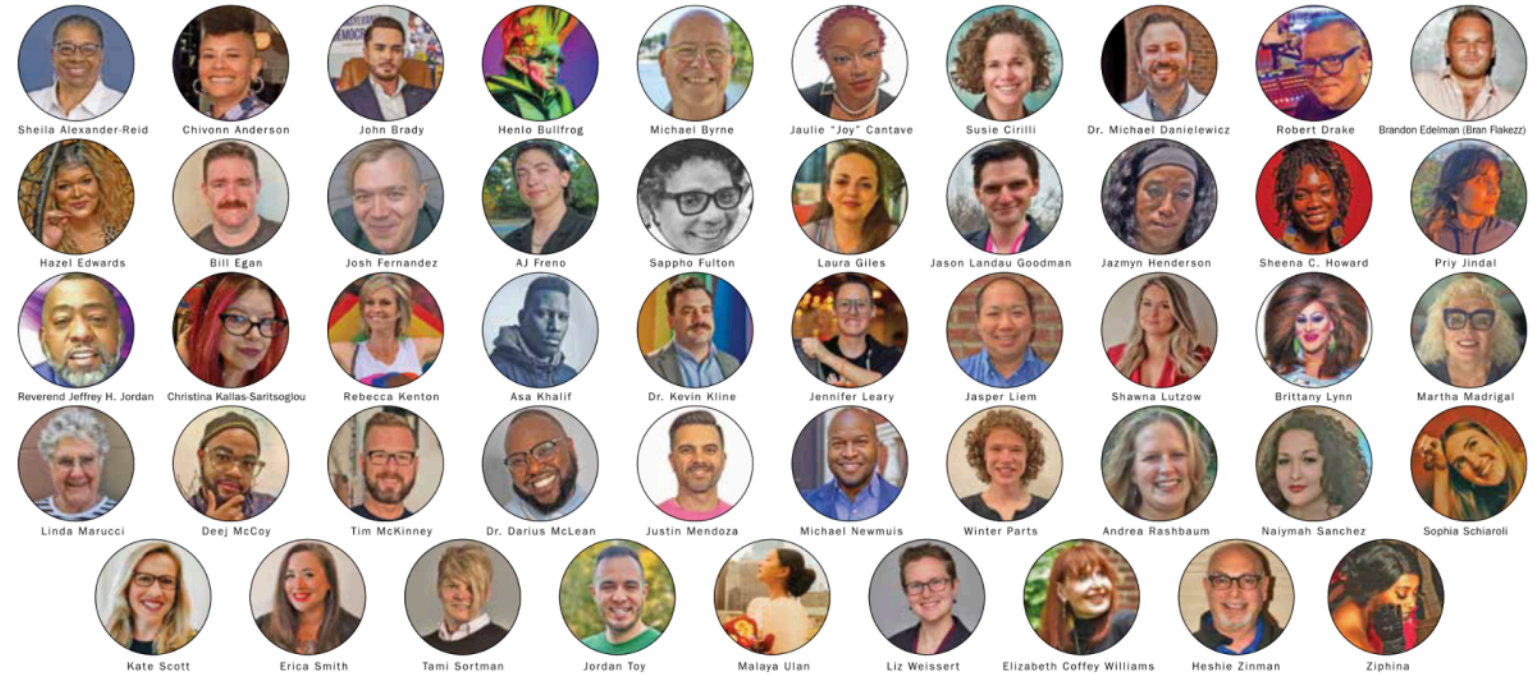


LOCAL

Honoring 49 LGBTQ+ Leaders: Building Tomorrow’s Legacy Today

pgn by PGN Staff
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As PGN marks its 49th year, we are proud to recognize 49 LGBTQ+ leaders whose impact continues to shape the future of our community. This year’s honorees embody resilience, vision and dedication — qualities that drive progress and inspire change. From those who have long fought for equality to emerging voices charting new directions, each represents a vital part of our collective legacy.

Unlike traditional “influential” lists, this recognition seeks to uplift those whose contributions often happen outside the spotlight. These leaders strengthen our neighborhoods, advocate for justice, expand representation,

and build bridges across communities. Their stories reflect the power of visibility and the importance of honoring work that too often goes unseen.

We will celebrate their achievements on Oct. 10 at the historic Arch Street Meeting House, with NBC10 and Telemundo 62's Miguel Martinez-Valle hosting the evening. The event coincides with OURFest and National Coming Out Day, milestones that remind us that progress comes from unity and visibility. By honoring 49 leaders this year, PGN continues its commitment to celebrating the individuals whose courage and leadership shape a stronger, more inclusive tomorrow.

Read more about the 49 Most Influential LGBTQ+ Leaders below.

Master of Ceremonies

Returning from last year's [48 Most Influential LGBTQ+ Leaders list](#), our master of ceremonies brings perspective and energy to highlight the achievements of this year's honorees.

Miguel Martinez-Valle

Reporter for NBC10 and Telemundo 62



Miguel Martinez-Valle is a bilingual journalist for NBC10 and Telemundo 62 in Philadelphia. The Emmy Award-winning reporter has covered historic events in English and Spanish, including the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, the 2025 Eagles Super Bowl LIX victory, and tragedies such as the Parkland and Uvalde shootings. A proud immigrant from San Carlos, Sonora, Mexico, and member of the LGBTQ+ community, Martinez-Valle was named to *Al Día*'s 2022 40 Under 40 and PGN's inaugural 48 Most Influential LGBTQ+ Leaders. He is a member of NLGJA and serves on the Philadelphia NAHJ chapter board.

Generational Leaders

Celebrating leaders whose impact bridges generations, from trailblazing elders to rising youth voices.

Michael Byrne

Mobile Therapist for Older Adults at Jewish Family and Children Services



Michael Byrne has spent his life uplifting people impacted by HIV/AIDS through roles with AIDS Fund, ActionAIDS, and as board president of Philly AIDS Thrift and Philly AIDS Thrift @ Giovanni's Room. For 30 years, he has co-created joy and community as host of Philadelphia's GayBINGO, while championing vital services. Today, as a therapist at JFCS of Greater Philadelphia, he takes special pride in [supporting LGBTQ+ elders](#), helping foster resilience, connection and gratitude.

Jason Landau Goodman

Board Chair for the Pennsylvania Youth Congress



Jason Landau Goodman is one of Pennsylvania's leading advocates for LGBTQ+ inclusion. For more than 15 years, he has organized successful local and statewide efforts in partnership with communities across the Commonwealth. He serves as board chair of the Pennsylvania Youth Congress, the first and only statewide LGBTQ+ youth organization, and the only Pennsylvania-based advocacy group headquartered in Harrisburg. A fifth-generation Pennsylvanian, Goodman is also an attorney from Montgomery County.

Jasper Liem

Executive Director of The Attic Youth Center



Jasper Liem has been a tireless advocate for queer and trans youth in the Philadelphia region. Their leadership has advanced harm reduction programs, expanded behavioral health services in primary care, and improved access to gender-affirming care. In 2022, Liem was named [executive director of The Attic Youth Center](#), where they continue to serve and empower LGBTQ+ youth alongside a dedicated team.

Linda Marucci

Co-chair of the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging's LGBTQ+ Advisory Council



In 2016, while working at Southwest Senior Center, Linda Marucci came out and helped launch the center's [first Pride Day](#) — a joyful event that led to support groups and storytelling circles for LGBTQ+ elders. She has been honored to witness moments of healing, such as a grandmother welcoming back her gay grandson. Since 2023, Marucci has co-chaired [PCA's LGBTQ Advisory Council](#). Now retired, she continues to ensure elders are seen, celebrated and embraced with pride.

Tim McKinney, MSW, LSW

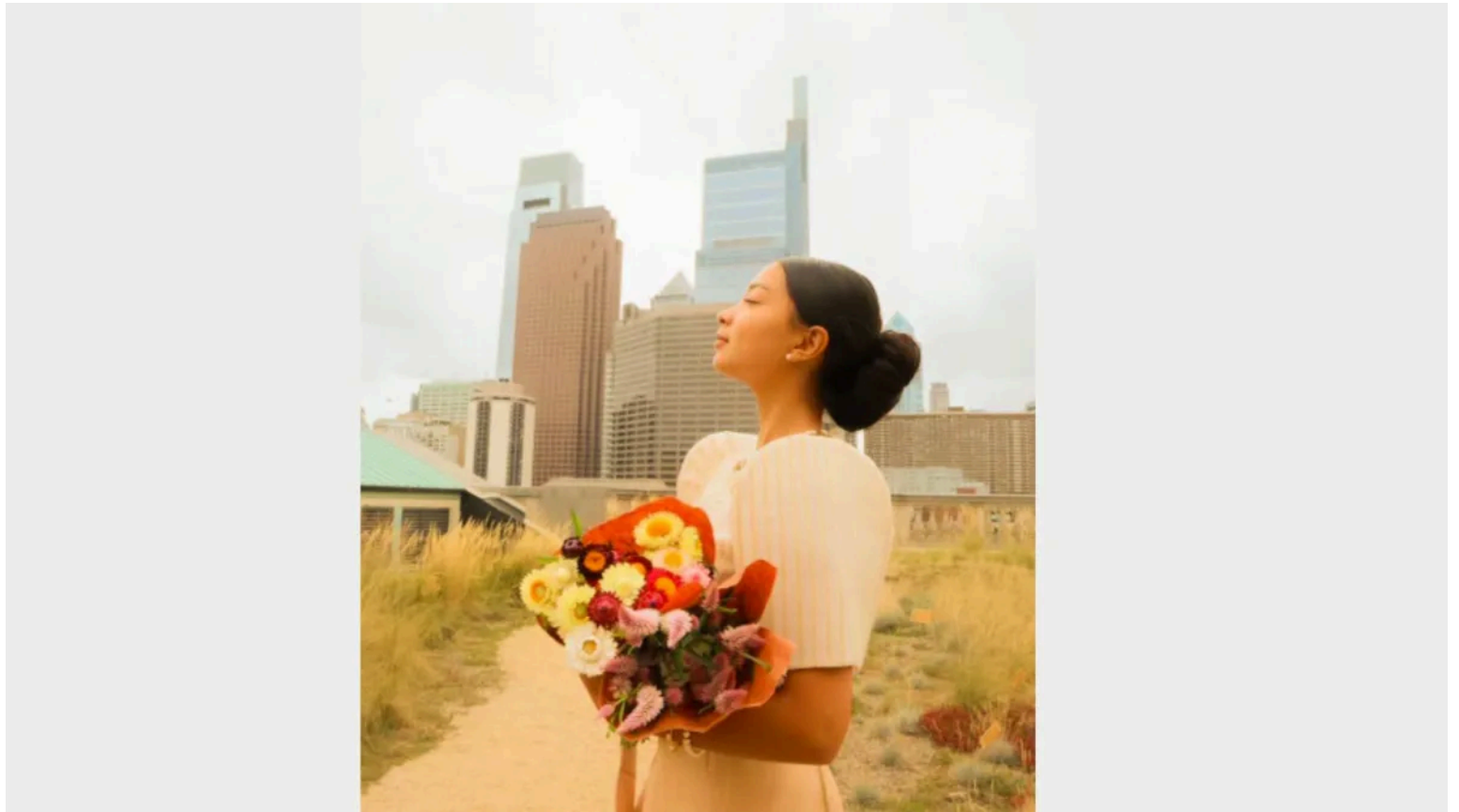
LGBTQ+ Coordinator for the School District of Philadelphia



Tim McKinney, MSW, LSW, is the [Philadelphia School District's first LGBTQIA+ manager of student support](#) and a longtime advocate for youth. He has launched programs such as the Youth and Family Space at Philly Pride and spoken nationally with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and MENTOR. A two-time Temple University graduate, McKinney is a licensed social worker with more than 15 years of experience advancing inclusive spaces, strategic planning and community impact.

Malaya Ulan

Philadelphia's Youth Poet Laureate



Malaya Ulan is a 17-year-old Filipino-American Philadelphia-based activist. A multidimensional poet, she merges poetry with dance, film and visual art. Ulan is [Philadelphia's Youth Poet Laureate](#) (2024–2025) and has spoken at TEDxPENN and the United Nations. Her films and poetry have been featured nationally, and she has exhibited work at venues including Da Vinci Art Alliance and Imperfect Gallery. She collaborates with her mother through AniMalayaWorks.

Heshie Zinman

Chair of LGBT Elder Initiative



Heshie Zinman's legacy is defined by innovation, compassion and resilience. For more than 40 years, he has championed marginalized communities, advanced health equity and led efforts in the fight against HIV/AIDS. His pioneering work with LGBTQ+ elders and career in the pharmaceutical industry have improved countless lives. Zinman's dedication continues to inspire action, demonstrating the enduring impact of advocacy, the importance of community, and the power of leadership rooted in integrity and heart.

Health Care Heroes

Honoring those dedicated to improving LGBTQ+ health, mental health and overall well-being.

Jaulie “Joy” Cantave

Health and Wellness Coordinator for Colours



Jaulie “Joy” Cantave, a Southwest Philadelphia queer femme, holds a bachelor’s degree in English and secondary education. A certified classroom teacher with more than two years of experience, Cantave also worked as an administrator at the COLOURS Organization. They are a member of the Party for Socialism and Liberation at the Philly Liberation Center, where they focus on fostering revolutionary change and community growth.

Dr. Michael Danielewicz

Director, Pride at the Jefferson Center for Healthy Aging



Dr. Michael Danielewicz is a physician specializing in geriatric, family and palliative care and an advocate for LGBTQIA+ equity. He has built a regional and national academic presence focused on creating inclusive, competent care for LGBTQIA+ individuals. Danielewicz is the [inaugural director of Pride Care](#) at the Jefferson Center for Healthy Aging, a first-in-the-nation program dedicated to meeting the primary care needs of LGBTQIA+ older adults with excellence.

Priy Jindal, CRNP-BC AAHIVS

Clinical Lead of ACG Health's Mosaic Medical Program



Priy Jindal, CRNP-BC AAHIVS, started Mosaic Medical at ACG Health in 2019 and specializes in HIV and LGBTQ+ health care. They were the first trans recipient of the Leeway Foundation's Transformation Award and a fellow for the Transgender Justice Funding Project. A published writer, their work has been commissioned by Tala Arts and they are a member of One Story Writer's Circle. Jindal believes in trans self-determination and that everyone has a right to health care.

Dr. Kevin Kline

Medical Director for LGBTQ+ Health at Penn Medicine



Dr. Kevin Kline is the [medical director for LGBTQ+ Health at Penn Medicine](#) and an associate professor of clinical family medicine in Penn's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health. A Saint Louis University medical graduate who completed his residency at Penn, Kline's clinical work focuses on improving LGBTQ+ health care quality and access. His academic work centers on teaching holistic LGBTQ+ care to repair harm and build trust within the LGBTQ+ community.

Justin Mendoza

Clinical Social Worker/Therapist



In their second career, Justin Mendoza has focused on LGBTQ+ wellness for more than a decade. Offering psychotherapy and coaching from their Manayunk office, they provide holistic, affirming care for diverse queer experiences and identities. Recognized as a leader by the Philadelphia Business Journal, they have been featured in media and speaking engagements and are a [Comcast RISE grant recipient](#). Mendoza also hosts [community events](#) and creates sober, inclusive spaces for connection and support.

Andrea Rashbaum

Co-founder of Parents of Trans and Gender Expansive Kids (PTK) Delaware



Andrea Rashbaum is co-founder of a [support group for parents of gender-expansive children](#). When she and her husband were raising their child, few people understood their experience firsthand. Now, alongside other community leaders, Rashbaum helps parents navigate this unique journey. She also advocates for transgender children in schools and at the state level and is currently working to combat bans on gender-affirming care for youth.

Erica Smith

Sexual Health Expert and Author



Known on social media for her takes on sex education and purity culture, Erica Smith has spent more than two decades improving sexual health in Philadelphia and beyond. She has worked in abortion care, trans health care, and HIV care, and is the creator of the Purity Culture Dropout™ Program, which helps people raised in high-control religions heal their relationship to sexuality. Smith is also the author of “The Purity Culture Recovery Guide: The Shame-Free Sex Education You Deserve.”

Creators and Entertainers

Recognizing artists and entertainers who inspire through performance, storytelling and creativity.

Henlo Bullfrog

Drag Performer, “King of Drag” Finalist



Henlo Bullfrog is a [“King of Drag” finalist](#), “Skin Wars: Fresh Paint” winner, and a versatile airbrush, costume, makeup, scenic, fabrication and visual artist. His work has appeared on stages and screens nationwide, including “Drag Race,” “Dragula,” BuzzFeed Video, Netflix and “Cats: The Jellicle Ball.” For more than a decade, Henlo Bullfrog has taught specialty workshops, a makeup course at UArts, and co-taught the “Be A King” class series, helping launch 31 emerging drag kings into the Philadelphia scene.

Robert Drake

DJ



Philly-born and raised, Robert Drake has long celebrated his love for the city. In 1982, he co-founded *Au Courant NewsMagazine*, Philadelphia's gay arts and culture paper. He joined WXPN-FM in 1988, producing the Peabody Award-winning "Kids Corner" and hosting the 1980s program "Land of the Lost." In 2025, Drake marked his 43rd year as a DJ, including 22 years hosting [Sex Dwarf](#), an '80s dance party at Broad Hall beneath the historic Divine Lorraine.

Brandon Edelman (Bran Flakezz)
Content Creator



Brandon Edelman (Bran Flakezz) is a 29-year-old comedy and lifestyle content creator, podcast host and entertainment personality from Philadelphia. He began on TikTok with a mission to bring smiles and help people escape daily stresses, quickly building a cross-platform following of more than 1 million. Today, Edelman is known for humorous recaps and his thought-provoking TikTok Transparency series, which explores influencer marketing and the creator economy while maintaining his relatable, unfiltered and witty voice.

Sheena C. Howard

Award-winning Author, Filmmaker and Scholar



Sheena C. Howard is a professor of communication, award-winning author, filmmaker and scholar. In 2014, she became the first Black woman to win an Eisner Award for “Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation.” She has co-written books with celebrities and CEOs, including DMC (RUN-DMC), and her work spans Marvel, DC and film. Howard is also the author of “Encyclopedia of Black Comics” and co-writer of “Superb,” featuring a teen superhero with Down syndrome.

Shawna Lutzow

Founder of Lady Laughs Philly



Shawna Lutzow began performing stand-up comedy in 2014, drawing much of her material from her queer identity. After interning with Lady Laughs founder Dina Nina in Madison, Wis., she moved to Philadelphia in 2022 and [launched Lady Laughs Philly](#), the city's only monthly show centering women and queer comics. Beyond selling out venues, the show offers open mics, mentorship and community for underrepresented comics in a male-dominated scene.

Brittany Lynn
Drag Performer



Brittany Lynn has been performing for three decades with her group, the Philly Drag Mafia. She has received three citations from the Philadelphia City Council for her work with the city's communities and won Best of Philly in 2022 and 2023 for Best Drag Shows and Drag Brunches. In 2024, Brittany Lynn and her Drag Queen Story Time program earned a [Guinness World Records title](#) for most attendees at a drag storytime reading. She also appears in [Philadelphia tourism commercials](#) and performs at [PhillyDragMafia.com](#).

Ziphina

Producer of The Naughty Jawn and the Philly Performer Directory



What began in the deviant community, nightlife and dance classes has evolved into a multi-faceted passion for Ziphina, a Philly-native burlesque performer, model and producer. Unapologetically taking up space as a Black, nonbinary, plus-size artist, Ziphina produces [The Naughty Jawn](#), an event that represents and supports Philadelphia performers. The event is paired with the Philly Performer Directory, a database created to increase accessibility to local performers and foster community engagement.

Trans Rights Warriors

Acknowledging those who advance equality and justice for transgender and nonbinary communities.

Hazel Edwards

Acting Executive Director of Galaei



Hazel Edwards is an artist, educator and community advocate dedicated to racial and trans liberation. At 28, she serves as [acting executive director of Galaei](#), becoming the youngest person to hold this role at a queer nonprofit in Philadelphia. Edwards [co-authored](#) the School District of Philadelphia’s Policy 252, has published research on trans students, and produces the monthly nightlife show “Luna’s Nightcap,” celebrating queer and trans POC performers and bodily autonomy.

AJ Freno

Senior Manager of Support Programs at HiTOPS



AJ Freno is a social worker, educator and advocate for LGBTQIA+ liberation and justice. They currently serve as senior manager of support programs at HiTOPS, uplifting LGBTQ+ youth and their families, and have held [leadership roles](#) at other LGBTQ+-serving nonprofits. Freno teaches graduate courses at Rutgers University School of Social Work and is a doctoral candidate conducting research on supporting LGBTQ+ youth, their families and advancing education on sexual health and gender-affirming care.

Sappho Fulton

Executive Director of Womxn Beyond Borders



[Sappho Reynan Fulton](#) is a global expert in transformational life coaching and social justice advocacy. As a leader, she often addresses disparities and offers resources to the most marginalized within the queer community — including survivors of gender-based violence and those who are formerly incarcerated. As the CEO of Womxn Beyond Borders — a nonprofit committed to supporting, empowering and uplifting trans women and LGBTQ+ women of color — she is at the forefront of transforming psychological practices into wellness-based healing spaces.

Martha Madrigal

Co-Founder of TransFormation Collective



[Martha Madrigal](#) is deeply committed to community. She co-founded TransFormation Collective, a longstanding weekly support and discussion group for trans and nonbinary people. Madrigal cohosts a monthly Spaghetti Dinner for the trans and nonbinary community and works as an LGBTQIA+ counselor. With her husband, Charles Tyson Jr., she co-hosts the Philadelphia-focused podcast “Full Circle (The Podcast),” now in its fourth season. She also serves as chapter vice president and facilitator for PFLAG Collingswood.

Dr. Darius McLean

Interim Executive Director of William Way LGBT Community Center



Dr. Darius McLean is the acting executive director of William Way LGBT Community Center. A proud Philadelphian with more than a decade of experience in LGBTQ+ health, youth empowerment and community care, McLean leads with compassion and vision. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership with a DEI certificate and a master's in organizational development and leadership. His work focuses on equity, dignity and cultural competence, advancing thriving LGBTQ+ communities in Philadelphia and beyond.

Naiymah Sanchez

Senior Organizer with the ACLU of Pennsylvania



[Naiymah Sanchez](#) is a grassroots organizer dedicated to fostering leadership within transgender and gender-diverse communities. An openly proud trans woman of color, she is a passionate leader at the ACLU of Pennsylvania, creating spaces that equip emerging leaders with the skills to influence policy and drive change. Sanchez's work emphasizes empowerment, solidarity and justice, building bridges across communities to promote equity, protect civil liberties and ensure everyone can thrive with dignity.

Elizabeth Coffey Williams
Trans Activist



[Elizabeth Coffey Williams](#), one of the original Johns Hopkins group, completed her gender transition in 1972 and has remained a defiantly out and proud trans woman. She founded the Chrysalis Gender Support Group in Rockford, Ill., produced more than 60 concerts a year as a performing arts program director, and created nationally exhibited art quilts, including work for the [Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt](#). A Dreamlander in John Waters' films, she continues to advocate for trans and LGBTQ+ communities, including in senior housing and arts initiatives.

Community Organizers

Highlighting activists whose grassroots efforts strengthen and unite the LGBTQ+ community.

Jazmyn Henderson
Activist



Jazmyn Henderson is a proud Black trans woman, a parent of six children, and a grandmother. Since moving to Philadelphia, she has been an active member of ACT UP Philadelphia, participating in nonviolent direct action and [advocating for housing and health care rights](#), which she considers fundamental human rights. In 2018, Henderson launched a mobile mechanics business, TransMission, which she continues to operate today.

Reverend Jeffrey H. Jordan

Senior Pastor of Whosoever Metropolitan Community Church



Reverend Jeffrey H. Jordan is senior pastor of Whosoever Metropolitan Community Church, serving LGBTQ+ communities in Philadelphia. Beyond his pastoral duties, he provides a prophetic voice and sacred presence at protests, hearings and vigils, advocating for the oppressed and marginalized. Jordan also works at Drexel University as community outreach and engagement specialist and adjunct professor at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law. He and his husband, David E. Pickett, have been partners for 30 years.

Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou

Co-Founder/Manager at Philly AIDS Thrift



Christina Kallas-Saritsoglou has spent more than 30 years serving Philadelphia's LGBTQ+ and HIV/AIDS communities with compassion, creativity and advocacy. She is executive director and co-founder of Philly AIDS Thrift, which has distributed [more than \\$5.1 million in grants](#) to HIV/AIDS service organizations, and helped [preserve Giovanni's Room](#), the nation's oldest LGBTQ+ bookstore. Previously, Kallas-Saritsoglou worked with the AIDS Information Network, supporting initiatives including the AIDS Library of Philadelphia, SafeGuards Gay Men's Health Project and Y-HEP.

Asa Khalif

Black Lives Matter activist/organizer, Member of the District Attorney's Office LGBTQ+ Advisory Committee



Asa Khalif is a prominent activist and organizer in the Black Lives Matter movement, known for his work on police accountability, housing justice and LGBTQIA+ liberation. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he attended Roman Catholic High School and Temple University. Khalif's activism has garnered national attention and recognition, including being named one of Philadelphia's most influential people by Philadelphia Magazine. He currently serves on the [District Attorney's LGBTQIA+ advisory committee](#).

Deej McCoy

Disability Rights Advocate



Mx DeeJ McCoy is a Philly native who grew up in West Oak Lane. They graduated from Moore College of Art & Design in 2010 with a bachelor's in photography and digital arts. After being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2019, six months into their drag and burlesque career, McCoy became a [disability rights advocate](#). They focus on making performance art more accessible for both performers and audiences.

Tami Sortman

President of Washington Square West Civics Association



[Tami Sortman](#) has shaped Philadelphia's LGBTQ+ community for decades as an organizer, strategist and trailblazer. She co-created the nation's first LGBTQ+ destination marketing campaign, led the installation of rainbow crosswalks and street signs in the Gayborhood, and continues advancing LGBTQ sensitivity training in hospitality. As president of the Washington Square West Civic Association and vice president of the Philadelphia Gay Tourism Caucus, she champions equity, visibility and inclusion while **[preserving history](#)** and uplifting future leaders.

Liz Weissert

President of Philadelphia's LGBTQ Bar Association



Liz Weissert has served as [president of the Philadelphia LGBTQ+ Bar Association](#) for two years, advancing the legal profession's support of LGBTQ+ communities. She also sits on the board of Equality Forum, which coordinates LGBT History Month. Weissert is a senior associate at Ballard Spahr LLP, practicing complex commercial and federal antitrust litigation, and represents transgender clients in pro bono name change cases. She is a proud alumna of Smith College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Community Visibility

Applauding individuals who champion representation and visibility for LGBTQ+ people everywhere.

Sheila Alexander-Reid

Executive Director of PHL Diversity



[Sheila Alexander-Reid](#) is nationally recognized for breaking barriers for marginalized communities. As executive director of PHL Diversity, a division of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau, she promotes the city as a premier destination for diverse conferences. She previously led Washington, D.C.'s LGBTQ Affairs Office, championed marriage equality, and founded Inside Out Radio and Women in the Life magazine. Alexander-Reid lives with her wife, Aishah Shahidah Simmons, an award-winning filmmaker, author and mindfulness teacher.

John Brady

Political Director of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Democratic Parties



As Political Director of the Philadelphia and Pennsylvania Democratic Parties, John Brady has advised leaders including Bob Brady (no relation), Sharif Street and Eugene DePasquale while driving modernization of the city's Democratic organization. A strategist and campaign manager, he most recently led Christy Brady's City Controller campaign. Brady began his political career at 19 as a 21st Ward Committeeperson, and today serves as Vice Chair, President of the Philadelphia Young Democrats, and a Board Member of Liberty City LGBTQ Democratic Club.

Bill Egan

Program Director for PhillyPride365's Pride Across the City



A Philly native, [Bill Egan](#) is an actor, director and producer in the tri-state area. He serves as program director for PhillyPride365's Pride Across the City, artistic director of the Philadelphia LGBTQ+ Film Festival, and director of operations for Specialty Productions, which produces events for LGBTQ+ organizations and local business districts. Egan dedicates this honor to the memory of Thom Cardwell, one of the original Philly influencers.

Laura Giles

Vice President of the Philadelphia Falcons and Project Manager for Pride House Philadelphia



Laura Giles is vice president of the Philadelphia Falcons, an LGBTQIA+ soccer club, and project manager for [Pride House Philadelphia](#), a 2026 World Cup initiative creating inclusive, educational spaces for LGBTQIA+ communities, athletes and allies. Passionate about community building, Giles is dedicated to fostering environments where everyone feels empowered and belongs. Through sports and advocacy, they champion visibility, connection and equity both on and off the field.

Rebecca Kenton

Founder of Sip City Mixer



Rebecca Kenton is the founder of Sip City Mixer, a Philadelphia-based social and community events group serving queer women, trans people and nonbinary people. For nearly nine years, she has created inclusive spaces ranging from casual mixers and themed dance parties to large-scale events like queer prom and Pride dance parties drawing more than 1,000 people. Under her leadership, Sip City incorporates charitable initiatives and highlights other LGBTQ+ organizations, fostering collaboration, community care and joyful queer connections.

Michael Newmuis

2026 Director in the Mayor's Office of Philadelphia



As the [2026 director in the Mayor's Office of Philadelphia](#), Michael Newmuis leads the city's \$100 million-plus preparations for the United States' 250th anniversary, including global events such as the FIFA World Cup and MLB All-Star Game, alongside citywide community activations. A University of Pennsylvania graduate, Newmuis chairs the advisory board of City & State PA and serves on the board of DMH Fund.

Sophia Schiaroli

Creator of Gay Girls+ and Cherry Social



Sophia Schiaroli is a Philly-based content creator and community builder who launched Gay Girls+ — an organization focused on creating safe spaces for and fostering community among queer women and gender-diverse individuals. The movement, which started locally but now has a national presence, inspired the development of a new app for queer people, [Cherry](#), which will launch in 2025.

Game Changers

Paying tribute to those breaking barriers and pushing for LGBTQ+ inclusion in sports.

Chivonn Anderson
Owner of Marsha's



With nearly 30 years of hospitality experience, [Chivonn Anderson](#) has worked her way up from hostess to Director of Development and 10% owner at Redcrest Holding LLC. Her expertise spans operations, team leadership, business development and large-scale event management. She is now focused on transforming [Marsha's](#) into Philadelphia's first female-focused sports bar and venue, with plans to expand nationally, pioneering a space where sports, queer pride and community can come together.

Susie Cirilli

Founder of Cirilli, LLC



Susie Cirilli is the founder of Cirilli, LLC, a boutique firm specializing in employment law with a focus on women's sports. She represents professional soccer coaches in employment disputes and contract review, youth sports clubs on employment matters, and professional players in off-pitch business ventures. Cirilli also handles civil rights cases in sports, including [representing transgender women athletes](#). She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and her law degree from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

Josh Fernandez

Director of Queer Run Philly



[Josh Fernandez](#) is executive director of Queer Run, Philadelphia’s largest LGBTQ+ running club. Under their leadership, the organization has expanded membership, partnered with national brands like HOKA, and helped establish the Broad Street Run’s first nonbinary prize category. Fernandez continues to advocate for inclusive racing policies, most recently with **[Philadelphia Marathon Weekend](#)**. A writer and strategist rooted in Philadelphia for nearly 20 years, they are passionate about creating joyful spaces where queer athletes thrive.

Jennifer Leary

Founder of Watch Party PHL



Jennifer Leary is a firefighter and former athlete in the National Women's Football Association, playing on the Philadelphia Liberty Belles' 2001 championship team. A community advocate for three decades, she led the [Red Paw Emergency Relief Team](#) for 10 years and founded [Watch Party PHL](#), a women's sports hub hosting watch parties across Philadelphia. Leary and her team plan to open a brick-and-mortar location in Spring 2026. She holds a master's in strategic communication from American University.

Winter Parts

Runner and Advocate



Winter Parts is a graduate student in astronomy and an avid runner. Nonbinary and aroace, they value Philadelphia's queer running community and are passionate about [fighting anti-trans discrimination in sports](#) while building solidarity among oppressed groups. Parts is involved in the Penn State graduate student unionization effort and advocates for justice for Palestinians. Their work and activism reflect a commitment to equity, inclusion and community both on and off the track.

Kate Scott

Play-By-Play Announcer for the Philadelphia 76ers



The lone woman to do play-by-play for the NFL, NBA, NHL, NCAA football, the Olympics and a FIFA World Cup, [Kate Scott](#) — the television voice of the Philadelphia 76ers — continues to break barriers as a leader in sports broadcasting. The out-and-proud married lesbian says providing hope for other members of the LGBTQ+ community through her work is an honor and a privilege as well as a daily goal.

Jordan Toy

Commissioner and Board Chair of Stonewall Sports



Jordan Toy, commissioner and board chair of Stonewall Sports – Philadelphia, dedicates his work to uplifting the LGBTQIA+ community through inclusive recreational sports and social events. A champion of connection on and off the field, he leads Stonewall Philly’s mission to serve the community, culminating in a record \$125,000 donation to local nonprofits last year. Toy’s leadership reflects a commitment to service, impact, and fostering community through sport and engagement.