



HAPPY PRIDE 2025

NATE GOWDY

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Bellevue Paws & Pride Dog Walk

May 31

On May 31, the Bellevue Downtown Association and Eastside Pride PNW proudly hosted the third annual Paws & Pride Dog Walk, presented by Symetra, kicking off Pride Month with energy and joy. Over 900 attendees and plenty of pups came together at Bellevue Downtown Park for a vibrant celebration featuring RuPaw's

Dog Costume Contest, drag performances, and engaging community booths. The event also raised money for Eastside Pride PNW and Seattle Humane, furthering support for both LGBTQIA+ inclusion and animal welfare. Now in its third year, Paws & Pride continues to grow as a joyful, community-driven expression of Pride.



ASHLEY TURNER

Everett Pride

June 20–22

Everett Pride's third annual Block Party, with over a hundred vendors, was a great success, even with gray skies! We introduced a 21+ Friday Pride solstice-themed music event with performances by TrAsh PANdA GO kArt, Thavoron, and Queen Mother, hosted by Caela Bailey, Adra Boo, and DJ Summer Soft. Saturday's all-ages event was full of enthusiasm from everyone, including live acts, drag and

dance numbers, decorated pups, and the best vibes throughout the day! We had an incredible end to our Everett Pride weekend by finishing with our 21+ Drag Brunch hosted by Diva Drag Brunch at 16Eleven downtown. We would like to thank everyone for coming out and give a huge shout-out to our sponsors! See you next year with even more events and fun!



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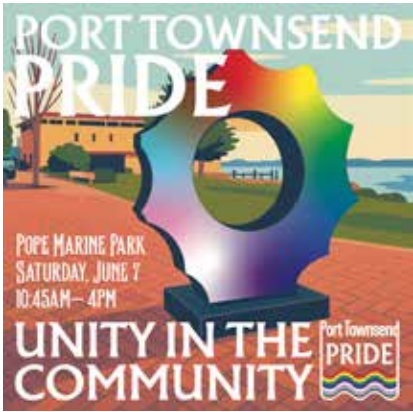
SARAH WILSON

Port Townsend Pride

June 7

This year's celebration welcomed over 3,000 attendees and featured 62 booths, including 40 hosted by 2SLGBTQIA+ businesses, nonprofits, and community groups (which were offered booths at no cost through our application process). The event also featured a welcoming Kid Zone and Sensory Zone, designed to ensure

accessibility and inclusion for attendees of all ages and needs. Our day was brought to life by over 20 performers representing a spectrum of genres, from folk and punk to drag. Everything was held together by our brilliant emcee, Caela Bailey, a powerhouse performer based in Seattle.



SARAH WILSON



SARAH WILSON



SARAH WILSON



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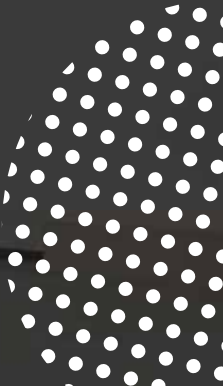
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HAPPY PRIDE 2025

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Pride in the Park

June 7

Seattle’s Pride Month festivities kicked off at Pride in the Park, with music, dancing, community booths, and more at Volunteer Park on Capitol Hill. This annual LGBTQIA2S+ celebration, with the theme of “Louder,” and emceed by Betty Wetter and Aleksa Manila, featured a can’t-miss LGBTQIA2S+ lineup: one

stage featuring live performances; another was a dance-focused stage with DJs and an adjacent alcohol garden (21+). There were also food trucks, local nonprofit booths, Queer vendors, and plenty of family-friendly activities — including Drag Queen Storytime — and a teen space designed, programmed, and hosted by youth.





Renton Pride

June 7

On Saturday, June 7, Renton Pride held its “LGBTQ+ Town Center: A Paper Party” at the Renton Library to help LGBTQAI+ locals connect with services and complete essential forms. A notary and paralegal were on hand to assist with gender marker and name changes. A couple dozen attendees also had the opportunity to visit resource tables from Bellevue College and United

Christian Church of Renton (“Know Your Rights” and pocket Constitution making), a voter registration table with bracelet crafting, and IKEA’s kids coloring corner. The event combined civic access, crafting creativity, and community in a local and accessible space.



Shoreline Pride Prom

May 30



Our Pride Night was a vibrant celebration of dance, creativity, and community. Over a hundred attendees dove into high-energy vogue and waack dance classes, followed by an exciting dance battle judged by staff. The friendly competition brought out incredible talent and expression. Our arts and crafts station buzzed with activity as guests made pins and bracelets to showcase their pride. Air-brush tattoo and face-paint stations added extra color and fun, allow-

ing everyone to express themselves freely. Teens enjoyed delicious orange chicken, paired with a complete rainbow of fruits and veggies. We were joined by community partners YouthCare and KCLS. Pride, art, and unity shone all evening!



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It's the summer of 2009, and I'm 25 years old. I roll into Seattle in my packed '97 Corolla. I'm a straight, white, cis cliché from Elkhart, Indiana — land of RV factories, churches, riding lawnmowers, and faded American flags. I'm chasing love, meaning, purpose — anything less bland than the life I'm leaving behind. I have a journalism degree, a bitchy kitten named Toonces, a four-megapixel point-and-shoot, and the vague hope that if I keep saying yes to things, maybe one day I'll become interesting.

From afar, I always looked up to Seattle — KEXP, *The Stranger*, the '90s Sonics (fun fact: Shawn Kemp's from Elkhart too). It was the city of cool, of rain and rebellion. I always imagined fitting in with the flannel-and-vinyl-record crowd.

But when I arrive, Capitol Hill — my new home and portal — is urban Narnia: flamboyant hipsters, Lesbians, Queers, and queens hold hands in the street, glitter dusts the pavement, and clove smoke curls beneath faded rainbow flags and tattered punk flyers. I'm pulled into the drag scene — a nightly carnival of genderfuckery and

defiant creativity that makes the Midwest feel like a black-and-white sitcom. I'm in love.

On December 3, 2010, at a bar, I find myself talking with George Bakan, the longtime publisher of the *Seattle Gay News* — a gruff elder of the old Gay guard, with rumpled clothes, a booming voice, Santa Claus stature, and hard-earned pride. Beside him is Shaun Knittel, a Navy-trained, Las Vegas-bred newsman who never stops moving, reporting, or swearing. I mention my half-baked idea of getting a "real" camera. George claps me on the back, looks me in the eye, and says, "So do it." That moment quietly rewrites the rest of my life.

A few weeks later, in January 2011, I show up at the *SGN*'s bunker of an office on 12th and Pine, armed with a Canon DSLR my parents gave me for Christmas. The place looks like it survived a riot and a rummage sale: floors buried in yellowed newspapers, protest flyers, and other combustible history.

Shaun sends me on my first assignment: a Greater Seattle Business Association mixer

downtown. I skulk around like a photo-journalist impersonator, unsure where I fit in. The photos — business casuals stabbing shrimp under jaundiced hotel lighting — are trash. Shaun runs one on the front page anyway and offers advice I still live by, "Next time, use your camera to engage people. Give them a reason to trust you."

My second assignment is a Seven Deadly Sins-themed bear rave, where large, shirtless men are grinding in a fog of sweat, strobe lights, and pheromones. I'm out of my depth but bluffing hard, name-dropping *SGN* like it's a press badge from God. I shoot everything on auto. When I return with the images, George beams like I've delivered above-the-fold gold: "Boy, you're an event photographer."

For a hundred bucks a week, I become Capitol Hill's unofficial court reporter of the nightly drag tribunal: sequined seven-foot divas, the leather-and-kink crowd, and coiffed club kids bathed in strobe light. Sundays mean Pride Idol at Neighbours, where hopefuls belt their hearts out on stage and judges lip-sync along from the front row. Soon I don't have to hunt the

moment, for the queens are circling the straight guy. I am no longer just documenting joy but wholeheartedly swept up by it.

These nights fold me into the scrappy core of Seattle Pride, where volunteers hustle to pull the organization out of debt. By spring, board president Eric Bennett taps me as the official 2011 parade photographer — my biggest gig yet, for five hundred bucks. Come June 26, I plant myself at Fourth and Pine as the Dykes on Bikes roar past me on all sides. For hours, I chase eye contact, moments of connection, and the rhythm of people showing up together. While other photographers crouch politely at the curb, composing the action, I throw myself into it.

By 2012, I'm fully embedded. That year alone, I photograph 360 events as Washington state legalizes same-sex marriage, then has to fight like hell to defend it at the ballot box. The late-night icons from my archives reemerge as frontline infantry in fishnets, channeling years of survival, sass, and street smarts into a fight for civil rights. The same stages once reserved for drag numbers now host rally cries. On parade





day, I sprint backward through floats and forward momentum, still learning how to tell the story of joy in a frame. By the end, I can't feel my feet — but I'm planted in purpose, and it keeps me upright.

On Election Day, November 2012, voters choose love. Overnight, my 2013 calendar fills with weddings. Major Margaret Witt — hero Air Force nurse and “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” slayer — marries her bride in dress blues. Burlesque stars Kitten N' Lou kiss through a confetti storm, then cartwheel into a bouncy house.

On parade morning, I join the leaders of Seattle's LGBTQ+ movement atop the Space Needle, raising the HRC equality flag into lifting fog and golden sunlight. Hours later, beneath the same spire, I catch a tearful marriage proposal. I'm capturing what initially drew me in: radical joy, bold self-expression, and the gritty, unafraid freedom of being fully and authentically seen.

The ensuing years feel like a victory lap. By 2014, marriage equality sweeps most of the country, Seattle has an openly Gay mayor, and *TIME* magazine puts Laverne Cox on the cover, embodying rising Trans visibility. The Obama administration bans discrimination by federal contractors. Uncoerced and unannounced, the Space Needle flies the Pride flag — a civic gesture hinting at deeper change. Seattle Pride turns 40, with 200 contingents marching down Fourth Avenue: nonprofits in matching tees, megacorps tossing swag, labor unions waving handmade banners, churches offering hugs, performers in full bloom, and everyday Gays. Grand Marshal George Takei leads with playful exuberance, flashing the Vulcan salute. Macklemore surprises everyone, waving from a classic Cadillac. Uniformed Boy Scouts march for the first time.

In June 2015 — two days before Pride — lighting strikes: the Supreme Court affirms the freedom to marry nationwide. “Love Wins” trends. The White House glows in technicolor. On Capitol Hill, crosswalks get their first coat of Queer. On Fourth Avenue on that last Sunday, strangers embrace like old friends. Pride feels less like performance, more like a long-held breath finally released. I let the current take me.

That summer feels like a honeymoon. Progress seeps into pop culture, policy, and even Target endcap displays — but it rarely moves in a straight line. I start getting national political assignments cover-

ing Bernie's campaign and the 2016 party conventions. My images appear in outlets like *TIME*. I am also pulled toward documenting the opposite side of the political landscape: the tragic resurgence of white nationalism in America.

The backlash comes fast and brutal: bathroom bills, the Pulse massacre, a new administration eager to vilify drag queens, DEI, and Trans kids. My camera becomes a shield amid an emboldened far right and clouds of tear gas. I cover vigils and protests. I document grief. I stop trying to separate the personal from the political; I realize they've always been the same.

In 2020, the pandemic shuts safe spaces, cancels the parade, and empties the streets — until crowds resurface, fists raised, familiar faces never far from the front. Pride month becomes one of protest. I'm in intersections — alongside medics, masked activists, and mutual aid crews — witnessing looters, provocateurs, and Seattle police officers targeting legal observers, Black youth, and photojournalists.

I try to hold my lens steady. The light changes. The tone darkens. For years, the

work becomes less about immediacy and more about what survives it: evidence of injustice, endurance, and — despite the pain and the parts no one can unsee — finding ways to preserve hope. In June of 2024, the *SGN* and Seattle Pride both celebrate 50 years. I'm able to credential a record 40 photographers — diverse in identity, experience, and perspective — each helping to tell the story from where they stand.

After 14 years, Seattle Pride and I conclude our long-running partnership. Chapters end. Roles shift. Even the closest vantage points don't last forever. It's time for a new generation of artists and creatives to do what we did, but differently — to make meaning in their own way, and see what I could never see.

If I've learned anything since that first bear rave, it's that saying yes is just the beginning. I came to Seattle hoping to become someone worth knowing. This community taught me how to be someone who knows what I stand for.

These days, I think a lot about what it means to show up — not just with a camera but as an ally. To other photographers

reading this: documenting a community is not the same as belonging to it. Pride is not a spectator sport. The Queers and co-conspirators who welcomed me, trusted me, and sometimes tested me — they're still fighting. Against censorship. Against bans and book burnings. Against attacks on their identity, their humanity, and their right to exist. Our job is to listen and to amplify.

During the recent protest at Cal Anderson, where the SPD arrested 23 demonstrators for defending Queer space from a known hate group, one person said to me, “You're not only here for your portfolio, right?” I wasn't. But it reminded me: presence isn't permission. This work isn't mine to own — it's mine to support. That's what allyship looks like now: less capture, more care. And my practice has deepened to all of this: from creating to curating, from capturing images to publishing books, from the rush of chasing the moment to the responsibility and weight of carrying its memory.

Now, in 2025, I'm older. My '97 Corolla I won't let go of is ready for retirement. We've lost George and Shaun and many others — to time, mostly. Even my bitchy 17-year-old cat Toonces, only somewhat softened in her final years, is gone. Queer resistance feels cautious, intergenerational. What endures is gratitude: for the trust and the history. What remains is the work itself — the moments I got to hold up to the light, in service of a courageous, vibrant community.

I sometimes miss that kid from Indiana with that extra bounce in his step, but mostly, I'm proud to have become someone he'd once hoped to meet.

Nate Gowdy is a Seattle photographer and publisher whose long-term coverage of LGBTQIA+ life and politics focuses on Pride, protest, and public memory. He is the author of Seattle Public Schools' Our Students, Their Stories, a first-of-its kind book and traveling exhibition spotlighting the district's Queer and Trans students, families, and staff through portraits and testimony.

This piece was produced with contributions from Lisa van Dam-Bates, a filmmaker and editor based in the Pacific Northwest; and Carrie Schreck, a Los Angeles photographer, filmmaker, and essayist.



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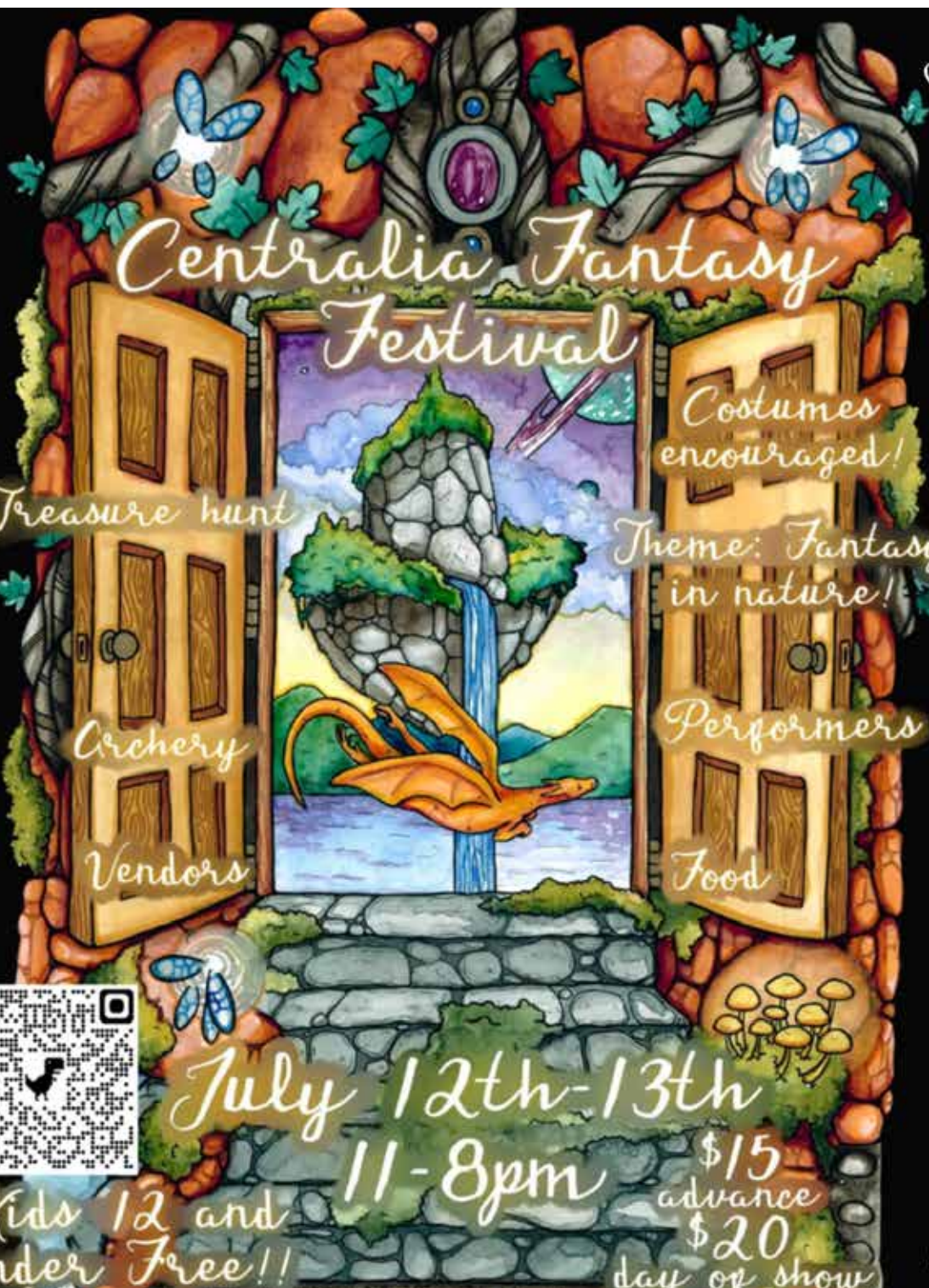
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COURTESY SNOVALLEY PRIDE

Snovalley Pride

June 8

Snovalley Pride’s third annual Pride Picnic was a joyful, sun-soaked celebration of love and community in the heart of the Snoqualmie Valley! Despite the

blazing heat, nearly 800 people gathered in Carnation to enjoy free live music, a delicious catered lunch from Carnation Café, and hands-on art activities hosted by 13 incredible local organizations. The highlight? A magical visit from five real unicorns that brought smiles to kids and adults alike. The energy was vibrant,

welcoming, and full of love — proving once again that Pride in the Valley is strong, radiant, and growing. Thank you to everyone who showed up and made this event unforgettable! To learn more about Snovalley Pride, please visit snovalleypride.org.



COURTESY SNOVALLEY PRIDE



COURTESY SNOVALLEY PRIDE



COURTESY SNOVALLEY PRIDE

Woodinville Pride

June 14

The fourth annual Woodinville Pride returned in vibrant color and joyful spirit, drawing together families, friends, allies, and advocates for an unforgettable celebration of LGBTQIA+ pride and community. Held at Wilmot Gateway Park, the event welcomed hundreds of attendees from across the region. With a mission to foster visibility, acceptance, and love for all identities, Woodinville Pride once again proved to be a heartfelt and inclusive experience for all ages.

This year’s celebration featured live performances by local musicians, drag artists, and youth talent; the La Riviera Maya Food truck (a local legend); a bustling resource fair with local nonprofits, LGBTQIA+ organizations, and affirming businesses; and kids’ activities, including face painting, crafts, and yard games. Woodinville Pride is more than just an event — it’s a community. Don’t forget to follow @WoodinvillePride on social media — we can’t wait to see you next year!



COURTESY WOODINVILLE PRIDE



COURTESY WOODINVILLE PRIDE



COURTESY WOODINVILLE PRIDE



COURTESY WOODINVILLE PRIDE



At Freedom Plaza in Washington, DC, the Rainbow History Project has an outdoor exhibition on display through July 6 called “Pickets, Protests, and Parades: The History of Gay Pride in Washington.” On about ten giant cubes are infographics and photos of local Queer history spanning from 1965 to the present day. My husband and I were just passing through on our way between tourist stops in DC and happened to notice it, so there wasn’t time to digest it in full — but one wall of one of the cubes quickly caught my eye: “The Millennium Marches Onward,” about the 2000 Millennium March on Washington for Equality and its “mixed legacy” after being mired in controversy due to a “top-down, undemocratic structure” led by the Human Rights Campaign rather than grassroots organizers.

I was at that march, which serendipitously occurred on my 24th birthday: April 30, 2000. To me, that was largely a sign that I had to be there. This was also during the year I worked at the *Seattle Gay News*, which meant I was aware of many of these controversies I never would have known about otherwise. In activist and Queer journalist circles, the Millennium March’s controversies, the calls for boycotts, and particularly its lack of clarity of purpose, were widely known. All of that mattered little to me in my twenties: planning the trip and just being there meant a great deal to me.

That was 25 years ago, and this year, after another two and a half decades of both amazing national progress and recent, dispiriting setbacks, Washington, DC hosted WorldPride. The Capital Pride Alliance officially submitted its bid to host in 2021, and it was selected in 2022 — both during the Biden administration, a time when there was still a lot of naïve conviction that Trump would never return to the White House.

Trump’s reelection in 2024 had wide-ranging, immediate ripples of consequence, and WorldPride 2025 was no exception: some corporate sponsors backed out; the Kennedy Center, now packed with Trump appointees, canceled all WorldPride events it planned to host; and many travelers, both international and domestic, canceled plans to attend due to safety con-

cerns amid a coordinated attack on Queer rights by this administration.

Don’t let them win

Which brings me to my personal perspective and experience on all this. I had more than one person express shock when I told them I was going to WorldPride in Washington, DC. One actually said to me, “I wouldn’t be caught dead there!” They acted like I was putting safety or maybe even my life in danger, that I should expect to get spit on or have eggs thrown at me or maybe even shot, like God knows what could happen.

Days before we flew out there, I saw a video posted to Threads of a man angrily tearing a rainbow wrap from a streetlamp, the replies packed with people expressing anger at seeing such flagrant homophobia and dismay that WorldPride hadn’t been canceled outright due to safety concerns.

I resisted all this from the start. Times like these are when courage is needed most, and in response to the backsliding of Queer rights, that’s all the more reason to be there! When they silence us, when they frighten us, they win. I’m not about to let them win.

And, more notably, people far too easily forget that whipping each other into a frenzy on social media is rarely reflective

of real life; one anecdotal incident is not evidence of horrendous abuse on every corner. Most importantly, people around the country seem to have no idea that the city of Washington is a largely autonomous entity, and while it is beholden to the US Congress in ways no other American city is (one of a great many compelling cases for DC statehood), it operates far more independently of Congress, and certainly the president, than people think. Washington, DC is actually one of the most progressive cities in the country, with one of the highest per capita Queer populations of any major American city, and I found it to be a strikingly welcoming place to visit.

I happened also to be at WorldPride in Sydney, Australia, in 2023. I was struck and moved by the numbers of rainbow flags and amount of Pride paraphernalia on the streets and in storefronts all over town, something I said at the time you don’t tend to see in US cities. Walking around Washington, DC, I found the citywide welcoming atmosphere, with rainbows and Progress Pride flags all over the place, to be surprisingly comparable.

Community over fear

Which is to say: in spite of all of these concerns — some of them founded, many

of them not — I truly had a blast, in Washington DC overall and at WorldPride 2025 in particular. There were too many related events to count, and my husband and I could only attend a fraction of them, albeit mostly the major ones: two nights of “Pride on the Pier” at the Wharf, with a low-key but delightful “WorldPride Boat Parade” on Friday, a fireworks show on Saturday, and dancing with a DJ on the pier both nights; the 17th Street Block Party in DuPont Circle on both Friday and Saturday; the WorldPride Parade on Saturday (as is Capital Pride tradition, earlier in June); the WorldPride Street Festivals on Saturday and Sunday; and — getting back to the history of these marches on the National Mall — the WorldPride International Rally & March on Washington for Freedom on Sunday.

As a side note, in the wake of especially targeted attacks on the Trans community, which have been steadily increasing for years but kicked into high gear under the current administration, I was disappointed to find little that was Trans-specific on the WorldPride 2025 website. Later a “Diversity Pride” menu was added to the Events list, which included Trans Pride Washington DC — the main event for which occurred early, May 17, weeks before my visit. I later learned, too late, that there was a National Trans Visibility March just before the International Rally & March, which itself was scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on June 8. Not only is there oddly no mention of this event on the WorldPride website but even at the largest national Queer festivals, it feels like Trans events get short shrift — this one was scheduled at 7:30 a.m. How many people didn’t make it to that just because it had to happen so early?

On a more positive note, there was definitely Trans visibility at the other major events: the parade, the street parties, and perhaps most importantly, among the speakers at the International Rally. Marchers held many Trans-specific signs, along with others addressing a range of issues across the Queer community.

And this what I felt most at WorldPride 2025: *community*, a force far greater than fear.

Which brings us back to an eternal

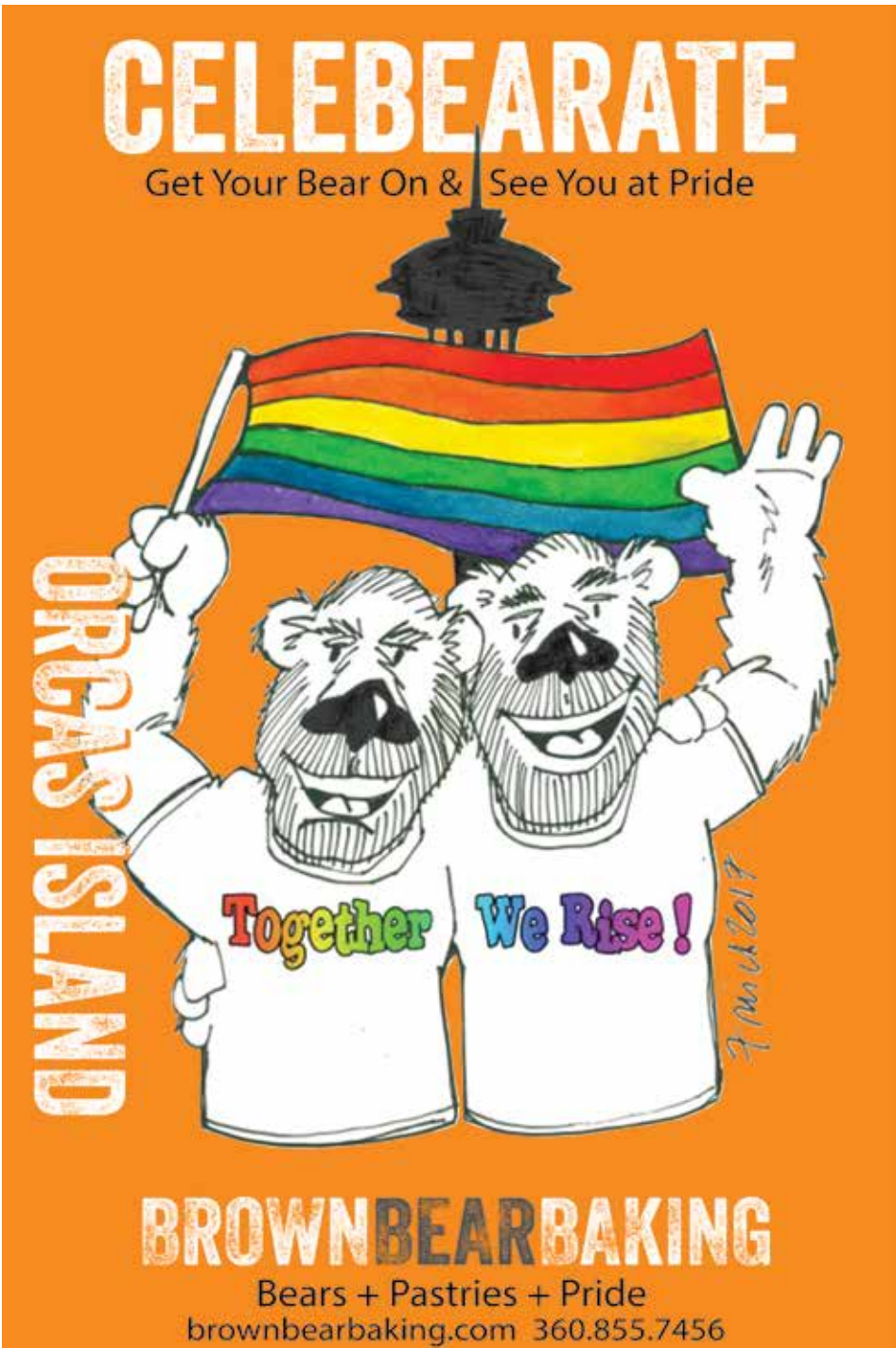
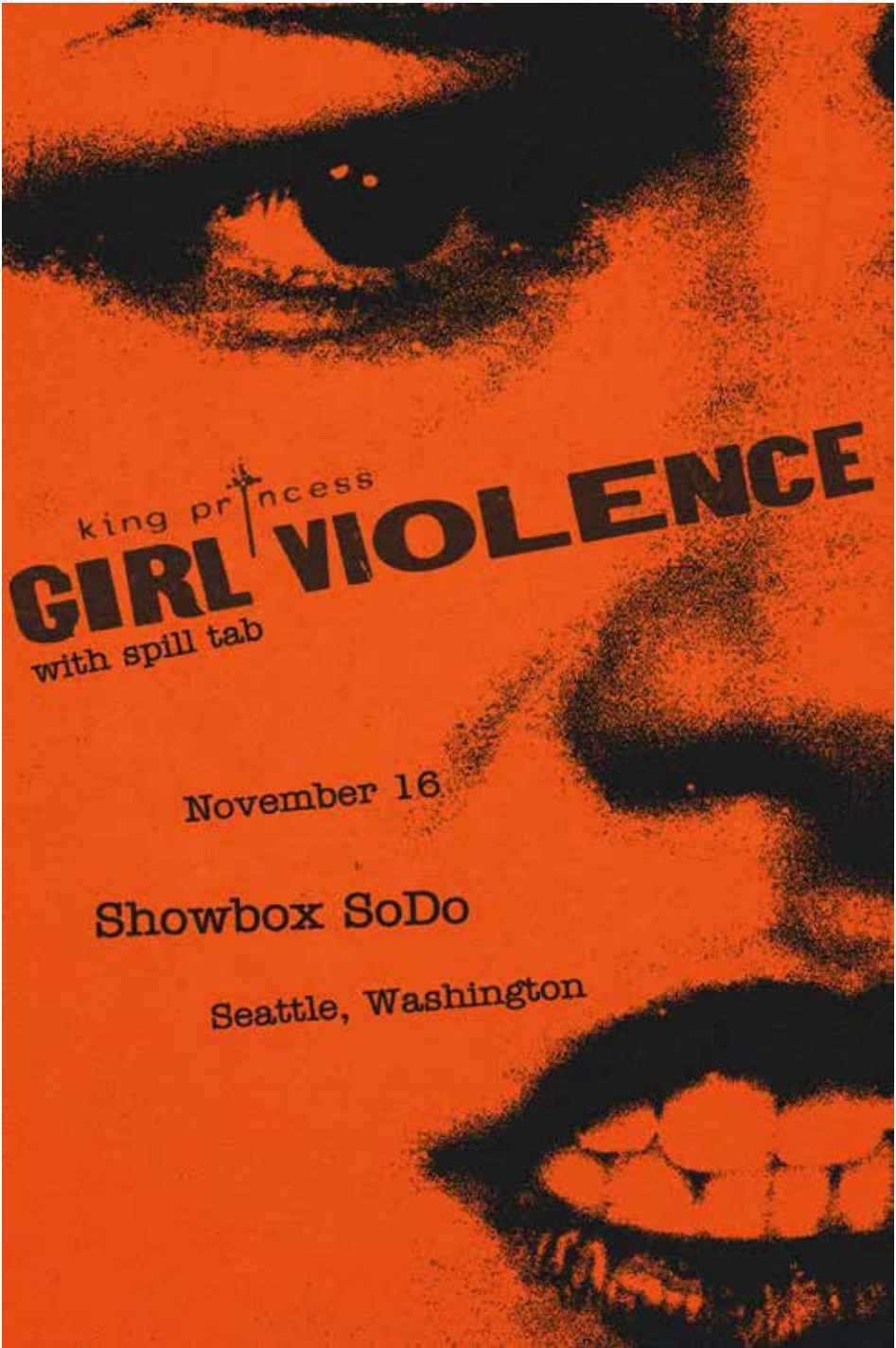


debate, one that has gone on at all the other Queer marches and parades, at the Millennium March that I attended in 2000 and all the others: Should we be focusing on the fight, or on celebrating? And I say: Why not both? Aren't we fighting for the right to celebrate ourselves?

I saw a delightful T-shirt recently that read "Every time we fuck, we win." To me, this is more than just a joke (a great joke though it is). It's a provocation, a defiance, a celebration — a point of view that applies to both sexuality and gender.

At WorldPride 2025, I was in public

spaces infused with political passion — and with raw sexuality — and it's good to remember that these things are inextricably linked. Dancing on the pier, to Gay classics by Donna Summer, Cher, Madonna, and others was a transcendent experience. It was a space held for communal joy, the thing we should always refuse to let them take from us — Trans joy, Queer joy, the joy of self, the joy of sex, the joy of expression in all its forms. WorldPride provided all of this for me and more, a deeply fulfilling experience and a vital reminder of what we won't stop fighting for.



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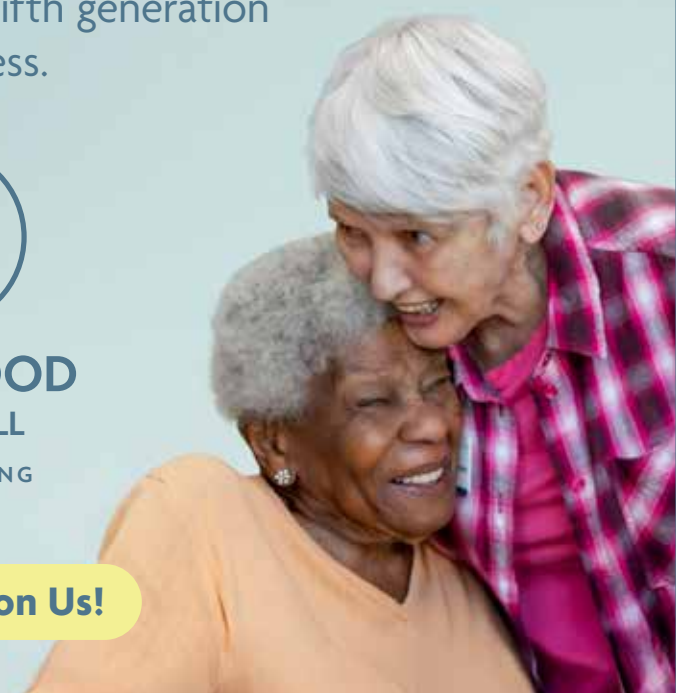
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A survey of books for Pride Month

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER
SPECIAL TO THE SGN

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You're going to be on your feet a lot this month: marching in parades, dancing in the streets, standing up for people in your community. But you're also likely to have some time to rest and reflect, so here are some great new books to read.

Biography and memoir

First, dip into a biography with *Marsha: The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson* by Tourmaline (Tiny Rep Books, \$30), a nice look at an icon who, rumor has it, threw the brick that started a revolution. It's a lively tale about her life and her activism before Stonewall and afterward. Reading this interesting and highly researched history is a great way to launch your Pride Month.

For the reader who can't live without music, try *The Dad Rock That Made Me a Woman* by Niko Stratis (University of Texas Press, \$27.95), the story of being Trans, searching for your place in the world, and finding it in a certain comfortable genre of music.

Also look for *The Lonely Veteran's Guide to Companionship* by Bronson Lemer (University of Wisconsin Press, \$19.95), a collection of essays that make up a memoir of being queer, basic training, teaching overseas, influential books, and life.

If you still have room for one more memoir, try *Walk Like a Girl* by Prabal Gurung (Viking, \$32.00). It's the story of one Queer boy's childhood in India and Nepal, and the intolerance he experienced, which caused him to dream of New York and the life he imagined there. As you can imagine, dreams and reality collided, but nonetheless Gurung stayed, persevered, and eventually became an award-winning fashion designer, highly sought after by fashion icons and lovers of haute couture. This is an inspiring tale that you shouldn't miss.

History

No Pride celebration is complete without a history book or two.

In *Trans History: From Ancient Times to the Present Day* by Alex L. Combs and Andrew Eakett (\$24.99, Candlewick Press), you'll see that being Trans is something that's as old as humanity. One nice part

about this book: it's in graphic novel form, so it's lighter to read but still informative.

Lastly, try *So Many Stars: An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color* by Caro De Robertis (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$32.00), a collection of thoughts, observations, and truths from over a dozen people. As an "oral history," you'll be glad to know that each page is full of mini-segments you can dip into anywhere, read from cover to cover, double-back, and read again. It's that kind of book.

You probably don't need to be told that harassment and discrimination was a daily occurrence for Gay people in the past (as now!), but *American Scare: Florida's Hidden Cold War on Black and Queer Lives* by Robert W. Fieseler (Dutton, \$34) tells a story that runs deeper than you may know. Here, you'll read a historical exposé with documented, newly released evidence of a systemic effort to ruin the lives of two groups of people that were perceived as a threat to a legislature full of white men. Prepared to be shocked, that's all you need to know.

You'll also want to read the story inside *The Many Passions of Michael Hardwick: Sex and the Supreme Court in the Age of AIDS* by Martin Padgett (W.W. Norton & Company, \$31.99), which sounds like a novel, but it's not. It's the story of one man's fight for a basic right as the AIDS crisis swirled in and out of American Gay life and law. Hint: this book isn't just old history, and it's not just for Gay men.

Okay, maybe you're ready for some fun — and who doesn't like a movie? You know you do, so you'll want *Sick and Dirty: Hollywood's Gay Golden Age and the Making of Modern Queerness* by Michael Koresky (Bloomsbury, \$29.99). It's a great look at the Hays Code and what it allowed audiences to see, but it's also about the classics that sneaked past the code. There are actors, of course, in here, but also directors, writers, and other Hollywood characters you may recognize. Grab the popcorn and settle in.

For younger readers

If you have kids in your life, they'll want

to know more about Pride, and you'll want to look for *Pride: Celebrations & Festivals* by Eric Huang, illustrated by Amy Phelps (Quarto, \$14.99), a story of inclusion that ends in a nice fat section of history and explanation, great for kids aged 7–14.

Also find *Are You a Friend of Dorothy? The True Story of an Imaginary Woman and the Real People She Helped Shape* by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Levi Hastings (Simon & Schuster, \$19.99), a lively book about a not-often-told secret for kids aged 6–10; and *Papa's Coming Home* by Chasten Buttigieg, illustrated by Dan Taylor (Philomel, \$19.99), a sweet family tale for kids aged 3–5.

Finally, here's a book that your tween can enjoy too: *Queer Heroes* by Arabelle Sicardi, illustrated by Sarah Tanat-Jones (Wide Eyed, \$14.99), a series of quick-to-read biographies of people you should know about.

And if these books aren't enough, if they don't quite fit what you crave now, be sure to ask your favorite bookseller or librarian for help. There are literally tens of thousands of books that are perfect for Pride Month and beyond. They'll be able to determine what you're looking for, and they'll put it directly in your hands. So stand up, march, and then sit and read!



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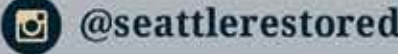
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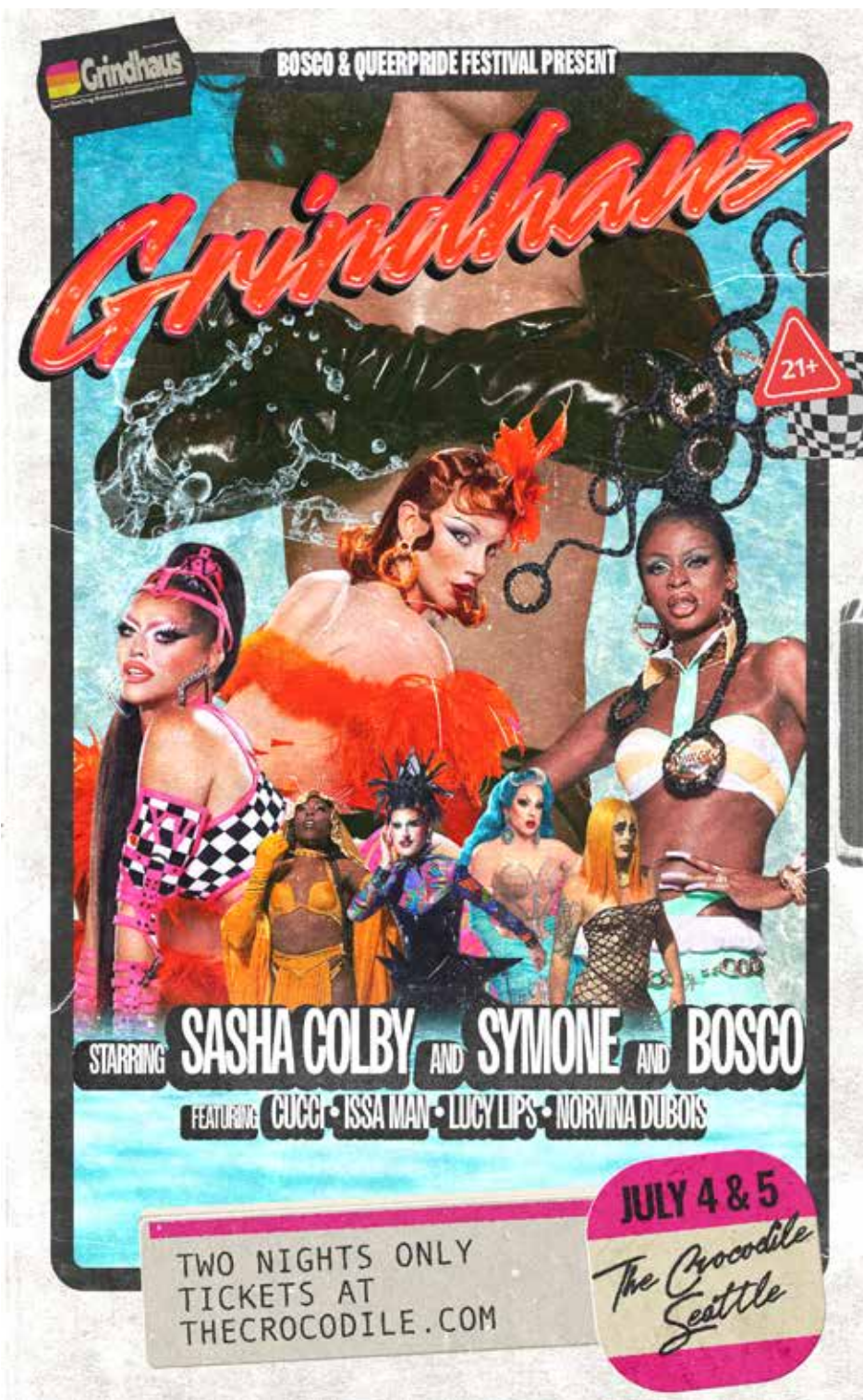
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Captial City PrideFest
Date: June 27-29
Time: Varies
Venue: The Port Plaza & Percival Landing
701 Columbia St NW
Olympia, WA 98501
Admissions: Free
Since 1991, Capital City Pride has hosted the annual Pride festival in Washington State’s capital which draws nearly 15,000 people for a parade and festival in downtown Olympia. Pride serves as the annual watershed event for the LGBTQ and allied communities, offering entertainment, a vibrant array of food, craft and community booths, a family fun area and the ever-popular Pride Parade. Perhaps more important than the all the rainbows, music and festivities, Pride is a weekend long gathering of friends and family, bringing us all together to celebrate our fabulous community.
experienceolympia.com/directory/capital-city-pride/

PrideFest Capitol Hill
Date: June 28
Time: 12-8pm
Venue: 1122 E Pike St, Seattle
Admissions: Free
Capitol Hill’s biggest event is back, and PrideFest is still 100% free for all. The event spans five blocks of North Broadway, Denny, and Cal Anderson Park. This year, with FOUR stages of entertainment for all ages!
seattlepridefest.org/schedule/2025/6/28/pridefest-capitol-hill

Beaverton Pride in the Park
Date: June 29
Time: 11am-5pm
Venue: 12500 SW 4th St, Beaverton, OR
Admissions: Free
Pride in the Park is Beaverton’s favorite summer event! Featuring our hometown parade, fabulous entertainers, food and beverages from Beaverton’s best, and more than 130 vendors gathered to celebrate and support Beaverton’s LGBQIA+ community!
pridebeaverton.org/pride-2025

Seattle Pride Parade
Date: June 29
Time: 11am-3:30pm
Venue: Westlake Park to Seattle Center
Admissions: Free
The Seattle Pride Parade is community-led, deeply rooted in activism, and unapologetically focused on LGBTQIA2S+ visibility. Every year, 300,000+ people gather in the streets, marching for joy, justice, and belonging.
seattlepride.org/events/seattle-pride-parade-2025

Sequim Pride at Farmers & Artisans Market
Date: June 29
Time: 9am-2pm
Venue: Sequim Civic Center
Community Plaza
152 W Cedar St, Sequim, WA 98382
Admissions: Free
Sequim Pride is an all-ages celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community!
lgbtq.wa.gov/events/sequim-pride

Tacoma Rainiers R Pride Night
Date: July 1
Time: 6pm
Venue: Cheney Stadium
2502 S Tyler St, Tacoma, WA 98405
Admissions: Varies
Pride Night at Cheney Stadium is a vibrant celebration of LGBTQ+ inclusivity and acceptance. The stadium comes alive with rainbow colors, and the atmosphere is filled with joy and unity. Join us for a night of baseball and a welcoming environment that celebrates all the diversity and love of Tacoma. It’s a game where everyone is encouraged to be proud of who they R.
www.wertacoma.com/pride/

Seattle Latinx Pride
Date: July 12
Time: 5-10pm
Venue: El Centro de la Raza (Plaza)
2601 17th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144
Admissions: Free
Everyone is invited!
Let’s celebrate our intersections of being queer and Latino/a/x. There will be entertainment, dance music, food vendors, community resources, photo booth and lots of fun!
Invite ALL your friends!
¡Todos están invitados!
Ven celebrar el orgullo de la comunidad latina LGBTQ.
Entretenimiento, baile, comida, bebidas alcohólicas, recursos comunitarios y mucha diversión.
Evento GRATIS!

Pasa la voz e invita a más personas.
seattlelatinxpride.com/

Tacoma Pride
Date: July 12
Time: 5-10pm
Venue: Wright Park
501 S I St, Tacoma, WA 98405
Admissions: Free
Tacoma Pride Festival is an annual community event hosted by Rainbow Center and held on the second Saturday of July. We take pride in honoring the LGBTQIA2S+ community by celebrating who we are as valuable and creative members of a diverse population in the South Puget Sound region. As the largest Pride celebration in Tacoma, we understand the importance of creating opportunities to support our local community of entertainers, makers, artists, businesses and organizations to offer a more inclusive representation of who we are.
tacomapride.org/

Pride In Bellingham
Date: July 12-13
Time: Varies
Venue: Wright Park
501 S I St, Tacoma, WA 98405
Admissions: Free
We strive to advance equity and justice for all communities, through celebration at our diversity.
7/12: family picnic 12-4, all-ages dance 3-8;
7/13: parade 11am, festival 12-4
prideinbellingham.org/

Kitsap Pride - UNITE
Date: July 19
Time: 3-8pm
Venue: Kitsap County Fairgrounds
1200 Fairgrounds Rd NW,
Bremerton, WA 98311
Admissions: Free
Kitsap Pride is Kitsap County's premier LGBTQ+ Pride event. It is a free, family-friendly event. Our main stage will feature live music, DJ, and drag performances. Kitsap Pride hosts a beer garden and a Pride store for our logo merchandise.
kitsappride.org/

Twin City Pride Chehalis/Centralia
Date: July 19
Time: 11-3pm
Venue: George Washington Park,
Centralia, WA
Admissions: Free
This year’s theme is:
“Community Built Brick by Brick”
Because Pride was born from resistance—and it’s grown through love, unity, and visibility.
Bring the whole family for a day of fun, connection, and celebration featuring:
• Local small businesses
• Resource vendors
• Lawn games & Family Corner
• Live entertainment
Free & family-friendly | All are welcome—from Centralia to the entire PNW!
<https://lewiscountypride.org/>

Portland Pride
Date: July 19-20
Time: Varies by day
Venue: Tom McCall Waterfront Park
Portland, OR
Admissions: \$10 Suggest Donation for the Waterfront Festival, Parade is Free
Portland Pride is a joyful two-day celebration complete with a festival, a parade, a makers’ market, great food and drink, and much more.
portlandpride.org/

Grays Harbor Pride
Date: August 16-17
Time: Varies
Venue: Historical Seaport
Admissions: Free
Out and Proud Grays Harbor Coalition is super excited to present our 11th amazing Pride Festival! We hope that you will join us in person, as we welcome you and all the other amazing Gaymers & Geeks across Grays Harbor!
Grays Harbor Pride kicks off on Friday, August 16 at 7pm with a free/pay what you can all ages dance, Pride Prom 2024, at Events on Emerson in Hoquiam.
On Saturday, August 17, Grays Harbor Pride Festival starts at 1 pm at the Historical Seaport with free, family friendly activities, vendors, music, and entertainment. In the spirit of this year’s theme, why not cosplay as your favorite character?
At 7:00 pm, stay for the free nighttime Drag Show event, hosted by Seattle’s Premier Drag King, Ceasar Heart! Amazing performers come from all over Washington to support our local LGBTQIA+ community. You won’t want to miss this!
<https://opghc.com/>

Alki Beach Pride
Date: August 16
Time: 12-8pm
Venue: Alki Beach, West Seattle
Admissions: Free
Alki Beach PRIDE is an annual event on Alki Beach in West Seattle that showcases LGBTQ+ diversity. Live entertainment, health and wellness vendors, local lgbtq vendors, food trucks and tents, kids area, and more....
alkibeachpride.org/

NW Black Pride Weekend
Date: August 22-24
Time: Varies
Venue: TBA
Admissions: Free
2025 THEME: Pride and Solidarity. Save the date and join us for the 2025 PNW Black Pride Weekend! We’re filling it with more pride, fun, and solidarity work across our community.
nwblackpride.org/events/black-pride2025

Redmond Pride
Date: August 30
Time: 12-5
Venue: Downtown Park Redmond
Admissions: Free
We are thrilled to return to Downtown Park for our fourth year of celebrating Pride in Redmond, WA! For now, mark your calendars and save Saturday, August 30th to gather with our community and celebrate our community once again! Stay tuned to this page as we get closer to the event to learn more about the amazing and fun performers and talented vendors we have joining us this year. The sprinklers will be on for this event too, so prepare to get wet if you would like to!
prideacrossthebridge.org/redmond-pride/

Boise Pride Festival
Date: September 6-7
Time: Varies
Venue: Ann Morrison Park, Boise, ID
Admissions: Free
We’re taking over Ann Morrison Park on September 6–7 with this year’s theme: OUR PRIDE, OUR POWER — a bold reminder that in the face of hate, our community rises. Don’t wait. Bring your flavor, your flair, your pride.
boisepridefest.org/

For more events
visit SGN's online
community calendar!

