The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame

2025

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Friends of the
Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame

Tarrina D. Dikes
Co-Chair

Greg McFall
Co-Chair

In Partnership with the City of Chicago

Brandon Johnson
Mayor

Nancy Andrade
Chairman and Commissioner

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IN MEMORIAM

LORI CANNON

RONALD J. EHEMANN

PHIL HANNEMA

NORMAN SANDFIELD

YVONNE ZIPTER

2025 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO LGBT HALL OF FAME

INDIVIDUALS

MAHER AHMAD

TRACI P. BECK

JAN BERGER

PRECIOUS BRADY-DAVIS

ARICK BUCKLES
(inducted posthumously)

TOMMY DELORENZO
(inducted posthumously)

JACOB CHRISTOPHER GREEN ("MUFFY FISHBASKET")

SAM HAMILTON
(inducted posthumously)

RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

MIKE A. MACHARELLO

ADAM L. MCMATH

JERRY NUNN

REYNA ORTIZ

MILON V. PARKER

ALEX PEREZ

DR. MARIO PIERCE ("MIDWEST FATHER MARIO BALENCIAGA")

JONATHAN "YONI" PIZER

JIM RINNERT
(inducted posthumously)

MARIO TRETO JR.

ORGANIZATIONS

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY (CGS)

THE CHICAGO PRIDE LEAGUE (CPL)

CHICAGO PRIMETIMERS (CPT)

ONYX MIDWEST

ChicagoLGBTHallofFame.org

THE CHICAGO LGBT HALL OF FAME

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is both a historic event and an exhibit. Through the Hall of Fame, residents of Chicago and the world are made aware of the contributions of Chicago's LGBT community and the community's efforts to eradicate bias and discrimination.

With the support of the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations, its Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues (later the Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues) established the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (changed to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2015) in June 1991. The inaugural induction ceremony took place during Pride Week at City Hall, hosted by then-Mayor Richard M. Daley. This was the first event of its kind in the country.

Today, after the advisory council's abolition and in partnership with the city, the Hall of Fame is overseen by Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation with a recognized charitable tax-deductible status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

The Hall of Fame honors the volunteer and professional achievements of LGBT individuals, their organizations, and their allies, as well as their contributions to the LGBT community and the city of Chicago. This is a unique tribute to dedicated people and organizations whose services have improved the quality of life for all of Chicago's citizens.

A nominee must have made either a single, far-reaching contribution or significant, long-term contributions to the quality of life of Chicago's LGBT community and/or the city of Chicago.

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is privately funded through generous donations from individuals, businesses, and organizations. Staff support is provided by volunteers associated with Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.

The selection of inductees for the Hall of Fame is made by former recipients of the award in the individual category based on nominations from the general public.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

November 3, 2025

Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame
3712 North Broadway
Suite 637
Chicago, IL 60613

Greetings,

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the induction of the 34th Class of Inductees into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. This occasion offers an exciting opportunity for everyone in attendance to strengthen connections and collaboration amongst those who have made significant contributions to the LGBT community and the City of Chicago. I commend the work you all have done to help make Illinois a stronger and more enjoyable state.

With this year's class having 19 individuals, including Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation's Secretary Mario Treto, Jr., and four organizations as inductees, it further adds to the venerable list of people and entities. Illinois is proud to have enjoyed your service to our state. As you reflect on your accomplishments, I urge you to make plans that will continue to build on your past successes. I am grateful for all the ways you have supported a strong future for Illinois.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

Governor JB Pritzker

CCHR
Chicago Commission on Human Relations

October 23, 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, we proudly extend our heartfelt congratulations to the distinguished honorees for their well-deserved induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. This honor recognizes their outstanding contributions to Chicago's vibrant LGBTQIA+ community and commitment to creating a more equitable and inclusive city for all. Because of their dedication and leadership, countless individuals are inspired and the spirit of unity across Chicago thrives.

As our agency continues to fight discrimination and hate against all groups, including our LGBTQIA+ community, we commend them for their achievements and the lasting impact they have made. To our awardees, the Commission is proud to stand alongside you in the ongoing fight for civil rights and social justice. We pledge to continue to work with you to protect the freedoms that past and present leaders fought so hard to obtain.

By demonstrating exemplary leadership, advocacy, and dedication, this year's inductees have not only enriched our city's cultural fabric but have also advanced the causes of equality and justice. As they join this esteemed group of past honorees, their legacy will continue to inspire future generations to strive for inclusion and equality. The actions and contributions of these inductees have made an impact and will influence generations to come. Our city is better because of them, and we thank them. All their achievements embody the values of diversity, equity, and respect that define Chicago's ongoing pursuit of justice for all its residents.

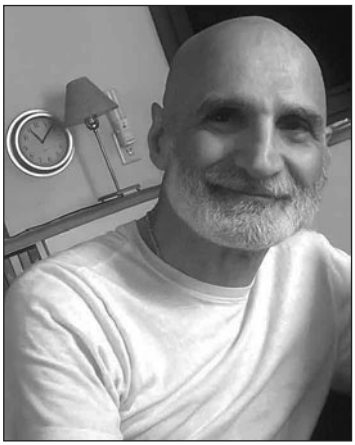
We are deeply grateful to our friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame for their unwavering commitment to sustaining the significance of this cherished event and institution. The history of the LGBTQIA+ community is a vital part of Chicago's story and must continue to radiate strength and unity. We once again congratulate all the newest members of the LGBT Hall of Fame. May they serve as a shining beacon of leadership and hope for generations to come.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Andrade
Chairman and Commissioner

740 N. Sedgwick Street, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60654
Chicago.gov/cchr

MAHER AHMAD



Maher Ahmad made significant contributions throughout the 1970s as an activist in Chicago's LGBT rights movement and as a scenic designer and teacher in Chicago theatre. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Ahmad came to the Chicago area in 1967 to study theatre at Northwestern University, where he cofounded the Northwestern University Gay Liberation Front (NUGLF) in the fall of 1969. NUGLF partnered with Chicago Gay Liberation on several political actions in 1970, notably including picketing the Normandy, a popular gay bar on Rush Street, to protest the bar's policy prohibiting same-sex dancing. After two weekends of picketing, the Normandy's owners agreed to NUGLF's demands, and other Chicago-area LGBT bars soon followed suit. NUGLF also hosted a dance/concert on the Northwestern campus featuring the Siegel-Schwall Band, a nationally renowned Chicago-based blues group.

"The kind of insouciant exuberance that we young folk displayed--we scruffy gay hippies, high on our Liberation, flush with a zeitgeist that seemed to allow for all possibilities for achieving our freedom--was, in retrospect, quite extraordinary," Ahmad later recalled in an essay he wrote for the Northwestern alumni archives. "We really had no clear notion of exactly what it is we were doing, and I don't recall any of us ever bothering to calculate the odds of our success."

After receiving B.A. and M.F.A. degrees in theatre from Northwestern, Ahmad designed his first professional production in 1975 - Harold Pinter's "The Caretaker" at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theater, for which he was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson ("Jeff") Award for scenic design (the production costarred Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductee Frank Galati). Over the next five years he was active as a scenic designer in the Chicago area, working at Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens, and elsewhere as well as teaching and designing shows at Loyola University. Ahmad's success in theatre paved the way for him to work in movies and TV. His first feature film, the shot-in-Chicago "Bad Boys" (1983), launched him on a distinguished career as a production designer, art director, and art department contributor for more than 60 motion pictures, including "Goodfellas" and "The Fugitive."

The son of Palestinian refugees, Ahmad was active in the late 1970s and early 1980s in Chicagoland through giving lectures and teaching courses in Palestinian history and advocating for Palestinian rights.

TRACI P BECK



Dr. Traci P. Beck has had a significant impact on Chicago's LGBTQ+ community through her pioneering work in urology and gender-affirming care. A board-certified urologist, Beck earned her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, completed her urology residency at the University of Chicago Hospitals, and pursued advanced fellowship training in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. She has used her skills to expand access to gender-affirming, high-quality care for transgender women, transgender men, and nonbinary individuals. Her leadership in integrating LGBTQ+-inclusive practices into Illinois Masonic and Stroger hospitals and clinics has helped shift Chicago's healthcare landscape, bringing about structural changes that have improved care for generations. Beck has long been a trusted resource for individuals seeking pelvic and urologic reconstruction and care in environments free of stigma. Patients referred by community clinics and advocacy organizations consistently cite her trauma-informed, respectful approach as life-changing. Her dual board certifications in Urology and Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery reflect her exceptional training and commitment to clinical excellence.

Beck partners with local organizations to expand options for those seeking bottom surgery and trains the next generation of affirming providers as a faculty member at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. She is a member of the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine & Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) and the National Medical Association (NMA), and she extends her advocacy to housing and justice issues through work with the Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness and leadership in the vestry at St. Paul & the Redeemer Episcopal Church. For individuals historically excluded from quality care, Dr. Traci Beck represents safety, dignity, and medical excellence to our community.

JAN BERGER



Jan Berger is a Chicago native whose involvement in the LGBTQIA+ community for more than 45 years has included healthcare, policy, community involvement, and sports. Starting in the late 1970s, Jan was a volunteer at Howard Brown Health Center, serving as a health provider, an early advisor, and a board member of the Women's Initiative and the board of Howard Brown. As an out lesbian pediatrician in Chicago in the 1980s and '90s, she had the largest pediatric practice for the children of gay and lesbian parents. She also led Illinois Masonic Medical Center's programs of "Considering Parenthood" for the LGBT community. Over 500 "considering parents" went through the program.

Berger served as an early member of the Mayor's Commission on Human Relations Committee on Gay and Lesbian Affairs from 1993 to 1995 under Mayor Richard M. Daley. She has remained highly active in government and policy activities at the city, state, and national levels.

In the mid-1980s, Berger, along with Peg Grey and Jackie Fabri, began the idea of a women's sports league in the women's locker room at Marigold Bowl. This became the Gay Athletic Association (GAA) in 1985, with Berger as its first commissioner. Several years later, Berger started the Windy City Softball lesbian league, joining the men's league with Jim Flint as the men's commissioner. She was also the first Chicago representative to the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), the national softball league, where she both led and played. Over the next 10 years, she led the women's division of the Windy City Athletic Association and represented the WCAA at NAGAAA.

Berger transitioned to an active corporate career as founding CEO of Health Intelligence Partners in 2008. As an open lesbian senior healthcare executive, she has mentored many young individuals on how to integrate their LGBTQA+ life into a fulfilling and successful professional career. In 2019, she was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a Notable LGBTQ Executive.

PRECIOUS BRADY-DAVIS



Precious Brady-Davis is the first Black openly trans woman elected to public office in Cook County history and the first to serve on a water reclamation district in the U.S. After being appointed to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker in 2023, she was elected as an MWRD Commissioner in 2024. She believes strongly in protecting the community's primary source of drinking water, Lake Michigan, and is invested in advancing green infrastructure to improve community resilience and prevent flooding across Cook County.

In addition, she has served as Associate Regional Communications Director of the Sierra Club, leading campaigns that champion renewable energy, hold corporate polluters accountable, and fight climate change. In October 2025, she was celebrated as one of Out Magazine's OUT100 list of "the LGBTQ+ people making the world bolder and brighter in 2025."

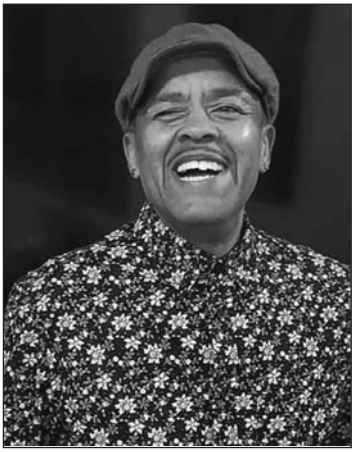
A Nebraska native of multiracial background, Brady-Davis came to Chicago to study at Columbia College Chicago, from which she graduated in 2013 with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She subsequently served as the Assistant Director of Diversity Recruitment Initiatives at Columbia, where she implemented a campus-wide diversity initiative and provided leadership on national diversity recruitment and strategic policy initiatives.

She began her professional career serving as the Youth Outreach Coordinator at the Center on Halsted, where she coordinated youth programming surrounding HIV prevention, transgender advocacy, and LGBT leadership development. With the Center on Halsted she launched a $1.6 million CDC grant which provided outreach, education, and testing services to over 3,000 African American and Latino gay, bi, and trans youth across Chicagoland between the ages of 13 and 29.

A lifelong social justice advocate, environmentalist, and communications professional, she is the author of the memoir "I Have Always Been Me," published in 2021 by Topple Books, an Amazon Publishing imprint edited by Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductee Joey Soloway. She resides with her husband Myles in Hyde Park, where they are raising their two daughters Zayn and Zyon.

ARICK BUCKLES

Inducted Posthumously



Arick Buckles devoted his life to advancing the health, housing, and dignity of LGBTQ+ people in Chicago, especially those living with HIV and AIDS. His work spanned decades and touched thousands of lives, often through quiet but consistent acts of service and encouragement that left a lasting mark on the city's South Side.Buckles began his work in the field in 2007 at Chicago House, where he served as a medication adherence specialist. In this role, he worked closely with clients living with HIV and AIDS to help them manage complex treatment plans. His guidance supported consistent medication use, improved health outcomes, and strengthened connections between patients and their care teams. In 2010, he joined the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center as a community outreach worker. His primary focus was re-engaging individuals who had fallen out of care. He helped clients return to treatment, navigate the healthcare system, and access the services they needed to manage their health and well-being.

For more than ten years, Buckles served as an outreach coordinator in the Scattered Site Housing Department at Chicago House and Social Services. His ability to meet people where they were, both physically and emotionally, helped clients stabilize their housing, maintain their health, and rebuild their lives.

Beyond his direct service roles, Arick was active in shaping broader policy and community responses to HIV and housing needs. He served as a member of the HIV Housing Task Force of Chicago and contributed to the Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy. In these roles, he advocated for systemic changes to increase access to safe housing, reduce stigma, and ensure that people living with HIV had the resources to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

Arick Buckles passed away in 2024, leaving a legacy of service, compassion, and empowerment. His contributions to health care, housing, and leadership development have had a lasting impact on Chicago's LGBTQ+ community, and his memory continues to inspire those working for equity and justice today.

TOMMY DELORENZO

Inducted Posthumously



Tommy DeLorenzo was the cofounder - with his husband, Drew Scott DeLorenzo – of Balloons by Tommy, LLC, which for more than 25 years has been a vibrant and creative force in Chicago, bringing joy, color, and artistry to countless events throughout the city and beyond. The company is known not just for its breathtaking balloon creations but for the heart, inclusivity, and community spirit behind every project. One of Balloons by Tommy's most beloved contributions has been its participation in the Chicago Pride Parade for over a decade. Each year, Tommy and Drew Scott DeLorenzo led their team in designing and building a new, awe-inspiring theme that celebrated the LGBTQ+ community's resilience, diversity, and pride, creating iconic visual moments for paradegoers and participants alike.

DeLorenzo, who passed away in 2024, had an exceptional gift for creating connection and excitement, whether transforming a venue for a local LGBTQ+ event or energizing a night at one of Chicago's bars. His work often extended to donating time, talent, and resources to community events, ensuring that spaces for celebration and solidarity could thrive. Over the years, Balloons by Tommy, LLC supported and enhanced many milestones for the LGBTQ+ community, becoming a trusted partner in moments of joy, remembrance, and unity.

Balloons by Tommy, LLC continues under the leadership of his husband and the team of balloon artists DeLorenzo trained personally, many of whom credit him for shaping not only their craft, but also their confidence and careers. Tommy DeLorenzo's contributions - as a creative entrepreneur and an active supporter of LGBTQ+ spaces - have left an indelible mark on Chicago's cultural and social landscape. Through Balloons by Tommy's ongoing presence, his spirit continues to lift others - quite literally - with every colorful creation.

JACOB CHRISTOPHER GREEN "MUFFY FISHBASKET"



Jacob Christopher Green, also known as Muffy Fishbasket, moved to Chicago 2002 to start a theater company, Hubris Productions. With Green as artistic director, Hubris raised thousands of dollars for various charities – including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the Center on Halsted, PFLAG, Howard Brown Health, and the U.S. Holocaust Museum - and highlighted awareness of the organizations' missions.

In 2016, Green introduced his alternate persona, Muffy Fishbasket, and launched the Chicago chapter of Drag Story Hour (originally known as Story Time with Drag Queens). Green has been recognized around the city – including through coverage in TimeOut Chicago and Chicago Magazine - for his work promoting diversity, inclusion, representation and literacy despite facing political backlash and threats.

SAM HAMILTON

Inducted Posthumously



Sam Hamilton was instrumental in the growth of women's sports within the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), the largest not-for-profit LGBTQ+ sports organization in the Midwest.

Hamilton, who passed away in 2025, started playing sports in 2002, managing flag football and softball teams; at one time she was the manager for three flag football teams in the fall and three softball teams in the summer. During the Chicago Gay Games 2006 she was a volunteer photographer for the event and compiled several albums of the shots she had taken.

When CMSA sent the first two women's flag football teams to the Gay Super Bowl in Denver in 2012, she helped with fundraising for both teams even though she was not the team manager or a player. Within CMSA, she founded the first annual CMSA women's social held at Joe's Bar on Weed Street. She was awarded the Angie Oldham Memorial Award in 2009 for her volunteer work with CMSA's Women's Flag League, was named CMSA female athlete of the year in 2010, and was inducted into the CMSA Hall of Fame in 2012.

RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.



Richard Knight Jr. has contributed to Chicago's LGBTQ+ community as a television and cabaret entertainer, recording artist, filmmaker, creative writer, critic and journalist, public relations director, and activist. He earned two Emmys as his "Dick O'Day" character on WTTW's "Wild Chicago." His alter-ego endures in the theatrical game show "Dick O'Day's Big Lovely Bingo" and the "Showbiz Kids from Hell" comedy duo, which have been raising money for LGBTQ+ charities for decades.

Having served as film critic for Windy City Times for 12 ½ years, Knight has authored several books of film criticism. For eight years he served as the features programming director for Reeling: The Chicago International LGBTQ+ Film Festival. He has hosted multiple film series including "Camp Midnight" at the Music Box Theater and the "Cinema Q" series at the Chicago Cultural Center and the Chicago Public Library.

As an openly gay journalist in mainstream Chicago media, Knight has brought a queer perspective to the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Reader, and Newcity. "Haunted Houses, Porn Stars & Toy Collectors," a compilation of his 15-year career as a human-interest journalist, was published in 2022. He is also the author of "How Do I Get Outside?!" (based on his stint as the cocktail pianist on the world's most luxurious cruise ship) and "Twilight World," a chronicle of mid-1980s glittery nightlife set against the rise of AIDS in Chicago.

As a pianist and singer/songwriter, Knight has helmed numerous musical comedy ventures, most notably as omni-sexual bandleader Monty Mattachine of the wacky, Latin-flavored "Samba Bamba" for the past 31 years. He also co-wrote, co-directed, and co-produced "Scrooge & Marley," a gay film version of "A Christmas Carol" currently being adapted for the stage. "Given Your True Nature" –– a screenplay based on Knight's experience being kicked out of high school for being gay –– is in development as a feature film. He was PR Director of Chicago's Limelight nightclub in the 1980s and has enjoyed a long association with the Annoyance Theater.

Richard's activism includes membership in ACT-UP Chicago and extensive volunteer work beginning in the 1980s delivering meals to home-bound people with AIDS for Open Hand Chicago, which he later served as a board member. He also conceived and orchestrated that organization's extremely successful Annual Croquet Tournaments, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for critical services over multiple years.

MIKE A MACHARELLO



Mike A. Macharello is a prominent figure in Chicago's House Music scene as a DJ, music artist, studio producer, record label owner, event promoter, professional bartender, club owner, magazine graphic designer, and nightlife impresario. His career began in the early 1980s, when the electrifying sounds of disco, dance, and house music captivated him. Soon, Macharello's DJ skills were captivating crowds across Chicagoland at nightclubs like Nutbush City Limits, Paradise, Coconuts, Bistro Too, and Roscoe's, landing him a place on Chicago's prestigious "100 Most Influential House DJs" list. Mike was a master-mixer DJ on Chicago radio stations like WGCI, WBMX, and WXFM, and in the disco era WDAI (Disco DAI) radio station would regularly countdown his top five most played songs on the air.

In 1997, Macharello took the leap into club ownership with Circuit Night Club. Over the club's 20-year history, Circuit became a beacon of inclusivity and pulsating rhythms that drew dancers and music lovers from across the city and beyond. Under Macharello's leadership, Circuit hosted legendary DJs, nurtured up- and-coming talent, and brought major recording artist to the club's stage. Circuit Night Club became a cornerstone of Chicago's LGBTQ+ nightlife, welcoming white, Black, Hispanic, gay, lesbian, transgender, and gay-friendly straight people to the Northalsted strip.

Macharello further amplified Chicago's alternative lifestyle scene through boiMAGazine, a publication that was launched at the GayY2K millennium event produced by Macharello at the Congress Theater. With Macharello as graphic designer and content creator, boiMAGazine became a vital platform for the alternative lifestyle community, highlighting talent, showcasing major Chicago events, and chronicling the scene's evolution.

Though Circuit closed its doors in 2016, Macharello continues to leave his mark on Chicago's ever-evolving musical landscape. He's a mentor to countless DJs and creatives, a staunch advocate for LGBTQ+ equality and inclusivity, and a tireless ambassador for Chicago's nightlife and music scene. And in 2025, Macharello embarked on his most important work, philanthropy, by setting the stage for a non-profit organization, the Chicago Arts Center, whose mission is to help combat post-pandemic smart-device addictions.

ADAM L MCMATH



Adam L. McMath is a filmmaker, committed activist, and dynamic community organizer. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, he moved to Chicago in 2000 to study film, video, and theater at Columbia College Chicago. This interdisciplinary foundation sharpened his storytelling instincts and deepened his commitment to using the arts as a tool for cultural transformation and community healing.

McMath's filmmaking is rooted in truth-telling, visibility, and a deep love for Black queer expression. In 2013, he directed "Miss UnderSTUD," an acclaimed documentary exploring the lives of masculine-presenting lesbians in Chicago. He also directed a documentary on soul artist Marshall Titus, an openly gay "Star Search" runner-up whose four-decade career has earned international acclaim. McMath also served as Titus's manager and supported several other independent artists, building platforms for Black LGBTQ+ creatives to thrive.

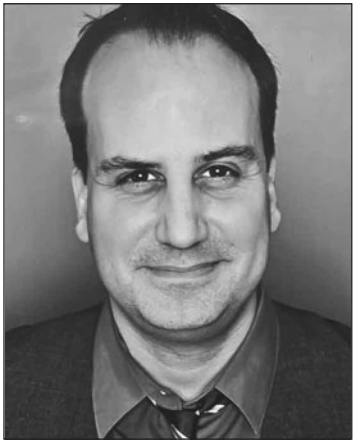
McMath's music videos have aired on MTV and Logo and played in nightclubs worldwide. He has worked with homo hip-hop pioneer Tori Fixx and drag icon Cyon Flare, pushingqueer artistry to the forefront of both underground and mainstream culture.

In 2014, he joined Black Alphabet NFP, an arts and media nonprofit serving the Black LGBTQ+ community, and in 2018 became its president and executive director. Under his leadership, Black Alphabet evolved beyond a film festival into a national arts and wellness institution. McMath expanded programming to include healing arts, free art therapy, and other creative mental health services. McMath also co-founded the Jamii Center for Arts and Media, a cultural hub partially funded by the City of Chicago. Operated by Black Alphabet, the center serves as a creative sanctuary for Chicago's Black LGBTQ+ community and allies, offering year-round access to art, wellness, and liberation-focusedprogramming.

Under McMath's leadership, Black Alphabet has become a national and global brand, with initiatives reaching cities across the U.S. and as far as Uganda, where the organization hosted what is believed to be the country's largest LGBTQ+ event in over 20 years.

Before leading Black Alphabet, Adam co-created Cocktails and Cufflinks, a trailblazing after-work series for Black LGBTQ+ professionals in Chicago, carving out joyful, affirming community spaces.

JERRY NUNN



Jerry Nunn's career in Illinois began after he graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in performing arts and moved to Chicago in 1994. In 2003, he participated in a special project with Howard Brown Health Center for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, conducting confidential health assessments for more than 400 individuals in English and Spanish. He joined the sales team at Windy City Media Group in November 2004 and started photographing nightlife for the company's Nightspots magazine while also covering events for Windy City Times. He is currently a senior writer and sales director for the 40-year-old company.

In 2010, Nunn took on the role of entertainment editor for GoPride.com and also became a photographer for Edge Media Network. His freelance outlets have included GayCities, Grab Magazine, Glide Magazine, Frontiers, the Chicago Reader, and Nexus Radio. He was a correspondent for WGN Radio for three years, as well as co-host for WTMX's podcast "Non-Stop with Lisa and Jerry."

For the past three decades, his volunteer efforts have had him teaming up with Heartland Alliance's GroceryLand food pantry, which inspired him to produce a fundraiser for the organization on his 50th birthday. He continued to expand his work with high-risk individuals by moving into healthcare in 2020 as an outreach and prevention educator at Greater Family Health in suburban Chicago. Here he gained invaluable skills as a counselor and HIV tester, which had him eventually leading recovery groups at Haymarket Center as a health navigator and working as a regional PrEP coordinator through Medix.

In 2022, he joined the esteemed Critics Choice Association and founded the LGBTQ+ committee within the organization. As chairman of the committee, he created and programmed the inaugural Celebration of LGBTQ+ Cinema & Television awards show in 2024 and the second annual ceremony in 2025. Also in 2025, he has been selling corporate sponsorships for Reeling: The 43rd Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival. He has contributed to two published books, "Obama and the Gays: A Political Marriage" and "Mom: A Tribute to Mothers of LGBTs." His website, NunnontheRun.com, spotlights more activities, and live interviews can be found on his Nunn on One YouTube channel.

REYNA ORTIZ



Reyna Ortiz, an Indigenous Mexican and Caribbean Boricua woman of trans experience, has dedicated her life to advocacy and activism in the LGBT community, promoting HIV prevention, supporting LGBTQ+ youth, assisting homeless individuals, and advocating for the rights of trans and gender diverse populations.

Coming out at age 14 in 1994 while in high school, Ortiz felt "if they push me out of here, they will push me out of everywhere." She began to speak and initiate education sessions to her classmates about LGBTQ history and participate in theatre as openly "gender variant." She was crowned Prom Queen by her graduating class, proving that remaining true to yourself will allow people to understand and accept you authentically.

After being introduced to the educational work of HIV prevention at the CORE Center, she walked the streets of Chicago passing out condoms and testing information to trans sex workers. As program director at the agency for 11 years, she has assisted thousands of LGBTQ+ youth to navigate the challenges of queer existence in the City of Chicago. As a former sex-worker, she empathetically observes and listens to her community. For almost eight years she has been a housing assessor, processing applications for young people experiencing homelessness. She has connected more than 600 participants from homelessness and housing instability to a multitude of housing resources. And for almost four years Reyna has facilitated a trans incarceration group within the Cook County jail system, where she created a curriculum and tried to minimize the cycles of recidivism for trans women by connecting them to resources when they are released.

A respected speaker and facilitator, Ortiz has presented at the Equality Federation in Portland on the decriminalization of sex work and its impact on trans and gender diverse populations and at Kent School of Law in Chicago on dismantling laws that affect marginalized communities. Most recently, she appeared before the Illinois State Legislature on behalf of HB2542 and as part of Chicago Mayor Brandson Johnson's Transfemicide ordinance designed to ensure protection and resources for Chicago residents and visiting individuals of trans experience. She is the author of "T Stands for Truth: In Search of the Queen."

MILON V PARKER



Chicago-based independent filmmaker and actress Milon V. Parker has contributed to the representation and visibility of the LGBT community through her work, including the popular film series "The Lies We Tell But the Secrets We Keep," the romantic drama "More Than Friends," and the holiday-themed film "Coming Out for Christmas," all of which authentically depict LGBTQ+ stories to inspire audiences worldwide.

Parker modeled from 2005 to 2011, working in both runway and print. In 2007, she was featured in the Hard Candy calendar. She began her acting career in 2009 in her first stage play, "Bois Don't Cry," performed in Atlanta, and then moved into film by starring in her first movie, "Mama Said Yo Mama's a DYKE" (2010). In 2011, she authored "The Lies We Tell But the Secrets We Keep," which became the foundation for "The Lies We Tell" film series.

In 2016, Parker challenged herself with the romantic drama "More Than Friends," which became a hit streaming on platforms like Amazon, Tubi TV, and Peacock. In 2022, she launched the spin-off series "After the Lies," available on Amazon Prime Video. Her work continues to resonate with audiences, with "The Lies We Tell" series reaching millions of viewers. In 2023, she premiered "Coming Out for Christmas," a holiday-themed film, which will return for the 2025 holiday season, streaming on several major platforms. In March 2025, Parker won the award for Best Thriller Screenplay at the Los Angeles Film Awards, and in July 2025 she won the award for Best Screenplay at the Essence Film Festival in New Orleans.

ALEX PEREZ



Alex Perez, Chicago-based national correspondent for ABC News, is a nationally respected openly gay Latino journalist who has contributed to elevating issues of racial justice, public safety, and marginalized voices through his impactful reporting for major news platforms. Born in 1980 and raised in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, he graduated from St. Laurence High School and went on to study Broadcast Journalism at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. While in college he first cut his teeth in the broadcast news profession as an intern at CBS/Channel 2 in Chicago. His early career included reporting stints in Alpena, Michigan, and at KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas, before he returned home to serve as a reporter for NBC's WMAQ-TV/Channel 5. While working there, he was honored by the Association of Latinos Motivating Action (ALMA) and was named a "30 Under 30" honoree by Windy City Times.

Since 2012, Perez has been a national correspondent for ABC News. His reporting appears across "Good Morning America," "World News Tonight with David Muir," "Nightline," "20/20," and ABC News' digital platforms. Perez has covered some of the most consequential stories of our time, including the killings of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and George Floyd. He has reported extensively on gun violence in Chicago and across the country, including the Oak Creek Sikh temple shooting. His work has consistently elevated issues of racial justice, public safety, and the voices of marginalized communities.

Perez has also used his platform to highlight the LGBTQ+ community. He has shared hisown coming-out story and produced national segments profiling pioneers like Marsha P.Johnson and Bayard Rustin for Pride Month, as well as the World AIDS Day special "Viral:A World Without AIDS." His visibility as an openly gay journalist of color in a nationalnewsroom has inspired countless young people to see possibility in their own futures.

Perez was awarded the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship, traveling across Europe to meet with government leaders and study international politics. In 2022, he was named as one of Out Magazine's OUT100. He is a proud member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc. His heritage as the son of a Cuban immigrant mother and Puerto Rican father underscores his lifelong commitment to amplifying diverse voices. He and his husband, Kevin, make their home in Chicago with their French bulldog, Javí.

DR. MARIO PIERCE "MIDWEST FATHER MARIO BALENCIAGA"



Dr. Mario Pierce, also known as Midwest Father Mario Balenciaga, is senior director of programs at Brave Space Alliance, an LGBTQ+-focused center on Chicago's South Side. In that role he directs programming to impact youth, young adult and adult LGBTQ+/GNC/Non-Binary community members. As a dedicated researcher and educator, he utilizes more than two decades of experience in community health, education, and advocacy.

His work at the Chicago Center for HIV Elimination and University of Chicago Medicine equipped him with skills to develop and implement community-based programs, facilitate support groups emphasizing health literacy and life skills, and managing educational and health-related initiatives.

As a key figure in the Chicago and Midwest House Ballroom scene, he was initiated into the House of Balenciaga in 2002 at its inception. He became the first Midwest Father of the House of Balenciaga in 2008 and was elevated to Ballroom Icon in 2018. He has been a powerful and transformative force within the House Lives Matter international grassroots organizing initiative of the House and Ballroom Community since 2016. Pierce's extraordinary legacy of leadership is deeply ingrained in the principles and mission of the House of Balenciaga, which emphasize excellence, professionalism, community involvement, and visibility. His unwavering leadership, vision, and commitment in the Chicago House Ballroom community and on the national stage have been lifesaving.

JONATHAN "YONI" PIZER



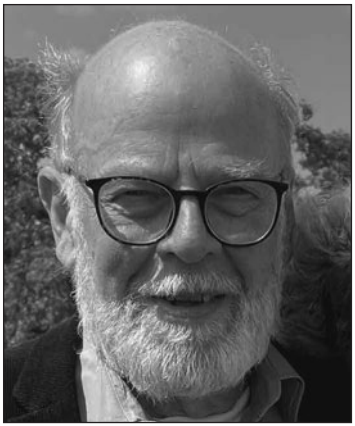
Jonathan "Yoni" Pizer has emerged as a leader in the Chicago LGBTQ+ community through serving as the first board president of AIDS Garden Chicago in Lincoln Park, the city's first public monument to memorialize the early days of Chicago's HIV epidemic and to honor those who continue to fight against the disease today. As AIDS Garden Chicago's board president, Pizer uses his network to provide financial support and meaningful programming at the garden, bringing leaders in social service, politics, and the arts to speak and perform.

Pizer has also been the LGBTQ community liaison for Chicago Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL) for 11 years. In that capacity, he organizes events to bring community members together with Rep. Quigley to share information. Pizer and his husband, Brad Lippitz, also regularly host fundraising events for pro-LGBTQ+ politicians such as former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

Pizer earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He served as a Democratic member of the Illinois House in 2020, representing Illinois' 12th legislative district, which includes parts of Chicago's Lincoln Park, Lake View, and Uptown neighborhoods.

JIM RINNERT

Inducted Posthumously



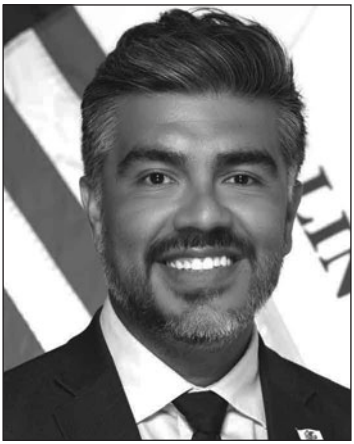
Artist, playwright, and activist James Hubert "Jim" Rinnert was the founding board president of the Biscotto/Miller Fund, created in 1985 to provide direct financial assistance to Chicagoland theatre artists impacted by HIV/AIDS. The fund was named in memory of Rinnert's lover, Chicago theatre stage manager Tom Biscotto, and Rinnert's friend, actor J. Pat Miller, following their deaths from AIDS-related complications. Rinnert was part of the committee that organized and produced "Arts Against AIDS," a May 13, 1985, benefit variety show that raised some $10,000 for the Biscotto-Miller Fund. In 1987, Rinnert was instrumental in the creation of Season of Concern Chicago, the nonprofit agency that now manages the Biscotto/Miller Fund, and later served as SOC's board president. Originally formed to assist people with AIDS-related illnesses, SOC today provides financial assistance to Chicagoland theater practitioners impacted by illness, injury, or circumstance that prevents them from working as well as to Chicago-area HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Born in Flora, Illinois, in 1944, Rinnert came to Chicago in the early 1970s after graduating from Eastern Illinois University and following a stint in the U.S. Army serving as a personnel specialist during the Vietnam War. An accomplished visual artist, he joined the staff of In These Times, a Chicago-based, nationally circulated politically progressive magazine of news and opinion, in 1976, and served as its art director for three decades in addition to contributing articles on LGBT rights issues.

Before joining the staff of In These Times, as well as throughout his tenure there, Rinnert was involved in Chicago's grassroots theatre scene throughout the 1970s. His 1980 multimedia play "The Artaud Project," which starred J. Pat Miller as avant-garde French theatre and cinema artist Antonin Artaud, won a special Joseph Jefferson (Jeff) Award. Chicago Tribune theatre critic Richard Christiansen called the production "a compulsively watchable work that offers interested theater audiences the opportunity to experience a genuinely experimental piece."

Rinnert passed away in 2025. At the time of his death he was living in New Carlisle, Indiana, with his husband, retired Lyric Opera director of finance Brent Fisher.

MARIO TRETO JR.



Mario Treto Jr., Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, is a trailblazing public servant, attorney, and civic leader. As the first openly gay Latino Cabinet member in Illinois government, he has profoundly impacted Chicago's LGBTQ+ community by authoring transformative local ordinances for LGBTQ+ protections and implementing equity-focused regulations.

A lifelong Chicagoan and proud son of Mexican immigrants, Treto has broken barriers while ensuring that equity, inclusion, and justice remain central to his work. As Deputy City Attorney for Evanston, he authored transformative local ordinances that reshaped LGBTQ+ protections and served as models statewide. He drafted Illinois' first gender-neutral restroom ordinance, legislation that became the foundation for Illinois' statewide law and inspired municipalities nationally. He authored Evanston's Human Rights Ordinance to explicitly include gender identity as a protected class, cementing nondiscrimination protections for transgender residents. Additionally, he crafted Evanston's Sanctuary City Ordinance, reinforcing the city's commitment to immigrant rights.

Treto was appointed by Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker to his Cabinet in 2019. As Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Treto oversees the licensing and regulation of more than 1.2 million professionals across healthcare, real estate, and financial services, manages a $135 million budget, and leads 350 employees statewide. His tenure has been defined by modernization and equity: implementing the Illinois Community Reinvestment Act to address banking deserts, enforcing the Predatory Loan Prevention Act, capping payday loan interest rates, doubling state-funded real estate scholarships for minorities, and launching initiatives to close racial gaps in housing appraisals. By removing barriers to licensure and prioritizing access, he has created pathways of opportunity for historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ professionals.

As the youngest and first Latino Board Chair of Howard Brown Health, the Midwest's largest LGBTQ+ health organization, Treto oversaw a budget increase from $100 million to $350 million, expansion to 12 clinics, and care for more than 35,000 patients annually. He has also served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Professionalism, the Association of Real Estate License Law Officials, and the Board of Trustees of the Poetry Foundation, where he continues to elevate diverse voices.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY (CGS)



The Chicago Gender Society (CGS) was founded in May 1987 for transgender education and support. CGS provides a safe space for transgender people to explore their gender identity through monthly meetings, socials, and events. The group's meetings provide members and guests an opportunity to network with other individuals exploring similar feelings. Some events feature educational programs from experts in fields of interest to our members. Monthly socials provide an evening out with members and friends in a public environment.

The Chicago Gender Society is organized and operated for social, charitable and educational purposes. The goal of CGS is to provide social and educational activities for its members, the transgender community and its supporters, and the general public. CGS seeks to promote a positive self-image for transgender individuals in the business community, in the media, and among the general public.

CGS exists to serve the members in four areas: (1) To offer safe semi-public educational activities for members and the opportunity to meet others with similar interests, build their confidence, and perfect their presentation. (2) To educate the general public in order to dispel fear, ignorance and promote acceptance of transgender people. (3) To provide educational programs to educate, assist and support all its members. (4) To develop a growing leadership and volunteer base that will expand this work.

CGS has supported other LGBT organizations such as Equality Illinois and the Human Rights Campaign. CGS has had floats in the Chicago Pride Parade for some 30 years (about 30) and has participated in the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade since its inception. CGS has provided speakers at colleges and universities to educate the public about the transgender journey, and its members have guest hosted at the annual Reeling Film Festival.

THE CHICAGO PRIDE LEAGUE (CPL)



The Chicago Pride League (CPL) has long seen the sport of bowling as a platform for building and supporting community. It is the largest LGBTQ+ bowling league in Chicago, open to any who enjoy positively engaging, regardless of skill, in a fun, accepting environment.

CPL is affiliated with the International Gay Bowlers Association (IGBO), and its bowlers are sanctioned through the U.S. Bowling Congress. Its roots are with the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA); bowling became CMSA's second sponsored sport after the CMSA formed in 1978. CPL became an independent league in early 2000s.

The league is comprised of more than 200 bowlers on 38 teams as of the 2025-26 season, meeting at Waveland Bowl on Western Avenue on Friday nights from September through April. A raffle at each week's bowling events raises funds for several charities voted on by league members at the season's start.

The league's commitment to community is exemplified by the funds raised and donated annually to local organizations that are important to the LGBTQ+ and wider community. Over the last 25 years, well over $100,000 has been raised and donated to groups as varied as the Center on Halsted, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Brave Space Alliance, animal welfare groups, and and food pantries, among others.

CPL also has been instrumental in showcasing the city and the sport to bowlers from around the country by sponsoring an annual IGBO-affiliated bowling tournament, recently renamed the Chi-Town Classic. In keeping with CPL tradition, funds raised from this event also are donated to worthy local causes.

CHICAGO PRIMETIMERS (CPT)



For more than 25 years, Chicago PrimeTimers (CPT) has been a vital and affirming community for older gay, bisexual, and trans men in the Chicago area. As a proud chapter of the original worldwide PrimeTimers organization, CPT provides connection, friendship, and purpose for hundreds of members through social, cultural, and educational programming.

Meeting monthly for 20+ years, CPT offers a welcoming environment where members enjoy guest presentations by local theater artists, singers, authors, financial advisors, and health care professionals. The group's events help reduce isolation, promote lifelong learning, and celebrate the rich cultural life of Chicago.

CPT's membership ranges in age from 30-something to 95. While many members are retired, they are far from a retiring group. They are active, engaged, and deeply curious—lovers of art, books, conversation, performance, and each other.

Each month, members enjoy more than two dozen scheduled activities, including regular outings to cultural theater events, weekly trips to lunchtime concerts, book club meetings at the Center on Halsted, and outings to films and operas. Social events like card games, potlucks, and birthday celebrations are paired with deeper group conversations on topics such as aging, grief, and politics—held both in person and on Zoom.The COVID pandemic presented a major challenge, especially for older LGBTQ+ adults. CPT rose to the occasion with virtual meetings, check-in calls, and eventually a safe return to in-person connection. Today, the group is stronger than ever, with more than 200 active members and a renewed commitment to inclusivity and accessibility. Through decades of change, CPT has remained a steady, joyful, and essential presence in Chicago's LGBTQ+ community.

ONYX MIDWEST



ONYX Midwest, founded in Chicago in 1995, is the pioneering chapter of a national leather fraternity dedicated to empowering queer men of color in the kink community. The group was created to provide education, brotherhood, and a bridge for gay, bisexual, and transgender men of color to participate fully in the leather scene. Over three decades, ONYX Midwest has grown into the longest-running leather club for people of color, known for its hospitality and leadership in fostering inclusion, knowledge-sharing, and fellowship across the Midwest.

True to its mission of service and empowerment, ONYX Midwest has spearheaded numerous community initiatives. The chapter partnered with Mr. Chicago Bear 2018 to host a Mental Health First Aid training course, equipping leather community members with skills to support those in crisis. The organization further champions sexual health education by teaming up with groups like Project VIDA to present kink-positive, safer-sex workshops. From 2017-2024, ONYX Midwest has co-hosted Toy With Me, an innovative series that uses kink and sexual education to encourage "spicier" but safer sex practices in the community. These workshops, covering topics from HIV prevention to toy safety, exemplify ONYX's commitment to education and the well-being of its members and allies.ONYX Midwest members volunteer and fundraise alongside other organizations, lending their energy to causes ranging from youth homelessness to preserving LGBTQ leather history. ONYX Midwest teams regularly participate in Trident International Windy City's annual charity competitions, which raise funds for vital services like the Broadway Youth Center and the Leather Archives & Museum. The chapter proudly hosts the iconic ONYX Leather Dance party during International Mr. Leather (IML) weekend in Chicago, ensuring that people of color are visibly celebrated in this gathering.

For 30 years, ONYX Midwest has exemplified the values of service, cultural celebration, and brotherhood. Its enduring mission to "Educate, Explore, and Empower" men of color in leather is evident in every workshop taught, every fundraiser held, and every new brother welcomed.

A REAL READ (2007) • ANGEL ABCEDE (2003) • ABOUT FACE THEATRE (2003) • ACT UP/CHICAGO (2000) • AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PROUD BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (1993) • PAUL ADAMS (2011, posthumous) • ROBERT J. ADAMS (1994, now deceased) JANE ADDAMS (2008, posthumous) • JOHN ADEMOLA ADEWOYE (2020) • AFFINITY COMMUNITY SERVICES (2002) • RICK AGUILAR (2022) • AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO (2009) • AIDS LEGAL COUNCIL OF CHICAGO (2003) • JEAN ALBRIGHT (2015) • GAYLON ALCARAZ (2013) • ORTEZ ALDERSON (1991, posthumous) • JAMES L. ALEXANDER (2013) • AVA ALLEN (1999) • CLAUDIA ALLEN (2010) • GLORIA "MAMA" ALLEN (2024, Posthumous) ROBERT HENRY ALLERTON (2016, posthumous) ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION (2017) • LA TONY ALVARADO RIVERA (2024) • AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF ILLINOIS (2010) • AMERICAN VETERANS FOR EQUAL RIGHTS–CHICAGO CHAPTER (2007) • AMIGAS LATINAS (2016) • JACQUELINE ANDERSON (1996, now deceased) • MARGARET ANDERSON (2006, posthumous) • ANN & ROBERT H. LURIE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL GENDER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (2023) • TONI ARMSTRONG JR (1997) • SUZANNE ARNOLD (2008) • GERALD ARPINO (2014, posthumous) • ARTEMIS SINGERS (2008) • ASIANS AND FRIENDS CHICAGO (2010) • ASSOCIATION OF LATIN MEN FOR ACTION (2000) • MIGUEL AYALA (1997) JUDY BAAR TOPINKA (2020, posthumous) • TOM BACHTELL (2016) • BAILIWICK REPERTORY'S PRIDE SERIES (1996) • TRACY BAIM (1994) • JOHN J. BALESTER (1999) BRENETTA HOWELL BARRETT (2020) • CARRIE BARNETT (1998) • ROBERT SLOANE BASKER (1993, now deceased) • LORRAINNE SADE BASKERVILLE (2000) • ZAHARA MONIQUE BASSETT (2022) • PAULA BASTA (2009) • LOIS BATES (2012, posthumous) DAVID BRIAN BELL (1999, posthumous) • JAMES L. BENNETT (2013) • DR. DANIEL S. BERGER (2024) • CARYN BERMAN (1995, now deceased) • BONSAI BERMÚDEZ, MS (2024) • BIG CHICKS (2016) • ALEXANDRA BILLINGS (2005) • AMAILIA BLACK (2024) • BLACK ALPHABET (2023) • DAVID BLATT (2007) • RONALD E. BOGAN (2016) • KEVIN G. BOYER (2008) • LORA BRANCH (2001) • CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN (2007) • JENNIFER BRIER (2014) • MICHAL BRODY (2008) • ROGER BROWN (2004, posthumous) • LINDA BUBON (2023) • BUDDIES' RESTAURANT AND BAR (2003) • ROMÁN BUENROSTRO (2016, now deceased) • ROBBIN BURR (2007) • GEORGE S. BUSE (1994, now deceased) • JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994, now deceased) • KEITH C. BUTLER (2017) • KATHY CALDWELL (2017) CHEF TANIA CALLAWAY (2003, posthumous) • GREG CAMERON (2011) • LORI CANNON (1994, now deceased) • EVETTE CARDONA (2002) • MEGAN CARNEY (2005) • C. C. CARTER (2002) CAPRICE CARTHANS (2020) • KELLY CASSIDY (2014) • ALDO CASTILLO (2005) ROBERT CASTILLO (2001) • ARMAND R. CERBONE, Ph.D. (2003) • DAVID CERDA (2016) JORGE CESTOU (2013) • ROGER "RJ" CHAFFIN (1997, now deceased) • SAMSON CHAN (1995, posthumous) • JOHN CHESTER (1994, now deceased) • CHI-TOWN SQUARES (2012) CHICAGO BLACK GAY MEN'S CAUCUS (2012) • CHICAGO BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (2003) • CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS (2001) • CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM (2010) posthumous) • CHICAGO HOUSE AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY, INC. (1994) • CHICAGO 2006, INC./GAY GAMES VII (2007) • GARY G. CHICHESTER (1992) • E. KITCH CHILDS (1993, posthumous) • THOMAS R. CHIOLA (1998)

CHRISTOPHER CLASON (2004, posthumous) • LUCRETIA CLAY-WARD (2014) • GINNI CLEMMENS (2021, posthumous) • CHARLES E. CLIFTON (2004, posthumous) • SAM COADY (2008) • JERROLD E. COHEN (1993, posthumous) • CONGREGATION OR CHADASH (2006) • R. SUE CONNOLLY (2003) • LOU CONTE (2009) • LORI A. COOPER (2009) • TERRY COSGROVE (2014) • T. CHRIS COTHRAN (1995, now deceased) • SARAH CRAIG (1995, posthumous) • JACQUES CRISTION (2006, posthumous) • RAYMOND CROSSMAN (2020) LISA ISADORA CRUZ (2021) • DAVID LEE CSICSKO (2016) • RICHARD M. DALEY (2006) JON-HENRI DAMSKI (1991, now deceased) • JAMES C. DARBY (1997) ANDREW DAVIS (2023) • SAMUEL F. DAVIS, JR. (1994, posthumous) • ST. SUKIE DE LA CROIX (2012) • JAN DEE (2023) • JACK DELANEY (1996) • GREGORY R. DELL (2008, now deceased) • JOHN D'EMILIO (2005) • PATRICK DENNIS (2016, posthumous) • JAY PAUL DERATANY (2020) ANNA DESHAWN (2023) • DANIEL L. DEVER (2024) • DAN DI LEO (2010, posthumous) DIGNITY/CHICAGO (1997) • TARRINA DIKES (2007) • LAURIE J. DITTMAN (1998) • THOM DOMBKOWSKI (1992, now deceased) • KATHERINE "KIT" DUFFY (2008, now deceased) EDDIE DUGAN (EDWARD L. DAVISON, JR.) (2008, posthumous) • RANDY DUNCAN (1999) MURRAY EDELMAN (2008) • RONALD J. EHEMANN (2020, now deceased) • KEITH ELLIOTT (2001) EQUALITY ILLINOIS (2005) • FRED EYCHANER (2015) • MERRY MARY FEATHERSON (2005, now deceased) • SARA FEIGENHOLTZ (2001) • JAMES W. FLINT (1991) ANTONIA "TATA" FLORES (2011, posthumous) • SOL FLORES (2024) • JOHN "MISS FOOZIE" FOOS (2024) • GRANT LYNN FORD (2011, now deceased) • ROBERT T. FORD (1993, now deceased) • JEANNETTE HOWARD FOSTER (1998, posthumous) ROBERT BONVOULOIR FOSTER (2003, posthumous) • DENISE FOY (2020) • SCOTT FREE (2010) DALILA FRIDI (2020) • FRONTRUNNERS/FRONTWALKERS CHICAGO (1995) • TIMOTHY K. FRYE (2024) HENRY BLAKE FULLER (2000, posthumous) • FRANK GALATI (2004, now deceased) • BOB GAMMIE (2010, now deceased) • MARTIN GAPSHIS (2007, now deceased) • EMMANUEL GARCIA (2015) RICK GARCIA (1999) • ROBERT GAROFALO (2011) • RICHARD GARRIN (1993) • TERRY GASKINS (2020) • JIM GATES (2002) • GAY CHICAGO MAGAZINE (1991) CHICAGO CHAPTER OF THE GAY, LESBIAN, AND STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK (2000) SANFORD E. GAYLORD (2012) • HENRY GERBER (1992, posthumous) • GERBER/HART LIBRARY (1996) • RALPH PAUL GERNHARDT (2004, now deceased) • FRANK GOLEY (2001, posthumous) • GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (2011) • ADRIENNE J.GOODMAN (1994, now deceased) • TED GRADY (2011) THE GRAHAM FAMILY (2003) • JEFF GRAUBART (1993) • RICHARD LEE GRAY (1992) VERNITA GRAY (1992, now deceased) • IDA GREATHOUSE (1997, posthumous) WILLIAM W. GREAVES (2012) • KEITH GREEN (2012) • MAYA GREEN (2022) • PEG GREY (1992, now deceased) • ARLENE HALKO (1996, now deceased) • JOEL HALL (1993) JOHN R. HAMMELL (1997, posthumous) • PHILIP A. HANNEMA (2000, now deceased) RENEE C. HANOVER (1991, now deceased) • LORRAINE HANSBERRY (1999, posthumous) • JEAN V. HARDISTY (1995, now deceased) • JORJET HARPER (1998) GREGORY "GREG" HARRIS (1996) • PEARL M. HART (1992, posthumous) MATTHEW HARVAT (2022) • JANE HEAP (2006, posthumous) • ALLEN HICKS (1999, now deceased) • PAUL HIGHFIELD (2022) • MARCIA HILL (2011) •

MARGARET HILLIS (2023, posthumous) • EARNEST E. HITE, JR. (1994, now deceased) SARAH LUCIA HOAGLAND (2000) • HOMOCORE CHICAGO (2022) DEMETRIUS "DEM" HOPKINS (2024) • HORIZONS COMMUNITY SERVICES (1992) • LANA HOSTETLER (2021, posthumous) HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER (1991) • TONDA L. HUGHES (2003) • KIM L. HUNT (2016) CHUCK HYDE (2001, now deceased) • ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER (2022) • INTERNATIONAL MR. LEATHER (2010) MARK ISHAUG (2012) • TONY JACKSON (2011, posthumous) STANLEY JENCZYK (2015) • JENNER & BLOCK (2011) • ANTONIO DAVID JIMENEZ (2001) • THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL (2016) • JUDITH S. JOHNS (1991) • CAROL A. JOHNSON (1991) • E. PATRICK JOHNSON (2010) • JOEL DRAKE JOHNSON (2020, posthumous) RUDOLPH JOHNSON, JR. (2013, posthumous) • WAYNE JOHNSON (2021) • ARTHUR L. JOHNSTON (1998) • IRA H. JONES (1998, posthumous) • STEPHEN (WANDA LUST) JONES (2008, posthumous) • CHRISTINA KAHRL (2014) • RICK KARLIN (1997) NANCY J. KATZ (2000) • CORINNE KAWECKI (1997) • OWEN KEEHNEN (2011) CLIFFORD P. KELLEY (1998) • WILLIAM B. KELLEY (1991, now deceased) • NICK KELLY (1995) • ANTONIO KING (2024) • BILLIE JEAN KING (1999) • DOROTHY KLEFSTAD (1998) THOMAS KLEIN (2016) RALLA KLEPAK (2017, now deceased) • FRANKIE KNUCKLES (1996, now deceased) • BRUCE KOFF (1994) • DANNY KOPELSON (2000) • SUZANNE MARIE KRAUS (2004) • MARIE J. KUDA (1991, now deceased) • STEVE KULIEKE (2020) • JOE LA PAT (2008, posthumous) LAKESIDE PRIDE MUSIC ENSEMBLES (2011) • LAMBDA LEGAL—MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE (2013) • LOUIS I. LANG (2002) • GREER LANKTON (2017, posthumous) NANCY LANOUE (1993) • PATRICIA "THE PIN LADY" LATHAM (2022, now deceased) • LAVENDER WOMAN (2017) • LEATHER ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM (2017) • THE LEGACY PROJECT (2020) MICHAEL A. LEPPEN (2001) • LESBIAN AND GAY POLICE ASSOCIATION — GAY OFFICERS ACTION LEAGUE (2015) • LESBIAN COMMUNITY CANCER PROJECT (1999) LESBIGAY RADIO (1998) • ELLIS B. LEVIN (1994) • SEAN LEWIS (2024) • LORI LIGHTFOOT (2024) • LINCOLN PARK LAGOONERS (2004) LIONHEART GAY THEATRE COMPANY (1994) • MARCIA J. LIPETZ (2009, now deceased) PATRICIA M. LOGUE (2003, now deceased) • JOSEPH LOUNDY (2023) • OTIS MACK (2021) • ROBERT MADDOX (2001, now deceased) • AMY MAGGIO (2009) • MARIGOLD BOWL (2006) • KENNETH MARTÍN-OCASIO (2024) • MATTACHINE MIDWEST (2002) • PHOENIX MATTHEWS (2015) • PATRICIA S. McCOMBS (2000) • JEFFREY E. McCOURT (2007, posthumous) JOEY McDONALD (2009) • MIKE McHALE (2005) • LARRY McKEON (1997, now deceased) • HARLEY McMILLEN (1992, now deceased) SCOTT McPHERSON (1992, now deceased) • KEN MEJIA-BEAL (2024) • METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION (1992) • JILL M. METZ (2006) • ELLEN A. MEYERS (2001) • CHARLES R. MIDDLETON (2006) TONY MIDNITE (1996, now deceased) • CARLOS T. MOCK (2007) • EDWARD MOGUL (2014) • SID L. MOHN (1993) • DAVID MOORE (2007) • GAIL MORSE (2015) • MARY F. MORTEN (1996) • CLAUDIA MOSIER (2021) MOUNTAIN MOVING COFFEEHOUSE FOR WOMYN AND CHILDREN (1993)

MULRYAN AND YORK, ATTORNEYS AT LAW (2004) • DAVID ERNESTO MUNAR (2010) KATHRYN MUNZER (2001) • NAMES PROJECT CHICAGO CHAPTER (2002) • MARK NAGEL (2017, now deceased) • IFTI NASIM (1996, now deceased) • THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MEXICAN ART (2020) • EDWARD NEGRON (2006, now deceased) CHARLES EDWARD NELSON II (2002) • DAWN CLARK NETSCH (1995, now deceased) ROBERT NEUBERT (2023) • LEE A. NEWELL II (2013) • CHARLOTTE NEWFELD (1996, now deceased) • THE NIGHT MINISTRY (2011) • TOMMY (T.L.) NOBLE (2022) • MONA NORIEGA (2002) • ACHY OBEJAS (2010) • MICHAEL O'CONNOR (2015) • RENAE OGLETREE (1998, now deceased) • DEAN ROBERT OGREN (1998) PAUL G. OOSTENBRUG (2010) • OPEN HAND CHICAGO (1994) • DOM OREJUDOS (1992, posthumous) • DAVID ORR (2012) • KATHY OSTERMAN (1993, posthumous) • DAVID G. OSTROW (1997, now deceased) • OUT & PROUD IN CHICAGO (2014) • OUTSPOKEN (2022) • CHANNYN LYNNE PARKER (2024) • PATÉ (2013) • ANDREW PATNER (2013, now deceased) • JOHN PELLER (2024) • PEOPLE LIKE US BOOKSTORE (2017) PFLAG/CHICAGO (2004) • JOSÉ (PEPIN) PENA (1995) • JOHN PENNYCUFF (2003, now deceased) • CHILLI PEPPER (2007, now deceased) • ADRENE PEROM (1999, now deceased) LAIRD PETERSEN (2006, now deceased) • RICHARD W. PFEIFFER (1993, now deceased) LISA MARIE PICKENS (2014) • JIM PICKETT (2005) • GLEN PIETRANDONI (2017) POW-WOW (2013) • MARY D. POWERS (1992, now deceased) • PRIDE CHICAGO (2021) COL. JENNIFER N. PRITZKER (2023) • PROUD TO RUN (2012) • BILL PRY (2012) QUEER NATION CHICAGO (1995) • MIKE QUIGLEY (2009) • PATRICK QUINN (2016) DULCE QUINTERO (2017) • JUAN REED (2005) • CHARLES "CHUCK" RENSLOW (1991, now deceased) • LAURA RICKETTS (2013) • JOSE RIOS (2010) • FRANK M. ROBINSON (2009, now deceased) • LINDA S. RODGERS (1993) • CHUCK RODOCKER (2012) • JULIO RODRIGUEZ (2004) • CAROL RONEN (2005) • RALPHI ROSARIO (2021) • BETTY LARK ROSS (2021) RON SABLE (1993, now deceased) • TIFFANI ST. CLOUD (1996) • JANE M. HUSSEIN SAKS (2009) • JESUS SALGUEIRO (2008) • VICTOR A. SALVO, JR. (1998) • ZAIDA SANABIA (2009) • NORMAN L. SANDFIELD (1999, now deceased) • MIKE SAVAGE (2005, posthumous) HEATHER C. SAWYER (2012) • NAN SCHAFFER (2004) • JAN SCHAKOWSKY (2015) W. ROBERT SCHULTZ III (2024) • BRUCE C. SCOTT (1993, now deceased) SEASON OF CONCERN CHICAGO (2022) NORMA SELEDON (2016) • KAREN C. SENDZIAK (2007) • GREGG SHAPIRO (1999) PATRICK SHEAHAN (2007) • HELEN SHILLER (2000) • BRETT SHINGLEDECKER (2011) • DEBRA SHORE (2014) • SIDETRACK (2006) • CATHERINE SIKORA (2005) • SILK ROAD RISING (2014) • JOHN SIMMONS (2011, posthumous) • DAVID B. SINDT (1995, posthumous) PATRICK SINOZICH (2009) • LAWRENCE E. SLOAN (2005, posthumous) NORM SLOAN (1996) • STAN SLOAN (2010) • ROSS A. SLOTTEN (2014) • ADRIENNE J. SMITH (1991, now deceased) • ARMANDO L. SMITH (1995) • ART SMITH (2008) BARBARA SMITH (2015, posthumous) • CHRISTINA SMITH (2002) • JAMES MONROE SMITH (1995, now deceased) • MARY ANN SMITH (1997, now deceased) MAXSONN "MAX" C. SMITH (1991, now deceased) • TERENCE ALAN SMITH (Joan Jett-Blakk) • JOEY SOLOWAY (2022) • DANIEL SOTOMAYOR (1992, posthumous) • LAURENCE E. SPANG, DDS (2003) • GREGORY A. SPRAGUE (1994, posthumous) • STAR GAZE (2006)

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THIS YEAR WE PAUSE TO CELEBRATE THESE INDUCTEES WHOSE MILESTONE INDUCTION ANNIVERSARY IS UPON US. WE ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE A FEW OF THEM HERE WITH US TODAY. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THEM ON THEIR INDUCTION ANNIVERSARY, AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

1995 - 30 YEARS

Caryn Berman *(now deceased)*
Samson Chan *(posthumous)*
T. Chris Cothran *(now deceased)*
Dawn Clark Netsch *(now deceased)*
Sarah Craig *(posthumous)*
Front Runners/Front Walkers Chicago
Jean V. Hardisty *(now deceased)*
Nick Kelly
José Peña
Queer Nation Chicago
David B. Sindt *(posthumous)*
Armando L. Smith
James Monroe Smith *(now deceased)*
Thomas M. Tunney
Yvonne Zipter *(now deceased)*

2005 - 20 YEARS

Alexandra Scott Billings
Megan Carney
Aldo Castillo
John D'Emilio
Equality Illinois
Mary "Merry Mary" Featherson *(posthumous)*
Mike McHale
Jim Pickett
Juan Reed
Carol Ronen
C. Michael Savage *(posthumous)*
Catherine Sikora
Lawrence E. Sloan *(posthumous)*
Test Positive Aware Network

2015 - 10 YEARS

Jean Albright
Fred Eychaner
Emmaunel Garcia
Stanley Jenczyk
Lesbian and Gay Police Association-Gay Officers Action League
Phoenix Matthews
Gail Morse
Michael O'Connor
Jan Schakowski
Barbara Smith *(posthumous)*
Camilla B. Taylor
Lauren Verdich *(now deceased)*

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Chef Art Smith Compnay
The Chicago History Museum
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LAKESIDE PRIDE
MUSIC ENSEMBLES

SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame would like to thank and to recognize the contribution of the Lakeside Pride Music Ensemble for the beautiful music we have all enjoyed tonight.

Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles was inducted into The Hall of Fame in 2011, and is the umbrella group for a succession of instrumental ensembles that began in 1979 with the Chicago Gay Pride Band. Its four major components help to promote LGBT equality and social acceptance through music, frequently appearing in parades and concerts.

From its inception, Lakeside Pride and its legacy ensembles have welcomed members of all playing abilities, from those who have not played since high school to skilled musicians. The organization strives to foster a collaborative and supportive environment that helps all members represent the LGBT communities while expressing themselves through music.

LAKESIDEPRIDE.ORG

FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO LGBT HALL OF FAME

Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation formed in late 2009 to raise and provide financial subsistence to the Hall of Fame since it is no longer funded by the City of Chicago. Pro bono assistance in creating the corporation was provided by the Chicago law firm of Jenner & Block.

After the new not-for-profit corporation was formed, a partnership was entered into by the Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the City of Chicago, and the Chicago Commission on Human Relations. The partnership ensured the Hall of Fame's continuation as the only known municipally sponsored institution of its kind in the nation. Contributions to it are tax-deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a qualified organization under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

For additional information, please contact:
Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame
3712 North Broadway, # 637
Chicago, Illinois 60613-4235
773-281-5095
inquiry@ChicagoLGBTHallofFame.org

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