IN MEMORIAM
DAVID OSTROW
MAXSONN SMITH
MARIXTA VIDAL
2022 INDUCTEES
CHICAGO LGBT HALL OF FAME

Individuals
RICK AGUILAR
ZAHARA MONIQUE BASSETT
MAYA GREEN
MATTHEW HARVAT
PAUL HIGHFIELD
THOMAS (T.L.) NOBLE
JOEY SOLOWAY
DAN WOLF

Organizations
HOMOCORE CHICAGO
OUTSPoken
WINDY CITY PERFORMING ARTS

Friends of the Community
PATRICIA LATHAM
ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER
SEASON OF CONCERN CHICAGO
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.
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Greetings!

I am honored to welcome you all to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This annual event is one of our most important venues to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender neighbors to this city and our state.

For 30 years and long before I became governor, I have imagined Illinois as a beacon of hope for the national LGBTQ community. Thanks to your leadership, we've built that legacy — and we make progress toward eradicating hate every day.

Together, we're charting a new path forward so Illinoisans can live their fullest lives as their truest selves. I'm honored to congratulate each individual, business, and organization on being inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame this year. Each and every one of you has worked so hard for the success you enjoy today.

On behalf of the State of Illinois, thank you for your unwavering dedication and I hope you enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Sincerely,

Governor JB Pritzker
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the 2022 Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and offer my sincere congratulations to this year’s deserving inductees.

Since its founding in 1991, the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame has worked to preserve, protect, and promote the legacy of LGBT activists, leaders, and allies. The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame makes us all aware of the indelible contributions of Chicago's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, shines a light on the efforts to end homophobic bias and discrimination, and serves as the custodian of records for all the inductees that have been honored in the past.

This year's ceremony presents the opportunity to come together to recognize and honor the individuals, businesses, and organizations that have been at the forefront of advocacy and activism for the LGBT community. It also reminds us of the importance of looking ahead to the future and passing the torch to future generations to ensure a greater future for us all. I commend the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame for 31 years of celebrating, recognizing, and uplifting our LGBT community and congratulate all of this year's inductees.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Lori E. Lightfoot
Mayor

October 11, 2022
October 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

Please join me in congratulating this year’s class of inductees to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. These leaders and visionaries embody the spirit and the purpose of Hall of Fame. Their contributions to the LGBTQ+ community and the City of Chicago are reason for celebration and this well-deserved honor. Our city has been made better by your contributions, and we thank you.

At the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, we will continue to fight discrimination and hate against all groups, including our LGBTQ+ community which has seen increased threats and assaults on its hard fought for rights. We will continue to work with you and stand by you to protect the freedoms that past leaders, like our current inductees, fought so hard to obtain.

We thank the Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame for their continued commitment to upholding the importance of this event and this institution. Our congratulations again, to all the new members of the LGBT Hall of Fame.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Nancy Andrée
Chairman and Commissioner
Rick Aguilar is a lifelong Chicago resident and a staple of the LGBT community in Chicago. As a professional photographer, Rick has documented our community for over 30 years providing us with a visual chronicle of the Chicago LGBTQ experience from his own unique perspective as a proud gay man.

The fact that his family had no money for a college photography program did not deter Rick from following his dream of becoming a professional photographer. Rick decided to teach himself, reading every photography book he could find at the library and taking any assignment he could get to hone his photography skills including being a door-to-door salesman and children’s photographer for the legendary Peter Pan Studios in Chicago. In 2004, he decided to open Rick Aguilar Studios. Rick has been going strong ever since.

Hiring a professional photographer can be very costly. Rick Aguilar supports the LGBT organizations in Chicago by donating his services. He has donated his photography services to Hell in a Handbag Productions since its inception, 20 years ago. Rick has made it a priority to support Chicago’s LGBT community including TPAN, The Legacy Project, The Chicago AIDS Foundation, The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, and more than fifty other organizations. His contributions help make not only the Chicago LGBT community but also organizations that make Chicago a great city. Rick’s generosity is amazing, and he is always there always to help the many organizations that keep our city and communities strong and vital.
Zahara Monique Bassett is a nationally recognized visionary activist and long-time advocate for trans-human rights, social justice, health equity, and LGBT equality. She has worked to improve access to care for transgender people and those living with HIV and erase stigma and discrimination through education, policy, advocacy, and visibility.

Growing up in Garfield Park, Bassett traveled frequently to the north side of Chicago to access gender-affirming spaces and receive medical care, food, and housing assistance. She quickly realized that as a black transgender woman, her neighborhood lacked the necessary resources for her and many others.

In 2015, she founded Life is Work, a black and brown trans-led social service organization on Chicago’s west side that leads with guided case management, advocacy, and activism. Since 2021, Zahara has been part of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s Learning Circle Collaborative which supports local social service providers. In 2021, She was appointed to the Health and Human Services task force by Governor Pritzker.

The Chicago Foundation for Women awarded her with their Impact Award which honors leaders working to improve the lives of women and girls by expanding economic security, ensuring freedom from violence, and enhancing access to health services and information. Zahara has served as a national speaker and organizer at summits hosted by Transformation Youth Organization.
Dr. Maya Green is a proud member of Chicago’s south side LGBT community. She served as an educator in private and public schools before obtaining a dual degree (M.D./Ph.D.) at the University of Illinois at Chicago and a specialty fellowship in HIV medicine at Rush University Medical Center. Her client panels include pediatric and adolescent patients, adults who speak Spanish or American Sign Language, and people with substance abuse disorders. She has served as regional Medical Director for Howard Brown Health for the south and west sides of Chicago, where she ensures equity in healthcare and public health delivery services.

In her practice, she serves many black and Latinx LGBT Chicagoans with preventative, primary, gender-affirming healthcare. She has helped to establish clinics that serve openly LGBT individuals on the south and west sides of Chicago. When COVID began ravaging black and brown communities, Dr. Green quickly established the first south side testing center and swiftly pivoted to provide testing on the west side as well.

She serves on the AMA’s LGBT Medical Advisory Committee and is the recipient of many awards including Crain’s Chicago Business’ Notable Healthcare Hero and the Chicago Defender’s Women of Excellence 2021 Award. She has also received awards from the Illinois Jaycees, Illinois Primary Health Care Association, and the Ramona Lopez Community Health Employee award. She serves on the boards of Taskforce Prevention & Community Services and 5:30 Scholar Education Enrichment.
Matthew Harvat is a man of many hats. DJ. Producer. Performance artist. Event coordinator. Florist. World renowned drag superstar. He was and continues to be, the true definition of a renaissance man. He began volunteering for the Chicago LGBT Community in 1990 as a “lifeguard” handing out condoms and safe-sex literature for STOP AIDS. In that first experience Matthew hit the ground running; and more than 30 years later, he has not slowed down.

Working as a bartender and later as a manager at Roscoe’s, Matthew used his platform to begin reaching all aspects of the LGBT community. As the result of an all-staff charity drag show at Roscoe’s in 1995, Matthew evolved into the world-renowned producer, promoter, and performer, CircuitMOM, known for bringing Broadway-style production numbers, DJ sets, event decorations, and more to charitable events in Chicago and around the globe.

Matthew/CircuitMom’s events in Chicago have garnered national awards from Out Magazine (Best Nightlife Producer/Promoter 2011, 2012) and gained international attention for their creative and inclusive nature. He takes pride in showcasing all aspects of our colorful and diverse community. Matthew has been featured in Chicago Magazine, Chicago Social and countless other publications worldwide. He continues to work hard both behind the scenes as well as in front of audiences to promote not only the Chicago LGBT community but also our worldwide chosen family, affecting change and unifying people toward a better world.
When Paul Highfield came out in 1990, he began volunteering at the Open Hand/Chicago office every Tuesday before his weekly meal delivery route. Since Open Hand shared an office with AIDS Walk/Chicago, he began volunteering for that group as well. Highfield remained a “runner” for Open Hand/Chicago throughout the 1990s.

He went on call for routes or to fill a shift at Groceryland. His involvement with Heartland Alliance grew when he organized Levi Strauss’ Community Days, providing volunteers for Groceryland and the pantry in Elk Grove Village.

In 2011, Highfield joined the board of the fledgling LGBT history and education organization The Legacy Project. Since then, he has organized silent auctions, sold tickets, set venues, and more. When something needs to get done, he’s there. Highfield’s fundraising efforts have resulted in more than $250,000 for The Legacy Project, and he is responsible for sponsorship on an astounding 14 of the bronze plaques lining the North Halsted corridor.

Highfield brings in more than donations; he brings ambassadors, supporters, and volunteers. He has a natural gift for sharing his passion, connecting others to a cause, and making them care. In March 2020, as Chicago went into COVID lockdown, Paul rose to the occasion, loading his trunk with food boxes and through empty streets delivered meals once more, continuing his work from more than 30 years before.
In the 1970s, disco was king of the LGBT community and in Chicago, that royalty was represented by Dugan’s Bistro at Dearborn and Hubbard. One of the nation’s first discos, Bistro was opened in 1973 by Eddie Dugan. The design and promotion aspects of Bistro fell to Eddie’s right-hand man, T.L. Noble. Though he wore many hats at Bistro, his biggest contributions were to lighting and visual design. As Assistant Entertainment Director for Dugan’s Bistro, T.L. was responsible for bringing the biggest names to Chicago. The list included Gloria Gaynor, Divine, Sylvester, and Viola Wills. In addition, and throughout his career, T.L. himself performed hundreds of shows and produced thousands of local drag, dance, and vocal shows.

With the closing of Bistro in 1982, T.L. followed Dugan to his new dance club, Paradise (1982-86), where he again used his lighting/visual talents to design a dance floor even more spectacular than Bistro. With the passing of Eddie Dugan in 1987, T.L. was tapped to take on the visual/lighting and overall design of Bistro Too, a massive dance club in Andersonville. Also serving as the dance club’s manager, T.L. booked Sylvester, Divine, Boy George, Village People, and most of the “disco divas” of the era. He was instrumental in creating Drag Queen Wrestling, a weekly Bistro Too highlight featured on WTTW and “Wild Chicago”. T.L went on to work his visual/lighting magic at Circuit Night Club where he again brought Chicago the best in entertainment including Lady Gaga.
Chicago native Joey Soloway is an award-winning writer, director, producer, and LGBT activist with numerous significant accomplishments in the fields of television, film, and publishing. Soloway, who is nonbinary and uses they/them pronouns, is the creator of the groundbreaking Amazon original series “Transparent.” It received 24 Emmy nominations and eight Emmy awards -- including two for Soloway’s directing – as well as two Golden Globes.

The series’ ensemble cast included Chicagoans Amy Landecker and Alexandra Grey, as well as Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductee and Chicago and Broadway actress Alexandra Billings. During the show’s production, Soloway established what they called a Transfirmative Action program at their company. They made sure that trans people were hired anywhere possible. Other TV producing, writing, and/or directing credits include the series “Six Feet Under,” Grey’s Anatomy,” “United States of Tara,” “How to Make It in America,” and “Looking.”

They launched their arts career in Chicago’s off-Loop theatre movement in the 1990s before relocating to Los Angeles. Soloway and their sibling Faith Soloway created the Annoyance’s 1990 underground hit “The Real Live Brady Bunch.” After premiering at the Annoyance Theatre on Broadway in Chicago, the show, under Joey Soloway’s direction, headed to successful runs off-Broadway, in Los Angeles, and in Australia.
As a gay Jewish man, and one of the few survivors of the infamous Theresienstadt concentration camp, Danny was a natural advocate for disenfranchised people everywhere. As the owner of the Bagel Restaurant on Broadway, Danny spent 30 years building the vitality of Broadway. He believed in his community not despite its diversity, but because of it.

The Bagel, under Dan’s stewardship, was an anchor of the Lakeview business community and a meeting place for LGBT groups and organizations for decades. The restaurant has been a cozy informal meeting room for the LGBT community.

Dan and his life partner Mitchell Kaufman shared a life of love and adventure spanning six decades, beginning well before the Stonewall uprising. Danny was generous by nature and without fanfare.

He supported many charities and causes, including Jewish Children and Family Services. Danny worked tirelessly to support local businesses and community members during the AIDS epidemic and for decades following. When the AIDS epidemic swept through the north lakefront, Danny worked to be a lifeline for AIDS patients. Danny himself hand-packed meals from his restaurant to be given away to Open Hand Chicago.
Homocore was a concert promotion organization founded by Joanna Brown and Mark Freitas in 1992 with the goal of providing queer or all-girl punk bands a safe place to perform to a crowd of their peers without the fear of harassment. The crowds increased from around 50 at the very first show to well over 500 at the final show.

Homocore Chicago stayed true to its beliefs of providing a safe space for queers and women along with a philanthropic spirit. Homocore Chicago produced numerous benefits. It also gave all profits above costs to the bands performing.

Homocore was one of the first to encourage a mixed-gender crowd no matter the gender of the band members performing. Homocore Chicago was also one of the first to present all-ages events, ensuring that LGBT youth had a safe space to gather and were able to enjoy queer punk-oriented performances in a safe and welcoming environment.

Throughout the years, Homocore Chicago has been profiled in numerous magazines and newspapers, including feature stories in Rolling Stone and the New York Times. Homocore Chicago was also a featured part of Gerber Hart Archives’ recent display on queer ‘90s activism.

Homocore Chicago laid the foundation for Chicago’s queercore community. Still being acknowledged as a pioneer, Homocore Chicago made the city the physical home of a movement recognized internationally as changing the face of LGBT and what it could mean.
Outspoken is a monthly LGBT storytelling show co-founded by David Fink and Arthur Johnston in 2014. The shows provide a platform for people throughout the spectrum of the LGBTQ umbrella. There are stories by people of different ethnicities, ages, proclivities, geographic backgrounds, physical abilities, and gender identities. The storytellers may look different from each other and audience members, but they all share the same emotional journeys. Every month they create community.

The environment of the performances creates a safe, accepting, and nurturing environment for people to talk, absorb, and personally relate to stories of LGBTQ life. The audiences tend to reflect the diversity of the storytellers. There may be no other event in Chicago that has an audience that is as inclusive as the ones at Outspoken. Outspoken talks about LGBTQ people and events from the past. The hosts always talk about information that connects to the month of the show. Some people in the audience call it their gay history lesson.

David Fink served as curator for the first four years of the show. Since that time, he has served as the show’s creative director, Brad Balof is manager/writer, and Archie Jamjum has taken over the role of curator. Previously co-hosted by Arthur Johnston and Kim L. Hunt, now co-hosted by Johnston and Anna DeShawn. Outspoken has also brought LGBTQ storytelling programs to libraries, storytelling festivals, and museums. Outspoken has partnered with other storytelling shows. They have also provided programming for suburban pride gatherings. Most of the stories are archived through audio recordings. Many can be heard on the Outspoken podcast.
Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA), incorporated in 1983, first originated in 1979 with the formation of the Windy City Gay Chorus. During its 40-year history, this community chorus has been many things: a family, a source of joy for the members, a refuge through the HIV/AIDS epidemic, a platform to fight for marriage equality, and an advocate for gender expression and sexual orientation equity for all people. The chorus today still works to change hearts and minds in the Chicago community to shape the course of queer culture in the Windy City.

Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA) has had numerous accolades and been home to four world-class choruses: Windy City Gay Chorus; Windy City Treble Quire (originally Aria: Windy City Women’s Ensemble); Windy City Slickers; and Unison: Windy City Lesbian and Gay Singers. WCPA's choirs produce three regular concerts per year, with additional small ensemble and cabaret performances. For these performances, WCPA has commissioned countless choral works from dozens of world-renowned composers. In addition to regular concerts, WCPA's choirs have been featured in performances with renowned performers from the Chicago Symphony to Hugh Jackman.

WCPA is also active on the national LGBTQ music scene. Windy City Gay Chorus was a founding member of GALA Choruses. Windy City Gay Chorus and Treble Quire have also been featured performers at state, regional, and national American Choral Director’s Association conferences.
For nearly 30 years, Patricia “Patty the Pin Lady” Latham surfed the wave of busy bar crowds up and down Halsted and Clark Streets, taking the bus from bar to bar, selling ribbons, buttons, candy, and pins, to raise funds for those she felt most in need in the community—most of her funds generated going to assist the missions of Open Hand Chicago and Vital Bridges.

Known to most that frequented the northside bars, somewhat notorious, and always friendly, she was on a quiet mission. Not that anything about Patty was quiet. She was a force of nature and stood up to all challengers, by all accounts incredibly clever in overcoming obstacles and soliciting help to meet her fundraising goals from LGBT people and organizations.

Patty undertook this evening-to-late night, dangerous work, at around fifty years old, and kept going well into her seventies, and throughout a more than ten-year fight with cancer. In 2017, Windy City Times gave an intimate look into Patty’s life and dedication to her work. Patty was fantastically effective at what she did, spending countless thousands of hours walking around, talking to people, and soliciting donations just a dollar or two at a time. Vital Bridges estimated that Patty donated more than $80,000 over her years of work.
Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center (IHMEC) has been a leader in human rights education and advocacy since opening in 2009. IHMEC has hosted annual Pride programs since 2018 and has also hosted public programs on topics such as LGBT voices under Nazism, LGBT refugee and immigration issues, and LGBT upstanders in the fight for equality.

IHMEC was the first agency in the State of Illinois to offer teacher training on supporting educators in meeting the LGBT Inclusive Curriculum mandate and continues to support teachers with integrating LGBT history into their classrooms. The Museum teaches visitors LGBT history and how the struggle for LGBT rights continues in the United States and around the world.

IHMEC has become a strong voice for the LGBT community through publications of op-eds commemorating Pride Month and National Coming Out Day, addressing the importance of teaching LGBT history, speaking out against anti-LGBT legislation, and advocating for the passage of the Equality Act. In 2021, the Museum hosted the exhibition Rise Up: Stonewall and the LGBT Rights Movement, which included a list of inductees of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.

IHMEC proudly stands with the LGBT community, advocating for LGBT rights and the inclusion of LGBT history in classrooms, museums, and places of public memory. Through this work, IHMEC continues to honor and engage with its founding principle: “Remember the Past; Transform the Future.”
Season of Concern Chicago is the Chicago-area theatre community’s fundraising and support organization. It provides financial assistance to people impacted by illness, injury, or health-related circumstances, and to Chicago-area HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Founded in 1987, Season of Concern began as a grassroots effort within Chicago’s LGBT and theatre communities to respond to the AIDS crisis by providing financial assistance to Chicagoland theatre practitioners with HIV/AIDS-related illnesses. It has raised and distributed more than $3 million, providing much-needed relief to dozens of individuals and annual grants to local organizations that provide medications, housing, food, legal assistance, and mental health services to Chicago residents dealing with HIV/AIDS.

Over the years Season of Concern has expanded its mission to assist any Chicago theatre practitioner in need of financial assistance due to any illness, injury, or circumstance. However, its ties to the LGBT community remain as strong as ever, ensuring that no theatre worker in our community need face catastrophic physical or mental health issues alone.

For many years Season of Concern has supported The Entertainment Community Fund and dozens of local HIV/AIDS care organizations. In 2020-21 they created the Malcolm Ewen Fund to financially assist local theatre practitioners unable to find work due to the pandemic.
PREVIOUS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

AD HOC COMMITTEE OF PROUD BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS (1993) • PAUL ADAMS
(posthumous 2011) • ROBERT J. ADAMS (1994, now deceased) • JANE ADDAMS (posthumous
JEAN ALBRIGHT (2015) • GAYLON ALCARAZ (2013) • ORTEZ ALDerson (posthumous
ROBERT HENRY ALLERTON (Posthumous 2016) • ALPHAWOOD FOUNDATION
(2017) 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 and
JANE HEAP (posthumous 2006) • TONI ARMSTRONG JR (1997) • SUZANNE ARNOLD
(2008) • GERALD ARPINO (posthumous 2014) • ARTEMIS SINGERS (2008) • ASIANS
MIGUEL AYALA (1997) • BAILIWiCK REPERTORY’S PiRDE SERIES (1996) • JUDY BAAR
TOPINKA (2020, posthumous) • TOM BACHTEll (2016) • TRACY BAIM (1994) • JOHN J.
ROBERT SLOANE BASKER (1993, now deceased) • LORRAINNE SADE BASKERVILLE (2000)
PAULA BASTA (2009) • LOIS BATES (posthumous 2012) • DAVID BRIAN BELL (posthumous
1999) • JAMES L. BENNETT (2013) • CARYN BERMAN (1995, now deceased) • BIG CHICKS
BROWN (posthumous 2004) • ROMÁN BUENROSTRO (2016, now deceased) • BUDDIES’
deceased) • JAMES A. BUSSEN (1994, now deceased) • KEITH C. BUTLER (2017) • KATHY
Caldwell (2017) CHEF TANIA CALLAWAY (posthumous 2003) • GREG CAMERON (2011)
(2016) JORGE CESTOU (2013) • ROGER “RJ” CHAFFIN (1997, now deceased) • SAMSON
CHAN (posthumous 1995) • 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
CHILDS (posthumous 1993) • THOMAS R. CHIOLA (1998) • ANN CHRISTOPHERSEN
(1992) • ROCCO J. CLAPS (2013) • CHRISTOPHER CLASON (posthumous 2004) • LUCRETIA
CLAY-WARD (2014) • GINNI CLEMMENS (posthumous 2021) • CHARLES E. CLIFTON
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Gary Chichester • Ron Ehemann • Scott Free • Dalila Fridi • Emmanuel Garcia •
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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:
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