

WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE

#WeAreCreatingChange
#CreandoCambio

THE TASK FORCE



JANUARY 21-25, 2026
WASHINGTON, DC





WE WON'T STOP

INNOVATING

As the leader in long-acting options, we believe our medicines have an essential role to play in ending the HIV epidemic.

Learn more:

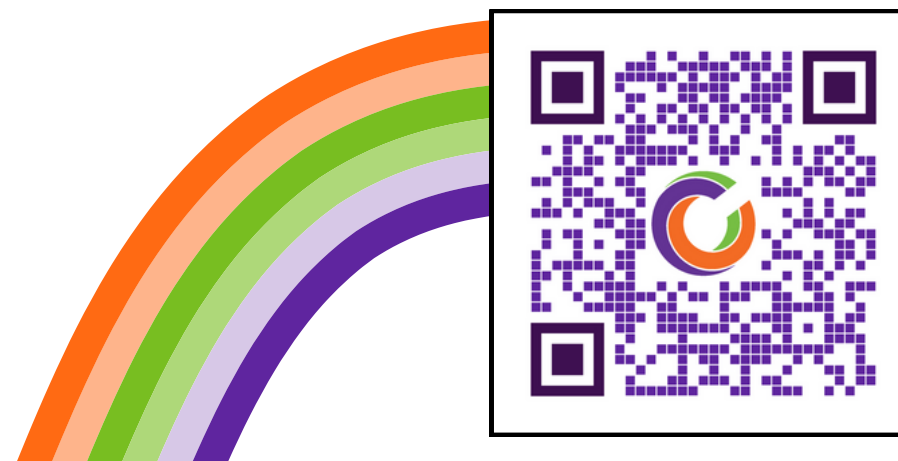


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

09	Event Info Community policies and practices to foster shared values.
14	General Sessions & Award Honorees All the Main Stage presentations.
16	Special Events Spaces for moments of care or new fun memories.
22	Day Long Institutes 6-hours of community curated programming focused on racial justice and liberation.
34	Maps & Exhibit Hall Find your way around the event space with ease.
38	Workshops & Caucuses 75-minutes of identity-based caucuses and skills-building workshops for a better future.
44	Task Force Spotlights Learn about our national work to build lasting change.
54	About the Task Force Get to know our staff, board members, and council leaders.

CREATE YOUR DIGITAL SCHEDULE THROUGH PHEEDLOOP!



Tag us on social!
[@thetaskforce](#)

Official hashtag:
[#WeAreCreatingChange](#)

SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 0: TUESDAY JANUARY 20

- 3:00pm – 10:00pm** Radical Welcome & Check-In Desk Open
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm** First Timers Info Session
- 3:00pm – 10:00pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 4:00pm – 7:00pm** First Timers' Info Sessions 1&2

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21

- 8:00am – 7:00pm** Check-In Desk Open
- 8:00am – 7:30pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 9:00am – 4:30pm** Workshop Blocks #1-4
- 9:00am – 4:30pm** Day-Long Institute #1
- 10:00am – 5:00pm** Exhibits Hall Open
- 5:00pm – 6:15pm** Caucus Block #1

DAY 2: THURSDAY JANUARY 22

- 8:00am – 7:00pm** Check-In Desk Open
- 8:00am – 7:30pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 9:00am – 5:00pm** Exhibits Hall Open
- 9:00am – 6:30pm** Workshops Blocks #5-8
- 9:00am – 6:30pm** Day-Long Institute #2
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm** General Session #1: State of the Movement
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm** Caucus Block #2
- 10:00pm – 1:00am** Opening Cruise

DAY 3: FRIDAY JANUARY 23

- 8:00am – 7:00pm** CC Check-In Desk
- 8:00am – 7:30pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 9:00am – 5:00pm** Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:00am – 6:30pm** Workshop Blocks #9-12
- 9:00am – 6:30pm** Day-Long Institute #3
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm** General Session #2
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm** Caucus Block #3
- 9:00pm – 1:00am** House Ball

DAY 4: SATURDAY JANUARY 24

- 8:00am – 7:00pm** CC Check-In Desk
- 8:00am – 7:30pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 9:00 am – 12:00pm** Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:00 am – 6:30pm** Workshop Blocks #13-16
- 9:00am – 6:30pm** Day-Long Institute #4
- 1:30 pm – 3:00pm** General Session #3
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm** Caucus Block #4
- 9:00pm – 1:00am** Kierra's Cabaret

DAY 5: SUNDAY JANUARY 25

- 10:00am – 2:00pm** CC Resource Center, Accessibility & Senior Services, Care Bears Open
- 11:00am – 1:00pm** Farewell Celebration

KIERRA'S LETTER

WELCOME HOME TO CREATING CHANGE!

Unstoppable. That's the theme of Creating Change this year, but it's also been our vibe this whole year and will be into the New Year. As thousands of us gather for a homecoming, family reunion, power building, and a queer joy extravaganza like no other, I hope all of you take in and cherish the radical welcome that the Task Force displays this week, and that it reminds you that you are unstoppable.

We are thrilled to be in Washington, DC this year for so many reasons. DC has been the Task Force's home for decades and working with our longtime colleagues and DMV family, especially now, feels powerful and healing. DC is the center of so much chaos thanks to the current occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave wreaking havoc everywhere they go. Unfortunately, this chaos and trauma has been exported to Chicago, Charlotte, New Orleans, Los Angeles, New York and Portland among others.

Places that we once trusted as places we could feel safe have been targeted, occupied, and in some places destroyed. What is also true is that we have and we will continue to show up and care for each other. We have always known that no one can keep us safer than our community. WE KEEP US SAFE!

We are proud to have worked with so many of you and our local DC family to build an intentionally safer space for you to learn, strategize, celebrate, and organize. The safety and security teams, the Care Bears and staff will do all they can to keep us safe and cared for at Creating Change.

I deeply appreciate and welcome all those who traveled to be with us. I am also grateful for those of you who are from here and those who live in the area who have welcomed us into this deeply historic and spirt-full place. I know you will be inspired during this extraordinary week of institutes, workshops, caucuses, general sessions - and of course, events like the the Agents of Change Ball and The Cabaret (which they insist on calling Kierra's Kabaret, no matter how much I object!).



For the National LGBTQ Task Force, creating spaces where queer people can align, disagree, build and grow is an essential component of our work, and Creating Change is a powerful example of that. At a time when our communities are under relentless attack, events like Creating Change remind us of who we are and revitalize us as we continue our fight for liberation.

Our community expressing unfiltered joy is a defiant act and energizes our commitment to the fight for liberation and against systems that oppress. Our advocacy must be balanced with opportunities to build community, make us visible and offer us hope and strength, especially given the current political climate.

And while these are challenging, and even dangerous times, this is not our first struggle, and certainly not the last time we will face attack and opposition. We have faced attacks before, and we have not only survived but thrived.

The key will be how we approach these times. If you have been to the past few Creating Change gatherings, you have heard me speak about principled struggle, about the need to meet folks where they are to get them through the process of unlearning the misinformation and lies told about us.

We must find ways to give grace and often. I know that's not easy. I know it's painful for all of us who have been traumatized by family, friends, colleagues and institutions we expected better from. But we can help people awaken to the fact that what they have been told, taught or promised is a sham.

We have a lot of work to do in the next few years, and I don't pretend to have all the answers or know exactly what we need to do but, together, I know we can make progress. Together we have what we need to create pathways to build a bigger tent and create a bigger team in the fight to reimagine and manifest a new democracy!

When we check our egos, our righteousness, and our purity tests, and talk to people about what they care about it becomes clear that they care about democracy. They care about free speech. They care about immigrants. They care about reproductive rights.

They care about their children, their grandchildren, and their communities. Even if they don't understand everything about our communities, even if they get things wrong, ultimately most people care about the important things, and they want to do the RIGHT thing.

So, what happens when we meet folks where they're at, invite them in and take them on a journey with us? Millions of people who have never protested before can rise up against authoritarianism.

It is essential that we create and expand the community - places where people can belong. I trust that we can do this because we have already done this and continue to do it in our own LGBTQ+ communities. We just need to think bigger, bolder, and more broadly. That is what the Task Force is doing - here at Creating Change, but also every day.

From creating progressive religious and spiritual tables across the country to partnering with organizations in so-called red states like Texas, Florida and North Carolina, together, with you we are creating new and creative ways to invite people in where it's not simply about being queer, it's about being human.

We are living in a deficit of hope right now in this country, and we cannot minimize the importance of what an infusion of hope could mean to us and the rest of the world.

Hope is here in abundance at Creating Change. On the stages, in workshops and caucuses, in the hallways and the conversations that go well into the night when we connect with someone new. My hope is that throughout this week, you find all of this magic and more.

Kierra Johnson

President

National LGBTQ Task Force & National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to the incredible people and organizations who made Creating Change 2026 possible!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9 th Level Games | Jen LaBarbera |
| ACLU of DC | Ignacio Rivera |
| Agents of Change Ball: | Jack Harrison-Quintana |
| Lady Penélope, Icon Oso Milan, | Jamii Linguists: Jamila Craig & Katalina |
| Rikka Milan, Stella Del Core | Hilton: Jennifer Emerson |
| Andrea Zekis | Lambda Literary |
| Aredvi Azad | Linda Glevy |
| Art Studio Space: | Kathleen Campisano |
| Tamara Galinsky, Ilene Goldstein, Rachael | Marc Behar |
| Shannon, Michael Galarraga | Mark Maddox |
| Beau Davidson | Michael Bongiorno |
| Care Bears: Je Naé Taylor & K Thomas | Mija |
| Cards Against Humanity | Mixte Communications: Brandi Riley, M & Mia Bolton |
| Carlo Betia | National Black Justice Collective |
| College Park | National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) |
| Crush Dance Bar | National Religious Leadership Roundtable |
| DC LGBTQ+ Community Center: | Opening Cruise: Daunasia Yancey & Robin Nussbaum |
| Kimberley Bush | Outshine Events: Alex Breitman & Nicole Press |
| DC Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs | PheedLoop, Inc. |
| Dominique Jackson | Power to the Meeple |
| Elegant Event Sitters | Russell Roybal |
| Em Ledingham | Sam Ames |
| Firefly Partners | Sam Thom |
| Heidi Ellis | Site Services: Julie Augustine & Laurie Merman |
| Holly Reese | Tanya Domi |
| Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC | The Harrington Agency |
| Gayme Room: 9 th Level Games, Cards Against Humanity, Game Kastle College Park | The Qube/Anna DeShawn |
| Go-Go Museum of Washington, DC: | TransLatin@ Coalition |
| Sundiata Ramin | Trans-Latinx DMV |
| House Captains: | Triple Pocket Events: Yinka Freeman |
| Chloe Cole-Wilson, Chrissy Lasater, Jerard Kelley, | UNITE HERE |
| Kelly Horkan, Trish Horkan, Sara Mindel | Winter Party Festival |



EVENT POLICIES



Creating Change 2026 brings thousands of us together to learn, grow, and build a stronger LGBTQ movement. These guidelines help keep our community safe, welcoming, and focused on our shared purpose. The expanded descriptions of our policies are at creatingchange.org/policies.

You and Your Badge

Your badge is your ticket into all event spaces. Please wear it at all times during general sessions, workshops, caucuses, and evening events. It helps with safety, makes it easier for people to greet you by name, and lets staff know you are part of the Creating Change family. If you lose your badge, you'll need to pick it up or purchase a replacement for a \$5 administrative fee.

Creating a Positive Environment

Our goal is to create a space where everyone can learn, meet people from across the country, and feel good about being themselves. Creating Change is built on two core principles: human rights and solidarity. Harassment, bullying, and bigotry go against those values and can leave people feeling unsafe or unwelcome. Even when harm isn't intentional, our words and actions can still affect others. We ask everyone to show care, respect, and kindness.

Need Help?

If you experience harassment, violence, hate speech, or feel unsafe at any point, connect with a Care Bear volunteer, find a staff member, or email creatingchange@thetaskforce.org. You deserve to feel supported, protected, and celebrated.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment includes unwanted flirting, touching, comments, pressure for sexual activity, sexual insults, or any form of sexual violence. While many people form friendships or romantic or sexual connections during the event, consent is essential. Make sure everyone involved has clear, shared expectations. If you experience harassment or feel threatened, ask to speak with the Creating Change Director.



EVENT POLICIES

Hate Speech Is Not Welcome

We support free speech, but not hate speech. Hate speech is abusive or threatening language that targets a group based on identity—such as racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, transphobia, ableism, classism, homophobia, bi-phobia, sexism, or misogyny. If hate speech occurs, the Task Force may take action, including asking someone to step out of the event building. If you experience hate speech, connect with the Creating Change Director.

No Guns at Creating Change

For the safety and comfort of all attendees, guns and other dangerous weapons are not allowed in any event space. Anyone carrying a gun will be asked to remove it from the premises.

Task Force Values

Everyone at Creating Change is expected to uphold values such as justice, liberation, diversity, inclusion, intersectionality, love, compassion, grassroots power, innovation, and the centrality of sex and sexuality.

Protest Policy

Political expression is part of our movement, and dialogue is welcome. However, protests should not stop others from participating in any sessions.

- Protests on the Main Stage may last up to 5 minutes so speakers—often from marginalized communities—can still be heard.
- Protests inside the hotel must be nonviolent moving protests to avoid blocking hallways and exits.
- Hotels are not public spaces, and the Washington Hilton may contact law enforcement at its discretion.
- Please inform the Creating Change Director if you plan a protest and provide a point of contact.

Policy Violations

Anyone who violates these event policies may be asked to leave and may be unable to attend future Creating Change convenings.



RADICAL WELCOME

Creating Change 2026 returns to Washington, D.C., rooted in a spirit of love, curiosity, and deep respect for everyone in our LGBTQ family. This gathering brings together people with a wide range of political perspectives, identities, and lived experiences. That diversity is our strength. Our ability to hold multiple truths, even in disagreement, fuels stronger organizing and a more powerful movement. As we learn, connect, and build together, let's celebrate the brilliance of our community in all its forms.

Creating Change is intentionally designed as a multiracial, intergenerational, cross-movement space. Here, differences in race, gender identity, gender expression, class, geography, immigration status, HIV status, faith, and personal history are welcomed and affirmed. Many attendees may encounter conversations they're not used to—about survivorship, sobriety, transition, spirituality, or racial justice. The Task Force works to create an environment where these truths can be shared safely. Everyone plays a part in shaping that space. You help make the magic.

Radical welcome means embracing this gathering as a place to learn, meet new people, and form real connections. Feel free to introduce yourself, share your pronouns, and be curious about the people around you. Whether you're here for the first time or have been with us for decades, you belong in this community and contribute to what makes it powerful.

To practice radical welcome throughout the event, actively do the following:

Access: Notice how people move through public spaces and help ensure pathways stay open. Support language justice by slowing down and making room for interpretation.

Power and Privilege: Be intentional about the power you hold. Pay attention to the space you take up—with your voice, actions, or physical presence—and make room for others to lead and shine.

Consent: Social and romantic connections happen here, but consent is non-negotiable. Celebrate one another with care.

Wellness: Protect each other's health. Wash hands, cover coughs, and honor boundaries around food or drink sharing.

Trans and Nonbinary Inclusion: Gender identity and gender expression don't always align. Don't assume anyone's gender based on appearance or voice.

Ask for pronouns when needed: Use the pronouns someone shares, and simply correct yourself if you make a mistake.

Gender-Inclusive Bathrooms: Restrooms are designated gender inclusive to ensure safety and comfort for everyone. Let people use the bathroom that feels right for them—no policing, no questioning.

Privacy and Boundaries: Respect people's stories and do not ask questions you wouldn't ask anyone else.

More details about these practices are available at creatingchange.org/policies.

ACCESSIBILITY & SENIOR SERVICES

Accessibility at Creating Change is for everyone. Each of us plays a role in making this event welcoming and accessible for people with different bodies, needs, and ways of moving through the world. The National LGBTQ Task Force is committed to improving accessibility every year. Creating Change currently offers ASL, Protactile ASL, and Spanish interpretation, mobility devices, large-print materials, and meal support.

Accessibility & Senior Services Team

Located at the Creating Change Resource Center, this team provides: electric scooters, manual wheelchairs, large-print grid schedules, assisted-listening devices, meeting interpreters, a dedicated accessibility and senior services hotline, and help with event software. **Contact:** mmaddox@thetaskforce.org | 909-300-5378

Creating a More Accessible Convening

We work closely with our host venue to make Creating Change as inclusive and accessible as possible. These guidelines can help everyone contribute to a safer, more welcoming experience.

Respectful Interactions

Disability is a natural part of identity. Treat disabled people with respect—not pity or surprise. Always ask before offering help. Some support that seems helpful may not be needed or wanted. Service animals are working; please don't pet or distract them.

Effective Communication

Speak at a steady pace and volume. Practice active listening by paying attention to questions and cues. If someone uses an interpreter, talk directly to the person, not the interpreter. Be patient with different communication and learning styles. If communication becomes unclear, try writing or using gestures to support understanding.

Environmental Considerations

- **Lighting:** Don't wear flashing lights or use camera flashes in public areas. They can trigger seizures and other health issues.
- **Movement & Seating:** Some seats in general sessions and meeting rooms are reserved for people with disabilities—please keep them open. Avoid blocking hallways or doorways. Hold heavy or inaccessible doors open when possible.
- **Scent Sensitivity:** Try to be scent-free by avoiding perfumes, scented lotions, and fragrant products. If you are wearing scents, please avoid "Scent Safer" areas in the ballroom.
- **Smoking:** Only smoke in designated areas and stay far from entrances and Scent Safer spaces.

Challenging Assumptions & Supporting Each Other

Many disabilities are invisible. No one should be questioned about the accommodations they use. Listen when disabled people choose to share their experiences, and respect their privacy. Avoid personal or invasive questions about someone's body or health. Continue learning—through workshops, books, or online resources—so you can recognize and respond to ableism when it shows up. For more details, visit creatingchange.org/accessibility.

2026 CREATING CHANGE AMBASSADORS

Adam Pawlus
 Adrian Shanker
 Alexa Rodriguez
 Alexandra Monterroso
 Allison Douglas
 Anna Jinkerson
 Ben de Guzman
 Bo Belotti
 Celia K. San Felipe
 Chenelyn Barker
 David Quick
 Diego Molina
 Dilcia Molina Sanchez
 Dr. Vallesha Parker
 Dr. Zay Clark
 DREAM
 Gala Valencia
 George Garcia
 George Kerr III
 Gina Rupert
 Hancie Stokes
 Heidi Ellis
 Japer Bowles
 Jessica Xiao
 Jocelyn Gomez
 Jose Gutierrez
 June Crenshaw

Kenia Tatiana Rosales
 Kenya Hutton
 Kimberley Bush
 Lazima Mills
 Logan Barber
 Malachi Stewart
 Maria Amelia Viteri
 Mema Perdomo
 Monica Alford
 Piper Baitinger
 Rachel Campbell
 Rayceen Pendarvis
 Rebecca Bauer
 Reggie Greer
 Robert York
 Rodrigo Aguayo-Romero
 Shawn Gaylord
 Sofia Ramos
 Stefany Molina
 Tanya Galloway
 Tiera Craig
 Tiffany Royster
 Valerie Nicole Villalta
 Victoria Kirby York
 Xavier Hodge
 Zar





PLENARIES

State of the Movement

Thursday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Rooted in Indigenous leadership and D.C. culture, this opening general session features a Local Indigenous Welcome, prayer by Marcus Arana.

Jenn Deerinwater offers the Indigenous keynote, followed by a Go-Go history and performance from **Sundiata Ramin**, Director of the Go-Go Museum. The session culminates with **Kierra Johnson's** annual State of the Movement address, grounding attendees in both the challenges and possibilities facing LGBTQ+ communities.

Our Abundant Future: Visioning & Voicing the Joy in Our Pursuit of Liberation

Saturday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

This celebratory closing that centers queer joy as strategy and community imagination as power. Together we honor where we've come from, breathe through grief and gratitude, and call forth the ancestors who guide us toward abundant futures. This future-facing general session holds the past with care through an **In Memoriam for all LGBTQ+ people lost in the last year** and a remembrance for **Miss Major. ALOK** and **Leo Herrera** offer uplifting and inspiring remarks, and the **Gay Men's Chorus of Washington** brings the week to a joyful close with a farewell performance.

Leaving Extremism: Building the Civic Muscle for a Multiracial, Pro-Democracy Future

Friday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Extremism is upon us. Featuring **Laura Flanders**, **Nadine Smith**, and others, this dialogue explores the rise of extremism and strategies for resistance and solidarity. Centering principled struggle, repair, and shared power; it invites us to strengthen the practices that help democracy—and every community—thrive. How will we leave it with connection, courage, and collective practice?



AWARD HONOREES



Faith Leadership Award

Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt

This award honors a faith leader whose work bridges spiritual values with the pursuit of justice, equality, and liberation for LGBTQ+ people.



Indigenous Lozen and Dahteste Warrior Award

Ty Defoe

This award is given to Two Spirit/Indigenous/Indigiqueer people who have given their time and energy to their community in an effort to raise up understanding of who we are. They have shown by their word and action that they honor those who have come before us and are committed to the generations who come after us.



Outstanding Transgender Leadership Award

Kris Hayashi

This award will be presented by **Dominique Jackson** and honors a trans or nonbinary leader whose vision, courage, and advocacy have strengthened and uplifted trans communities.



The Carmen Vázquez SAGE Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues

Letitia Gomez

This award is given to someone whose work exemplifies outstanding leadership in their *advocacy for LGBTQ+ elders*. Each year at Creating Change, the Carmen Vazquez SAGE Award is given to a community leader who reflects her *spirit and passion as a long-time LGBTQ+ and social justice activist*.



RESOURCES

CREATING CHANGE RESOURCE CENTER

Tuesday, January 20, through Sunday, January 25

Accessibility support, hospitality, and event information are all easily accessible at the Creating Change Resource Center. Serving as a welcoming hub, the Center brings together local community volunteers and Task Force staff to provide streamlined access to essential resources. Whether you need help navigating the venue or seeking recommendations for exploring the local community, the Resource Center is here to enhance your Creating Change experience with ease and care.

CARE BEARS

Tuesday, January 20, through Sunday, January 25

Care-A-Lot is an invitation to be together/slow down/move purposefully. Rooted in intentional design, accessibility, and healing, it offers a cozy and tender anchor inside Creating Change—a safe zone for pause, grounding, and transformation. Co-designed in partnership with the Art Studio Space and the Interfaith/Faith Space, Care-A-Lot reflects our community's values by offering what people actually need: quiet reflection, sensory downtime, creative expression, and safety-centered practices.

Alongside Care-A-Lot, our Care Bears foster community resilience by providing 1:1 peer support, conflict de-escalation, resource-linking, and grounding techniques. Together, we steward a triad of wellness spaces—ASS, Interfaith, and LoFi/Steam—supported by altars, creative stations, and intentional environments that center care and accountability.

Our Behind the Scenes hub extends this culture of wellness across Creating Change, offering real-time updates, visibility, and storytelling that keep attendees informed, supported, and connected. This approach helps us maintain an interdependent and communicative wellness ecosystem where:

Attendees can access de-escalation and support in real time. The Care Bear team receives live feedback on what's emerging in the community. We can plan thoughtful interventions rooted in care, not control.

Care-A-Lot brings a tailored, values-aligned wellness experience to Creating Change—inviting attendees to arrive fully present and leave fully supported.

AA/SOBRIETY SUPPORT

Tuesday January 20, through Sunday, January 25

Triangle Club DC, 1638 R St NW

We are pleased to offer daily AA meetings via Zoom and in-person at Triangle Club DC. Virtual meetings are held daily at 6pm and in-person late night meetings at 10pm. Additional meeting offerings and details available in the PheedLoopGO app or at triangleclub.org



RESOURCES

ART STUDIO SPACE

Wednesday, January 21 through Saturday, January 24

The Art Studio Space is a collaborative environment in which to draw, paint, glue, sew, and weave your own personal experiences within the larger LGBTQ+ movement. Here, you can explore your own whimsy, revel in creative, queer magic, or just relax and have some right-brained fun; the possibilities are endless, there's no wrong way to do it, and we promise, what happens here, only happens here! Come on by!

HEALTH & WELLNESS SPACE

Wednesday, January 21, through Saturday, January 24

Located in the Exhibit Hall and supported by additional offerings throughout the week, the Health and Wellness Space at Creating Change is designed as a community care hub rooted in a broad definition of health that includes counseling, harm reduction, health advocacy, and emotional support.

Built in collaboration with Washington DC partners and national organizations, this space centers the well-being of every attendee by offering free, confidential, and culturally grounded services. Our 2026 Health and Wellness partners bring together a powerful mix of local and national expertise. The DC LGBTQ+ Center anchors our local presence, offering direct community support alongside groups such as Joseph's House, the National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence, HME Consulting and Advocacy, and National partners like FORGE, Point of Pride, Until There's A Cure, and Children's Hospital Los Angeles



expand our capacity by providing specialized health resources, trans-centered care tools, wellness advocacy, and connections to long-term support.

Collectively, these partners help transform the Health and Wellness Space into more than an information area. It becomes a place to receive safer sex supplies, harm reduction resources, counseling support, mental health and wellness guidance, and referrals to care. It is a grounding point for rest, connection, and practical tools that sustain our community's health. Whether attendees are seeking a moment of calm or direct services, the Health and Wellness Space exists to meet people with dignity, compassion, and the care they deserve.





SPECIAL EVENTS

GAYME ROOM & PLAY TENNIS ROOMS

Wednesday, January 21 through Saturday, January 24

Welcome to the Gayme Room and Play Tennis Rooms, your dedicated space to unwind, recharge, and play. Explore two immersive rooms. One filled with board, card, and floor games courtesy of Game Kastle, College Park, and the other offering a fun, easy-to-learn tennis experience. Play a beginner-friendly format that uses a smaller court and softer tennis balls, making it easy for anyone, new, returning, or curious, to jump in and play tennis. From accessible tennis fun to community favorites like Love Letter and Dungeons & Dragons, there's something for everyone! Powered by the United States Tennis Association (USTA)

KINK FOR GENIUSES: A BOOK TALK AND RECEPTION

Wednesday, January 21, 8:00-9:30pm

Join authors and longtime Creating Change facilitators, Dr. Jaime M. Grant and Jack Harrison-Quintana, for the launch of their new book, Kink for Dummies from the Wiley Publishing's iconic Dummies series. We will offer readings, activities, and hear from the other contributors whose stories were captured in the text for our collective learning. Let's build a more sex-positive world!

OPENING CRUISE

Thursday, January 22, 10:00pm-1:00am
Adults 18+ only.

Join the Sexual Liberation Collective and the Creating Change sex track organizers for our 20th annual Opening Cruise! Cruising has long been part of queer culture — a playful, sometimes risky way LGBTQ+ folks found each other in parks, bars, and back rooms when being out wasn't safe. It's bold, sexy, and rooted in survival. We're reclaiming that spirit here: same thrill of meeting strangers, but this time it's all about quick hellos, new friends, community connection, and potential sexy hookups—whatever you want it to be!

Your fun and frisky hosts will help move you through a modified speed greeting with prompts. We cordially invite all to come and indulge in some flirty fun while meeting other arousing changemakers. Participation is flexible, and everyone is welcome to attend, inclusive of all identities and life experience. You'll have a chance to name what you want and who you are, so let your imagination go wild. Be brave! Have fun! There has never been a better time to practice your flirtation skills. You never know what might come of it!

RADICAL FUTURE FORWARD FAREWELL

Sunday, January 25, 10:30am - 12:00pm

Join us for a sincere sendoff on Sunday as we bring Creating Change to a close! We will meet up for coffee and treats as we say our sincerest farewells—for-now to friends and chosen family. Don't miss our special announcement of what we have in store for the months and years ahead as we prepare to head home, inspired to continue creating change 365 days a year!



Presented by
 NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE + creating change conference + CHARLOTTE LGBTQ NETWORK

WED: 5PM - 10PM
 THU-SAT: 12PM - 10PM
 PRIZE GAMES START AT 8PM

10 VIDEO GAME CONSOLES
 ALCOHOL FREE SPACE
 TABLE-TOP GAMES
 AND MORE!

GAYME ROOM

Relax! Enjoy from a huge library of video and classic games and puzzles. Not sure if we'll have something you like? You can bring your own game! Join in at 8pm for bingo or Jackbox and win a prize. Also, come sing your heart out for karaoke night in our judgement free zone.

play tennis
 get connected

THE COURT IS YOURS

Tennis is a sport for a lifetime—and open for all.

From playing and coaching to organizing programs, tennis brings people together and builds community. Whether you're stepping onto the court for the first time or leading others into the sport, there's a place for you in the game.

Discover the many benefits of tennis, learn the basics, and find that the court is yours to be you.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE





SPECIAL EVENTS

Kierra's Kabaret and Dance Party: The Sneaker Ball Edition

Saturday, January 24, 8:00pm-1:00am

Sponsored by the Marsha P Johnson Institute
Saturday, January 24, 9:00pm-1:00pm (Showtime
10:30pm-11:30pm)

This event is open to individuals aged 18 and older.
The Marsha P Johnson Institute is bringing the magic this year as the official sponsor of Kierra's Kabaret and Dance Party. We're turning up the music, lighting up the floor, and serving a fabulous show that'll have you dancing all night long — welcome to our very own Creating Change nightclub!

Creating Change is committed to honoring and celebrating queer joy on the dance floor each year. Why? Because in the face of attacks on our community, our collective and unapologetic queer joy is a radical act of resistance. In addition to the dance party, there will be a variety of sensual and stimulating performances that represent D.C. and its rich diversity. Showing love and gratitude through tipping our performers is encouraged and appreciated. Join us as we dance, laugh, and vibe out to a mixture of sounds and sights that are sure to energize you. The Task Force and Creating Change remain deeply committed to advocacy and activism on behalf of our community, and at the same time, we celebrate our diverse identities and embrace queer joy through dance, performance, and song. DJ Honey will take us on a queer and joyful journey...so lace 'em up! It's Kierra's Kabaret, and the runway is the dance floor!



AGENTS OF CHANGE BALL

Friday, January 23, 8:00pm-1:00am

The house/ballroom community is "rooted in resistance, power, and love" and holds a deep history of strength and survival among LGBTQ+ BIPOC folks in the United States, aka Turtle Island. During the 1940s Harlem Renaissance, elaborate pageants featuring Black and Latine LGBTQ+ community members gave rise to what is known today as the house/ballroom community. In the 1970s & 80s, the first houses were created. Their structure stems from chosen families borrowing the language of mother, father, and of course, the children, each with their own talents, gifts, and personal struggles.

This year, Lady Penelope, Icon Oso Milan, Rikka Milan, Stella Del Core bring ballroom culture once again to Creating Change. This year's theme is OUT OF THIS WORLD. Dress the part. All ages and gender expressions are welcome to participate. Please refer to the description in Pheedloop for theme inspiration, categories, prizes, and to sign up to walk the runway and compete!



DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

DAY 1

9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM

Asian American Institute

Hosted by NQAPIA, this institute will deepen the LGBTQ+ Asian community's understanding and practice of cross movement solidarity. Community organizers and movement workers will share knowledge and skills through the following sessions: 1) Palestine is an LGBTQ+ Issue: Queer Asian Solidarity, 2) Cross-Movement Safety and Solidarity: Beyond Intersectionality, 3) The Queers Start a School: Creating Community-Oriented Free Schools, and explore the role of LGBTQ+ Asian community and build aligned practices for action.

Sex Worker Institute

Where we've been and where we are going
Sex work is the world's oldest profession and should be celebrated rather than persecuted. It has influenced culture, religion, politics, and relationships, yet this labor-intensive industry has been denied recognition as legitimate employment, with many aspects pushed into the shadows. Join us as we explore the rich history of sex work, why it needs to be decriminalized, and how we can make that happen.

Executive Director & CEO Institute

Empowering and sustaining organizational leadership in challenging times

For people who serve as executive directors or chief executives of nonprofit organizations only. Board chairs of volunteer-only orgs are welcome to attend; no other exceptions will be allowed. We'll create a brave space for org leaders to gain peer support, share resources, and discuss opportunities for collaboration within the movement. The agenda will be designed in real time with participants in the room to ensure the day is responsive to attendees' needs.

Higher Education Professionals Institute

Advancing LGBTQIA+ programs on campus in a challenging climate

This session brings together professionals from colleges and universities supporting LGBTQIA+ communities amid shifting political and institutional climates. Through participant-driven dialogue, we will share strategies for sustaining programs and advocating with leaders. Designed for those advancing LGBTQIA+ inclusion, it offers space to build resilience and leave with actionable strategies.





DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

State Policy Institute

From state wins to state power

Join advocates, organizers, and trusted policy leaders for a institute focused on strengthening our collective impact at the state level. Together, we'll shape a shared narrative that drives change, celebrate state policy wins, and explore new tools and strategies to help communities effectively engage with law makers at every level of government.

White Folks' Institute for Ending Racism

The White People's Institute for Ending Racism will focus on building anti-racist culture. Collective liberation spaces require shared understanding, skills for principled struggle, and a commitment to balancing our analysis with our relationships.



Indigenous Institute

Open to all. This day-long institute is an opportunity for LGBTQ+ Indigenous, Indigiqueer & Two Spirit people to share their experience & cultural importance with each other & the broader LGBTQ+ community. Participants will learn, grow & cultivate cultural humility. Euro settler-descendants will yield to the Indigenous narrative.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

DAY 2

9:00 AM TO NOON & 3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

Advocacy Day

Change does not happen by accident; it happens when everyday people show up, tell their stories, and demand better from those in power. During this day-long session, you will learn how to turn your lived experience into a clear ask, meet decision-makers and their staff directly, and help shape future legislation and policies that impact our communities.

The day will consist of the following:

- Lobbying (Navigating the Hill and knowing your representatives)
- Organizing Training (How to tell your story, make the "ask" and gain the commitment, plus more)
- One-on-one engagement with congressional members (or their staff)

The people will always have the power, and YOUR story is meant for rooms of power! Come ready to learn, use your voice, and be part of the pressure that makes change UNSTOPPABLE.

Elder & Intergenerational Institute

Living, learning, and growing across generations

Through workshops, storytelling, and shared learning, participants will explore how intergenerational solidarity strengthens our movement. Featuring national leaders and activists, the Institute offers tools for age-inclusive advocacy, insights for long-term change, and space to honor LGBTQ+ elders' resilience. Join us to build community, foster connection, and shape a future rooted in justice, care, and belonging.



DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

HIV Institute

From survival to strategy: Honoring our legacy, shaping the future of HIV justice

Join advocates, organizers, and trusted policy leaders for a institute focused on strengthening our collective impact at the state level. We'll shape a shared narrative that drives change, celebrate state policy wins, and explore new tools and strategies to help communities effectively engage with law makers at every level of government.

Pasifika Institute

The Pasifika Institute at Creating Change is created by and for Queer and Trans Pacific Islanders (QTPI). It's a space to uplift QTPI voices through culture, storytelling, and advocacy while celebrating resilience. The Institute addresses the unique challenges facing MVPFAFF+ (M_h_, Vakasalewa, Palopa, Fa'afafine, Akava'ine, Fakaleit_/Leiti, Fakafifine) through research on lived experiences, including cultural stigma, healthcare access, and systemic inequities. Through dialogue, resource-sharing, and leadership development, participants build strategies and collective power, advancing progress for QTPI communities.

Youth Leadership Institute

LGBTQ+ young people resisting hate, creating joy, protecting our future

There are attacks on trans and queer youth on the federal level, school boards, and even in classrooms with harmful policies that threaten their safety, health, and futures. But young people are rising up, fighting back and creating change! That's why this institute exists. Led by youth activists and Advocates for Youth staff, it's designed for LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-24 to build skills, knowledge, and community to take powerful, collective action.

Sexual Liberation & Healing Institute: Sex.Heal.Action!

From desire to liberation

As attacks on sex, gender, and bodily autonomy dominate the national stage, it's time to build a new relationship with our bodies and sexuality. Sex, Heal, Action! is an interactive, activity-packed institute inviting questions like: "Why did I learn to fear my fantasies?" or "What would I do in a sexually liberated world?" Guiding this exploration, Ignacio Rivera and Aredvi Azad of Heal Sweet Home offer a model for healing that transforms personal discovery into political liberation.

Philanthropy Institute

Fueling the movement

Co-hosted by Stonewall Community Foundation, Borealis Philanthropy, Arcus Foundation, Movement for Black Lives, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, and the National LGBTQ Task Force, this gathering brings funders and organizers into shared strategy. Participants will learn to grow and stabilize their funding base, from cultivating individual donors to navigating institutional grants to securing rapid response and multi-year support. Fascism in the U.S. is accelerating coordinated attacks on our movement's infrastructure and resources needed to survive and organize. Grassroots groups are doing more with less while facing political and financial pressure. This Institute is built to help movement leaders unlock new funding pathways, strengthen donor and grant relationships, and build diversified income streams that can sustain their work over time.





DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

What the L?! The Lesbian Institute

All things lesbian

Join us for a healthy exchange of information that will educate, empower, and uplift all participants. Women from varying demographics are invited and encouraged to take part. We will celebrate the things that bind us together and discuss those issues that divide us, all in the spirit of bridging the gap. All lesbian-identified persons are welcome. We will engage participants in lively discussion about how we move forward, celebrate, and protect our community during the next administration. Topics will include diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, work/life balance, healthcare, family, language, movement building, advocacy, and community education. We will convene lesbian women who identify across the gender expression spectrum, age, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The day will start with a panel discussion and breakout sessions. Participants will come together in a safer space to discuss personal experiences and make action plans to further the growth and progress of our often-invisible lesbian community.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

DAY 3

9:00 AM TO NOON & 3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

Organizing Institute

This institute is geared to train new or seasoned organizers to meet this moment with the tools, skills and strategies necessary to build the kind of power we need to advance a multi-pronged pro-democracy agenda to push back the rising authoritarianism we are witnessing in our country.

Black Institute

In defense of ourselves

In Defense of Ourselves is a transformative day-long convening, in partnership with the Movement for Black Lives and Planned Parenthood Federation of America, that centers Black LGBTQ+/SGL voices, experiences, and leadership in the fight for our collective liberation. This Black-led gathering will unite established leaders and emerging changemakers of all ages from across the nation, creating an intentional space where our community can strategize, organize, and mobilize

Multiracial Institute

More Than One: Exploring, engaging and being in our biracial, multiracial, and mixed race identities

This session explores the experiences of people that identify as biracial/multiracial/mixed raced and the beautiful complexity that accompanies us. We will engage in discussions and activities about the joys and challenges of holding multiple race identities. Through personal reflection and dialogue, we will create space for kinship, healing, and liberation, and offer tools to navigate communities in our wholeness.

Digital Strategy Institute

At the fourteenth annual Digital Strategy Training Institute, you'll engage with a range of experts about the latest digital tools and online strategies that you can incorporate into your work. You will discover latest in social media tactics, be trained on effective communications strategy, and learn how to implement accessible brands and web design. Lastly, through open discussion, we will help each other develop creative solutions to the challenges your organization is facing today.



DAY-LONG INSTITUTES



Bi+ Institute

Take Your Vitamin B+

Bi+ folks are the majority in the LGBTQ+ community yet are often erased and excluded when it comes to discourse, programming, funding, and advocacy. We will focus on empowerment, resilience, and developing knowledge and tools to be effective advocates for bi+ concerns within and beyond the LGBTQ+ community. We will offer examples of successful strategies, data, and stories to support advocacy, and provide resources for staying connected to bi+ community. Primarily for those who identify as bi+ (bisexual, pan, queer, or any other non-binary sexuality), though accomplices are welcome to join us.

Unión=Fuerza Latinx Institute

The Unión=Fuerza Latinx Institute is one of the largest gatherings of LGBTQ+ Latinx leaders in a bilingual and culturally grounded space, designed to build connections and forge long-lasting partnerships. Through capacity-building, leadership development, and alliance-building opportunities, the Institute equips participants with the skills to strengthen their advocacy and overcome institutional barriers.

By fostering inter-generational, bilingual, and intersectional connections, it provides tools and practices that empower leaders to create lasting change for both LGBTQ+ and Latinx movements nationwide.

Interfaith Institute

Reclaiming the Inter, developing new approaches to solidarity across movements

The Faith Institute is a space that explores the complexities between engaging faith and spirituality with being 2SLGBTQIA+, developing stronger and more sustainable movements for liberation. For this year's theme of "Unstoppable", we invite you to examine the Interfaith (Evolving out of the typical mold of dialogue and relationship building), Intersectional (Multi-identity understanding), Intergenerational (Learning and collaboration between elder and young leaders), and Interactive (Cross movement solidarity and activism) strategies of this work today.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

DAY 4

9:00 AM TO NOON & 3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM

Deep Canvass Institute

Learn the specific components of launching a deep canvassing action including start-up info sessions, story workshops, recruiting knowhow, team-building & leadership roles. Examine the what, why & how of this heart-felt and potent action that can increase a base of support, voter turnout and your own volunteer teams. Whether you're currently running a deep canvasser want to try it before you start your own, take advantage of expert knowledge from Kathleen and Nikita!



DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

Queer Climate Justice Institute

Drawing the connections between LGBTQIA2S+ liberation and the struggles for a safe, sustainable, and accessible planet are critical now more than ever, especially as our communities face climate crises and civil unrest. We must confront the forces of colonization, militarization, and eco-violence that devastate communities worldwide—systems rooted in white supremacy, white nationalism, and fascist regimes. These structures drive land theft, displacement, resource extraction, and state violence, making frontline communities—especially QTBIPOC, disabled people, and sex workers—disproportionately vulnerable. LGBTQIA2S+ people are part of every marginalized community across the globe, carrying unique spiritual, ancestral, and emotional abilities to facilitate the movement for a Just Transition where people and planet are prioritized over profits, pollution, plastics, and pipelines. Join us for a day of building community, learning/unlearning, and activating both joy and resilience, led by those living and organizing at these intersections of climate, environmental, and social justice.

Trans & Non-Binary Institute

Resourcing political power

One year into our new political reality, far-right extremists have launched a full-scale rhetorical and political campaign against trans and nonbinary people and the institutions that support gender equity. The 2026 Trans and Non-binary Institute: Resourcing Political Power is an opportunity to align these efforts. We will gather to assess the threat, share information about the opposition strategies aimed at dismantling trans rights and harming trans and nonbinary people. Learn more about effective resistance strategies and the organizing happening in various sectors across the country, including the US South, “blue states,” immigration advocacy, reproductive justice, and racial justice.

Acknowledging the power of our broad-based trans and nonbinary coalition, we hope this institute will be an opportunity to align our strategic and policy priorities and reclaim our organizing agenda.

Messaging & Communications Institute

Work with media to effectively tell your story

A collaboration of the National LGBTQ Task Force, GLAAD and Communications Shop, this hands-on institute will cover resources and tools to communicate effectively with the media and diverse audiences, with a focus on message development, interview skills, relationship building and understanding the tools needed to create and nurture relationships with journalists and influencers. This session will include research and personal experiences of the presenters on how to develop effective key messages, practice delivering those messages via mock interviews and interactive group exercises; how to navigate hostile or challenging media and address issues in the current media climate at the national and local levels; how to create and leverage your social media presence and platform. Leave with resources and takeaways that will help you and your organization create and grow an impactful communications infrastructure, protocols, skills and tools to plan for and respond to media as part of your advocacy work.



National LGBTQ Task Force | Creating Change 2026



DAY-LONG INSTITUTES

Labor Institute

Building trans and queer working class power!

The labor movement is THE organizing vehicle with unity, vision, and strength that can not only protect and care for LGBTQIA+ workers and our families, but advance our rights and livelihoods. We invite you to join experienced, nationally-recognized LGBTQIA+ union leaders for a day-long Labor Institute to build queer worker power in our workplaces and hold the line against fascism. Featuring Pride at Work, AFL-CIO and unions including UNITE HERE, Starbucks Workers United, SEIU, UFCW, NEA and USW.

Morning: Wielding Power as LGBTQIA+ Unionists: Non-Cooperation with Authoritarianism 101: This interactive training will help each of us identify our own strategic roles and opportunities to undermine fascism and hold the line for democracy. Together we walk through recognizing how authoritarians wield power, what props up autocracy, how mass movements can turn around backsliding towards authoritarianism, and the key role LGBTQIA+ people and unions have in that process.

Afternoon: Building a Future Where All LGBTQIA+ Workers Can Thrive: Join union leaders and members from a wide array of industries for workshops with concrete and transferable skills you can use to create a campaign to build the future we need in our workplaces, communities, or schools. Topics include immigration, forming a union, identifying winnable issues, and campaign planning.

The Southwest Asian and North African Institute

Queer, Middle Eastern, North African, & Fabulous!

A day-long convening centering queer and trans SWANA people and our communities, designed to strengthen our networks, share strategies, and celebrate the richness and resilience of our cultures.

Morning (Public Session): Open to all Creating Change attendees. Explore how Orientalism, pinkwashing, and homonationalism shape public narratives about SWANA people, their role in obscuring occupation and reinforcing racism, and examine health disparities and systemic barriers faced by SWANA LGBTQ+ individuals, along with strategies for advocacy and solidarity. Through panels, interactive presentations, and cultural sharing, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of queer and trans SWANA experiences and the ways these struggles connect to global movements for justice.

Afternoon (Private Session): A closed space for queer and trans SWANA participants centering healing and forward-looking strategy. We will share stories, strengthen connections, and address invisibility in mainstream LGBTQ+ spaces to displacement and systemic oppression. We will focus on movement building: amplify queer and trans SWANA voices, deepen collaboration, and sustain a strong national network. This Zionism-free space will ground participants in collective care, solidarity, and the shared vision of liberation. Participants will leave with deeper connections, practical tools, and a shared commitment to advancing queer and trans SWANA power and movement-building.



Creando Cambio 2026 | El Grupo Nacional de Trabajo LGBTQ

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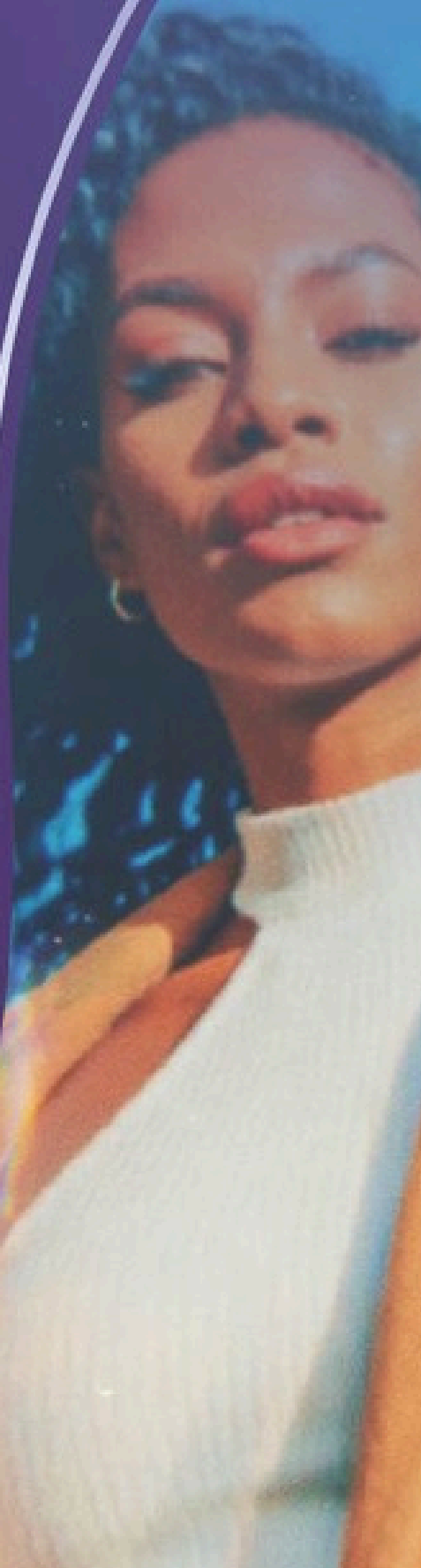
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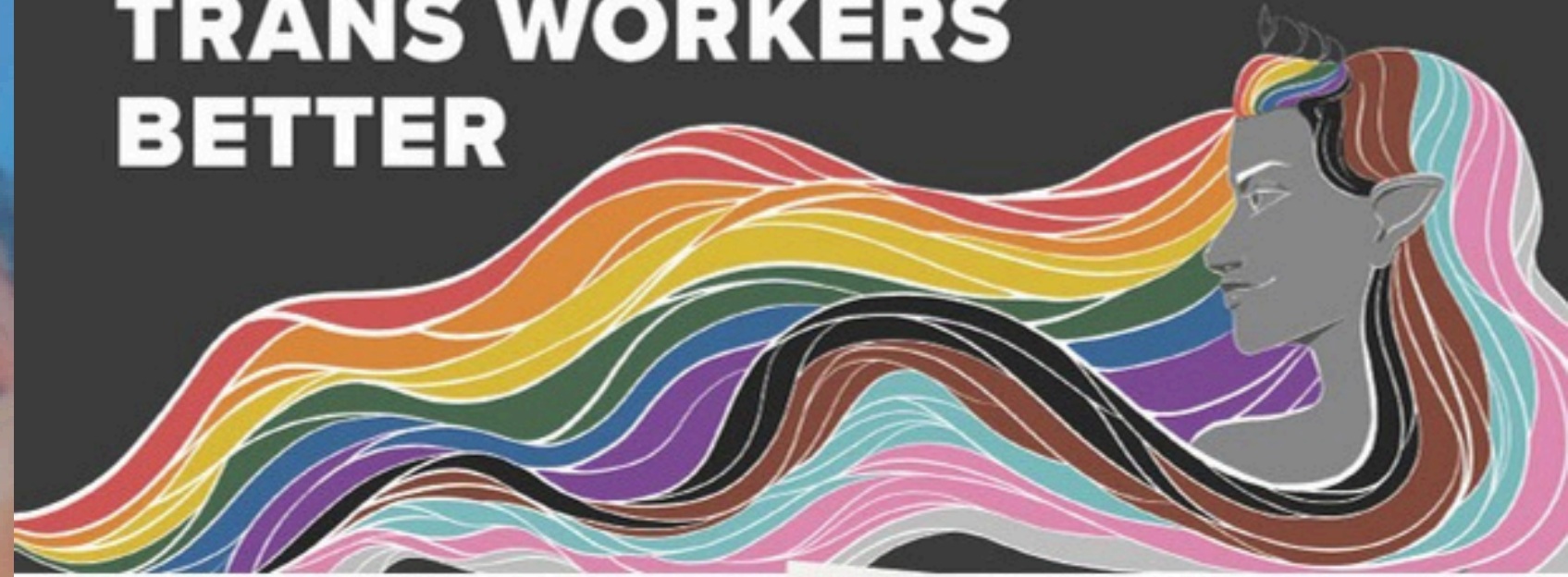
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STARBUCKS NEEDS TO TREAT QUEER AND TRANS WORKERS BETTER



The New York Times
Starbucks Is Under Scrutiny Over Removal of Pride Decorations

The New York Times
Starbucks Union Plans to Strike Over Pride Décor and Labor Practices

USA TODAY
Starbucks gave trans employees a lifeline. Then they put our health care at risk.

Bloomberg
Starbucks Threatens Trans Benefits in Anti-Union Push, Staff Say

Starbucks Workers United has organized over 9,500 Starbucks workers, including many queer and trans workers, in over 360 stores across 41 states and Washington D.C. and sparked a wave of organizing across the country.

Workers have organized despite facing the worst union-busting campaign in modern U.S. history. Starbucks has fired workers, cut workers' hours which have resulted in loss of pay and benefits, and denied benefits to unionized workers as part of its scorched-earth anti union campaign.

A union contract is one of the strongest ways for LGBTQIA+ workers to build power, protect our rights and ensure equity and inclusivity at work – especially as some states actively pass drastic legislation to deny and restrict our humanity.

If Starbucks really cares about LGBTQIA+ rights, they would bargain in good faith and negotiate a contract with our union that puts our rights in writing.

Join us and sign the **No Contract, No Coffee Pledge.**



Art by Arthur Pratt

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The Marsha P. Johnson Institute (MPJI) protects and defends the human rights of BLACK transgender people.

We are continuing the legacy of our namesake, mother Marsha, by championing support and solutions for BLACK trans people in the US. We do this by organizing, advocating, creating fellowships, building strategic campaigns, offering direct-relief support, and interrupting the people who are standing in the way of a more just world for BLACK trans people, and all people.

We envision a society where BLACK transgender people live prosperous, abundant, safe, and self-actualized lives.



THE Marsha P. Johnson INSTITUTE

Learn More



@mpjinstitute

WE TRUST YOU.



At Stonewall, we believe that those closest to the issues are the best equipped to solve them.

That's why more than 80% of Stonewall's grants are completely unrestricted - a testament to our belief in trust-based philanthropy.

Get in touch at stonewallfoundation.org



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We are All-One or None!!

To learn more about our mission, visit:



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...youthink... Incubator Hub

Need support & funding to address a challenge in adolescent & young adult health? Innovate with us!

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youthink.health youthink@chla.usc.edu

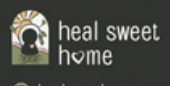
Sexual Healing and Liberation TRACK

This track is made possible through the support of the Freeman Foundation

Offerings include:

- Sexual Healing and Liberation Caucus
- Sex. Heal. Action! Day-Long Institute
- Sexual Healing Salon
- And dozens of other programs.

Facilitated by:



FOR A MORE COMPASSIONATE WORLD

americanhumanist.org



HOTEL MAPS

R Restrooms / Baños

L Lobby Level

- 1 - HOLMEAD
- 2 - JAY
- 3 - KALORAMA
- 4 - MORGAN

- 5 - NORTHWEST
- 6 - OAK LAWN
- 7 - PISCATAWAY

T Terrace Level

- 1 - CC Resource Center
 - Accessibility and Senior Services
 - Speaker Support
 - Check-In
- 2 - Care Bears
- 3 - Care-a-Lot Community Rooms
- 4 - Gayme Room (ALBRIGHT)

- 5 - BOUNDARY
- 6 - CARDOZO
- 7 - DU PONT
- 8 - EMBASSY
- 9 - FAIRCHILD
- 10 - GUNSTON

C Concourse Level

- 1 - CABINET
- 2 - GEORGETOWN
- 3 - JEFFERSON
- 4 - LINCOLN
- 5 - MONROE



HOTEL MAPS

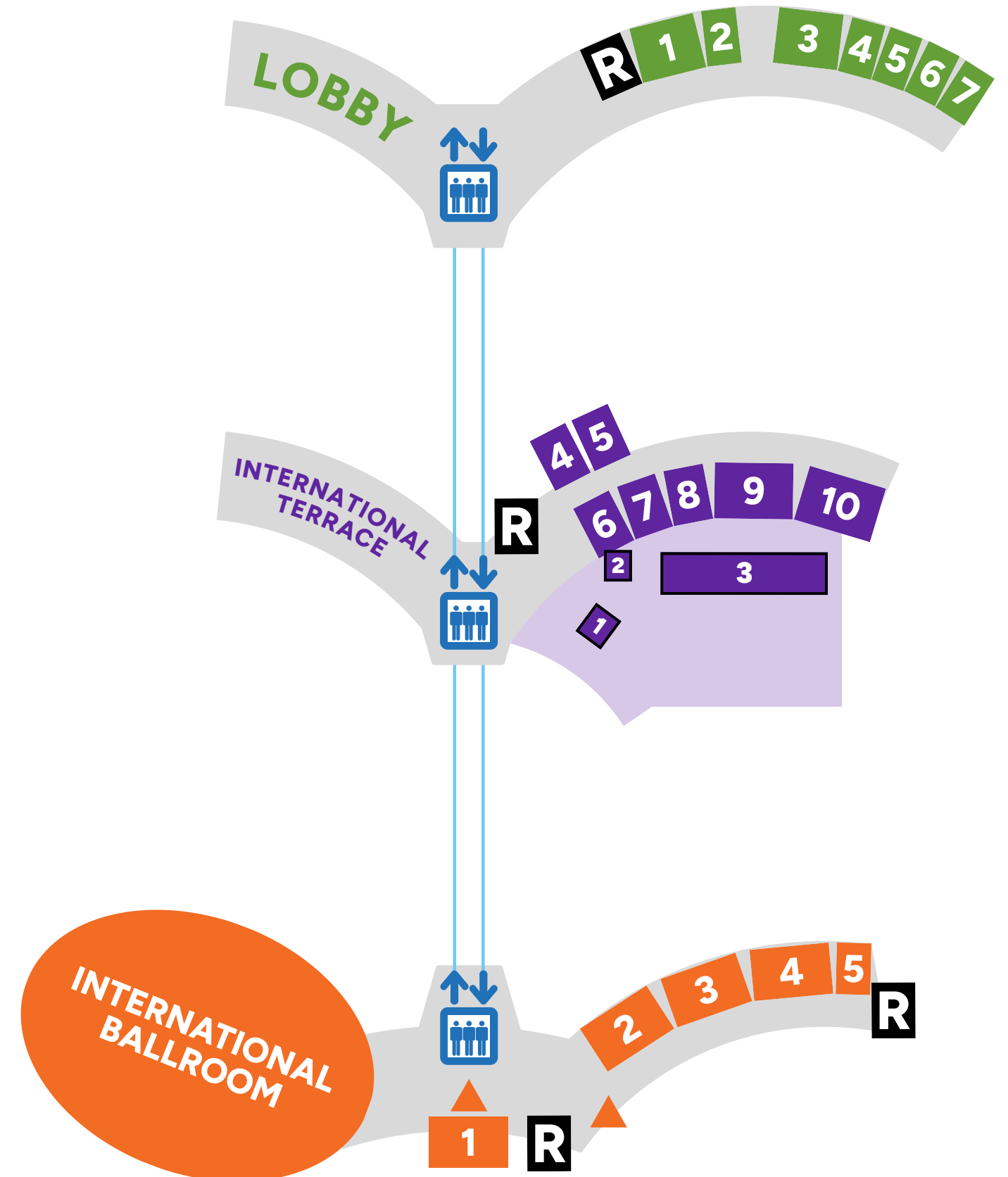




EXHIBIT HALL

Care-a-Lot Spaces

100s

- 100 - National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence
- 101 - Task Force Merch
- 104 - American Humanist Association
- 105 - DC LGBTQ+ Community Center
- 106 - Crushing Colonialism
- 109 - Forge
- 111 - Columbia College Chicago
- 112 - Marsha P. Johnson Institute
- 115 - HME Consulting & Advocacy
- 116 - Point of Pride
- 117 - Lavender Graduation Legacy Project
- 119 - Dr. Bronner's
- 122 - Soulforce
- 124 - ILO

200s

- 200 - ViiV Apretude
- 201 - Until There's a Cure
- 204 - Center for Black Equity
- 205 - Plume Clinic
- 206 - Starr King School for the Ministry
- 207 - Doruk Silver Inc.
- 208 - House of Venus
- 209 - U.S. Tennis Association
- 210 - The Imperial Court
- 211 - Know Your Rights/ Legal Advice
- 212 - Triple Pocket Events/ Know Other Festival
- 213 - GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders - GLAD
- 214 - Native Flare
- 216 - Unite HERE!
- 218 - SONG - Southerners on New Ground
- 223 - Stewie's Got Pride

Media Hub

- MH1 - SWERV Magazine
- MH2 - Blaque/OUT Magazine
- MH3 - MetroWeekly
- MH4 - Washington Blade
- MH5 - Equal Pride
- MH6 - EDGE Media
- MH7 - Hotspot/Happening Out
- MH8 - National LGBT Media Association
- MH9 - The Qube e3 Radio FM

Artist Tables

- AT1 - Breathe Entertainment LLC & OME Prod TV
- AT2 - We Live in Truth (WeL.I.T.)

Community Tables

- CT1 - Joseph's House
- CT2 - Shout Mouse Press
- CT3 - Advocates for Youth
- CT4 - 22nd Centry Initiative
- CT5 - Modern Military Association of America
- CT6 - Equality Chamber

300s

- 304 - Undead Voices
- 306 - FreeDC
- 307 - Brite Divinity School
- 309 - Digital Defense Fund
- 310 - MedPro Innovations
- 311 - TD Bank
- 312 - All Love Surrogacy
- 313 - Snap 4 Freedom
- 315 - Sincerely Fearless
- 317 - Haymarket Books
- 319 - KAQCHI
- 322 - Capital Pride Alliance
- 323 - ViiV Healthcare
- 321 - My Med Tour Guy
- 323 - ViiV Healthcare
- 322 - Capital Pride Alliance
- 325 - DC OUTTELL OF ART

400s

- 404 - YouThink - Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- 406 - National Black Justice Collective
- 410 - Smith College School for Social Work
- 412 - Elevated Access
- 416 - Interfaith
- 422 - Heal Sweet Home
- 424 - Bi+ Community



EXHIBIT HALL





WORKSHOPS & CAUCUSES

Listing subject to change. Please refer to the PheedLoop Go! mobile app for dates and times.

WORKSHOPS

- 6 Tools to Affirm Gender-Diverse Youth: Moving Parents of Gender-Diverse Youth from Anxious to Advocate
- 69 Ways to Use "Saran Wrap": Safer sex strategies for queer and trans people
- A Historical Perspective on Transgender Health Care
- A Model for Supporting Queer College Students: Partnering campus resources, a local non-profit, and a private foundation
- A Youth Power Circle: A Space to Vent, Ground, and Take Action
- Abolitionists Imagining a Brighter Future for TLGBQ+ PLAHIV
- Across Generations: Roundtable Strategies in Public Health and Human Rights
- After the Ball Chat with The Agents of Change Team
- Agents of Change Presents: The history and Art of Ballroom 101!
- Algorithms and Access: Using AI to Build Equitable Schools and Organizations
- Balancing Mission and Risk: Defining Risk Tolerance for Your Organization
- Becoming a Bisexual Killjoy: A Hands-On Workshop
- Beyond Boundaries: Building Multiethnic Coalitions for Lasting Justice
- Beyond Fear: Mystifying the Body, Turning Towards Solidarity, and Daring a Radically Embodied Diasporism
- Beyond Survival Mode: Diversifying Fundraising in a Shifting Landscape
- Beyond the Crown: Empowering Trans Leaders, Advocates, and Role Models Through Inclusive Pageantry
- Beyond Vanilla: Understanding Kink and BDSM in Practice
- Black Facts: Inoculating the Black Community from Anti-Trans Rhetoric Designed to Gut Civil Rights for All
- Black Queer Fertility: Hope, Grief, and Love
- Blue Hair & Pronouns: Starbucks Workers United & Fighting for LGBTQ+ Rights at Work



- Building Momentum and Community: Youth-to-Youth Campaign Lab
- Building Power When the Ground Shifts: How Local Coalitions Drive Change in Uncertain Times
- Building the Black Left: From Candidates for Elected Office to Champions
- Candidate Recruitment & Expectations
- Caucus for Latinx survivors of Spiritual and Religion-based Violence (Spanish-English)
- Centering Sexual Liberation in Latinx Health & Wellness
- Charting a Path Forward: Unveiling LGBTQIA+ Muslim Census Data
- Cheer as Liberation, Embodying Joy, Care and Resistance: From Pom Pons to Protest
- Claiming Fire: A Blueprint for Liberated Leadership: Leadership, Identity, and Becoming as a Black Lesbian
- Cross-Solidarity for Collective Liberation
- Crossing Borders, Claiming Ourselves: A Healing Space for Queer Immigrants
- Curiosity as Resistance: Reclaiming Self, Community, and Faith from White Nationalism
- Cyber Security as Community Care
- Data & Stories: LGBTQ+ Fundraising from Planned Gifts
- Data at the Intersection of Abortion Bans and Gender Affirming Care Bans
- DC Statehood, NOW

National LGBTQ Task Force | **Creating Change 2026**



WORKSHOPS & CAUCUSES

- Defending Democracy: Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Religion
- Demilitarization to Advance Climate Justice
- Desirability and Masculinity
- Desire Mapping
- Difficulty Solidarity: Where Do You Stand When Justice, Morality, and Values Conflict
- Digital Safety & Security for Community Organizers
- Does Your Hiring Process Reflect Your Values?: Getting it Right from Posting to Hiring and Beyond
- Double Jeopardy: Policy Solutions for Latinx LGBTQ+ Postsecondary Student Success
- Embodying Narrative Reclamation through Liberatory Masculinity
- EmpowerHER Finances: Investing in Black Queer Futures
- Facilitating For Transformation
- Faith in Action: Mobilizing our Religious Communities for LGBTQ+ Justice
- Fighting Against LGBTQ+ Bias in the Legal System to Preserve Democracy
- From Banished to Belonging: Building Trans+ Community Power through Domestic Resettlement
- From COINTELPRO to Queerphobia: How the State Polices Resistance
- From Grindr to Pinkwashing to Gay Tel Aviv: Navigating Queer Politics in a Difficult Time
- From Panic to Protocol: Building Incident Response Plans for your Movements and Organizations
- Get Up, Vogue, & Vote
- God is Not a Weapon: The Language of Christian Nationalism and How to Resist It
- Grants Made Simple: A Workshop for Reluctant Writers: Learn to Fund Your Work—No Experience Needed
- HIV & The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Holding Space: Building and Sustaining Queer Safe Havens in Washington, D.C. Presented by Vascano Tequila
- How F*cking Can Save Us From Fascism
- How to Throw a Play Party
- Intergenerational Workshop on Documenting Latinx LGBT Activist Lives
- Intersex Solidarity in LGBTQ+ Advocacy
- Intimate Partner Violence and Authoritarianism

- Investing In TGI Lives: Community-led Policy and Budget Advocacy Strategies
- JOTAS VS ICE / QUEERS AGAINST ICE
- Kink For Geniuses
- Lavender Economics: Rethinking Sustainability in Queer Community Spaces
- Leading for Social Change
- Let's Talk It Out: Touchy Subjects within the Trans Rights Movement
- Lets Talk about it! GNC Visibility in Ballroom!
- Levers of Change in the LGBTQI+ Movement
- LGBTQ+ Resistance and Organizing in Sex Work
- Lobbying Isn't Just For Lobbyists
- Mic'd Up & Unbothered: Telling Our Stories On Purpose
- Moving from Panic to a Plan: Youth Activists' Triage for when that New Bill Drops in your State
- Nuestra Salud, Nuestra Pasión: Embracing Sex Positivity for HIV Prevention
- Parenting Out Loud: Exploring the Challenges and Everyday Realities of LGBTQI+ Family Life
- Pleasure in Transition: Sexual Health in Genderqueer Menopause
- Possibility to Practice: Asian and Pasifika Solidarity
- Posts, Polls, and Protests: Gen-Z's Civic Superpowers
- Practical Alternatives to Calling the Police
- Preparing for Politically Motivated Attacks Against the LGBTQ+ Community: Building confidence and knowledge to weather the storm



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WORKSHOPS & CAUCUSES

- Preserving Artistic Freedom in the Trump Era
- Pro doesnt Mean Anti
- Public Confidence and the Stakes for LGBTQ+ and HIV Rights
- Putting Consent into Care
- QueenCiañera Trans
- Queer Leadership on the Job: Developing Leaders in Your Workplace
- Radical Refuge: Nature is Queer and knows how to protect itself
- Reclaiming Power and Wellness: A Healing Justice Journey for LGBTQ2S BIPOC Folx
- Reimagining Fundraising: Adaptive Strategies for Organization Resilience
- Rest as Resource: Reclaiming Time for Sustainability
- Royal Voices: Elevating Black Trans Leadership Through Pageantry and Advocacy.
- Run Toward the Fire: Igniting Trans Power and Joyful Resistance: Creating Sanctuary and Strategy in the Face of State Violence
- School Board Organizing 101
- Seeing the Forest and the Tree: Foundations of Trauma and Resiliency Informed Movement Building - Part 1
- Seeing the Forest and the Tree: Foundations of Trauma and Resiliency Informed Movement Building - Part 2
- Ser trans puertorriqueña en la diáspora: resistencias, desplazamientos y sueños colectivos: Colonial Violence, Migration, and Trans Liberation
- Serving with Honor, Denied with Policy: The Human Cost of the Trans Military Ban
- Session: Forged in the Fire: Reviving Our Street Fighting Power
- Sexual Healing Salon
- SHAKE IT UP: The Power of Asking
- Shifting Mindsets from Scarcity to Abundance: Bringing Focus through a Queer Lens
- Shifting the Narrative, Building the Power: A Trans-Only Deep Dive into TONS
- Sin Vergüenza-Creating Sex Positive Spaces in Latinx LGBTQ+ Communities
- Solo el Pueblo Salva al Pueblo: Only the People Will Save the People
- Staying in the Struggle: Steps for Cultivating (Self-) Compassion

- Stop the Crackdown/Protect Student Power: How to Pass a Firewall for Freedom Campus Resolution
- Streamline Your Grants (Neurodivergent Edition)
- Supporting and Leading Teams During Tumultuous Times
- Sustaining Artists and Activists in Uncertain Times: Maintaining Mental Health and Resiliency in the Movement



- Telling OUR Stories: Creating and Leveraging Media Content with Blaque/OUT Magazine
- The Dream of a Common Movement: The Life and Vision of Urvashi Vaid
- The Past is Always Present: UnErasing LGBTQ History Through the Power of Theater in Schools and Communities
- The Quiet Work: Rest, Rebellion, and Refusal for Black Trans Femmes
- The Revolution Has/Will be Danced!
- The Snap4Freedom School: From Spectacle to Survival
- The Snap4Freedom School: Trans Safety. Imagined.
- The Theology Behind the Policy
- The Voice of Resistance: Media Skills for Trans Justice
- These Are A Few of My Favorite Things
- Thrive, Survive, Strategize: Community Organizing Workshop
- Trans Power in Action: Organizing for Transgender Rights at the State and National Level
- Trauma-Informed Self-Defense for Healing the Past & Meeting the Moment
- Unapologetically You: Culture Is the Cure



WORKSHOPS & CAUCUSES

- Understanding Medical Fraud Investigations and Patient Privacy
- Unmasc-Qing™ Success: EQ, AI, and Career Navigation - Emotional Intelligence and AI for Black Queer MOC Women
- Unmodeling Us: Queer & Trans AANHPI Resistance to the Model Minority Myth
- Using Political Education as a Tool to Fight Fascism
- VICTORY - How our Successful Decriminalization of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) in Maryland can Free All of Us!
- Weaponizing "Science" in Law & Policy
- We All We Got...We All We Need! How to Build a Safety Plan and Team
- We Have Sex, Too! Older Gay Men & Sexual Health
- We Keep Us Safe: Active Bystander Skills for Dangerous Times
- We're Still Here!: Continuing the Fight for Trans Affirming Schools
- When QTBIPOC Leaders are Under Attack, What Do We Do?
- Workers over Billionaires!
- Youth Voices for Religious and Queer Freedom: How We're Fighting Christian Nationalism - and You Can Too
- #Time2Run: LGBTQ+ Candidacy & Campaigns: How to elevate the electoral power of the LGBTQ+ community through campaigns

CAUCUSES

- Ace & Aro Caucus
- Advocates, Lobbyists, & Policy Professionals Caucus
- Arts & Cultural Organizers Caucus
- Asian American Caucus
- Bi+ Caucus
- Black Caucus
- Black Church Caucus
- Board Members Caucus
- Christian Ecumenical Caucus
- Climate Justice Caucus
- DC Caucus
- Deaf Caucus
- Disability Caucus
- Executive Director & CEO Caucus
- Educators and School Workers Caucus
- Elders Caucus

- Florida Caucus
- Gay, Bi, and Trans Men Caucus
- Immigrant & Mixed Status Families Caucus
- Indigenous Talking Circle
- Intersex Caucus
- Jewish Caucus
- Jews of Color Caucus
- Journalists, Content Creators, & Communications Caucus
- Kink Caucus
- Labor Caucus
- Latine Caucus
- Lesbian Caucus
- Lesbian: Femme-of-Center Caucus
- Lesbian: Masculine-of-Center Caucus
- Middle Easterns and North Africans Caucus
- Multiracial Caucus
- Muslim Caucus
- NAAH Caucus (Nones, Agnostic, Atheist, & Humanists)
- NC Caucus
- Neurodiverse Caucus
- Non-binary Caucus
- Organizers Caucus
- Pacific Islanders Caucus
- Pagan Caucus
- Parents Caucus
- People Living with HIV/AIDS Caucus
- Pennsylvania Caucus
- Pluralism: All-inclusive Faith Caucus
- Polyamory Caucus
- Reproductive Justice Caucus
- Researchers Caucus
- Rural Caucus
- Sex Workers Caucus
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- South Asian Caucus
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Queering Faith at Creating Change

Practice Spirit, Do Justice

Practice Spirit, Do Justice is the interfaith track of Creating Change, offering sessions, caucuses, contemplative spaces like the Many Paths Gathering Space, day-long programming like the InterFaith Institute, and services like the Wednesday Interfaith Empowerment Vigil. Through this track, we work with religious, spiritual, and secular partners to build coalitions that reinforce the idea that equity and religious freedom are interconnected and mutually reinforcing in the work for liberation.

Interfaith Institute

Location in PheedLoop App
Thursday evening, January 22nd

While this Institute is being facilitated during the later hours of the day, we are inviting participants to take part in this year's Advocacy Day for their daytime activities.

This year's Institute focuses on Reclaiming the Inter-: How do we identify the crossroads of identities, communities, and movements that can expand and sustain us for the work ahead? How are we working towards building power through collectives that are interspiritual, intergenerational, and interactive? Learn from different faith leaders and organizers about how our histories, our narratives, and our approaches to non-violence and de-escalation work can benefit from cross-movement solidarity.



Many Paths Gathering Space

Location in PheedLoop App
Wednesday, January 22 through Saturday, January 25, 8:00am – 11:00pm
Sunday, January 26, 8:00am – 10:30am

The Many Paths Gathering Space is a welcoming, dedicated space for spiritual practice, ritual, reflection, support, connection, and breathing space, for attendees of any or no spiritual path. Stop by for spiritual practice, to chat with a Spiritual Care Team member, or to just take a quiet break from all the noise.

Scheduled offerings include:

- Opening Night Christian Prayer Circle Wednesday, 7:00pm-7:30pm
- Interfaith Empowerment Vigil Wednesday 8:00pm-9:00pm
- Buddhist Meditation Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun, 8:15-8:45am
- Muslim Jummah Gathering Friday, 12:00-2:00pm
- Shabbat Service Friday, 5:30-7:30pm
- Pagan Ancestor Circle Saturday, 1:30-2:15pm
- Name/Gender/Pronoun Blessing Ritual Saturday, 3:15-4:15pm
- Catholic Mass Saturday, 4:45-5:30pm
- Ecumenical Christian Service Sunday, 9:00-10:15am

All spiritual gatherings are open to all. The Many Paths Gathering Space also holds space for tarot and oracle card readings, anointing for activists, art as spiritual practice, self-guided daily Muslim prayers, and more. For more details, see the Creating Change app or visit ManyPathsGathering.com



A Call to Work: Building a Base to Resist Authoritarianism



Authoritarianism does not arrive all at once. It grows in the gaps where people assume someone else will push back. These are not theoretical risks — they are measurable signs of how quickly a society can normalize concentrated power.

When **this authoritarian administration** moved to expand executive power, an estimated **seven million people across all 50 states joined the “No Kings” protests**, one of the largest single days of protest in U.S. history — a signal that millions refuse to quietly surrender the foundations of democratic governance. The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund was proud to stand alongside with contingents in Washington, DC, South Florida and more.

Across the country, **immigrant-led, Black-led, and trans-led grassroots groups are pushing back** and are the heart and engine of this movement. These community-rooted efforts — alongside private citizens acting locally — show that the defense of democracy is not confined to Washington. It is happening block by block, person by person, in the places where authoritarian tendencies first take root and where they can be stopped early, decisively, and collectively.

Creating Change matters because it brings these liberation seekers into one roof — thousands of people who refuse to accept diminishing rights, shrinking freedoms, or the normalization of unchecked power.

This year, the Task Force's field team will be canvassing throughout Creating Change, recruiting people into our year-long organizing campaigns that carry us directly into the midterms.

Through the Organizing Committee, our Organizer Training Toolkit, bootcamps, coalition meetings, and election-focused work, we are building a **national infrastructure for resistance** — a network of organizers, volunteers, and community leaders equipped with the tools needed to fight authoritarianism wherever it appears.

The midterms — and what many are calling the most consequential election of our lifetimes — are barreling toward us. Authoritarianism gains power when people wait, hesitate, or assume “someone else” will do the work. This work has to begin now, with each person who chooses to sign up, plug in, and build power with the field team.

When you have a moment, find our team. **Stop and talk with us. Get signed up.** Let's take power. Let's hold our shared liberation. Let's not only resist the systems that harm us — **let's build the new structures that will replace them.**

Because the lesson remains unchanged: **authoritarianism advances when people stand back — and it is defeated when people move forward together.** This is the moment to move forward.



A Friendly 2025 Policy Recap

This past year, our beloved Task Force Policy Team has been booked and beeee-sy. Our Policy Director Allen Morris (he/they), Government Affairs Associate Kenya Whitaker (she/her), and State Policy Analyst Meera Rajput (she/her), have been working diligently to advance policy priorities in collaborative partnership with federal and state local partners, provide technical assistance and political education to members and constituents on the ground and build a network of relationships with over 75 federal and state lawmakers to both push through proactive legislation and defeat “bad” bills. Our policy priorities span the intersection of many civil rights and issue areas including reproductive and racial justice, immigration, criminal justice reform, LGBTQ+ rights, DC statehood and universal health care.

Federal

At Creating Change 2025, the policy team provided political education to attendees during the first week of Trump 2.0, specifically on executive orders and memorandums. Legal research and visits on Capitol Hill were pivotal in defeating legislation such as the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

The policy team also took the lead on rapid response during crucial moments during the days leading up to SCOTUS decisions such as Skrametti and Mahmoud; the DC crime emergency declaration and National Guard occupation; the longest-ever federal government shutdown.

State

In collaboration with our amazing state partner TENT (Trans Education Network of Texas), we defeated over 200+ anti-LGBTQ bills during the last legislative session, although a bathroom bill was passed swiftly during a special legislative session Texas called back in the summer. The purpose of that session was to address flooding concerns in Texas but became a way for anti-LGBTQ lawmakers to attack trans rights. No anti-LGBTQ bills were passed during Florida’s last legislative session.

Make no mistake; we will come back and will continue to support our partners to keep defeating negative legislation at the state levels.

What Changemakers Need To Know

As we continue to push back against negative legislation at various levels of government, we must continue to advocate pro-equality rulemaking, and leaders that are values-aligned. Now is the time to invest in policy, not step back or allow hatred to win. Voters, advocates, and leaders like you all have the ability to change hearts, minds, and legislation.

-National LGBTQ Task Force Policy Team



Stay Connected. Stay Engaged.

Explore our expanding lineup of virtual programs designed to inform, empower, and mobilize our community. Stay tuned to @thetaskforce on social media or go to thetaskforce.org for dates, sign-ups, and fresh ways to plug in.

Happening Now

X is a Queer Issue Instagram Live Series

We’re breaking down the intersections of queerness with politics, culture, policy, and everyday life. Come for the bold conversations, stay for the community building.

The OC

Calling all advocates and changemakers! The OC (formerly the Organizing Committee) is your space to collaborate, strategize, and build real collective power. Your voice isn’t just welcome — it’s essential.

Coming Soon in 2026

Policy Power Hour

We’re breaking down what’s happening on the policy landscape, why it matters, and how you can take action.

Interfaith Virtual Conversations

Monthly gatherings that bring together faith, justice, and LGBTQ+ liberation. Deep talks, shared values, and community care — all in one virtual room



USE YOUR VOICE

Stay in contact with your federal and state lawmakers to show support and opposition whenever possible.

Find your federal representatives at www.congress.gov/members/find-your-member



Securing DC's Queer Future: A Heidi Ellis Story

As the leader of the D.C. LGBTQ Budget Coalition, Heidi Ellis sees every day how advocacy turns into real change. Her work has helped create housing vouchers for LGBTQ residents, workforce programs for transgender and gender-diverse people, funding for a new LGBTQ+ community center, proposals for LGBTQ senior housing, and resources to support youth experiencing homelessness.

"We operate with a sense of autonomy because of D.C. Home Rule, but our ability to self-govern is constantly at risk," Ellis said. "Congressional interference, especially around our budget, continues to undermine the will of D.C. residents."

She recently moderated a conversation with Attorney General Brian Schwalb on these challenges. Ellis is clear about how the coalition operates:

"As a coalition, we're intentional and strategic. And we know who our stakeholders are... We educate the community and do a lot of trainings around advocacy like teaching people how to testify before the council."

Her leadership has earned recognition across the District, including

including awards from SMYAL and the Washington Blade.

Now, she also serves as a Creating Change Ambassador as the annual convening returns to D.C. in 2026.

"It's a powerful opportunity to have Creating Change in D.C. this year," Ellis said. "It's becoming a truly symbiotic relationship... I'm proud to build that kind of partnership with the Task Force."

For Ellis, effective advocacy begins with building a community-informed framework so leaders can better understand the issues LGBTQ residents face. Her perspective is shaped by her identity as a Black American and Afro-Latina lesbian.



"I always got a double education. I got what I had in the classroom and what I had at home," she said. That lived experience helps her see how systems impact people differently.

Several local organizations make up the D.C. LGBTQ Budget Coalition, including the DC Center for the LGBT Community, Whitman-Walker Health, SMYAL, the Wanda Alston Foundation, and Destination Tomorrow. The coalition also partners with groups like the Language Access Coalition and DC Action, and LGBTQ-owned businesses support by hosting events.

Facilitating Change Between the City and Community

Much of Ellis' work happens on the ground—talking to residents, agencies, and advocates to understand how policies shape daily life. Housing is one of the most urgent issues, especially because more than 40% of houseless youth in D.C. identify as LGBTQ despite representing only 9% of the population.

In response, the coalition organized D.C.'s first LGBTQ-focused housing summit, a free two-day event at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library. It brought together residents, advocates, government agencies, and elected officials. Participants spoke directly with leaders from the Department of Human Services, the Office of Human Rights, and the D.C. Housing Authority.

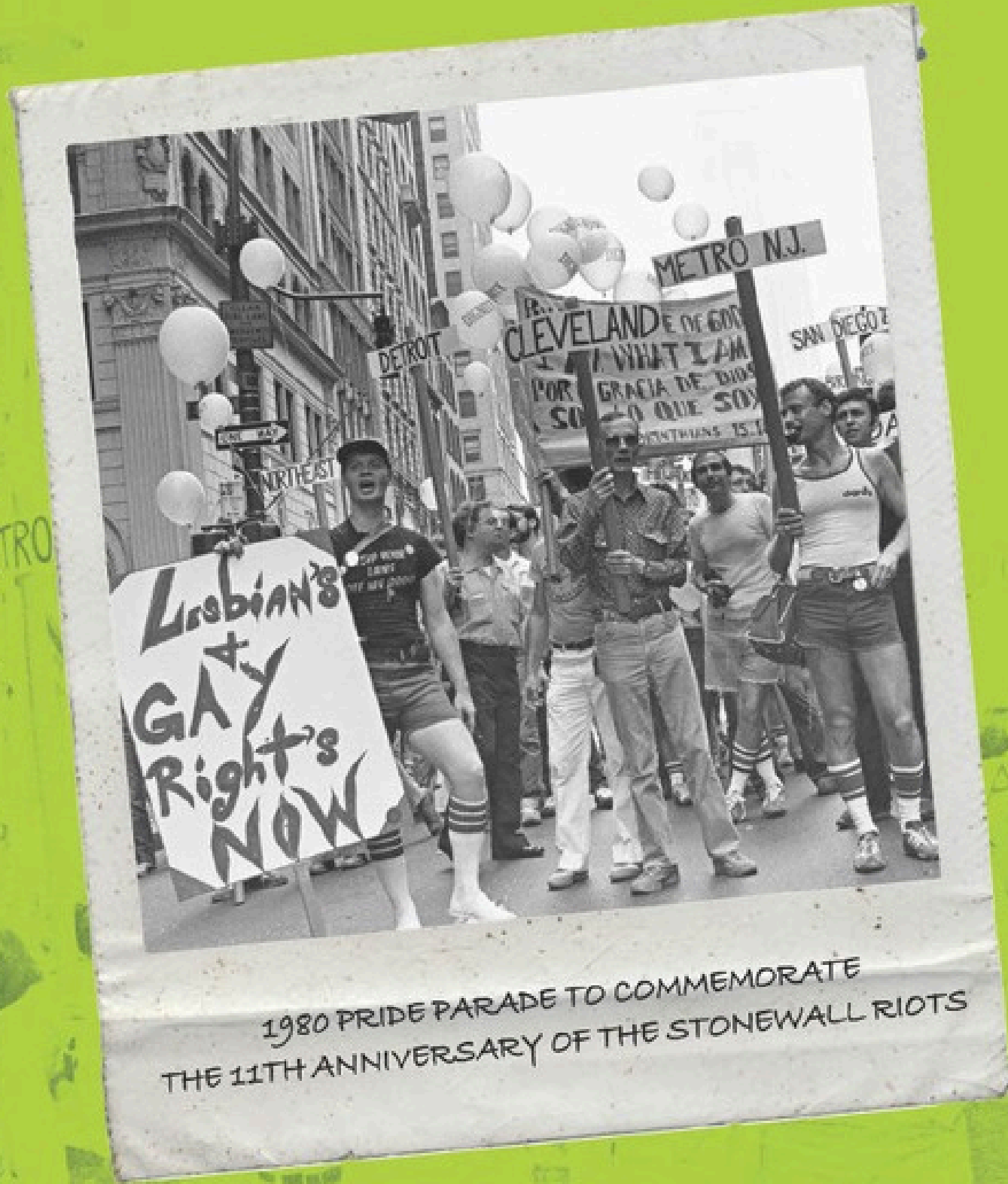
Federal cuts to DEI and equity-based programs have deepened these challenges. Nearly \$6 million in federal HIV/AIDS funding was eliminated, and D.C.'s budget saw major reductions in housing, public health, and homelessness services.

These cuts threatened key coalition priorities like housing vouchers, grants, specialized staff, expanded youth programs, and mobile mental health units.

"They were trying to navigate systems that weren't designed for them," Ellis said. "Some people who aren't queer in the housing space may have not thought about rent control or affordable housing through the lens of queer people."

With Creating Change in January, Ellis sees it as a space to strategize and find solutions. She has attended for nearly a decade. "The good thing about [Creating Change] is that we have the opportunity to zoom in and out... because at any given moment, there's ripe material that can inform our work," she said.

As the political landscape shifts again, Ellis believes the moment calls for clarity and collective action. "The work we're doing right now keeps me grounded in the equity pieces," she said. "I've lived long enough to watch the political pendulum swing... But I've also seen how progressive movements, when we stay organized, can lead to real, tangible outcomes."



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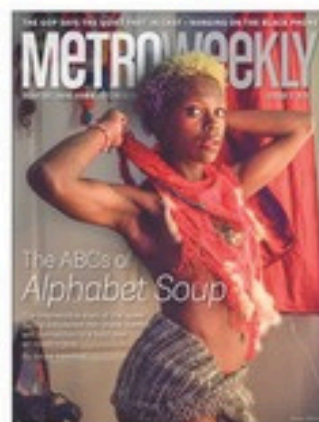
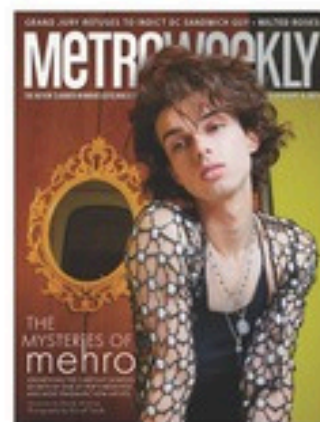
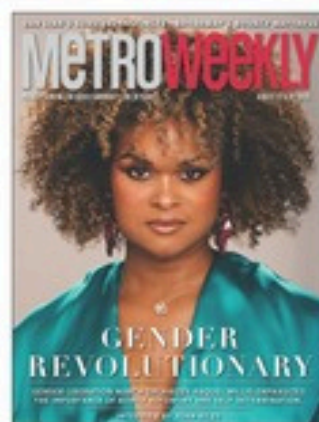
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Creating Change has long been a powerhouse for social change, and the Task Force is deeply committed to ensuring our movements are well resourced. This year, we've amplified efforts to build philanthropic infrastructure by launching a Grassroots Fundraising Institute and bringing liberatory funders into the Creating Change space. These efforts create real-time opportunities for funders and movement builders to connect, collaborate, and drive progress together.

Shout out to our amazing committee members who helped make these efforts possible:

- Stonewall Community Foundations – Maryse Pearce
- Arcus Foundation – Dani Martínez
- Movement for Black Lives- Ron Goines
- Funders for LGBTQ Issues – Alexander Lee
- Borealis Philanthropy – Dr. Carrie Kholi Murchison
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Creating Change provided a vital space for learning, organizing, and mobilizing collective power.

While we intentionally scaled the conference for deeper engagement, its impact was undeniable:

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500 organizations

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attendees

59%

BIPOC
representation

Representation
from all

50 states

500+

volunteers,
ambassadors,
and presenters

700+

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