

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seven Coordinators Join Pride, Positions Available Dan Mendez Elected Community Outreach Director

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - At it's Board Meeting on Monday, September 13, GLBT Pride/Twin Cities welcomed seven people as Coordinators to help plan the 2005 Pride Celebration. Several 2004 members have returned for another year, while some are new to Pride this year. The people who were appointed last night include

Jamie Graham	Affiliated Events Coordinator
Russ Olson	Block Party & Parade Safety & Security Coordinator
Ben Applebaum	Festival Entertainment Coordinator
Mike Goodman	Festival Exhibitor & Vendor Coordinator
Dexter Bingham	Festival Safety & Security Coordinator
Eric Zimmerman	Information Technology Coordinator
Ron Lischeid	Picnic Coordinator

Several additional Coordinator positions remain available to members of the public. Coordinators are volunteers who serve a one-year renewable term and are looking for a more in-depth experience in planning the upcoming Pride Celebration. The following positions remain available: Block Party Coordinator, Boat Cruise Coordinator, Disability Services Coordinator, Festival Logistics Coordinator, Finance Coordinator, Grand Marshal Coordinator, Individual Donor Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, Parade coordinator, Pageant Coordinator, Sales Coordinator, and Sponsorship Coordinator. For information about these available positions, please visit Pride's website at www.tcpride.org.

Pride President Jim Kelley said, "I am really please to see this excellent mix of experienced coordinators and new recruits. Having so many people step forward to volunteer their time as coordinators, this early in the planning process, bodes well for producing a great set of events for 2005."

Kelley continued, "The ideas and viewpoints that the coordinators bring to the planning process provides us access to a wide spectrum of the community. The coordinator positions were established to create a grass roots

level of entry onto the board and opportunity to build capacity within the community. To meet the goals and to realize our expectations, filling the remaining 13 coordinator positions with a diverse group becomes very important. I would especially welcome the participation of under represented groups, such as people of color, women and trans individuals."

In related news, 2004 Parade Coordinator Dan Mendez was elected to fill the remainder of the Community Outreach Director term, which will expire in August 2005. Melanie Ostrowski, who served as Community Outreach Director in 2004, resigned her position recently to pursue other interests.

Dan Mendez said, "I am honored to be elected to this position. I find it a great privilege to work with such a devoted group of people. I hope to get back to basics this year and rebuild this position from the ground up, keeping in mind our mission statement and how I can incorporate it into my role."

Kelley said, "I'm very excited to have Dan Mendez moving into the Outreach position. His energy and exuberance is needed to improve our connection with community groups. I'm looking forward to seeing the impact this improved communication will have on the Grand Marshal's Ball and the 2005 events."

The Board of Directors congratulates Mr. Mendez and offers it's best wishes and sincere gratitude to Ms. Ostrowski.

Celebrating its 33rd year in 2005, 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 3rd largest in the United States, with an estimated combined attendance of nearly 400,000 people at six 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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