

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



# Pride Press Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 2005 InterPride Conference to be hosted in Minneapolis

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA - GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is pleased to announce that at the 2003 World InterPride Conference in Montréal it was selected to be the host for that conference in Minneapolis in 2005. The international convention of GLBT Pride organizers will take place in October 2005 at the Marriott City Center hotel in the heart of downtown Minneapolis.

The assembled delegates voted by a margin of 88 to 46 to establish Minneapolis as the host city for the 2005 InterPride Conference and Annual General Meeting. Competing for the conference was Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The 2004 conference will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, which was determined at last year's conference in San Francisco, California.

Jim Kelley, President of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, said, "Winning this conference offers us the chance to show the international community what we're doing in Minneapolis, to showcase the strength of our nonprofit sector and for our community to interact with international GLBT Pride producers."

"I was really thrilled by the outpouring of support by our elected officials," continued Kelley, "such as Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, US Senator Mark Dayton, Legislators McCollum and Sabo, State Senators Scott Dibble and Steve Kelley as well as Minneapolis City Council Member Gary Schiff. In addition we are grateful for the support of several community organizations such as the Volunteer Resource Center, GLBT Press, Queue Press, Boom, the Minneapolis Eagle, Jet Set and Margarita Bella."

The Twin Cities delegation spent countless hours over the past several months preparing to mount the bid. Each city bidding was given 15 minutes to make a presentation before the assembly, followed by three days of question-and-answer sessions, and concluding with the vote at the close of the conference. During the presentation, the Twin Cities delegation displayed six short video segments that were made entirely by volunteer staff. Each segment focused on various aspects of hosting in Minneapolis including an introduction to the city, a virtual tour of our proposed host hotel, an invitation by Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, a review of the Twin Cities 2003 Pride Events, a virtual tour of local GLBT nightlife and a closing segment parodying the Mary Tyler Moore tam toss. Between each video sequence, live presentations were made detailing the proposed conference agenda and schedule, evening/social activities and other conference-related details.

One of the main themes of the Twin Cities proposal was a drive to expand the educational aspects of the conference by offering five distinct workshop tracks that participants may attend including Celebration Planning (basic and advanced), Board Development, Philosophical/Esoteric and reruns of popular workshops.

Our newly formed InterPride Conference Committee will handle the planning over the next two years. Membership in this committee will be open to members of the public and will be co-chaired by President Jim Kelley and Parade Director Daniel Dempsey. Those interested in helping in this effort are encouraged to contact Jim Kelley (president@tcpride.org, 952-852-6102) or Daniel Dempsey (parade@tcpride.org, 952-852-6121) for more information and meeting times.

Dempsey said, "The InterPride Conference is instrumental in training Pride organizers around the world and I am excited to have the opportunity for GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to produce this important conference."

"We plan to create an educational agenda for the conference with the assistance of local GLBT groups, individuals and professionals in event/board management that will send our delegates home prepared and revitalized for the coming year," continued Dempsey. "This will also give us the opportunity to showcase the Twin Cities as the GLBT jewel of America's heartland that it is."

The InterPride Conference typically draws hundreds of Pride organizers from six continents across the globe. With the central location of Minneapolis, it is hoped that a greater number of Pride organizations from the interior of North America will be able to attend in 2005.

Pride Vice President of Administration, David W. Hill, chaired the committee that put our bid together. Hill said, "I am very proud that we have secured the InterPride global conference for the year 2005. This achievement was the result of hundreds of hours by a team of over ten volunteers over the span of less than two months. I am confident that Pride/Twin Cities, in conjunction with its partners in the community and the region, will be able to showcase the best of Minneapolis and the Twin Cities region and provide both the conference delegates and the community with a unique and memorable experience in two years' time."

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities would like to thank the Greater Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association, Mayor R.T. Rybak, Fred Combs, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter and the Minneapolis Marriott City Center Hotel for their assistance, without which our successful bid would not have been possible.

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities was one of five founding members of InterPride in 1981. This is the first time the Conference will have been hosted in the Twin Cities since 1990.

Celebrating its 32<sup>nd</sup> year in 2004, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities, the organizer of the Twin Cities Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender (GLBT) Pride Celebration, began in 1972 with a small group of activists meeting for a picnic in Minneapolis' Loring Park and a short march down Nicollet Mall. Over the intervening years, the Twin Cities Pride Celebration has grown to be the largest GLBT Pride in the region and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the United States, with an

estimated combined attendance in excess of 400,000 people at seven events. GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization.

It is the mission of GLBT Pride/Twin Cities to commemorate and celebrate our diverse heritage, to inspire the achievement of equality and challenge discrimination.

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