**Pride
Millvale**
@ off Grant Ave

14

**Mt. Lebanon
Pride**
@ 900 Cedar Blvd

15

**Queer
Craft
Market**

20

**Johnstown
Pride Kickoff
Drag Bingo**
@ Ace's

21

**SisTers PGH 15 Year
Anniversary Gala**
@ The Maverick

22

**Three Rivers
Business Alliance
Pride Fashion Show**
@ Franklin on Penn

24

**Greenfield Family
Pride Night**
@ Magee Rec
Center

27

**Renaissance City
Choir Pride Concert**
@ Point Park
University
Pittsburgh
Playhouse

28

Uptown Pride
@ Van Bram
between Forbes &
5th

29

**Dormont
Pride**
@ Dormont Park

29

**Forest Hills
Pride**
@ Forest Hills
Westinghouse
Lodge

29

**Fox Chapel Pride in
the Park**
@ Allegheny
Rivertrail Park

JULY

3

**Space
Drag Bingo**

@ Space Bar

13

**PFLAG
Meeting**

RSVP

14

**Queer Fight
Club Pittsburgh**

RSVP

16

412 Step

@ Belvedere's Ultra
Dive

19

**QFTW Climbing
Session**

@ ASCEND South
Side

25

**Pittsburgh Black
Pride Family Day**

@ East Liberty
Presbyterian
Church

26

Queer Coding Club

@ Prototype PGH -
Oakland

27

**3rd Annual Big Gay
River Float**

@ Smithton Beach

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It is my honor to welcome everyone gathered for the 2025 Pittsburgh Pride Month celebration.

William Penn founded our Commonwealth on the principles of fairness and tolerance, and I believe we must continue to be a place that pays faithful tribute to those core values. LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians have been instrumental in the development of our state's economic,

cultural, spiritual, and political industries. Together, we are creating a Commonwealth that is committed to supporting these individuals and beyond by creating environments of greater diversity and inclusion for our collective well-being.

My record on LGBTQ+ rights and nondiscrimination has been clear; as long as I am Governor, Pennsylvanians will have the right to marry who they love and be who they are. I applaud QBurgh for advocating for LGBTQ+ acceptance and nondiscrimination through education, social involvement, and outreach endeavors. This organization and its partners have touched the lives of countless people and continue to uphold our Commonwealth's core principles.

We must remain committed to continue working together to

support LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians by advancing legislation, breaking down barriers, and celebrating diversity and who we are as a Commonwealth. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to celebrate this important observance and continue to work toward liberty and justice for all.

As Governor, and behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I am honored to welcome everyone to Pittsburgh Pride Month. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

A blue ink signature of Governor Josh Shapiro.

Governor Josh Shapiro



As Mayor of Pittsburgh, I am honored to stand with our LGBTQIA+ community in celebration of Pride. Pittsburgh Pride is more than a festival, it's a powerful expression of visibility, resilience, and love. It reflects the strength and spirit of a community that has helped shape our city's identity and continues to inspire progress.

AN EQUITABLE PITTSBURGH FOR ALL

This year, our celebration carries even deeper meaning. Across the country, we are witnessing a troubling rise in policies and rhetoric from elected officials that target and ostracize some of our most vulnerable neighbors, especially transgender and nonbinary people. These attacks are not only unjust, but they are also dangerous. They aim to erase identities and undermine the fundamental rights of individuals simply for being who they are.

In Pittsburgh, we reject that kind of hatred. We believe in building a city where everyone, regardless of gender identity or expression, is welcome, safe and given the opportunity to thrive. That means uplifting the voices of trans and nonbinary people, investing in inclusive resources, and standing up against discrimination in all its forms.

Pride is protest. Pride is celebration. But most of all Pride is community. Let's continue to lead with love, stand in solidarity, and commit to the ongoing work of creating a truly equitable Pittsburgh for all. Happy Pride, Pittsburgh. You are loved, you belong, and this city stands with you.

A blue ink signature of Ed Gainey.

Ed Gainey
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh



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WHERE LOVE LED THE WAY

40 YEARS OF RADICAL CARE IN PITTSBURGH

by Tia Bailey

40 years ago, a group of volunteers, led by Kerry Stoner, banded together to support people with HIV and AIDS. This group founded the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, which later became Allies for Health + Wellbeing.

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force served several

functions. The first was to provide emotional support for people living with HIV and AIDS. This included helping people find housing, providing companionship, going to the grocery store, and more. Additionally, they provided legal services. If someone lost their job because of their condition or needed help getting on disability, the task force provided them with legal care. The third function they served was putting out accurate information related to the disease into the community.

"That was our founding group who worked on that," Mary Bockovich, CEO of Allies for Health + Wellbeing, says. "They were all volunteers until 1989. Kerry Stoner was our first executive director."

Bockovich explains that funding opened up in 1990 after the Ryan White CARE Act was passed, which opened more doors for the task force to provide even more services.

"In 1992, Pittsburgh AIDS Task

Force obtained what is known as Ryan White Part B funding, which is supportive services for people living with HIV, but it also provided housing, support, and all kinds of specialized care," she says.

In 2025, Allies for Health + Wellbeing is a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit still providing crucial services to people living with HIV and AIDS and is celebrating 40 years doing so. Their mission is "To improve health and wellbeing, we provide integrated medical care, supportive human services, and community-based education for individuals living with, or at risk of, HIV, viral hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections."

Allies provides services such as legal assistance, counseling, testing for HIV, STIs and Hepatitis C, transportation assistance to and from medical appointments, housing programs, a food pantry, and more.

"We have what's called an emergency financial assistance line where folks can get help with utilities or rent if



Kerry Stoner

they're in threat of being evicted," Bockovich says.

The nonprofit has had a huge impact on the community. Bockovich shares that what she's heard frequently from people is that Allies provides a place where people don't feel shame, and where having HIV isn't a source of embarrassment, fear, or stigma.

The organization has also expanded beyond solely HIV care. They also have a clinic that provides primary care, PrEP, gender-affirming care, routine gynecological care, HIV specialty care, and STI testing and treatment.

"It's a broad-based clinic that's open to all individuals regardless of their insurance, or lack thereof," Bockovich says.

They also, in the last year, have added an in-house pharmacy. While they have offered a mail-order pharmacy since 2007, now it is in the same building, so patients can pick up their prescriptions right in the same building after seeing a doctor.

While celebrating their birthday, Allies held their annual event on Friday, April 11, where they presented the Kerry Stoner award and recognized their cohort of Bright Young People.

The event, which served as an anniversary celebration and birthday party, was held at the Roxian Theater in McKees Rocks. The celebration took the place of the annual Allies Ball. The theme was party like it's 1985, modeled after a New York City nightclub in the 80s called Danceteria. The club was frequented by stars like Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Billy Idol, and more.

This year's Kerry Stoner award, presented each year by Allies to someone who has shown commitment to Stoner's legacy and vision, was presented to Michael Hellman. Hellman is a longtime volunteer with PATF and Allies, who has also advocated for people living with HIV.

Additionally, 10 individuals were recognized among the "constellation of excellence" of this year's Bright Young People. Every year the organization recognizes "people who are making a real and tangible difference in our community and working toward a bright future, particularly in the realm of diversity, equity and inclusion."

The people at Allies have been working hard for decades to provide the necessary care for the community.

"We have helped folks manage all the different issues that arise in their life," Bockovic says. They have evolved as the needs of the community have.

"We've gone from an agency that helps people die with dignity to an agency that helps people maximize their health and quality of life in a variety of ways."

There are several ways to give support back to Allies. If one has the capacity, financial assistance always helps, but there are also volunteering opportunities with the organization. There is hands-on volunteering with the food pantry, by helping unload and unpack their monthly delivery. There is also help to be given through community outreach and working information tables at events during the Pride season. 🌈

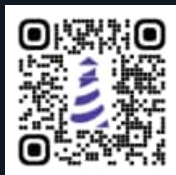




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Timeline of Laws Affecting the LGBTQ Community

1960 - 1970

1961: Pennsylvania becomes one of the earliest states to criminalize same-sex sexual activity.

1973: Pittsburgh's first gay pride week and community march was held June 12th - 17th. The parade attracted a crowd of about 150.

1975: Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp signed Executive Order 1975-5 to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation under the state government's jurisdiction.

1980 - 1990

1982: Pittsburgh becomes one of the first cities in Pennsylvania to pass a discrimination ordinance protecting individuals based on sexual orientation in public employment.

1987: Upper Darby, PA Anti-obscenity Ordinance defines "sexual conduct" as including "acts of masturbation, homosexuality, sexual intercourse," and other sexual conduct.

1990: Pennsylvania amends its hate crime laws to include sexual orientation as a protected category.

NONPROFIT LEGAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE LGBTQIA COMMUNITY IN PITTSBURGH:

In Pittsburgh, there are several organizations and resources that offer nonprofit legal assistance and support to the LGBTQIA community. The following list showcases several of the most popular resources:

1. HUGH LANE WELLNESS FOUNDATION Phone: (412)-626-3812 Email: info@hughlane.org

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation's legal aid program was created to provide free, need-based civil legal aid services for LGBTQ+ and HIV community members in Southwestern Pennsylvania. They provide in-house assistance for cases involving identity document support, public benefits counseling, housing support, and civil expungement of criminal records.

2. ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA: Phone: (215)-592-1513 Email: info@aclupa.org

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania works on various civil rights issues, including LGBTQ+ rights. They may offer legal assistance or refer individuals to lawyers who specialize in LGBTQ+ issues.

3. LAMBDA LEGAL: Email: lambdalegal.org/helpdesk

Lambda Legal is a national organization that focuses on LGBTQ+ civil rights. While not based in Pittsburgh, they have resources and information available online and may provide assistance in certain cases.

4. TRANSGENDER LEGAL DEFENSE & EDUCATION FUND (TLDEF): Phone: (646)-862-9396 Email: info@transgenderlegal.org

TLDEF is dedicated to ending discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. While they may not have a specific presence in Pittsburgh, their website provides resources and information about legal issues affecting transgender people.

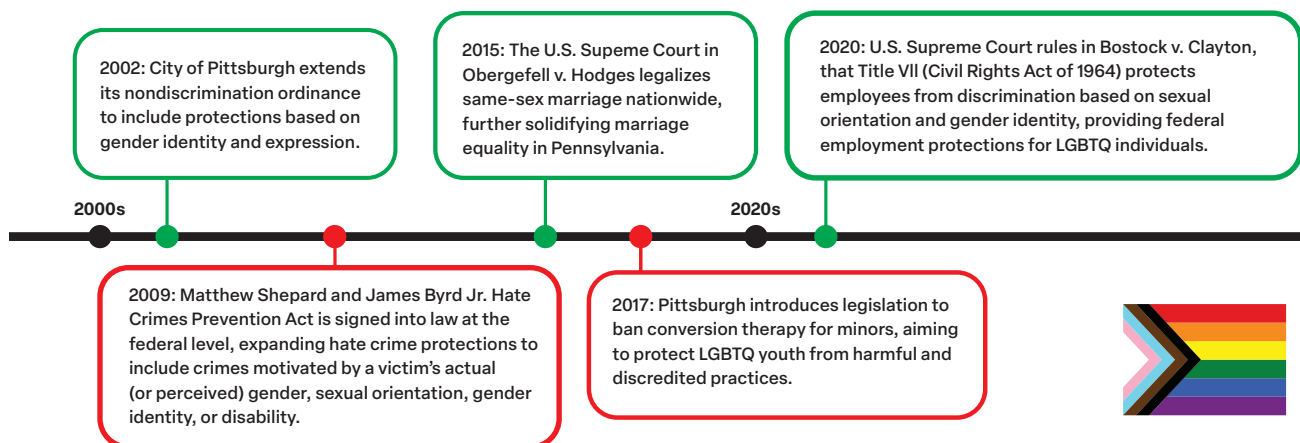
6. EQUALITY PENNSYLVANIA: Website: equalitypa.org

Equality Pennsylvania is an advocacy organization that works on LGBTQ+ issues in the state. While they may not provide direct legal assistance, they can offer support, resources, and referrals to legal organizations or lawyers who specialize in LGBTQ+ law.

7. PITT LAW OUTLAW: Website: law.pitt.edu/student-resources/student-organizations/pitt-law-outlaw

If you're affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, their OUTLaw organization may provide resources or support for LGBTQ+ legal issues.

It's essential to reach out directly to these organizations to inquire about the specific services they offer and whether they can assist with your particular legal needs. Some law firms or individual lawyers in Pittsburgh may offer pro bono services or reduced rates for LGBTQ+ clients. Wakefield Law Group determines availability of pro bono or discounted legal services to prospective private clients on a case by case basis.





MOST BEAUTIFUL

Huny on Queer Nightlife, Black Womanhood, and Radical Joy

interview by Carlie Shae

Huny (she/her or they/them) is many things: a DJ, a photographer, a curator of community, and a tender but fierce advocate for Black queer life. For over a decade, she's called Pittsburgh home, a place she arrived at by way of New York, family ties, and an intuition for possibility. In that time, Huny has become one of the most vital creative forces in the city's LGBTQ+ nightlife and arts scenes, using photography, music, and event curation to center joy, safety, and reflection.

Creating Reflection

At the core of Huny's work is a desire to see herself and her community reflected accurately, tenderly, and unapologetically. "What gets me excited about creating art?" she

asks. "I really like primarily shining a spotlight on Black womanhood as well as the queer community." As a Black queer woman herself, the drive is personal and political.

"I love to see my community reflected properly," she says. "I like the idea of framing specifically Black women, Black queer women, on the walls of museums and art galleries." For Huny, representation is more than just inclusion, it's a rightful claim to space in cultural institutions that have long ignored or excluded people like her.

Her photography is not only expressive, but intentional. "I like to create art with people I already know," she explains. "I consider them to be my co-conspirators... my muses. We talk about how they

want to be presented, about maybe how they've never seen themselves reflected in the arts." The process is intimate, collaborative, and rooted in care, especially for those who have never felt seen through a lens before. "There's a lot of people that say they don't even like getting their picture taken," she adds. "So I consider it a collaborative process... that relationship with the people I put in my art... that's how I embody that."

Queer by Nature

To Huny, queerness isn't something she adds into her art, it's already baked into every layer. "I wouldn't know any other way, really," she says. "It's my lifestyle and my life." Her photography, her DJ sets, her events, every part of her creative

world is built from and for the queer community she calls family.

"Almost all of my friends are also queer people," she explains. "It's truly not only my community, but my family. So it just stands to reason that I, somebody who likes to create art that reflects the experience I have in the world as a Black queer woman, would make work that's a reflection of that life."

What makes her art feel so rich is the deep sense of *knowing* that underlies it. Huny isn't just documenting a scene, she's co-creating with the people who inspire her most. "There's a lot of photography that centers around heterosexuality, heteronormativity," she says. "I like concentrating on sapphic love. The love that women have between each other, being platonic or romantic." For Huny, it's all about seeing and being seen, not through an outsider's gaze but through the intimacy of chosen family.

Returning the Love

Gratitude runs through everything Huny does. "The queer community has given me so much," she says. "All of my muses, in the arts as well as in nightlife, are queer people who have helped me, shown me the way, and inspired me. So what I do now is literally like paying it forward."

That pay-it-forward spirit lives most visibly in *Most Beautifullest*, Huny's event collective focused on creating queer-centered nightlife that's rooted in joy and safety. But safety, as Huny sees it, is so much more than physical. "There's security, sure," she says. "But it's also: no transphobia, no homophobia, no racism, no body shaming, nothing without consent, no leering, no staring." The goal is to make spaces where people can show up fully, "surrounded by love and acceptance."

She draws a connection between the spaces she's helping to build now and the ones our queer elders

once relied on in secret. "There was a time, not that long ago, when people had to go to these spaces to be themselves," she says. "When they lived their everyday lives, when they went to their nine-to-five, when they were walking down the street, it was far more unsafe than it even is for us now, especially for our trans siblings."

Her mission is simple, powerful, and deeply rooted in love: "I hope everybody feels like they can be their true selves."

Why Pittsburgh?

Huny's journey to Pittsburgh wasn't necessarily planned, but it's one that's deeply tied to family, opportunity, and a new chapter. "I've been in Pittsburgh for 11 years, which is crazy," she says. Originally from New York City, Huny moved here after her mom, who's originally from Pittsburgh, returned to the city. "New York was getting very expensive," she admits. "I just wanted a different experience for myself, and my mom convinced me to come to Pittsburgh."

The city's potential became clear to her through both personal ties and professional opportunity. She was drawn to Pittsburgh's "Advancing Black Arts" grants, which were vital for her transition into event production. "It felt like a good opportunity," she says. "Even in a smaller city, New York is so huge and overwhelming when trying to break into new fields. I had thrown parties in New York, but nothing like event production."

While Huny didn't fall in love with Pittsburgh immediately, she found something special within the city's community. "I found a really amazing community here, specifically of Black queer people," she shares. "I felt there was a lack of Black queer events here, but that inspired me to create *Most Beautifullest*." Through the events she created, Huny met "some of the most talented, amazing, beautiful people" she's ever met.

The community, while small, helped ground her decision to stay, but not forever. "My days are numbered in Pittsburgh," she says, "I am planning to move this year. But I always come back. My mom is here, my friends are here. Pittsburgh will always be a part of me."

Nightlife as Ancestry

As much as Huny is a creator, she's also a product of the vibrant queer nightlife scene she helped shape. "I always say that as queer people, the dance floor is our ancestral home," she says, emphasizing the importance of the space. Nightlife is more than just a setting for music and dance, it's a space where queer joy is amplified, where bodies move with freedom, and where community is built.

Her role as an event producer and DJ allows her to capture this raw energy, turning it into both an art form and a vital community connector. "Everything that I do is actually about people," she reflects. "The umbrella over everything I'm interested in is community and people in general." Through her events, Huny has met "the best people" who've inspired both her photography and the way she sees the world. "I step up to them and say, 'I'd really like to photograph you,'" she explains, allowing her love for nightlife to intersect with her visual art.

It's this synergy between art and community that makes her work feel so alive. "I love party people. I'm a party girl," Huny says with a laugh. "To really be introduced to the community in that way, it's so inspiring. To see how people use their bodies on the dance floor is very inspiring to me as a visual artist." ➡➡

Pride as Resistance

For Huny, pride isn't just a celebration, it's an act of resistance. In a world where marginalized communities are under constant attack, pride is about more than parades and rainbow flags. "Pride is literally existing at this point," she says. "Existing and not letting anybody tell you who you are, what your pronouns can be, what your gender is. Pride is literally being exactly who you're supposed to be in this world."

In this moment, Huny's voice cracks slightly with emotion as she acknowledges the real and present danger facing the queer community, especially Black trans people. "I'm really scared for my community, specifically Black trans people right now," she shares. "Pride is also protecting each other. We are a community. There's a lot of differences we have, a lot of intersections that we embody as people."

For Huny, pride is about solidarity across differences. "I'm a Black queer woman. Some of my friends are white queer people, white trans

people, Black trans men have a different experience than I do," she explains. "But at the end of the day, we're supposed to protect each other. There's not as many of us as there are of them, and pride means we have to have each other's backs, especially right now."

Her words speak to a deeper, more urgent need for community. "The parties are fun. The parade is great. The rainbow fashions, love that," she says, with a grin. "But at the end of the day, we really need to be united right now. That's truly what pride means to me."

For Huny, pride isn't a one-month event, it's a year-round fight for visibility, love, and protection. "I call pride my favorite holiday," she says. "I love June, the fact that you even see queer people in the city that you don't see any other time of the year. It's kind of like our coming out, year after year."

Despite the uncertainty of our political climate, Huny remains hopeful. "I know it's a scary time, but I'm really looking forward to it."

Through her work as a photographer, DJ, event producer, and activist, Huny is creating more than just art, she's shaping the world she wants to see. Whether it's through the lens of her camera or the beats she drops in the club, she's centering the beauty, the struggles, and the power of the queer, Black, and trans communities.

Her work is an offering, a love letter to a community that's constantly fighting for its right to exist, to be visible, and to thrive. It's not just about making art it's about making space, making history, and making sure that the stories of Black queer women are framed and celebrated where they belong: in galleries, on the dance floor, and everywhere in between. 🌈



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Projecting Pride

FOUR DECADES OF QUEER CINEMA IN PITTSBURGH

by Michael Buzzelli

“**T**he Celluloid Closet is the book that changed my life,” said Rich Cummings, the founder of Pittsburgh’s LGBTQ film festival, ReelQ.

Cummings was reading Vito Russo’s book, a history of Lesbian and Gay men in the movies, when it sparked an idea. In 1982, Cummings hosted the Pittsburgh Lesbian & Gay Film Series, a project of Pittsburgh’s GLCC (Now the Pittsburgh Equality Center), a monthly event on the University of Pittsburgh campus, alternating between films about gay men and lesbians each month. One of the first films was “Before Stonewall,” a documentary detailing the history of the LGBTQ+ movement in America. Cummings said, “It is a foundational film in the community that still has relevance today.”

“It was getting increasingly difficult to host the films on the university

property,” Cummings said, “I reached out to Bob Marinaccio at Pittsburgh Filmmakers and asked if we could show the films there.”

Together, Marinaccio and Cummings came up with the idea for an annual festival that could highlight the best of gay and lesbian films and shine a spotlight on Pittsburgh in the process.

In 1985, Cummings helped launch the first Pittsburgh Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. He presided over the organization, which gained nonprofit status in 1986, for the next ten years.

Now, ReelQ is the sixth oldest LGBTQ+ film festival in the world and the longest-running film festival in Pittsburgh. ReelQ spans ten days with a variety of programs, panels, parties, and community activities, screening approximately twenty feature films and over forty short films.

It was not always a smooth road, but the festival is one of five leading LGBTQ festivals in the country, just behind New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Cummings has had both positive and negative experiences running the festival.

In 1990, Dave Bevilacqua, owner and operator of the Rex Theatre,



gave in to pressure from neighbors on the South Side and canceled the screening of "Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt," an AIDS documentary, as part of the festival. The screening moved to the Fulton, which is now the Byham.

Pressure came from within and without. People picketed Arthur J. Bressan, Jr.'s film "Abuse." The film, about an abused 14-year-old boy who meets a filmmaker shooting a documentary about child abuse and the complex relationship that develops between them. The movie was considered pedophilia.

In 1991, Cummings recalls, "We had the premiere for 'My Own Private Idaho,' at the Fulton Theatre [Byham], and the line stretched around the block. We had to hire off-duty police officers to protect people waiting to see the film." The Pittsburgh premiere of Gus Van Sant's movie was the East Coast premiere of the film.

The festival also boasts the East Coast premiere of "Paris is Burning" one day before it opened in New York City.

Cummings garnered attention from the LGBTQ community during his time with the festival. He said, "During the Bush administration, there was talk about cutting NEA

[National Endowment for the Arts] funding. I went on Larry King's radio show, Larry King Live, and I went on KDKA to talk about the NEA cuts with [the late] Fred Honsberger."

Cummings said, "Honsberger was nice to me when we were in the studio, but once the red light went on, he called me a faggot on the air."

In his long association with the festival, Cummings received phone calls and death threats. He said, "This was back when everyone had a landline, and the phone book."

In 1995, a collaboration between the film festival and the Andy Warhol Museum brought poet John Giorno to Pittsburgh to read selected poems.





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Giorno also read from his memoirs, "Great Anonymous Sex."

Over the years, the festival championed filmmakers such as Bruce La Bruce, Kenneth Anger, Terrence Davies, Gus Van Sant, Greg Araki, and more.

Cummings, a longtime movie buff, cites "The Killing of Sister George" as a historically important movie. The movie "Distant Voices, Still Lives" had an impact on him as well. He said, "I thought 'Moonlight' was such an important movie, but it's so sad. I don't know if I could see it again." The film buff also mentioned the 1980s German film, "Taxi Zu Kilo," as one of his favorites.

Cummings is in the process of creating his own film, which he plans to produce and direct locally. His film, "Triangles," a Queer Noir about mysterious murders around Pittsburgh.

In 2012, the festival rebranded to ReelQ.

Mitch Leib, who was president of the organization during the name change [from 2010 to 2013], reminisced about his involvement at ReelQ. Leib said, "I was on the PrideFest committee with Brenda Seever and Laura Annibalini. At the time, Brenda was the president, and Laura was the programming

director. Brenda asked me if I would like to be on the film festival board. I'd always loved going to the festival and so I said yes. The three of us went to Toronto's film festival to scout for films. After that, I was hooked."

Leib started as guest relations coordinator and moved into the position of marketing director, then to programming director. When he took over as president, he was also filling the role of programming director, changing the role to artistic director. Leib said, "It was so fulfilling to go to Toronto and then to San Francisco to bring films back to Pittsburgh."

Leib has a bunch of fond memories of his time at the festival. He said, "I enjoyed meeting Tab Hunter when he was here for one of his films. He was such a nice man." He added, "We had the cast of 'Mulligans' here for our 25th Anniversary," citing the 2008 gay rom-com.

Leib cites "Were the World Mine" and "The Way He Looks" as his favorite films from the festival. Leib said, "One year, we showed a short film 'I Don't Want to Go Back Alone,' and then it was made into a feature, and we showed the full-length version. Both versions were wonderful."

Jamie Tracktenberg, who was the Outreach and Social Media manager

for seven years and president of the organization for one year, said, "I have always loved films, especially films that I can see myself in. Joining the ReelQ board was such a joy! I love films, but I love the people even more. I found my community with ReelQ."

She added, "One of my favorite memories was for ReelQ 29, where we queered up famous movie posters for our program cover! It was a great way to include members of our community and have some fun!"

Tracktenberg cited Alexandra-Therese Keining's "Kiss Me (Kyss Mig)," a 2011 Swedish film, loosely based on Keining's own coming-out story as one of her favorites. Tracktenberg said, "I felt very connected to that film, and it was shot beautifully. It's definitely worth a watch!"

T. J. Murphy, the current president, came out of the closet at fifteen. He said, "I used to go to the Pleasant Present on Forbes Avenue and hang out. It was the one place I could find LGBTQ movies. I used to go to the Carnegie Library. They had a collection of Queer films. I learned later that the films at the library were donated from the festival."

Murphy said, "My first experiences were movies. I was too young to go



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to the bars. I'd go to the GLCC or Pittsburgh Filmmakers to see gay movies."

Murphy has been involved in the festival, one way or another, for the last fifteen years. He joined during the 25th anniversary.

Murphy cites Camille Vidal-Naquet's 2018 French drama, "Sauvage," as one of his favorites from the festival. He said, "It's a raw, visceral film with a unique perspective." He is also a fan of Michael Barnett's 2019 documentary "Changing the Game" about transgender high school athletes.

Murphy said, "I want everyone to know that the film festival is accessible, and it's for anyone who enjoys cinema. It's a safe space that showcases the work of the LGBTQ+ community from all over the world."

ReelQ offers year-round events, including our Reel Stories, a film series at the City of Asylum, 40 W. North Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. For more information about the film festival and their events and programs, please visit ReelQ.org. 



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LOUD, PROUD, AND FINALLY MARCHING:

JEFF FREEDMAN TO GRAND MARSHAL PITTSBURGH PRIDE PARADE

and 2006. His dedication to this event has now spanned two decades, and he currently co-chairs the city's large and successful Pittsburgh Pride March and Parade. His "loud and proud" voice is a familiar sound at the lineup for the parade since he has used the same bullhorn for over ten years.

Jeff co-created QBurgh.com in 2020 and now dedicates his time fully to this vital resource and hosts QBurgh's monthly podcast, "Pride Matters." His commitment extends to the state level as an appointed member of the Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Commission for LGBTQ Affairs and an elected Democratic Committee member in the South Side Slopes. Recently, Jeff started serving as a Co-Chair of the advisory board for the Pittsburgh Media Partnership, a consortium of 33 local news organizations serving Southwestern Pennsylvania. He still plays in the Steel City Softball League in his spare time.

A Pittsburgh native and dedicated advocate, Jeff Freedman (he/him) has been a vital force in the LGBTQ+ community for over four decades. His journey began in 1981 as a founding member and Commissioner of the Steel City Softball League. Later, helping establish a short-lived initial iteration of the Steel City Volleyball League would follow. In the 80s, he was also heavily involved in the Steel City Bowling League and co-chaired the city's inaugural gay bowling tournament (TREAT) in 1988.

Although Jeff's job transferred him throughout the US, Jeff's community involvement remained strong. Returning to Pittsburgh in 2003, Jeff was elected chair of Pittsburgh Pride by the Gay and Lesbian Community Center (now Pittsburgh Equality Center) for 2005

Jeff lives with his husband, Norm, in the Arlington section of Pittsburgh. They are both members of the local Arlington Civic Council.

We deeply appreciate Jeff's countless and enduring contributions to many of our community organizations and enthusiastically celebrate his dedication and tenure. This year marks a special milestone as he will march in the Pittsburgh Pride Parade for the first time after years of tirelessly organizing it — a well-deserved moment!

Congratulations and thank you Jeff! 🌈

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- May 29** *Glitzburgh Pride Pageant - 5801*
- May 30** *All Out Music Festival - Stage AE*
- May 30** *Pittsburgh Pride Prom - University Center Marriot*
- May 30** *Emerald City Kiki Ball - QMNTY Center*
- May 31** *Gloves & Glitter - Les Getz Memorial Park*
- May 31** *Pittsburgh Pride Day 1 - Allegheny Commons Park West*
- May 31** *Street Party ft. Latrice Royale - 5801*
- May 31** *David Archuleta Pride Concert - Allegheny Commons Park West*
- June 1** *Pittsburgh Pride Parade - Downtown*
- June 1** *Pittsburgh Pride Day 2 - Allegheny Commons Park West*
- June 1** *Sunday Event - 5801*
- June 14** *Mt Lebanon Pride - Mt. Lebanon Main Park*
- June 28** *Uptown Pride - Van Bram between Forbes & 5th*
- June 29** *Fox Chapel Pride - Allegheny River Trail Park*

NEVER GOING BACK



1969 *The Stonewall Uprising*

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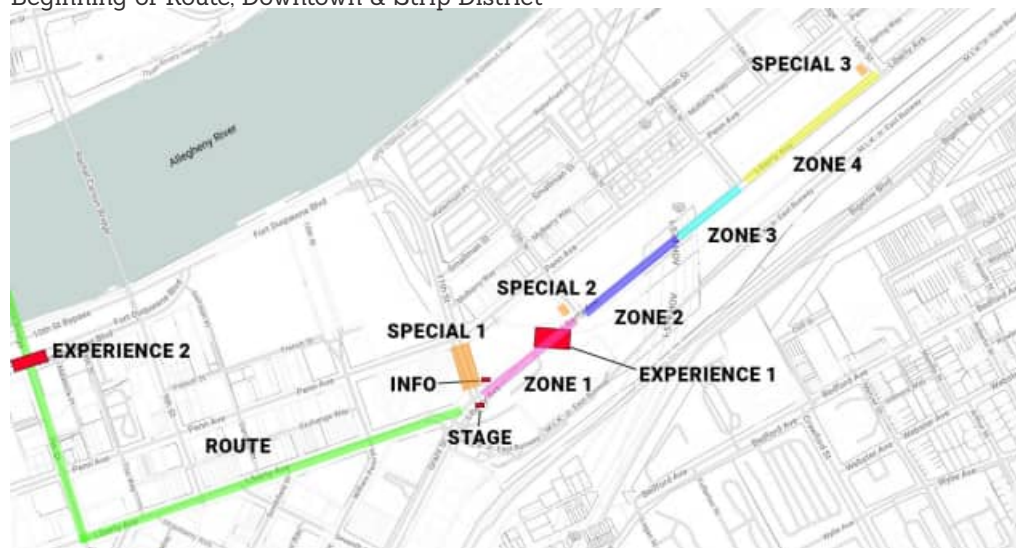


PRIDE PARADE ROUTE

*Sunday,
June 1*

View the parade along Liberty Avenue, the Andy Warhol Bridge, Sandusky Street, and S & W Commons

Beginning of Route, Downtown & Strip District



End of Route on the North Side



The 2025 Pittsburgh Pride March & Parade will take place on Sunday, June 1.

Lineup will begin at 10:00 AM along Liberty Avenue between 11th Street and 16th Street in the Strip District. There are no assigned spaces, just assigned Zones. Participants are asked to please pay attention to what zone they are assigned and proceed to the assigned area. Participants will be placed in order by volunteers upon arrival.

All vehicles participating in the parade must enter the lineup from Penn Avenue at 16th Street in the Strip District and proceed slowly to their designated zone. No vehicles besides motorcycles and other official Pride support vehicles may line up closer to Downtown than 12th Street along Liberty Avenue. All vehicles must be in the lineup by 11:00 AM, no exceptions.

Parade steps off at 12:00 PM SHARP.

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Happy Pride, Pittsburgh! I'm glad to once again celebrate Pride this year with so many of you. As the first out queer woman in the PA General Assembly, Pride means living my truth every day and fighting for our community, even and especially when it is difficult. The number of Out legislators continues to grow in the PA General Assembly:

myself, Reps. Andre Carroll, Malcolm Kenyatta, La'Tasha D. Mayes, Abigail Salisbury, Greg Scott, and Izzy Smith-Wade-El – bringing the total number to 7!

I continue to serve in my capacity as co-chair of the legislature's bicameral, bipartisan LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, now joined by Co-Chair Rep. Smith-Wade-El. Our caucus includes not just Out members of the legislature, but many straight allies.

As our community continues to face attacks from some elected officials and public figures, our work as Out legislators has grown in importance. We will continue to champion legislation alongside our allies that protects and supports our community and fight back against any anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that our colleagues introduce. On both the federal and state level, we are seeing an increasing number of bills targeting our community, especially our Trans siblings. At least in Pennsylvania, because of the Democratic majority in the PA House and Governor Josh Shapiro, those bills will not see the light of day. And we will do what we can to blunt the impact of federal action.

In the 2023-24 legislative session, we passed the Fairness Act through the PA House. The GOP-controlled State Senate refused to bring the legislation up for a vote at all, hitting that unfortunate roadblock in our efforts to enshrine non-discrimination protections into law. We have resumed those efforts in this new legislative session and will continue to push for this bill to become law. We understand it be the absolute floor for protections for our community. This is a foundation on which we continue to build, advocating for many other pieces of legislation to proactively protect our community.

Amidst troubling times, let's take the opportunity during Pride month and beyond to celebrate our true selves and the ways our community and our allies have banded together to fight for justice for all of us.

In solidarity,

State Representative Jessica Benham



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CARE WITHOUT CONDITIONS

Metro Community Health's Radical Commitment

by Kylie Thomas

In a world where healthcare is becoming more of a luxury than a human right, Metro Community Health Center seeks to provide care no matter who you are or your income level. Here, Swissvale, Wilkinsburg, Braddock, the greater Pittsburgh area, and anyone else who desires help can access comprehensive services like medical, mental health, dental, and support, such as transportation and pharmacy discounts. For some people, Metro Community Health Center is the one place left in the city where they can rest assured they'll be treated like a human being, especially if they're a part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

In 1999, Metro got its start as Metro Family Practice, gathering together a group of physicians with a background in community and preventive medicine. From this beginning, the center has only grown, relocating in 2014 and adding a mobile clinic for both medical and dental services in 2023. Their discount program, as well as a variety of other assistance programs, all add up to a center that is community-focused inside and out.

"We offer a sliding fee scale discount program, translation services, and case management to ensure

that care is accessible to everyone in our community," explains Metro. "Our Community Health Program connects our patients and community members to vital resources. We also collaborate with a wide range of community partners, including homeless shelters, senior care facilities, LGBTQIA+ organizations, emergency housing centers, local school districts, and many others, to make sure no one is left behind."

Metro's message is actually a fairly simple but impactful one. Metro Community Health Center always has and always will provide comprehensive, compassionate, and inclusive care to everybody, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, insurance status, income, or ability to pay. They state, "We believe healthcare is a right, not a privilege."

To make this statement come to life, Metro has committed to providing a range of health services to uplift LGBTQIA+ persons specifically. Whether you're looking for gender-affirming care, sexual wellness services, or just someone like-minded to speak with, Metro is here to connect you even when no one else will.

"Metro has always been known as a safe space for

everyone and treats all patients with dignity and respect,” says Metro. “We are proud to offer specialized care for LGBTQIA+ individuals, including gender-affirming care and hormone replacement therapy to individuals ages 19 and older, HIV prevention and treatment (including PrEP and PEP), mental health services with LGBTQIA+ competent therapists, and transition-related primary care. Our providers are trained to deliver care in an affirming, nonjudgmental environment that recognizes and celebrates the diversity of gender and sexuality.”

As the political landscape continues to shift and a greater number of communities come under fire, certain healthcare providers have already made changes to the care they provide to transgender youth. Thankfully, even through all this turmoil, the entire LGBTQIA+ community has a place at Metro.

“We recognize that recent changes and executive orders from the federal government may have raised concerns about access to healthcare and the future programs that many depend on,” reassures Metro. “Metro is deeply committed to providing compassionate, community-focused care to everyone and remains steadfast in our mission to provide care to those who need it most, especially in times of uncertainty. Our first priority is always the health, dignity, and safety of our patients. We continue to advocate for policies that protect healthcare access, particularly for LGBTQIA+ individuals and other marginalized populations, while actively building community partnerships and expanding services to meet rising needs.”

To get started with Metro Community Health Center, call their main line at 412-247-2310 to schedule an appointment or ask any questions you may have. After all, even if you do not need medical help, there are still many ways that Metro can help you thrive.

“Metro is more than a clinic—we’re a community hub,” says Metro. “We partner with local LGBTQIA+ organizations, participate in Pride events, offer monetary support/sponsorships, and create safe spaces for healing and support. Our commitment is ongoing and rooted in trust, respect, and visibility. We’re here to serve, uplift, and stand with the LGBTQIA+ community every day.” 🌈

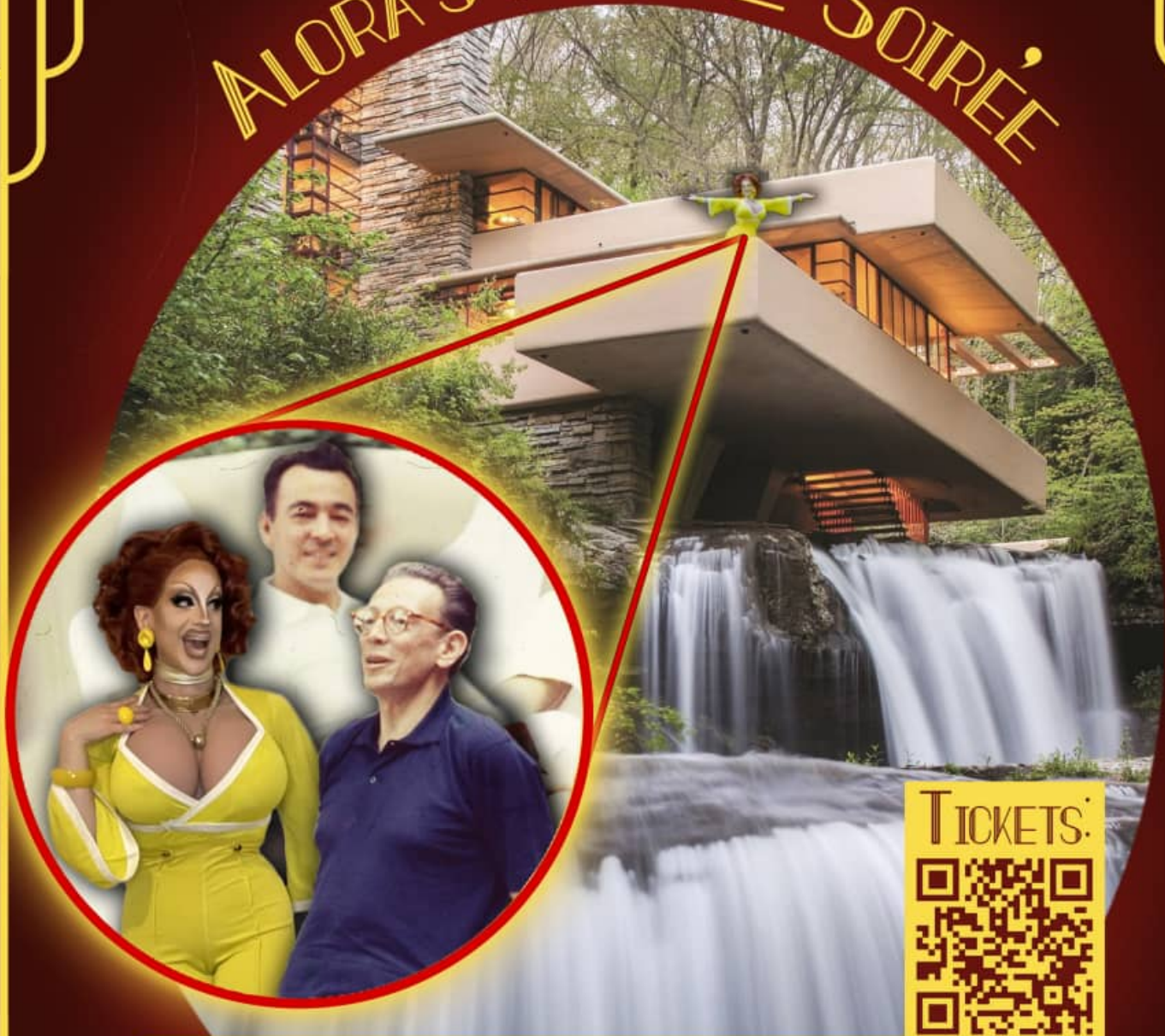


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A Voice of Jazz, Queer Liberation, and Mentorship

interview by Carlie Shae

Phat Man Dee (any/all, she/they) has been an instrumental force in Pittsburgh's music and queer communities for decades. As a jazz vocalist, songwriter, educator, and creative director of Phat Man Dee Productions, she brings a unique blend of activism and artistry to every performance, every project, and every lesson she shares. With a voice that has graced some of the most prestigious stages, Phat Man Dee's work reflects the joy, pain, and perseverance of the queer community, offering both space for self-expression and tools for social change.

Creating Art

For Phat Man Dee, music is a form of storytelling, a way to connect with the hearts of others. "I make music

because I want to share stories," she explains. "I want to share my feelings. I want to make people feel a little bit the way I'm feeling." Whether it's joy, sorrow, or hope, Phat Man Dee uses her craft to reach people, uplift their spirits, and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

"I like to work with youth," she continues, emphasizing her commitment to mentoring the next generation of artists. "I feel like our stories, their stories are very important. And if we don't tell them, if they don't tell them, then nobody will know." With 35 years in the industry, Phat Man Dee sees her music as a bridge to connect with listeners on an emotional level, whether they're singing along or reflecting on their own experiences.

She finds particular joy in helping young people navigate the world of music. "Music gets to people's hearts very quickly," she says, "and it makes them dance and it makes them happy and it uplifts them. So when I get to share what I have learned with people who want to go down the same musical path, it's a deep honor."

Queering the Music

Phat Man Dee's commitment to queer inclusion in her music is both deliberate and personal. When she set out to write a love song for her last album, *A Thousand Miles*, she had one goal: to create something that would speak to everyone. "I wanted to write a love song that applied to everybody," she explains. "I didn't want it to apply to specifically cis het men and women or specifically





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heteronormative style of relationship.”

Her song, *Bigger Smile*, was the result of this vision. Instead of sticking to the familiar tropes of gendered love songs, where heartbreak and separation follow a rigid male-female dynamic, Phat Man Dee crafted a song that allowed space for all kinds of love. “I purposely left out all mentions of gender or anything,” she says, “and it was like a nice, we had a lovely time together kind of song.” The message was simple but profound: love can be universal, without the constraints of heteronormativity.

Her dedication to queerness also shines through in the artists and composers she chooses to celebrate. “Last year, I did a *Pride Jazz Trabaganza*,” Phat Man Dee shares, “where I performed all works either by LGBTQIA musicians or composers.” This commitment to honoring queer musicians, including jazz legends like Billy Strayhorn, is a testament to her belief in the power of queer representation. “I can’t even imagine being Black and gay in Pittsburgh in the 40s,” she says, reflecting on Strayhorn’s contributions to jazz. “But there we are. And anything went on to shape the whole of the jazz genre.”

By embracing and amplifying queer voices in her music, Phat Man Dee helps ensure that queer musicians, past and present, are seen, heard, and celebrated.

Giving Back

For Phat Man Dee, the act of giving back to the queer community isn’t just a noble cause it’s a matter of creating safe, affirming spaces for queer people to exist and thrive. “I hope that I give back to the queer community through my music when I serve LGBTQIA youth,” she says, emphasizing the need for visibility and safety in a world that still doesn’t always make space for queer people.

“Because they don’t feel safe a lot of places,” she continues. “They aren’t actually safe in most places. I wasn’t safe as a queer kid.” This is why Phat Man Dee’s work is deeply rooted in creating environments where queer people can be themselves without fear of judgment or exclusion. “When they work with me, if they are anywhere on the rainbow, they are safe,” she affirms. “I will absolutely defend their right to be who they know they are.”

Through her music and mentorship, Phat Man Dee uses her platform to stand up for queer liberation at all times. She brings that message to her work with youth, where she offers her guidance and encouragement to the next generation of queer musicians. “I hope that the youth I work with know that,” she says, “and I’m pretty sure they do.”

While Phat Man Dee’s influence stretches far beyond

Pittsburgh, her love for the city and the community she's built here is unwavering. "I have stayed in Pittsburgh on purpose," she says, emphasizing the unique advantages the city offers to working artists. "As a working artist, it is still possible, even in this housing crisis, to buy a home. You cannot buy a home in New York City. You cannot buy a home in San Francisco."

But it's not just about affordability. Phat Man Dee is here because of the music, the people, and the culture. "We have so many wonderful musicians," she says. "I'm here for the music and the community. I was raised by drag queens, punk rock circus clowns, and jazz musicians. And we have that in abundance here in the incredible city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania."

Pittsburgh may not be the largest city in the world, but for Phat Man Dee, it offers something that big cities often can't: a platform where she can contribute meaningfully to both her artistic practice and the queer community. "I'm not going to leave when I need to stay here and defend the rights of my fellow citizens to live and be who they are," she says. "I have a voice here. I have a platform here. I have a home here. I have a studio here."

Phat Man Dee's dedication to her city is about more than just location, it's about purpose. "I've worked really hard to get to where I am," she reflects. "And I'm not going to give it up when there's so many more people who don't have half of what I have. And I'm going to help them get there if I can."

Passing It On

Mentorship isn't just part of her career, it's part of her legacy. She takes her role as a mentor to young queer musicians seriously, seeing it as a sacred responsibility to pass on what she's learned. "I do not take my role as a mentor for youth for granted," she says. "I consider it a very special and sacred role."

Her own mentorship comes from the lessons she learned from jazz greats like Dr. Roger Humphries, who taught her the importance of giving back. "We are to pass it on," she says, quoting her mentor. "We give to the next generation."

Phat Man Dee provides hands-on support to youth interested in music through her work with the We Were Off workshop. "If there's a child that wants to sing a song, and I'm in a place where I can help them figure out how to say the words, how to put it on a melody, how to do it in time," she explains, "I am honored." For her, being able to help the next generation of queer artists develop their craft is both a joy and a privilege.

Pride as Protest

For Phat Man Dee, pride is not simply about celebration, it's about resistance. In a world where LGBTQIA+ people are constantly fighting for their right to exist, pride is a radical act. "Having pride is not easy," she says, her voice steady with conviction. "Having pride doesn't just happen. Yes, it has become a party, but it has always been and will always be a protest."

She acknowledges the long history of queer people hiding in the shadows, but also the courage it takes to step into the light. "We have hidden in the closets for so many millennia because it wasn't safe to come out," she reflects. "It's still not safe to come out, but we come out anyways, and we do so openly in defiance of those who would other us and tell us that we're weird or tell us that we're perverted or demonic."

Pride is about claiming the right to be fully, authentically yourself, without shame, without compromise. "We are all perfect replicas of the holy divine," she says, tying pride to a spiritual and existential affirmation of self-worth. "And the holy divine has an infinite number of forms."

Pride is a bold proclamation of self-love. "We embody all of the shiniest parts of ourselves extremely loudly," she says with a smile, "and we flaunt ourselves flagrantly for all in sundur to see and possibly be horrified by, but that's on them."

While pride has evolved into a celebratory event, she never forgets its roots in protest. "Pride started as a protest," she says. "It has become a party, and to that I say dance, children, dance. Absolutely, party like there's no tomorrow because there may not be, enjoy the here, enjoy the now, plan for the future, but don't forget that you get to embody yourself right now."

For Phat Man Dee, pride is both a celebration of identity and a defiant, joyous act of rebellion against a world that seeks to erase queer people. "Be proud in your soul," she says, "because you're perfect."

Through her music, mentorship, and unwavering support for the queer community, Phat Man Dee stands as both a cultural force and a steadfast ally. Whether she's performing jazz, teaching youth, or standing up for queer liberation, she does it with a heart full of love and a voice that will not be silenced.

Her message is clear: pride is not just a party, it's a radical, joyous, and necessary act of resistance. In the world of Phat Man Dee, everyone has the right to be their authentic self, and she will continue to use her platform to ensure that future generations of queer artists feel empowered to do the same. 



by Kylie Thomas

Pride is about so much more than just being your true self. It's about coming together to raise each other up in a safe space. Pittsburgh Black Pride, one of the oldest Black Pride celebrations, has now been providing that opportunity for 30 years, making this year a particularly special one to celebrate.

Back in 1995, Flecia Harvey, along with other founding members, sought to create a safe and affirming environment in Southwestern PA for the Black LGBTQIA+ community. Decades of building up the organization through dances, musical concerts, health fairs, BBQs, parties, and happy hours have led to one of the biggest celebrations for Pittsburgh Black Pride yet.

Pittsburgh Black Pride is hosting a round-up of events aiming to highlight the achievements and progress made over time while also calling attention to the issues of today. Continuing with their usual Pride traditions, the month holds an opening reception, a ball for the ballroom kids, a family day at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, a community BBQ, and a closing party to end it all with a bang. On top of these traditional events, Pittsburgh Black Pride is implementing important resources

into a senior luncheon tea party focused on wellness and a voter Q&A at Penn Hills Library with up-to-date political information.

"We're celebrating and we're being joyful," says Harvey. "We're informing and letting people know what's happening and what to look for. It's very important for us to do this because sometimes people don't have the avenue to get information. So when we can combine celebrations with accessible resources, it makes it easier for people to enjoy themselves and get informed at the same time."

Another new event for this year is a gospel concert led by Pastor Deryck Tines at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. It's meant to be a time for people to relax and let the enchanting selections by the community choir and local gospel artists take over. Beneath the surface, this concert can also be a very healing moment for members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

"I think that a gospel concert is warranted and needed where we can get in touch with our spiritual being" says Harvey. "I'm really hoping to get some folks to attend the gospel concert because some people in the community feel like they can't be close to God. They feel like they're



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living wrong and that God doesn't want them. But God is a loving God. He opens up his arms to everyone, and everyone should know that they are loved."

Feeling love is intertwined in everything that Pittsburgh Black Pride does. Tensions are rising since the Trump administration's takeover, leaving everyone feeling distraught in various ways. But these parties and gatherings are a way to combat what's happening and know you're not alone. Harvey is even seeing the distress close to home, so she's doing all she can this Pride season to comfort those facing the blowback.

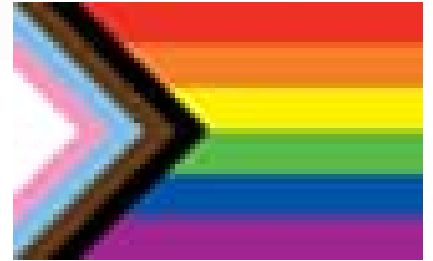
"My one niece, she lives in New York, and she is really going through it mentally with everything that's going on with the trans community," tells Harvey. "If the majority of the trans community is going through this right now, then we need to wrap them in our arms, embrace them, and hold them up. I don't want to lose them to suicide or to being beaten in the street. Hate is real and it's alive. So, I just want to embrace them and let them know that we're gonna be okay. You can be who you are here."

For Pride celebrations to have an effect, it goes beyond what Pittsburgh Black Pride can do. It's up to those in Pittsburgh to show up and step up. To keep non-profits like this one afloat, it's essential to volunteer, sponsor, and attend the events they work to make happen. Without this support, Pittsburgh Black Pride would not be able to provide such important resources to the Black LGBTQIA+ community and beyond.

"I don't want us to lose Pittsburgh Black Pride, I want it to build," explains Harvey. "I hope we can be a stronger community and be there for each other because at the end of the day, we're all we have. That's why I started Pittsburgh Black Pride, because we didn't have anything. I just hope to push Pittsburgh Black Pride to a point where we can always have a space by us for us." 🌈



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HAPPY LIL' CANVASES, BIG QUEER HEART

by Aaron Valentic

If you are like me, 2025 has not been a fond year to remember, so many creatives (and I think, humanity in general) are looking for happiness in all that they can. For the queer community, we are striving to find happiness while battling in a world that seemingly could care less about our happiness.

For Jessica Schweitzer, the mastermind behind Pittsburgh's own Happy Lil' Canvases, her aim is to convey an overall sense of community during these times of unrest, with a little bit of Pittsburgh zest.

Founded in 2017 during her time at Westminster College, Jessica began to dabble in painting alongside her friend, who had started an Etsy account, and encouraged Jessica to get her business up and running. "She said I should make an Etsy, and I said – okay!" recalls Schweitzer.

When it came to naming her new project, Jessica had only one person in mind. "While I was painting for a little bit, Bob Ross came to mind – you know, happy little trees! So, we came up with Happy Lil Canvases", states Schweitzer.

From painting little canvases, which Schweitzer states she hasn't done in years, for her sorority sisters at Westminster, she began to get the idea of creating a more Pittsburgh-centered business during the time of some unexpected events.

When the Fern Hollow Bridge collapsed in 2022, Schweitzer had an idea. "There was the sink hole bus, the Fern Hollow Bridge collapse, the Liberty Bridge fire – and I said all of these can be a toaster, so I painted them all on toasters. I went and posted on TikTok, in my early TikTok years, and it took off."

Since that conception, Happy Lil' Canvases has burst into the cultural Pittsburgh zeitgeist, conceptualizing a queer take on the city of steel, and its own Pittsburgh pride. With products ranging from bumper stickers, t-shirts, and calendars – there's even a Chappel Roan prayer candle -- there is something for each of Schweitzer's fans.

For the 2025 QBurgh Pride Guide, QBurgh commissioned the cover by Happy Lil' Canvases as an homage to the City of Steel. With the ever-present playful nature, there is a sort-of Queer Where's Waldo of all things

innately queer about Pittsburgh. "I wanted to make it cute, finding the little things that maybe you didn't know about or maybe you could learn about within the Pittsburgh queer community and its history."

The cover, like many Pittsburgh neighborhoods, helps to establish a sense of community. For Schweitzer, this is important, especially with the current events of 2025.

"I wanted to convey a sense of community within the queer Pittsburgh community, more than anything really. Especially now with the current political climate," said Schweitzer.

Pittsburgh, whether it aimed to be or by accident, is undeniably queer, fostering a place of creativity, community and a little "Happy" sanctuary.

"I want Pittsburgh to feel like a safe space for everyone within the community. I know communities tend to have like, little niches within, but I just hope as a whole the LGBTQ community can come together always". 🌈

QUEER VISION

Ben Schonberger on Art, Mentorship,
and the Fluid Power of Seeing

interview by Carlie Shae



Ben Schonberger (he/him) is a Pittsburgh-based visual artist whose work in lens and print-based media traverses the deeply personal, the historically charged, and the unflinchingly queer. A senior lecturer at Point Park University and a long-standing figure in Pittsburgh's creative ecosystem, Schonberger's artistic practice is as much about image-making as it is about meaning-making. His work is held in collections at the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Toledo Museum of Art, and MoMA's Library, among others. Each is a testament to the intensity and intimacy he brings to his craft.

But beyond museum walls, Schonberger's art lives in the context of community. His approach to making and sharing visual work is deeply informed by queerness. Not just as subject matter, but as a way of being and seeing. With an eye on visibility, mentorship, and transformation, Schonberger invites viewers into a process that's as conceptual as it is emotional. "If you want your visual art to connect with a community," he says, "you need to think about how you want it to be experienced outside of a first-person relationship that you're having with your work."

The Artist's Lens

Schonberger's relationship with visual expression began early in his life. "Working as a visual artist fuels me because it is the outlet," he says. "It is the most fluid way for me to communicate and to apply ideas and things that I think are really important and put those ideas into the world." For him, image-making is not just a passion, it's a necessary mode of translation between the internal and the external, the abstract and the immediate.

He describes his artistic process as beginning with an idea, which evolves through a series of material choices. "A medium is chosen, tools are used, and then you have this

thing," he explains. "And then this thing ultimately becomes divisive. It's designed to communicate an idea or talk about something specific, or maybe something abstract."

But Schonberger's work doesn't end in the studio, it thrives in conversation with the world. "When you implement [your work] into the world, that's kind of step one," he says. "There are a lot of ways you can do that. I really like when my work is curated and put into a grander context." Curation, for him, is a way to shape how the message is received but he acknowledges that interpretation always lives halfway in the eyes of the beholder. Citing Marcel Duchamp, he reflects: "The artist does their 50 percent, and then the world applies their 50 percent to interpret."

Queering the Frame

For Schonberger, queerness is not a label affixed to his art, it's embedded in the way the work functions, seduces, and resists. "I think, like, how my work sort of engages the queer community is that it is topically queer," he explains. "If you interact with my work, or you come across it, it has this, like, queer façade. It has this very strange, almost fluid presentation, whether it's the use of color, or it's the use of subject matter."

He likens his artistic style to a kind of aesthetic sleight of hand: "It's kind of like the bait and switch. Like, I'm going to, like, seduce you first and then take your wallet." Beneath that playfulness, however, lies a deep intentionality. "The themes, the subject matter, [are] all connected and tied to specific queer history. So, the work itself is queer."

Visibility, he notes, is a powerful offering especially in a culture where queer people have

historically been forced to gather in secrecy or express themselves only in private. "The queer community is a community that... has a history of having to gather in secrecy... because there's a fear of being discovered, we'll call it outed, and then being ostracized or punished," he says. "So, I think anything that makes or allows visibility, or cultivates a place for visibility, is a signal of humanity."

That humanity often shows up in the unlikeliest places. Schonberger notes that some of the most validating moments come when people outside the community, especially straight people, resonate with his work. "It's almost like, like, you know... it's a win," he says. "Especially when it's validated or appreciated by straight people. They're like, 'Oh, this is so great.' And I'm like, 'Yeah, you like that, you know?'"

Ultimately, for him, queerness is about subversion and expansion, taking what isn't "inherently queer" and queering it through interaction, presentation, or perspective. "If you can cultivate a way for [non-queer things] to become queer, they become these devices that question what queerness is."

And that questioning, that disorientation, is part of queerness itself. "At its core... queer means strange," he says. "We use the term strange to talk about things that we don't directly understand... And people immediately are weary with different." Rather than shy away from that difference, Schonberger leans in.

Mentorship and Queer Belonging

Schonberger's impact isn't limited to gallery walls, much of his influence lives in the classroom, guiding students at Point Park University as they navigate their own artistic and personal identities. For Ben, this role is more than a job. It's a response to





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a need he once felt deeply himself.

“When I was in college, I never had a queer mentor,” he says. “When I was in high school, I didn’t have an iPhone. You know, it was such a different time to be in the closet or to be queer. It wasn’t like considered this flex or this power move like it is now. And I truly am really proud to say that I believe that to be real. But I think looking back... had I had a queer mentor, I think things would have moved faster for me. And I didn’t have that cheerleader that I try to be for our queer students, because we have a lot.”

He recognizes the very real challenges that many queer students still face often arriving from communities where self-expression comes with risk. “They come from places in the state, in the country, where you have to watch your back. You have to protect yourself. You have to be mindful of what you’re doing. Even in the home... If your parents disagree with a lifestyle, they could cut you off. That’s still a thing, you know.”

Pittsburgh itself, Ben jokes, “is like the Wild West of Appalachia... it’s a play date.” Yet he also describes the city and Point Park specifically as a transformative place for queer community and visibility. “When I moved here and took my position at Point Park, I was so happy and proud to see such a strong visible queer community in an institution and to see that type of support and the quality of a safe space... it just blew my mind. It was like, wow, I’m a human being in this community and this is amazing.”

Ben’s mentorship is grounded in helping students especially queer students find their own voices and build self-confidence. “Making art is a great way to question. It’s a great way to communicate ideas that we can’t express verbally or that we’re not ready to express verbally. So when students or young people start to go that direction, having a cheerleader, having someone that knows how to drive down that road, it makes things so much more manageable and the confidence grows.”

To him, great mentorship isn’t about molding someone in your own image. “Great mentors don’t teach you how to do things the way they do things. They help you find your way. And that’s what I try and do with our students... everyone’s path is inherently a unique personal journey.”

Pride as Practice

For Schonberger, pride is less about spectacle and more about rootedness, about recognizing one’s own value and carving out space for belonging. “I think having pride means seeing value and establishing a conscious sense of belonging, even if it’s just a sense of self-belonging,” he says. “Being able to look at yourself and say, you know, this is great. There is a place for me and there’s a place for others. There’s a place for everybody.”

His art, while undeniably queer in tone and texture, isn’t created with a deliberate agenda to be “prideful.”

Instead, it emerges organically from his lived experience. "I don't make work with the mindset or the agenda, like, I'm going to make this and it's going to be queer," he explains. "The work stems from a sense of queerness because my behavior, the way I carry myself, the way I look at the world, the way I laugh at the world, the way I am afraid of the world comes from a queer sensibility."

That sensibility doesn't stop at the edge of the canvas. It carries into his teaching, too. "I teach through my queerness," he says. "Everyone has their own voice as an educator. The way I teach is really queer. It's very fluid. It's very strange. It's sometimes ridiculous." That irreverence is intentional and effective. "Those methods work because I believe in them, and I have figured out how to refine it like a fine art practice."

Looking Ahead

Schonberger's next body of work, *Hi-NRG*, opens July 25, 2025, as part of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Gallery Crawl at Gallery 707 and will run through November 2. The show promises a continuation of his signature approach: art that seduces, unsettles, and asks big questions through a lens that is deeply queer, deeply intentional, and deeply human.

As both an artist and an educator, Ben Schonberger is carving out a space where visibility is power, mentorship

is radical, and queerness is both subject and method. Through his work and presence, he reminds us that to create is to assert existence, and to do so queerly is to expand the world's imagination of what's possible. 🌈

Look for more on Huny, Phat Man Dee, & Ben on QBurgh.com in May and June.



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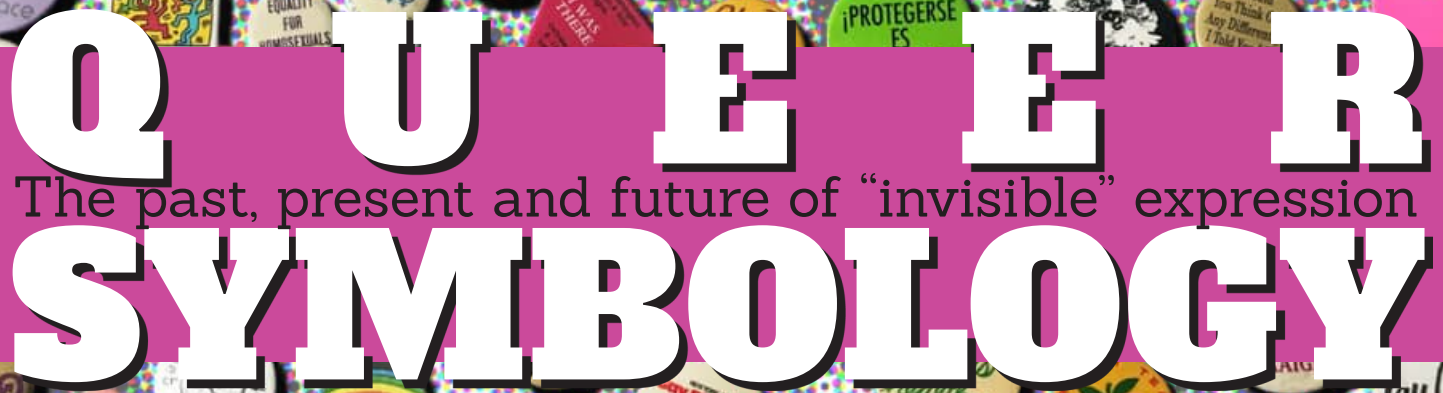
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Crosses. Yin & Yang. Mr. Yuk. Symbols are all around us. Instant signifiers of some critical knowledge for the masses to understand. Symbols are also the perfect way to invisibly project a piece of yourself to the world to find others similar to you. In the December 1985 issue of *Sappho Speaks: The Lesbian and Gay Quarterly Journal* at UCSD, Sharon Moxon wrote this about “gay” symbols

contact with others who are like us, others who have gone through the same 'coming out' process and who view the world in a similar way, others who have the same thoughts and desires, and face the same oppression. Since homosexuality still carries a stigma, we are often forced to do our searching in a secretive way."

"As history has progressed, our need to identify others as gay has become more and more pertinent due to the exclusion of gays and gay struggles from mainstream art, literature, and history books. Our folklore is hidden, the definitions are obscured, and the names of our gay ancestors are lost."

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Bears, Otters, & Cubs - Oh My!



One of the earliest records of gay male characterizations as animals was in George Mazzei's article "Who's who in the Zoo" published in The Advocate in 1979 with descriptions for animals like Gazelles, Pussycats, and Bears who "usually are hunky, chunky types reminiscent of railroad engineers and former football greats." Each animal typically describes body type, behavior, age, and interests. For example: silver fox.

Rainbow Flag



Designed and created originally by Gilbert Baker in 1974 after being challenged by Harvey Milk to design a symbol for the LGBTQ community. Each of the original 8 colors has a distinct meaning.

Hot Pink - Sex, Red - Life, Orange - Healing, Yellow - Sunlight, Green - Nature, Turquoise - Magic/Art, Indigo - Serenity, Violet - Spirit

Gender / Astronomical Symbols



Yes, the kind Austin Powers wore. Based on Venus and Mars, different configurations of these symbols can represent different sexualities and genders.

Pink Triangle



A reclaimed badge first used to denote queer people in Nazi Concentration Camps. It is used as a protest symbol (ACTUP's Silence = Death campaign to fight AIDS) and can be seen iconically on Dr. Frank-N-Furter's scrubs in The Rocky Horror Picture Show

Hanky Code



Have a light blue bandana hanging out of your right pocket? That means you like to perform oral sex. Colors and pocket direction allow you to express and understand your kinks and sexual attractions first popularized in the 1970s in leather and cruising communities. However, it is said to potentially have even earlier origins after the Gold Rush for cowboys, railroad men, and more to communicate that they preferred male square dance partners.

Brick



Who threw the first one at Stonewall? We may never know, but it became a symbol of queer resistance during the uprising on June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village lead by trans women of color.

Ouroboros



The snake eating its own tail. Snakes have often been used as a lesbian symbol of dark femininity. This represents the life cycle of queer renewal and infinity. Recently depicted in Luca Guadagnino's *Queer*.

Green Carnation



Oscar Wilde asked gay men to wear this flower on their left lapel to the 1892 opening of his play "Lady Windermere's Fan" to signify their sexuality and find mutual connections.

Carabiners



As Rosie the Riveter spread butch aesthetics, this key holder has become a symbol for queer women in both practicality and expression. See "Ring of Keys" from the musical adaptation of Alison Bechdel's *FUN HOME*- a perfect depiction of self-awakening via queer symbolism

Labrys / Double-Sided Axe



First wielded by Ancient Greek Amazonian warriors, it was then featured on the 1999 lesbian flag for communal strength on top of an inverted black triangle and a violet background.



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Lambda



Queers love Greeks. Tom Doer, a Pennsylvania native, chose this lower-case letter of the Greek alphabet for New York City's Gay Activists Alliance. To him, it represented an exchange of energy. He went on to write in a 1970 pamphlet, "It signifies a commitment among men and women to achieve and defend their human rights as homosexual citizens. The lambda now affirms the liberation of all gay people."

Lavender



Marriage. Scare. Menace. The convergence of masculine and feminine has become a color of resistance.

Nautical Star



Once used by sailors as a reminder of being guided home, it was then adopted by lesbians to discreetly disclose their sexuality starting in the mid-1900s in Buffalo, NY.

Violets



Sappho, a Greek poet, wrote about women's love and often depicted her lovers wearing garlands of violets. The 1926 play "La Prisonnière" (The Captive) by Édouard Bourdet featured a lesbian character who gives violets to her lover, and the play's controversial subject matter and subsequent censorship led to lesbians wearing violets as a form of solidarity and protest. It was also used for "The Violet Quill," a gay writers group in 1970s NYC, which included writers such as Andrew Holleran and Edmund White. The shade is featured in the lesbian pride flag from 2018 designed by Emily Gwen. 🌈





On behalf of the people of the 34th state legislative district, it is my pleasure to welcome 2025 Pittsburgh Pride with the QBurgh family. As a member of the LGBTQ+ Equality Caucus, it is an honor to mark this moment with QBurgh.

Pride month is more than just a season, it is a statement of resilience, a celebration of diversity, and a moment for love.

In Pittsburgh and across the commonwealth, we are building a future where every person can live freely without fear or discrimination. At a time where our future and very rights as a people are thrown in question, the Pride Guide is now more important than ever. It serves as a celebration of community: the events that bring us together, the artists that inspire us, and the stories that highlight the beauty and diversity of queer life.

QBurgh and the Pride Guide are essential for making the most this year's Pride celebrations across the region, and allow us to come together in unique ways that celebrate love in all its forms. As state representative for the 34th legislative district and proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, I wish you all a very happy and joyful Pride 2025.

Sincerely Yours,

Abigail Salisbury
State Representative



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THE 'IDOL' WE NEED NOW

How David Archuleta left behind the Mormon church to flourish as an openly queer person.

by Chris Azzopardi

When David Archuleta returned to the “American Idol” stage in 2024, he knew that singing his latest single at the time, “Hell Together,” which he wrote about his mother’s show of unconditional allyship after he came out in 2021 and left the Mormon church (so did she, in solidarity), wouldn’t be embraced by everyone. But he sang it anyway, his pro-queer message heard loud and clear by those who are closeted and afraid, like he once was, and who still need it most — LGBTQ+ youth.

Archuleta wasn’t even close to being out in 2008, during the seventh season of “American Idol,” when his kind smile and puppy-dog eyes told a very different story than the open and honest one he’s been sharing through his candid thoughts and personal music. He told *People* magazine in 2022 that he would pray to God to “please take this away from me because I don’t know what else to do.” He only got frustrated when he spoke to church leaders about Mormonism’s views on the LGBTQ+ community.

And then, at 30, after spending most of his life as a devout member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which he has since abandoned, he came out publicly.

With years of severe anxiety attacks and suicidal thoughts behind him, Archuleta is doing what so many of us feel compelled to do when we’ve been condemned and felt betrayed by our faith communities: sharing his story with authenticity and vulnerability and standing as a beacon of hope and empowerment for those who are still finding their way to their truest selves. He’s giving his voice in more ways than one, too. As a singer, he’s hopeful that “Hell Together” — inspired by an exchange he had with his mother who texted him and said, “If you’re going to hell, we are all going to hell with you,” he explained in an Instagram post — will inspire other parents to be wholehearted allies to their queer children.

I spoke with Archuleta, 34, about performing the emotional song on the “Idol” stage, his advice for queer youth torn between authenticity

and religion, and why he identifies with his younger self now more than ever.

How did it feel to be on the “Idol” stage all these years later, but this time as almost a completely different person in some ways? You got to step back on that stage as an openly queer person and express being openly queer.

“It was invigorating. It’s just nice to be able to feel like you can just lay all yourself out there when so many people feel, and still feel, like you should hide. So just to be back on the “Idol” stage and be able to be there now that I’ve come out, like you said, even wearing mesh, it’s nice to be able to feel like you can lay all yourself out there in the open, in front of people without having to feel the need to hide. And people still feel like you should hide. They’ll say, “Well, don’t talk about it. Don’t show yourself. Can’t you just keep it to yourself?” So you have to be open about it. You have to talk about it because you have to show people “I’m here. What are you going to do about it? You can’t hide me.” And they try to, because

it makes them uncomfortable.”

When I hear you sing “Hell Together,” those feelings are still so raw for you it seems, and it’s such an important song. As a kid who struggled with my sexuality while growing up Catholic, it would’ve changed my life had I heard that song in my teen years. And as an adult, I realize there are so many young people who need to still hear the message of this song. Was that on your mind while working on it?

“Yeah, because when I came out, I had thousands of people, even to this day, still in the closet — all ages, people who are still married, people who are young, teenagers, people about to go on missions for their church — all saying, “I’m like you and I don’t know what to do.” That was the biggest motivating factor for me to write a book, because I’m writing a book now. I am trying to live my life authentically, but also I want to do it in a way that keeps the conversation going. I don’t want it to just be a middle finger to conservative people. There’s too many people like me still in that community who don’t know how to find their way. They don’t know how to get out of that. And they don’t have a safe way to get out of that. I think a lot of people who are out and now part of the queer community, they know how that struggle is. And a lot of people who find their way into the queer community, they have to be tough. They have to be thick-skinned, they have to be fighters, but not everyone knows how to do that. Songs like “Hell Together” and other artists who’ve written songs that are similar to that, I think it’s like, I want to start that conversation. “American Idol” was not the place I saw myself singing a song about going to hell together and about coming out, because that’s not the audience that is OK with that. It shows in a lot of the comments. ‘American Idol’ is still a very family, middle America Christian-conservative audience for the most part, and they’re not

OK with that kind of stuff.”

“So you have to start in a very uncomfortable conversation with people who don’t want that conversation. But you know what? If there’s a little queer person who is on the couch with their family watching this, and if they hear their parents saying, “Ugh, that’s so gross that he would sing that song,” I hope that they see that there is a mother out there like my mom, who wasn’t OK with me coming out at first. I had to have hard conversations with her. Sometimes you have to find a way; you have to help them understand and say, “This is what I’ve had to go through.” I know it’s hard, but try to have a hard conversation and say, “Mom, Dad, I want you to listen to what I’ve had to deal with and why, and the pain I’ve had to go through and the torture of not being able to change who I am because this is what I am, and who I am. And I need you to understand why I’m coming out.” That’s a hard conversation to have and not everyone’s ready. But do what is going to help you feel like you can thrive and prosper and be happy.”

You knew that performing the song would be somewhat controversial given the show you were performing it on. What went through your mind as you were singing?

“I was scared. It’s uncomfortable. And I was nervous, not just because of the song, but also the fact that it’s a hard song to sing vocally, and I’m on a singing competition show that I once was a singing person on, singing a song that I knew was going to have very mixed reviews by the people who are watching it. But at the same time, it was so refreshing. Because again, I don’t have to hide this about me. I don’t have to just present myself in a way that is acceptable to people who would judge me normally. If you just judge me, then go ahead and do it in my face. Because I’m not going to do this anymore behind closed doors. This is just who I am, and that’s fine. So it was nice.

Singing a song like “Hell Together” on a family show, “American Idol,” it’s like, in the end, it is a song about family. And sometimes I think people overlook that. But it literally is a song about a mom showing her support and learning how to support her son. I love my mom. I’m grateful because not everyone’s parents are like that. Hopefully by sharing her story and what she said can be something that other parents in the future or now can have in mind when they have a kid going through a similar thing.”

There’s been an outpouring of support for this performance as well, and some commenters are even admiring your chest in the mesh.

“Oh my gosh. That’s so funny. Here I’m going all deep and stuff, and gay Twitter’s not even thinking about that, oh my gosh. That’s hilarious. I mean, I didn’t look at that as the focus. It was just like, I feel good in this, so I’m going to wear it. And that’s what I think. My mind was totally taken by the controversy. I’m still getting comments. I’m still getting people trying to rebuke me and save me, and shake their finger and say, “How dare you,” defending their beliefs. So that stuff takes more of my attention. I guess the gay guys have been commenting on my body, so maybe that’s also why I haven’t noticed. It’s nothing new, whereas singing a song about going to hell together in front of a conservative audience of millions of people was more...”

Pressure?

“It was just more like that’s what took my attention, I guess, and pressure. But hey, I’m glad. If it’s positive that they’re commenting about that, then great.”

You don’t go to the gym for nothing.

“I’ve been working out, and I don’t go to the gym for nothing, no. I like to show off what I’ve worked hard for.” ➡

With Pride on the horizon, how do you reflect on your journey and what this time of year means to you and the rest of the queer community?

"It's so exhilarating and invigorating. Pride is a thing that I've now embraced; I was afraid of it before. Because I'm like, oh, Pride is so loud and colorful, and in your face. Now I'm just like, "Oh, I get it now. I see why." I look forward to it. I'm performing at a lot more Pride things this year, whereas I only performed at one last year and it was my first one, so I can't wait to keep going. It's so fun."

You'll have to expand the mesh collection.

"Yeah, I guess I'll have to maintain at the gym."

Your self-expression is not just through music, but it's radiating through your style too. I've watched your journey from somebody who was more of a button-up GAP kid to really pushing fashion boundaries more. How is what you wear an extension of who you are?

"Well, I used to be styled, first by "American Idol," which was on Fox. It was a conservative family show. And then after that, I was styled by my friend who was a Mormon mom. And I was a Mormon. Now that I've come out of that and I don't have to worry about, "Was this modest enough?" I don't worry about that anymore. I'm just like, "Do I feel good in this?" And it's so freeing. It's so nice to just be able to wear what feels good and what I feel confident in, and what I feel makes a statement. And I've invested more money into a stylist. Shout out to Andrew Philip Nguyen. He's been so fun to work with, and I've worked with the other stylists too, and I look forward to collaborating with more photographers and stylists and brands hopefully. Hey, I've never had brand deals. I would love to because it's just another form of expression

and creativity, and I love it. It's a new world to me, and I think it's really fun."

When you look back at the last few years after coming out, is there a specific moment or experience that made you feel like you made the right decision?

"I feel like every day makes me feel that way because a lot of religious people will be like, "Well, we don't tell gay people to die and stuff," but the structure and the conversations and the culture builds to a lot of queer people having to choose one or the other. A lot of people feel like to choose religion, they will even have to lay down their own life, [or] even take their own life. And there was a point where I was willing to do that. So for me, being out and living life as a queer person and just living after having done that, when I thought that was going to be the end of the world, and the end of my life. When it was like, that's when my life began. And for me, every music festival I go to, every rave — I went to Coachella for my first time and just connecting and being there and not having any reservations, just dancing and loving the music — I've just loved it. I've loved going to festivals because it's a freeing energy. I just think that if there is a God like the way I've been taught, then I thank God I'm alive in this moment because this is just something that makes me thankful to be here, and thankful to be alive and breathing."

Would you say you left one community for another community?

"Yeah. I feel like, as human beings, we need community. And that's what was so beautiful about religion: it's community and you're there for each other. And so when you leave religion, people think, "Oh, you've lost the meaning of life." It's like, "No, I just have to find community elsewhere," and I have meaning for life again. So I think that's something else, to be encouraging to people who haven't left religion and haven't come out, because they're afraid of

losing their community, and feeling like they'll lose their purpose to live. It's like, you know what? There is a community elsewhere and it's beautiful, and it'll give you a whole new sense of meaning to live, and it's wonderful."

How did the concept for the "Hell Together" video come about, and also what was it like seeing young David in those family videos? How do you identify with him now?

"I totally identify with him because for me, when I was little, there was no judgment toward myself. And so it's nice to be able to see myself no longer with that judgment because when I started hitting age 11, 12, 13, 14, I hated myself and hated how I looked. Now, being able to see myself and be like, "Oh, I have compassion for myself," is very healing. And so when I see videos of when I was 6 and 7 years old and then not having any fear of who I am and who I would become is really an empowering moment for me. There are a couple of moments when I was 9 years old that I saw and I knew about being different and I was scared of it, but now being able to just hold myself and be able to show love is really beautiful. And also to just pay tribute to my mom and reminisce. We're human beings trying to figure out life and be there for each other, just like everyone else in this world is trying to." 🌈

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TRANS RESISTANCE IS THE HEART OF PRIDE

Photo by Kylie Thomas

by QBurgh Editorial Board

Pride is a time for celebration, survival, joy, and chosen family. But it is also a time for remembrance and resistance. During the Trump administration, the very existence of transgender people has been relentlessly attacked, their rights chipped away under the guise of bureaucracy, bigotry, and so-called “biological reality.” What we are witnessing is not mere political neglect; it is a strategic campaign of trans erasure, to make transgender people invisible in law, in culture, and in public life.

Yet through it all, trans communities, especially Black and Brown trans folks, refuse to disappear. They are organizing. They are marching. They are demanding the right not just to survive, but to thrive. In 2025, as a wave of anti-trans legislation continues to sweep the country, it is more crucial than ever to remember: Pride was born of protest, and the fight against erasure is far from over.

Trans erasure under the Trump administration is not a byproduct; it is the plan. On Inauguration Day, the

administration issued an executive order titled “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.” That order revives restrictive policies from Trump’s first term: barring transgender women from women’s federal prisons, rescinding the ability to update gender markers on federal IDs, and invalidating trans and nonbinary identities in federal policy.

These attacks are not isolated, they’re systemic. Protections for transgender students have been rolled back, allowing states to deny trans children access to facilities that match their gender identity. Another executive order bans trans people from serving openly in the military. Though a court has issued an injunction, the message remains clear: trans people are portrayed as incompatible with strength, discipline, and patriotism.

The administration’s reach even extends to history. Under its direction, the National Park Service quietly scrubbed references to

transgender people from the website of the Stonewall National Monument. What was once a recognition of the pivotal role of trans activists in the 1969 uprising is now reduced to a sterile reference to “lesbian, gay, and bisexual” (LGB) history, an erasure of those who helped ignite the movement.

These policies seek to remove trans people from public spaces, healthcare, education, and legal recognition. And their consequences are brutal.

Healthcare is among the most devastating battlegrounds. After an executive order banned gender-affirming care for those under 19, trans individuals once again face fear and uncertainty in accessing basic medical care. According to the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, nearly one-third of trans people had already reported being refused care due to their gender identity. The Trump-era policies deepen this crisis.

In schools, the withdrawal of federal protections sends a chilling message. Without them, trans youth

are denied bathrooms, sports teams, and even acknowledgment of their identities. The psychological toll is staggering: The Trevor Project reports that 54% of transgender and nonbinary youth have seriously considered suicide.

A hostile cultural climate also breeds violence. 2021 marked the deadliest year on record for transgender Americans, with most victims being Black and Latinx trans women. Political scapegoating fosters a culture where trans lives are seen as disposable.

“Transgender people are not statistics. We are not headlines. We are people who deserve to live with dignity and joy,” said Elle Hearn, founder and executive director of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute.

Pittsburgh is not immune. Organizations like TransYOUning report growing demand for crisis services and emergency housing. The threat isn't abstract; it's local and it's daily.

Yet even in the face of erasure, trans communities are louder, prouder, and more organized than ever. Resistance is not just survival; it is an act of radical imagination. It is a refusal to accept a world without trans joy, trans leadership, and trans liberation.

Across the country, grassroots groups provide lifelines: mutual aid, housing support, legal advocacy, and healthcare navigation. In Pittsburgh, TransYOUning and Proud Haven recently opened the new QMNTY Closet to meet rising demand for basic necessities.

Legal fights are ongoing. Trans advocates are challenging these policies in court, determined to reshape power from the ground up.

Culturally, trans visibility is surging. Artists, organizers, and community members are shattering narratives of invisibility. From Transgender Day of Visibility celebrations to the rise of trans actors and musicians in mainstream media, trans people are telling their own stories, demanding

to be seen as they are: beautiful, complex, and unstoppable.

And it's trans youth, so often the targets of legislative cruelty, who are emerging as some of our fiercest leaders. They're on social media, in the streets, and in the courts. Their voices echo Pride's true spirit: a movement built by protest, and a future built by them.

Meanwhile, anti-trans legislation continues to spread. Lawmakers are targeting gender-affirming care for adults, trans participation in sports, and even the discussion of LGBTQ+ lives in classrooms, often cloaked in rhetoric about “protecting children” or “religious freedom.” These policies are not protection. They are persecution.

Even in cities like Pittsburgh, trans communities fight daily for access to healthcare, safe housing, employment, and freedom from

violence. Local organizations are rising to meet these needs, refusing to be erased by law or neglect.

As attorney and advocate Chase Strangio wrote in *The Nation*, “Every attack on trans lives is also an attack on the future. A future where all people are free to define and live their own truths.”

Pride was never just about rainbows and parades. It is, and has always been, a protest. A refusal to disappear. As we gather this Pride season, let us recommit to showing up for trans liberation, not as an afterthought, but as an imperative. It is essential. It is lifesaving. And it is ongoing. 🌈



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The poster features a central graphic of a transgender symbol (a circle with a cross, a circle, and an arrow) overlaid with a stylized bird. The background is a gradient of red and pink with a city skyline silhouette. Two QR codes are positioned below the text, each with a corresponding tinyurl link.

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[Less info](#) ^

Jul 23, 2025, 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Pittsburgh, 605 Morewood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

5 Expert Panel
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Senior Luncheon (Tea Time) Thu, Jul 24

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Jul 24, 2025, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Location is TBD



Black Pride Gospel Concert Fri, Jul 25

[Less info](#) ^

Jul 25, 2025, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Pittsburgh, 605 Morewood Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, USA

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BPB AND ELPC "FAMILY DAY" Sat, Jul 26

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[Less info](#) ^

Jul 27, 2025, 12:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Pittsburgh, Prospect Dr, Hazelwood, PA 15207, USA

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INSIDE LEATHER

Pittsburgh's leather community is more than just kink.

by Chrissy Costa



Leather is more than fetish gear and BDSM nights; it's identity, community, and culture. Deeply rooted in the gay bars and motorcycle clubs of the 1950s and '60s, Leather has evolved into a vast and diverse subculture. Today, it celebrates kink, fetish, queer history, and radical liberation.

In Pittsburgh, the leather scene is alive and growing, held together by two main organizations, the Three Rivers Leather Club (TRLCL) and the Barons of Steel (BOS). Founded in 1991, TRLCL is a social organization supporting the LGBTQ+ community with interests in leather, Levi, kink, and fetish. BOS, established in 2017, is a men's social leather club that uplifts the local leather and fetish scenes through inclusive community-building, educational programming, and philanthropy. Many more sub-leather culture groups are growing and thriving in Pittsburgh.

Corey Dunbar: Building Confidence Through Community

Corey Dunbar, winner of the Texas Bear Round Up Bear 2024 contest, moved to Pittsburgh in 2015 after earning a degree in electrical engineering. Born in small-town northeast Ohio, Pittsburgh felt like a big city to him, and at first, it was overwhelming.

Things shifted for Corey after the COVID pandemic. In 2021, he came out as gay, joined the Stonewall Sports leagues, and started making friends in the bear community. One of those friends, Josh Englert, a member of the Barons of Steel, encouraged him to enter the Pittsburgh Leather contests.

Although he didn't win, the experience was deeply affirming. "The amount of love and support from that initial conversation with Josh, until this very day, has allowed me to continue growing into a more confident, loving, and passionate person, which means the world to me," Corey said. "This caused me to pursue the bear contest circuit,

where I won the Texas Bear Round Up Bear 2024 contest."

Today, Corey is a vibrant presence in Pittsburgh's queer nightlife. You can find him hosting bear events at P Town or sipping hurricanes at 5801 after a day of kickball. His passion? Creating a welcoming, safe, and joyful environment for all.

Michael Tikili: Harnessing Power and Uplifting Others

Mr. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish 2024, Michael Tikili, brings both heart and history to his role in the Leather community. He moved to Pittsburgh from Brooklyn seven years ago with his partner of twelve years, Joe. Born to immigrant parents, his mother from Guyana, his father from Nigeria, Michael grew up in a close-knit family as the youngest of five. He spent part of his childhood in Guyana, graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, and later attended Duke University.

After returning to New York, Michael became deeply involved





in AIDS activism and organizing through ACT UP NY. Over time, his work shifted from global health policy to direct HIV services. When he moved to Pittsburgh, he continued this work, managing a housing assistance program with AHN's HIV clinic.

His first taste of Leather came at a Brooklyn party called Swoon, thrown by a friend at the now-closed gay bar Sugarland. Leathermen donated a bulldog harness intended for a raffle at the event. "Once I put on that harness, I knew I wasn't going to let it go," Michael said. "Needless to say, that raffle ended rigged, and I wore the hell out of that harness to every damn sweaty after party I found myself rallying to."

He began collecting more leather wear, often second-hand. But engaging with New York's Leather scene proved difficult. It was largely centered around The Eagle, a bar far from where he lived. "I never entered any competitions there," he recalled.

Pittsburgh offered something different. "I went to a gear night or

two and immediately felt that this was my tribe," he said. "Being able to embrace my sexuality in such a socially uplifting space has been an ongoing therapeutic counter to my religious upbringing of not feeling accepted or understood for being queer."

"The titles are given to those willing to put themselves on a platform and show off all the sexiness they're made of," Michael said. For him, the experience has been healing and he hopes to use his visibility to encourage other Black queer folks to see Leather as a space of agency, sexuality, and belonging.

Michael also highlights the charitable core of Leather culture. "Many of the major leather gatherings around the country raise funds for local LGBTQ organizations in their areas," he said. "I live my life with a strong love ethic that keeps me motivated to make a difference in the lives of my communities while pursuing fulfillment and joy."

He and Joe live in Wilksburg with their two kitties. Outside of

work and activism, Michael enjoys running in Frick Park and playing pickleball and tennis and tending to his beloved Hoyas as a self-proclaimed "plant daddy."

Brianna Serenity: Power Tools, Power Exchange, and Radical Welcome

Ms. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish 2025, Brianna Serenity, is a powerhouse in more ways than one. A fetish model and owner of Brianna's Mobile Workshop, she spent 25 years as a paramedic before being outed, an experience that reshaped her life.

At the time, she also ran a remodeling business. When she came out as a trans woman to her clients, telling them, "If you still want me, I'll still come," most did not. Her client base dropped from 100 to just a few.

She also experienced a separation from her then-relationship and a three-month period of homelessness until a friend offered her a place to stay. That friend's house is now her home, one she eventually bought and rebuilt as her own.

Brianna's business is now entirely queer-owned and operated. "All the work we do now is for the queer and LGBTQ Community," she said. "I look for all my employees within the community. I want people to feel safe when we come into their homes, I want them to feel respected."

When asked if she misses being a paramedic, Brianna says that while she doesn't miss the politics of being a supervisor, she misses the patient care provider role and being able to help people in that way.

She's also active in Western Pennsylvania's trans community as the leader of Western PA Transgender United, a support group she turned to during her early transition. When its former leadership stepped down, she stepped up, offering others the same care and guidance she once needed.

As for her Leather journey? It began with a Penthouse magazine at a younger age. "I connected with the pictures and the leather dominatrix," she said. She was one of the few who read the magazine's stories, finding resonance in the DS power exchange narratives. Still, it wasn't until about seven years ago that she began exploring those interests more openly.

With a friend's encouragement, Brianna entered and won the Ms. Pittsburgh Leather Fetish 2025 contest, the first time that title had been awarded in over 13 years.

Of course, leather and gear are part of the show, but there's more behind the scenes. "They want to know what your platform is, how involved you are in the LGBTQ Community, and, if you win the title, how you would use that," Brianna said. "It's more in-depth than just what we are wearing."

For Brianna, Leather is a space of depth, connection, and mutual understanding. "We share not only a common interest in leather, but connections are deeper with the understanding of others," she said. "There's no fear of judgment. People are very welcoming."

Now, with her title and platform, Brianna is committed to encouraging others to show up in their full, kinky glory — whether they're into leather, latex, or just looking for community. 🌈



PITTSBURGH PRIDE

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10PM-2AM

MAY 30, 2025

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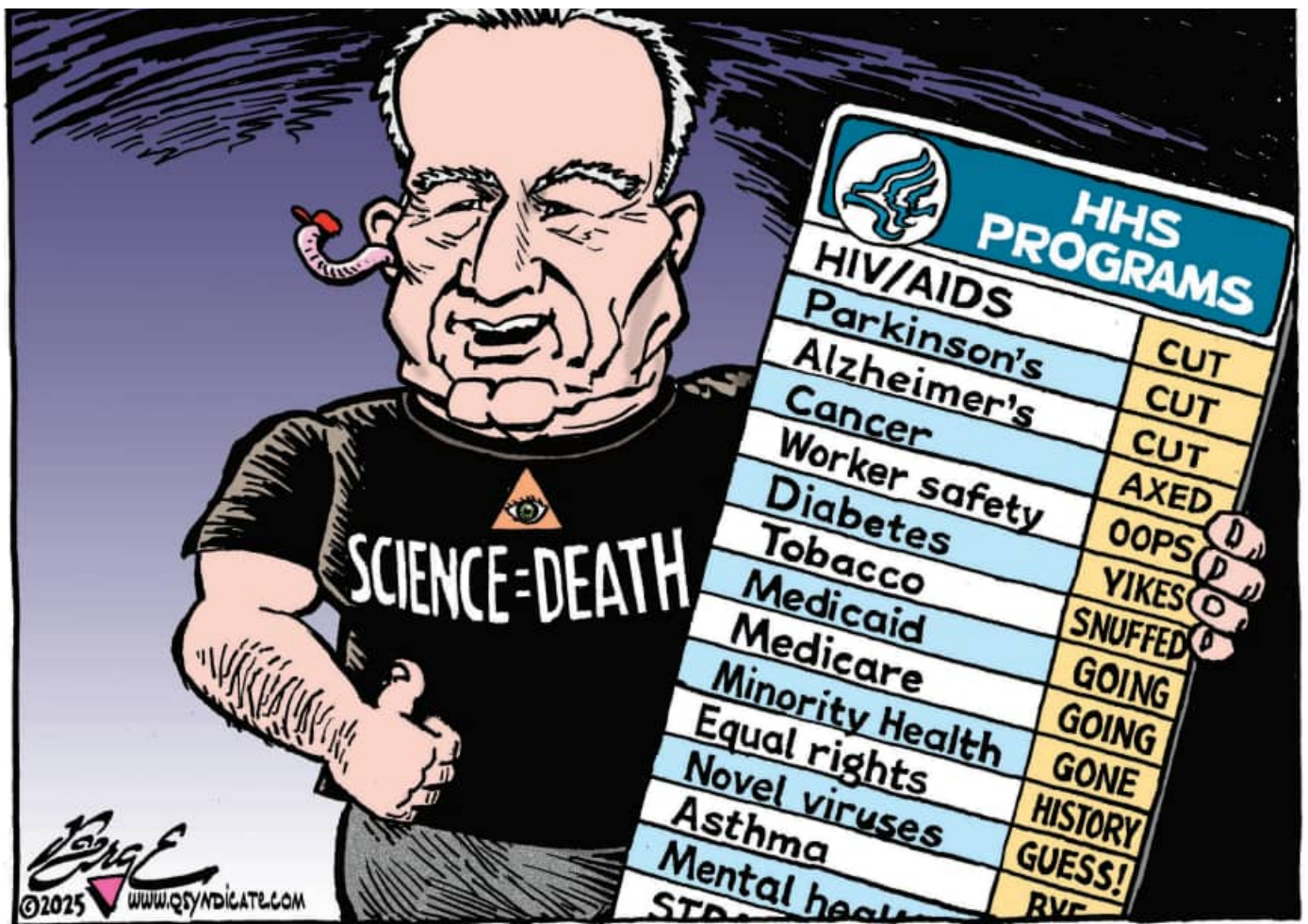
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AIDS FREE PITTSBURGH'S BOLD PATH FORWARD

by Michael Buzzelli

AIDS Free Pittsburgh has an ambitious goal. The ten-year-old initiative, a collaborative comprising government agencies, healthcare institutions, and community organizations, managed through the Jewish Healthcare Foundation, aims to end the HIV epidemic in Allegheny County by 2030.

AIDS Free Pittsburgh has three strategies to end the epidemic.

1. Normalize HIV Testing by increasing the rate of routine screenings for HIV/AIDS in medical settings in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U. S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines.
2. Increase access to PrEP by raising awareness of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) in the community and enhancing the capacity of healthcare providers to identify eligible patients and prescribe PrEP.
3. Improve linkage to care by using established relationships within the medical community to ensure that people diagnosed with HIV are quickly linked to high-quality care, facilitating faster treatment for those who need it.

Dr. Ken Ho, a medical professional at UPMC specializing in infectious diseases and HIV medicine, became the co-chair of AIDS Free Pittsburgh alongside Kristi Seemiller, an Administrative Director for the Positive Health Clinic at Allegheny Health Network (AHN). Ho became involved since the initiative's inception in December 2015. He began serving on committees until he and Seemiller became co-chairs several months ago.

Ho said, "I started a PrEP clinic at UPMC and became AIDS Free Pittsburgh's prevention expert." He added, "I am a member of the community, and I believe in the mission to stop the spread of HIV infections in Allegheny County by 2030, to exist in a world where there are no new HIV infections."

Ho said, "AIDS Free Pittsburgh's website is an important source. It helps guide users to clinical care."

AIDS Free Pittsburgh recently conducted a PrEP survey and found that only about three in five Allegheny County residents have ever heard of PrEP. PrEP, or Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, is a medication that can reduce the chances of getting HIV by about 99%, if used correctly. PrEP can be used by anyone who is HIV-negative.

Dr. Ho noted the stigma and bias contribute to disparities in treatment and prevention for the Black community. He said, "Access to testing, higher rates of HIV infections in the Black Community. Delays and barriers to care cause the infection to spread in higher numbers in the Black Community."

But Dr. Ho remains hopeful. He said, "AIDS Free Pittsburgh is a think tank, a place to learn from one another. It's a place to connect with the community, and the feedback we get is invaluable."

For more information on testing, PrEP, and/or resources for individuals living with HIV, please go to: www.aidsfreepittsburgh.org 

PITTSBURGH PRIDE WEEKEND

THURSDAY MAY 29TH

HEADLINER: DJ KAYDENCE MCQUEEN 10 PM - 2 AM

KARAOKE 9:30 PM. TRANS / NB DANCE PARTY IN THE BAUM SHELTER! SHOW AT 11 PM!

2025 @



FRIDAY MAY 30TH

HEADLINER: DJ MURRAY SWANBY 10 PM - 2 AM \$10 COVER.

+DANCE PARTY FEATURING NICK MASC AND MYKOI

WET WILLY CONTEST AT MIDNIGHT HOSTED BY INDI SKIES \$250 CASH PRIZE!

SATURDAY MAY 31ST

HEADLINERS: 10 PM - 2 AM & WILLAM \$10 COVER.

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-297-0548
Sisterspgh.org/brotherspgh

Gay 4 Good Pittsburgh

pittsburgh@gayforgood.org
Gayforgood.org/pittsburgh

Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation

North Side
925 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
412-626-3812
Hughlane.org
East Liberty
421 N Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Lebo Pride

Contact@LeboPride.org
412-419-1678
Lebopride.org

Love Diamond Project

(412) 807-0503

Nuns of Steel

Sister6p@nunsofsteel.org
(724) 400-3825

The Open Door

P.O. Box 99243
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
info@opendoorhousing.org
opendoorhousing.org

Pennsylvania Youth Congress

413 Walnut St
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 743-1035
payouthcongress.org

PFLAG Greensburg

506 Strangford Rd
Blairsville, PA 15717
(724) 459-8532
pflaggbg@gmail.com

PFLAG Pittsburgh

PO Box 5406
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 833-4556
pflagpgh.org

PGH Equality Center

info@pghequalitycenter.org
(412) 422-0114
pghequalitycenter.org

Pittsburgh Black Pride

PO Box 7514
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
info@pghblackpride.org
pghblackpride.org

Pittsburgh Leather Pride

steelcitylthr@gmail.com
pghlpw.com

Pittsburgh Pride Group

525 East Ohio St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
info@pittsburghpride.com
pittsburghpride.com

Proud Haven

525 East Ohio St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 346-1324
proudhaven.org

QMNTY Center

525 East Ohio St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 953-4666
qmntycenter.org

QMNTY Closet

517 East Ohio St
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 953-4666
qmntycenter.org

Queer Family Planning Project

PO Box 2084
Lower Burrell, PA 15068
info@
queerfamilyplanningproject.org

Rangoli Pittsburgh

rangolipgh@gmail.com
rangolipittsburgh.com

SisTers Pittsburgh

211 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-297-0548
Sisterspgh.org

Three Rivers Business Alliance

1735 E. Carson St. #403
Pittsburgh, PA 15203-1705
724-205-0752
3rba.com

Trans Buddy Pittsburgh

transbuddypgh@gmail.com
(412) 944-4261
transbuddypgh.org

Trans Pride Pittsburgh

transpridepgh@gmail.com
transpridepgh.blogspot.com

Trans YOUniting

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Pittsburgh, PA 15212
(412) 346-1324
transyounitingpgh.org

True T Pittsburgh

1632 Forbes Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 291-8196
truetpgh.com

Washington County Gay Straight Alliance

59 E. Strawberry Ave
Washington, PA 15301
724-213-0096
wcgsa.org

Washington PA Pride

59 E. Strawberry Ave
Washington, PA 15301
(724) 835-4285
washapride.com



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412Step

412StepContact@gmail.com
412step.com
LGBTQ line dancing

Dreams of Hope

P.O. Box 4912
Pittsburgh, PA
15206-0912
(412) 361-2065
dreamsofhope.org

Glittersty

glittersty@gmail.com
glittersty.com

Hot Metal Hardware

Pittsburgh
hotmetalhardwarepgh@gmail.com
(412) 345-3464
hotmetalhardware.blogspot.com

Junior Chamber of Commerce Players

jccppgh@gmail.com
jccppgh.com

Reel Q

P.O. Box 81237
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 422-6776
reelq.org

Renaissance City Choir

president@rccpittsburgh.com
412-345-1722
rccpittsburgh.com

Steel City Squares

squaredancepittsburgh@gmail.com
steelcitysquares.org
LGBTQ square dancing

Health & Wellness

AIDS Free Pittsburgh

625 Liberty Ave, Ste. 2500
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-773-1120
AIDSFreePittsburgh.org

Allies for Health + Wellbeing

5913 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh PA 15206
412-345-7456
AlliesPGH.org

Central Outreach Wellness Center

Aliquippa, PA
2360 Hospital Drive, Upper Suite 1 Aliquippa, PA 15001
724-707-1155
North Side
127 Anderson Street, Suite 101
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-322-4151
Washington County
817 Jefferson Ave
Washington, PA 15301
724-993-8000
CentralOutreach.com

Metro Community Health Center

1789 South Braddock Avenue, Suite 410 Pittsburgh, PA 15218
412-247-2310
MetroCommunityHealthCenter.org

Pitt Men's Study

P.O. Box 7319
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-621-1643
PittMensStudy.com

Shepherd Wellness Community

4800 Sciota St
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-683-4477
SWCOnline.org

Political

Steel City Stonewall Democrats

P.O. Box 44061
Crafton, PA 15205
steel-city.org

Seniors

Hugh Lane LGBTQ+ Senior Group

421 N Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
hughlane.org

Pittsburgh PrimeTimers

pittsburgh_pt@yahoo.com
412-212-6464
pittsburghprimetimers.com

Social Groups

Barons of Steel

contact@pghlpw.com
pghlpw.com

Fort Pitt Bears

fortpittbears@gmail.com
412-444-5032
fortpittbears.com

Singles Out Pittsburgh

singlesoutpgh@yahoo.com
facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068146232873
A dining out/activity group for LGBTQ community.

Steel City Pups

instagram.com/steelcitypups
linktr.ee/steelcitypups

Three Rivers Leather Club

PO BOX 5298
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
info@trlc.net
trlc.net

Sports

Pittsburgh Frontrunners

Pittsburgh-frontrunners.org
Facebook.com/Pittsburgh-Frontrunners

Pittsburgh LGBTQ Hockey

Instagram.com/pittsburgh_lgbtq_hockey
Pittsburghlgbtq.hockey

Qrew Pittsburgh

Facebook.com/LGBTQrew/

Steel City Bowling League

Facebook.com/groups/steelcitybowling

Steel City Softball League

P.O. BOX 90097
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
412-444-5064
Steelcitysoftball.org

Steel City Volleyball League

Facebook.com/groups/steelcityvolleyball
Steelcityvolleyball.org

Stonewall Alliance

901 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
info@stonewallalliance.org
Parent organization of the Stonewall Sports Pittsburgh leagues

Stonewall Sports Pittsburgh

901 Western Avenue, Courtyard
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Stonewallsportspgh.org

Youth

Proud Haven

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(412) 904-2821
brewersbarpittsburgh.com

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1139 Penn Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 471-6790
clubpittsburgh.com

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231 Pittsburgh St
Uniontown, PA 15401
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ptownbarpgh.com

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rainbowunicornbar.com

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
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(412) 709-5275
leonaspgh.com

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Sharpsburg, PA 15215
(412) 593-6900
lovekatedistilling.com

Millie's Coffee 'n' Creamery

207 Oakland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
oakland@
millieshomemade.com
millieshomemade.com/
location/oakland

Pigeon Bagels

5613 Hobart St
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 224-2073
pigeonbagels.com

Square Cafe

134 S Highland Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 244-8002
square-cafe.com

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5997 Center Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
info@title9pgh.com
title9pgh.com

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maisondelecroix
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Taylor Riedel, Esq.



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thecrowstnspgh.com

Topaz Thimble

Hello@topazthimble.com
topazthimble.com

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(412) 512-5956
facebook.com/
billygequinecanine

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
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facebook.com/
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ethanjhornllc.com

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kdschneiderlawoffice.com

Mara Rago Photography

(412) 853-7950
mararago.com

Pittsburgh Fit

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Pittsburgh, PA 15221
(412) 273-0644
pittsburghfit.com

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facebook.com/
PittsburghsConcierge

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637 Broadway Ave
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-343-7900
pmatattoo.com

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Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-522-8710
Instagram.com/
RebelRazorPGH

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Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-438-3090
redtreewebdesign.com

Renee' Roma Personal Training

332 Winders St
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-443-6957
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100064179098968

Rob Michelucci Life Coach

instagram.com/michelucci
www.michelucci.coach

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(412) 804-8975
sanctuarypittsburgh.com

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Pittsburgh, PA 15237
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studiorawelite.com

Testa Consulting

(412) 837-9086
testaconsulting.com

The Bearded Iris

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Info@
TheBeardedIrisFloral.com

This, That, N'at Home Services

412-916-6569
csembrat@gmail.com

W3 Consulting

(202) 527-9620
w3cinc.com

Winn-Regis Group

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Pittsburgh, PA 15209
412.821.1070
regis-group.com

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Camp Davis Campground

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