

GLBT Pride/Twin Cities



Pride Release Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gay Pride 2005 Runs June 17-26, Festival June 25-26

MINNEAPOLIS, MN - GLBT Pride/Twin Cities is honored to announce that this year's Gay Pride events begin this weekend. The Twin Cities GLBT Pride Celebration is the third largest in the United States, drawing nearly 400,000 guests to six events in 2004.

The Pride Celebration kicks off with the Pride Art Show Opening Reception on Friday, June 17 at Calhoun Square. While the reception has a \$5 admission fee, the ongoing Art Show, which lasts until July 2, is free of charge. The Opening Reception will feature a few speakers and entertainment by Nikki Lunden & The Canous Heinous, the Minnesota Philharmonic and more.

On Saturday, June 18, the Pride Boat Cruise will depart Excelsior's docks on Lake Minnetonka. The Boat Cruise will have a variety of food and beverages available and True Colors will provide entertainment, with the show emceed by drag sensation Cee Cee Russell. A free shuttle from downtown Minneapolis will be available, with the cruise departing the docks at noon. Tickets are \$30 and are available from Pride's website as well as at the dock on the day of the cruise.

The Pride Picnic @ Como Zoo will take place on Father's Day, Sunday, June 19. Located at Como Park's East Picnic Pavilion, this free event is a great way to enjoy the warm weather with friends and family in a relaxing atmosphere. Picnic fare will be provided free of charge from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Old-fashioned games, softball and table games will provide fun for everyone.

The Pride Festival is the largest of the Pride Events and will take place in Minneapolis' Loring Park on Saturday, June 25 from 10am to 10pm and on Sunday, June 26 from noon to 8pm. Featuring headliner Ari Gold, three stages of all-live entertainment, Children's & Family Area, History Pavilion, Beer Garden and Fireworks, this is the crown jewel of the Pride Celebration. The Fireworks display will take place over the lake in Loring Park following Ari Gold's performance at the end of the evening on Saturday, June 25. Of course, the Festival is free to attend for everyone.

The Ashley Rukes GLBT Pride Parade will march proudly down Hennepin Avenue on Sunday, June 26, kicking off at 11am. Being on of the largest parades in the Upper Midwest you can find everything from politicians to

drag queens and from local mom & pop businesses to multinational corporations marching. The Parade grandstand will host this year's celebrity emcees; FOX-9's M.A. Rosko and Air America Minnesota's Wendy Wilde. Seating in the covered grandstand will be open to all members of the Friends of Pride Program, our individual contributor program.

Wrapping up Pride 2005 will be the Official Pride Block Party on Sunday, June 26 at the Saloon nightclub. Divas Amber, Kim English and Thelma Houston will dazzle the crowd. Tickets are \$10 at the gate, which opens at 5pm at 9th and Hennepin in downtown Minneapolis. The Block Party is open to 18 and up.

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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