Los Angeles LGBT Center

Since 1969 the Los Angeles LGBT Center has cared for, championed and celebrated LGBT individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. Today the Center’s nearly 700 employees provide services for more LGBT people than any other organization in the world, offering programs, services and global advocacy that span four broad categories: Health, Social Services and Housing, Culture and Education, Leadership and Advocacy. We are an unstoppable force in the fight against bigotry and the struggle to build a better world; a world in which LGBT people can be healthy, equal and complete members of society. Learn more at lalgbtcenter.org.

Mission Statement

The Los Angeles LGBT Center is building a world where LGBT people thrive as healthy, equal and complete members of society.

We Value:

Respect
We provide a workplace and service environment where individuality is seen as strength and all people are treated with fairness and dignity.

Excellence
We dedicate ourselves to the highest quality in all our programs and services, and seek employees and volunteers who have a passion for helping others.

Inclusiveness
We believe in the need for different perspectives and commit ourselves to representation from all members of our diverse community.

Innovation
We vigorously support pioneering programs and advocacy to meet community needs.

Integrity
We work together to advance the Center’s mission, and we honor and apply these values in what we do and say.

2018 Executive Team List

Lorri Jean
Chief Executive Officer

Darrel Cummings
Chief of Staff

2018 Senior Executive Team

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Director of Strategic Initiatives

Sharon-Franklin Brown
Director of Human Resources

Kristin Flickinger
Director of Programs

Dave Garcia
Director of Policy and Community Building

Mike Holtzman
Chief Financial Officer

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Kari Pacheco
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Dear Friends:

As the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s sleek new Anita May Rosenstein Campus buildings began to slowly rise during 2018, it might have been easy to think that the organization would begin to enter a well-earned period of respite and reflection. After a decade of hard work by scores of Center staff and supporters to make this dream come to life, it certainly would have been a reasonable expectation.

But this, of course, is not how the Center works.

And equally important, it is not how the world works. 2018 was a year of ongoing crises and disasters—hurricanes, regional conflicts, and political upheavals that deeply affected LGBT people in Southern California and throughout the world.

For LGBT people, this often meant watching and waiting as events that would have a profound impact on our lives unfolded. The President officially banned transgender people from serving in the U.S. military in March (after announcing it by presidential tweet in 2017). The ban is now temporarily in place while the case works its way through the courts. Earlier in the year, the Department of Education confirmed that it will no longer investigate discrimination against transgender students who are banned from using restrooms that align with their gender identities. And in October, the Trump Administration announced a reversal of policy, deciding that visas to unmarried partners of LGBT foreign diplomats and United Nations employees will be denied.

Other issues ramped up as the November election came into focus. With cries of “caravan” ringing in our ears at the end of the year, we witnessed thousands of LGBT people—many of them fleeing their home countries fearing for their lives—caught up in the humanitarian crisis at the border instigated by the President’s maximum enforcement and family separation policies that targeted all immigrants.

These crises go the heart of the Center’s reason for being. The Center was there in 2018 to serve those who experience discrimination, need affordable health care and housing, and seek comfort and community to make their lives more whole. And while providing these services is crucial, the Center also brought to the table the political will and savvy to block the worst of the human indignities visited on our community and seek sensible policy prescriptions on a host of issues.

In the midst of one of the most challenging times for transgender people in recent history, the Center was the lead agency among a coalition that opened the new
Trans Wellness Center (TWC) in Koreatown, providing comprehensive resources and services for transgender and non-binary people under one roof. The 3,000-square-foot TWC is the first-of-its-kind center in the United States.

To counter Administration efforts to dismantle the public health safety net created by Obamacare wherever it could, the Center also stepped up its outreach for health services targeting at-risk and underserved populations in our own community, including lesbians, seniors, and young gay and bisexual men of color.

At the end of the year, as the crisis at the border intensified, the Center worked with other groups, including the San Diego LGBT Center, to assist in providing legal and other assistance to LGBT migrants caught in middle of the Administration’s demonization of immigrants seeking asylum. The Center worked with other LGBT groups throughout the country to marshal support for the asylum seekers and our Legal Services Department began preparing to assist the LGBT migrants once they begin to apply for asylum.

Meanwhile, throughout the year, thousands of volunteers joined the fight for LGBT equality on a number of fronts, participating in phonebanks, protests, letter-writing campaigns and legislative visits. Throughout the fall, the Center’s Leadership LAB held get-out-the-vote canvassing efforts throughout Southern California districts with vulnerable anti-LGBT representatives. The national midterm elections ushered in a “rainbow wave” of unprecedented wins for LGBT candidates, as well as for a historic number of women and people of color, and we were proud to do our part.

With all this hard work, it may seem surprising that the Center had time to celebrate in 2018. But no amount of hard work could keep us from kicking off the celebration of our 50th Anniversary—which will be officially and ceremonially marked in 2019—at September’s Gala. The persistence, power and—let’s just own it—glamor of our beautiful and generous community was a sight to see. And now, as our iconic new Campus rises on Santa Monica Boulevard, we look out on a what will surely be a historic year. We can only imagine what the next 50 years will bring!

Lorri L. Jean
CEO

Marki J. Knox, MD
Board Co-Chair

David Bailey
Board Co-Chair
Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) campaign launches urging those most at-risk—including young gay and bisexual men of color—to be ‘PrEP’d AF’ against HIV.

Community celebration for LGBTQ women and their allies includes resource fair, live performances, fashion show, and interactive, LGBTQ-centric activities.

For the first time ever, 2,300 cyclists, supported by 650 volunteer “roadies,” cross the line in downtown Los Angeles after their 545-mile journey, raising a record-breaking $16.6M for the Center’s HIV/AIDS-related services and San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza celebrates 20 years as a community hub of arts, culture, and education.

“This case is not about buying a wedding cake any more than the sit-ins at lunch counters during the Civil Rights movement were about getting a hamburger and a Coke.”  
– response to SCOTUS Masterpiece Cakeshop decision

Ceremony marks historic moment in construction on the Center’s revolutionary Anita May Rosenstein Campus as final steel beam is hoisted into place.

Thousands of volunteers join the fight for LGBT equality, participating in phonebanks, protests, letter-writing, legislative visits, and voter canvassing with the Center’s Resistance Squad, Senior MOB Squad, and Leadership LAB.
In recognition of providing life-enriching productions and performances spanning two decades to LGBT people and their allies, the Center’s Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center receives Margaret Harford Award for sustained excellence from Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle.

Gov. Brown signs new law supported by the Center to provide access to gender-affirming care for youth in the state’s foster care system.

First-of-its-kind Trans Wellness Center opens, providing comprehensive resources and services for transgender and non-binary people under one roof.

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GET OUT! Thousands join us OUT Under the Stars for summer outdoor film series at iconic Hollywood Forever featuring Best in Show and Selena.

Luces, Cámara, Acción! 5th annual festival showcases the stories of the queer Latinx community through film and visual art.

Held for the first time at Cal State LA, thousands of LGBTQ youth and their allies from 150 cities and more than 200 schools nationwide take part in Models of Pride, the largest free conference of its kind.

Special guest Minneapolis City Councilmember Andrea Jenkins joins capacity crowd at 20th annual Trans Pride L.A. festival featuring Let Me Show You Something Beautiful art exhibit, workshops, and VarieTy show.

RECLAIMING OUR POWER
Second annual Black History Month community celebration features workshops, live performances, art exhibit, resource fair, panel discussion with black LGBT elders, and assembly by the Center’s Youth Ambassadors Coalition.

49th Anniversary Gala Vanguard Awards honor Ricky Martin, Greg Berlanti & Robbie Rogers, and Ariadne Getty with help from hosts Kelly Ripa and Mark Consuelos as well as presenters Max Greenfield, Nick Robinson, and Nats and August Getty.

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On a cool November night, a few hundred people gathered at the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s Village at Ed Gould Plaza, coming together as a community still reeling in the fear and uncertainty of what a Trump presidency would mean for the LGBT community, our country, and our world.

“I remember it vividly,” recalled U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff, who represents California’s 28th district which includes the Center and who spoke at the gathering the day after Trump’s election. “It was very powerful to be there. I wanted to be with the people who were gathered there to try to come to grips with what had just happened in the country. We were not going to take this lying down. We were going to fight to take back our country and the direction of the country.”

Within a few months of his inauguration, Trump and his Administration had begun to pursue policies that targeted some of society’s most vulnerable people, actions that confirmed many of the fears people felt on that November evening a few months earlier.

“We see this in other societies that are trending towards authoritarianism—the most vulnerable populations are attacked first,” Schiff said. “It’s as bad as we feared in many respects, and it’s worse than we might have imagined in many others. And we’ve seen how the Administration has tried in so many ways to roll back hard-fought victories for the entire LGBT community.”

Those anti-LGBT actions included attempting to ban transgender people from serving in the military, dropping federal guidelines protecting transgender students in schools, rolling back protections for incarcerated transgender people, and ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protected an estimated 800,000 young undocumented immigrants including 36,000 LGBTQ DREAMers from detention and deportation.

“I know people have often heard an elected official say, ‘This is the most important midterm in a generation or in a lifetime.’ Today, it is inarguably true for so many reasons,” Schiff warned. “If we’re successful in November, we can hold the Administration accountable. We can stop...
a lot of the damage that the President is doing. We can mitigate other damage that he is inflicting until we are no longer forced to suffer his presence in the White House."

"The stakes are phenomenally high, with so much riding on a single day in November," he added. "We just need to make sure we get every voter out to the polls. This is a time when everyone is required to be at their post. We have a job to do. We need to stay focused on it and realize that we have the power to really take back the country."

The days and weeks following the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election saw an uprising by an unprecedented coalition of people concerned about their collective fate, fearful of what these new policies and actions would mean for families, their neighbors, and the nation atlarge. All of them were looking for something to do.

"In times when we feel dispirited, we need to find strength in each other," said Center CEO Lorri L. Jean. "We need to remember that we are among those still working hard to build a more inclusive, kinder, and better future, regardless of who may temporarily stand in our way. I’ve said it many times over the last year-and-a-half, and I will keep on saying it: It’s our obligation, our duty, to do much more than simply hunker down and weather the storm. We must BE the storm!"

Taking shape in early 2017, the Center’s "storm" focused on two priorities: continuing to care for our clients in an increasingly hostile world and working to educate and mobilize people of all parties to help create a future of inclusion and kindness.

"The Center is the nation’s largest social safety net for LGBT people, receiving more than 42,000 visits a month from some of the most vulnerable in our community, including homeless youth and seniors," said Jean. "We knew that the stakes for our community were incredibly high because of the anti-LGBT ideologues in the new Administration and Congress. Not only was funding at risk for many of our health and social services (and others like them around the country), but roll-backs began almost immediately of our basic civil rights and protections. We needed a way for people to stay informed and respond."

In January 2017, the Center launched 100 Days and Me, a community engagement campaign to protect the well-being of LGBT people. Visitors to the campaign website got information about federal legislative and policy threats to LGBT people during the first 100 days of the Trump Administration. They could also register to receive updates and take advantage of resources and tools to take action.

Looking to build on the momentum from the first 100 days of activism, the Center’s March Mobilization, held in March 2017, mobilized hundreds of staff, clients, and volunteers to help stem the tide of anti-LGBT legislation. Trained by the Center’s Policy & Community Building team, the group’s first action was making phone calls to voters in key states to help protect the Affordable Care Act.

"The response was amazing, with so many people putting their hearts, energy, and time into helping our community," recalled Joey Hernández, the Center’s policy and mobilization manager. "The passion and response we experienced in the early days of this mobilization effort made it feel like the end stages of a major campaign instead of something that just started. We knew we had to keep it going."

After the March campaign, the Center launched the Resistance Squad, a volunteer-based rapid response team also led by the Center’s Policy & Community Building team. To date, more than 1,000 volunteers have participated in the squad’s various actions and activities, which have grown from simply responding to attacks to working to expand the rights of the LGBT community.

"They are all types of people and they come from all different walks of life. They are scraping and grabbing the bits of time that they have to volunteer for us," said Hernández.

The Resistance Squad has held eight phone banks, resulting in conversations with voters from across the country on issues related to immigration, health care, education, and foster care. The group has also held
letter-writing campaigns to office-holders and policymakers, participated in several resistance-related rallies through coalition partnerships, and made 10 visits to California legislators.

“We have created a scenario where folks can just come in and make the calls, write the letters, work a table for a couple of hours,” Hernández said. “We really just want to have them be able to engage in the work in the most direct ways possible.”

About 20 members of the Resistance Squad’s Leadership Council—formed from what Hernández describes as “some of our rock-star volunteers”—have participated in a series of leadership development trainings and action planning. Jason Black, a television development executive was looking for “a good way to manifest all the anxiety and frustration people like me are feeling about the current political climate.”

“You can do a small amount and be impactful because a lot of small amounts from a lot of people add up to something big,” said Black, a Resistance Squad Leadership Council member.

Also getting in on the action are members of the Center’s Senior MOB (Mobilization) Squad, comprised of nearly 50 seniors volunteering to protect and expand the rights of the LGBT community.

“We owe it to the next generation to say, ‘Look, this is an ongoing battle. This is something that we can’t give up on,’” said squad member Ed De Hay. “We’re still alive and vibrant. I tell young people to never give up and to keep fighting. If you’re knocked down, get up and do it all over again because I firmly believe that the younger generation is going to be the savior for the LGBT community.”

In their monthly actions the squad has written letters to elected officials to expand the rights of LGBT immigrants in California, joined marches and rallies, and advocated for services and programs for LGBT older adults.

“The election definitely woke me up—I almost didn’t want to believe how bad it could get so quickly. I feel that if we don’t stand up now to make a difference it’s only going to get harder as time goes by. I’m a very shy person, but knowing that I’m helping others is enough for me to not let that anxiety get in my way.”

* Ricardo Pina  
Resistance Squad member

“I see all these young people or older people who have never done anything like this before, never gotten on the phone before to call about anything. They are able to do this and see that it’s working. They have that ‘aha’ moment. You feel like, ‘We can do something!’”

* Sue Ellen  
Resistance Squad member

“I’m really passionate about the Leadership LAB’s caring approach about everything, from volunteer training to canvassing. It’s a very ‘quality over quantity’ kind of place. I’ve learned so much about community building and being a leader and an organizer. It’s an anchor for me in these terrifying times.”

* Cass Vitacco  
Leadership LAB canvasser

“I can’t go on the long marches and things like that anymore. But I can speak out and I can write letters, do emails, and give my support where I can to get the word out. We’re a great teacher. It’s much better to be active and put yourself out there and work for those things you want. Making doesn’t do anything for anybody. It just makes you ill. Whatever you’re trying to achieve, you’re going to go one step forward and two steps back. Just keep going and eventually you’ll get there.”

* Lee Marquardt  
Senior MOB Squad member

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“Just because we’ve gotten older doesn’t mean we don’t have anything to contribute,” pointed out squad member Ed De Hay. “We’re still alive and vibrant. I tell young people to never give up and to keep fighting. If you’re knocked down, get up and do it all over again because I firmly believe that the younger generation is going to be the savior for the LGBT community.”

The Center’s Leadership LAB (Learn Act Build) has been working to personally connect with voters—literally at their front doors. During the summer, Leadership LAB volunteers focused on neighborhoods in Orange County by knocking on the doors of infrequent voters and persuading them to vote in November.

“Just because we’ve gotten older doesn’t mean we don’t have anything to contribute,” pointed out squad member Ed De Hay. “We’re still alive and vibrant. I tell young people to never give up and to keep fighting. If you’re knocked down, get up and do it all over again because I firmly believe that the younger generation is going to be the savior for the LGBT community.”

“Our goal is to talk to at least 2,000 of those infrequent voters and get more than 1,000 of them to actually vote,” said Leadership LAB Director Dave Fleischer. “We are going to talk to many other voters. They might live with someone who is unregistered, whom we will also try to register.”

Since 2009, Leadership LAB staff and more than 1,500 volunteers have canvassed regularly in Los Angeles County and around the country in neighborhoods where most people remain unsupportive of LGBT rights. They engage voters in personal conversations to reduce transphobia and homophobia.

“You certainly come across people who don’t align with your views and values, but I think our presence is really important whether or not they change their minds,” said volunteer Patrick Sullivan after canvassing a Costa Mesa neighborhood in August. “You do have people who say, ‘Oh wow, you really made me want to vote and you helped me realize the urgency—especially coming up in the midterms.”

Fellow volunteer Cass Vitacco was drawn in by Leadership LAB’s “caring approach” about everything from volunteer training to canvassing.

“When talking to voters, it’s about really taking time to have a meaningful conversation that will actually change their minds,” Vitacco said. “We don’t just give them a flier and say, ‘Peace out.’”

Difficult as it was to predict the results of the U.S. presidential election two years ago, it will be just as challenging to predict what will happen in the midterm elections. The biggest threat to voter turnout this November may be the “shock-and-awe” syndrome that has fatigued so many, including the LGBT community.

“It’s pretty clear we all have a job to do as long as the values of this country are not reflected in the White House,” said Schiff. “We must fight for what we believe in order to make sure that people throughout the country and the rest of the world understand what America is all about even if they don’t see it in evidence at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.”

“What we dream, we can do,” Jean added. “But, the process of realizing our dreams almost always includes victories and setbacks, and a lot of hard work. Change doesn’t happen on its own. We must seek to extinguish fear and inspire hope.”
A dozen teachers from the L.A. Unified School District spent a week of their summer at ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives researching LGBT history to incorporate into future lesson plans.

The educators explored the archives—the largest repository of LGBT materials in the world—as part of the LGBTQ History: OUT Curriculum Cohort, held in partnership with the Los Angeles LGBT Center, ONE Archives Foundation, and UCLA Center X, which seeks to create a more just, equitable, and humane society through transforming public schooling.

LGBT historical events researched by the teachers included the Compton’s Cafeteria riot in San Francisco, Black Cat raid in Los Angeles, and founding of the Mattachine Society. The teachers are now busy developing lesson plans that will be available online to other teachers this fall.

“It was exciting and humbling and left me feeling connected to something much larger,” said Hala Billsi, a humanities teacher at Cleveland High School. “I loved seeing all of the archives in person. It makes me emotional thinking about it. As a member of the LGBT community, it was especially poignant for me to see historical documents and records of all the stories and all the events that people who have come before us have gone through.”

The goal of the cohort is to incorporate the stories of traditionally marginalized Americans, including LGBT people, in order to create more inclusive history cours-
es in classrooms. This edict stems from the passage of California’s FAIR Education Act in 2011 that requires the inclusion of the political, economic, and social contributions of LGBT people, people with disabilities, and people of diverse ethnic and cultural groups.

Passing the FAIR Education Act, with the support of the Center, was considered a major triumph. But it was only the beginning as implementation remains a daunting challenge due to the time required to update textbooks.

“We heard a lot of teachers didn’t have a lot of source material to use in the classroom,” said Krystal Torres-Covarrubias, the Center’s education policy manager and facilitator of the cohort. “They said they’d like to implement the FAIR Act, but textbooks hadn’t been approved.”

The Center partnered with ONE Archives and UCLA Center X last year for a two-day symposium. It grew into the one-week cohort this year that also included presentations by LGBT historians about each decade of the LGBT movement.

Teachers in the cohort committed to creating one lesson based on an event that was included in the OUT For Safe Schools LGBT History Calendar produced by the Center for the LAUSD. The calendar includes Coming Out Day; the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell; Transgender Day of Remembrance; the legalization of same-sex marriage in Massachusetts in 2004; Harvey Milk Day; the 1969 Stonewall Riots; World AIDS Day; and homosexuality being removed from the list of mental disorders in 1973.

“As a queer teacher of color, my lesson plan is about queer people of color at the forefront of the LGBT movement as a way to highlight their stories,” said cohort participant Andrew Gutierrez.

The lessons developed by teachers in the cohort will be edited by UCLA Center X, and then become available in October as part of the Center’s annual launch of OUT for Safe Schools, a program created to encourage school staff, including teachers and administrators, to publicly identify as supportive LGBT allies on campus.

Billisi’s lesson focuses on black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde signing a contract with The Crossing Press in 1982 to publish her landmark book Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches. It is celebrated as a historic piece of literature that explores the intersections of race, sexuality, gender, poverty, and politics.

Gutierrez is focusing on the Compton’s Cafeteria riot, one of the first recorded LGBT-related riots in U.S. history. The 1967 uprising preceded the better-known Stonewall Riots by two years and was led by queer and trans people of color.

“I had known about Compton’s Cafeteria riot before, but the ONE Archives really helped in creating context with what else was happening around the world at that time that was influencing and impacting the LGBT movement,” Gutierrez said. “They bring history to life through photos and artifacts. This is our history. If we don’t write our own history and create our own lesson plans about the people we want to learn about, no one else will.”

Billisi said the cohort’s work is especially invaluable to the lone teacher who wants to implement these lessons but hasn’t had the resources or support up until now.

“There’s still a lack of information, lack of access, and stigma,” she said. “To have teachers who are invested actually go into the archives and dig through and bring it out for other teachers, students, and all educators to use is what is so important.”

In addition to California schools, the lesson plans will be available to all OUT for Safe Schools partners throughout the U.S., including Chicago Public Schools, Massachusetts State Department of Education, and District of Columbia Public Schools.

“I hope this serves as a model for textbook companies to go to the archives themselves and include information from the archives,” Torres-Covarrubias said. “We are using resources from ONE Archives that most people don’t know about or don’t know how to tap into.”
Lauren Peterson had already spent an hour taking part in a juggling class before heading downstairs to the Center’s Advocate & Gochis Galleries at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza to teach more than a dozen of her fellow seniors how to tap dance.

“I turned 60 two days ago,” Peterson, pictured left, tells the beginners tap class as they do warm-up stretches to Cher’s power ballad You Haven’t Seen the Last of Me.

She then teaches the group some basic tap steps. By the end of the hour, most have caught on and are able to complete a routine to Frank Sinatra’s The Best is Yet to Come.

The tap class is among more than 100 different health and fitness classes, activities, and events offered each month at the Center for LGBT seniors. In addition to beginning tap dancing lessons and juggling, recent classes include chair yoga, country line dancing, ballroom dancing, hiking, and Qi Gong, which is a holistic system of coordinated body posture and movement, breathing, and meditation.

“There are actually too many activities to do,” Peterson jokes as she packs up her music after class. “It’s like, ‘When do we fit tap class in? We have to do it after chair yoga and we don’t want to interfere with juggling.’”

She adds: “it’s important for seniors to stay active for our quality of life. We want to be able to be mobile. We want to be able to do things that are fun. We’re getting up, we’re active, we’re improving our own health and forming community.”

Kenny Navran, one of the students in Peterson’s class, had been wanting to learn tap dancing for 25 years. He’s thrilled to finally be doing it.

“It’s a pretty good workout—I never sweat anymore at my age,” he says. “This class is turning into one of my major exercise routines of the week. It’s not just fun, it’s good for you physically and mentally. It requires a lot of thought to do the steps correctly and in time.”

Meanwhile, Larry Rubenstein, who teaches a computer class at the Center, couldn’t resist taking up juggling.

“I think our bodies are ready to close down after 50,” he says. “You have to force yourself to stay active to keep yourself going.”

Phyllis Rose-Child has also been taking the juggling class which she says has helped her maintain her policy of leaving the house at least once a day.

“It is a quality of life issue,” she says. “I love coming here because there are so many different things to do and to learn and it challenges me every time. It doesn’t matter if I’m perfect at it or not. There are so many activities. I’m totally amazed that all of this is offered for free.”

Kiera Pollock, the Center’s director of Senior Services, has noticed an increase in participation in health and wellness activities in general during the past year.

“We know the more active you are, and the more engaged you are in the community around you, the more it helps you live longer and be more vibrant,” she says. “Getting out, moving, connecting with other people, learning, and laughing is what we need to do as we get older.”

Pollock has seen first-hand how being less sedentary has resulted in some of the Center’s seniors having less feelings of depression and anxiety.

“One senior came up to me who had never done line dancing before and told me that he’d found his groove for the first time in his life,” she says.

The line dancing class is instructed by senior volunteer Matthew Dubois, who enthusiastically teaches the cowboy cha-cha, country western waltz, and other dances.

“Learning line dance requires a part of your brain you don’t normally use,” Dubois explains. “It forces you to stretch your brain which is really good for seniors, like learning a new language but easier. It’s fun and you can do it with a big old cowboy flair. When I dance I feel like the music transports me and I go to another place, one that is gentler and kinder. I see the same thing with my students. They smile so much during class.”
In communities of color, there is so much stigma around sex, being gay, and HIV that people are scared to even talk about PrEP—and many more don’t even know about it,” says Milan Christopher, the openly gay music artist, actor, model, and face of the Los Angeles LGBT Center’s new PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) awareness and education campaign.

With Christopher’s help, the PrEP’d AF campaign will reach those most at-risk for HIV. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), minority communities, especially African-American/Black men who have sex with men, are particularly at-risk for new HIV infections. When used as prescribed, PrEP is a safe and effective once-daily medicine that has been proven to reduce the risk of HIV infection by up to 99 percent.

“I’m proud to be a part of this campaign because I want PrEP to be something we can talk about in the open so, ultimately, we can stop the spread of HIV and save lives,” says Christopher, who is sharing his personal experience with PrEP as part of the campaign.

The new campaign, which encourages the community to be as prepared as possible to protect themselves against the spread of HIV, expands upon the success of the Center’s attention-grabbing F*ck w/out Fear HIV prevention campaign.

“That campaign was a throwback to the rallying, rebellious spirit on which the Center was founded, using authentic language that breaks through the clutter of prevention messages and commands attention,” says the Center’s Associate Director of Community Health Programs Brian Toyines.

Ever since F*ck w/out Fear launched in early 2017, the Center has seen a 130 percent increase in the number of young gay and bisexual men who have accessed PrEP. But, there’s still plenty of work to be done.

According to a study from AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) Health, those most at risk for new HIV infections—gay and bisexual youth of color and transgender women—are the least likely to know about PrEP. In fact, the study found that less than 10 percent of Latino and African-American/Black youth are using PrEP. Among those who do know about PrEP, misconceptions about its safety and efficacy, as well as stigma from the community, have impacted its use.

“We are so pleased to have Milan as a spokesperson for PrEP’d AF to raise awareness for PrEP and to help dispel stigma and misconceptions that may be preventing people from taking advantage of this important opportunity to stop the spread of HIV,” says Center Chief of Staff Darrel Cummings. “Communities of color continue to be the hardest hit by new HIV infections, making the awareness and accessibility of PrEP an ever more urgent priority.”

Christopher recently helped launch PrEP’d AF at an event held in collaboration with B.A.S.H. L.A.’s STARBOY Sundays party at RAGE nightclub in West Hollywood.

“We have got to get rid of this disease,” he told the crowd. “PrEP is here, and PrEP will help us get rid of it!”

PrEP is covered by most insurance plans and, for those who are uninsured, the Center can help make it affordable through patient assistance programs. To renew a three-month prescription for PrEP, clients need to return to their provider for HIV and STI screenings. Although PrEP has been proven to be 99 percent effective at preventing HIV, it offers no protection from other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Condoms remain the best protection for most STIs.

GET ‘PREP’D AF’
(PUBLISHED ON LGBTNEWSNOW.ORG)
The Trans Wellness Center (TWC), which opened in April, is the first-of-its-kind first facility that brings together comprehensive services and resources for transgender and non-binary people under one roof.

“It’s not only historic for our city, it’s historic for our nation,” Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Lorri L. Jean said during an April 24 press conference at the 3,000-square-foot space near the city’s Koreatown and Wilshire Center neighborhoods.

“People always feel most comfortable going to a place where people are like them,” Jean added. “That’s what going to happen here at the Trans Wellness Center. It’s run by transgender people and it’s a space that’s been created by transgender people.”

TWC will offer HIV testing and care, mental health services, sexual health education, hormone therapy and transition resources, employment services, cultural competency trainings, youth services, healthcare and benefit enrollment, peer mentoring, and workshops. There are also general legal services lending support with such issues as immigration, discrimination, and name changes, among others.

“We have been telling our stories, educating ourselves, marching along with others fighting for our rights and it was about time to have our own center,” said TWC Program Manager Mariana Marroquin. “The health and well-being of trans and non-binary people goes beyond learning how to use a condom and getting tested. How are you going to get tested if you are hungry? How are you not going to engage in survivor sex work if you cannot get a job where you are respected for who you are? How are you going to take medication if you feel that your life doesn’t matter? How are you going to leave an abusive relationship if you are going to end up homeless?”

TWC is a community-based partnership between the Los Angeles LGBT Center, which is leading the management and operations support, and five other local community organizations: APAIT (Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team); Bienestar; Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Friends Community Center; and TransLatin@ Coalition.

The ambitious new facility has been made possible by a $1 million annual grant for three to five years from the L.A. County Department of Public Health.

Mario Perez, director of the Division of HIV and STD Programs for the County, reflected on the 10-year journey to make TWC a reality and applauded the “tireless exertions and tireless concern of dedicated individuals” who have made it happen.

Perez called the opening “the culmination of thousands of days of visioning, deliberating, debating, planning, and negotiating – a lot of negotiating.”

TWC’s services are guided by an eight-member Community Advisory Board (CAB) made up of people who identify as trans or non-binary. The board works together to ensure TWC truly reflects what the community needs.

“I’m excited because we are finally taking back the power from a society that doesn’t really have time for us and sees us a lot of times as third and fourth class citizens,” CAB member Thea Eskey said after the press conference.

CAB member Kery Ramirez added: “I don’t think in the United States there’s a center like this one where it’s managed and operated by professional trans individuals who are going to provide services for trans people like me. This is another advancement in our community. This defines who we are. We’re resilient and we’re strong and we know how to work together.”
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts and other receivables</td>
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<td><strong>Total liabilities and net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$172,366,904</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,032,217</strong></td>
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See accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the consolidated financial statements.
### STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

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<th>Year ended June 30, 2018</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<td>Special events revenue:</td>
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<td>Other operating revenue</td>
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<td>Total public support and other revenue</td>
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<td>121,646,868</td>
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<td>Operating expenses</td>
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<td>Program services</td>
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<td>97,919,787</td>
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<td>Supporting services:</td>
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<td>General and administrative</td>
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<td>106,058,097</td>
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<tr>
<td>Change in net assets before</td>
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<td>non-operating income/gains (losses)</td>
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<tr>
<td>and other revenue</td>
<td>16,261,143</td>
<td>(672,372)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15,588,771</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-operating income/gains (losses)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>and other revenue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and dividend income</td>
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<td>Realized and unrealized gains</td>
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<td>349,306</td>
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<td>on investments, net</td>
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<td>Unrealized gains on trusts held by third parties</td>
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<td>300,058</td>
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<td>Total non-operating income/gains (losses) and other revenue</td>
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<td>6,007,113</td>
<td>5,279,327</td>
<td>91,252,706</td>
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<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$97,486,980</td>
<td>$5,331,754</td>
<td>$5,425,172</td>
<td>$108,243,906</td>
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</table>

See accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes to the consolidated financial statements.
We extend our thanks to the following Corporations for their generous support:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>$200,000 + ANNUALLY</strong></th>
<th><strong>$100,000 – $199,999 ANNUALLY</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wells Fargo Bank</td>
<td>American Airlines</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toyota Financial Services</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeffree Star Cosmetics, Inc.</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>$50,000 – $99,999 ANNUALLY</strong></th>
<th><strong>$5,000 – $49,999 ANNUALLY</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Ariadne Getty Foundation</td>
<td>21st Century FOX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audi of America, Inc.</td>
<td>20th Century FOX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comcast NBCUniversal</td>
<td>3 Arts Entertainment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood Forever Cemetery</td>
<td>Amazon Studios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Multimedia, LLC</td>
<td>Anita May Rosenstein Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tito’s Handmade Vodka</td>
<td>ARUP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uber Technologies Inc.</td>
<td>Bank of America Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Bancorp Foundation</td>
<td>Bank of the West</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Multimedia, LLC</td>
<td>BCG Digital Ventures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tito’s Handmade Vodka</td>
<td>BNY Mellon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uber Technologies Inc.</td>
<td>Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st Century FOX</td>
<td>Citi Private Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th Century FOX</td>
<td>City of Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Arts Entertainment</td>
<td>Creative Artists Agency</td>
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<td>Amazon Studios</td>
<td>Edison International</td>
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<td>Anita May Rosenstein Foundation</td>
<td>EndemolShine North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARUP</td>
<td>Ernst &amp; Young</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank of America Bank</td>
<td>Gilead Sciences</td>
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<td>Bank of the West</td>
<td>Hanz De Fuko</td>
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<td>BCG Digital Ventures</td>
<td>HBO</td>
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<td>BNY Mellon</td>
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<td>Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council</td>
<td>JP Morgan Chase &amp; Co</td>
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<td>June Street Architecture</td>
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<td>City of Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific Federal Insurance Corp</td>
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<td>Southern California Gas Company</td>
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<td>Southern California Gas Company</td>
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We extend our thanks to the following Corporations for their generous support:

$5,000 - $49,999 ANNUALLY (CONT.)

Target Corporation  The Walt Disney Company  Uniworld Travel International  The CW  Tie the Knot Foundation  Warner Brothers Entertainment, Inc.  The David Bohnett Foundation  TOMS Shoes  William Morris Endeavor Entertainment  The Los Angeles Lakers  Union Bank

OFFICIAL AIRLINE PARTNER

American Airlines

MEDIA PARTNERS

102.7 KIIS FM  Lesbian News  The Fight Magazine  104.3 MYfm  Pride.com  The Los Angeles Blade  KOST 103.5  The Advocate  Variety
We extend our thanks to the following Foundations for their generous support:

### $250,000 + ANNUALLY

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>LA Justice Fund</th>
<th>Open Society Foundations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citi Foundation</td>
<td>LA Care Health Plan</td>
<td>Weingart Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Justice Fund</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Society Foundations</td>
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### $100,000 + ANNUALLY

| California Community Foundation | L.A. Care Health Plan | Weingart Foundation |
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J. Douglas Elliot Fund
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$100,000
R. David Bradshaw Fund for Youth
Gary S. Meade/John Dentinger Fund
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Circle of Life
(As of December 31, 2018)

In recognition of their commitment to the ongoing work of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, we honor the Founders and Members of the Circle of Life. In planning their estates, these men and women have joined together to create a living legacy of hope for coming generations of LGBT people. Founders have made commitments of $1,000,000 or more.

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