



[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

April 2025 Updates

If you haven't already signed up to receive our monthly newsletters, please sign up [here](#).

Current Programming:

Conversation and Community Drop-ins – Tuesdays and Thursdays

Join us for these designated drop-in times. We want to be your safe space during these uneasy times. Join us to have a little escape or just be with the community. Snacks, table games, cards, crafts, video games, and activities will be available, but mostly we want to hold space for YOU!

This new group will take place 2x a week on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 and Thursdays from 4-5PM onsite at the Pride Center!

- **Tuesday, April 15** – Make beaded Bracelets
- **Thursday, April 17** – Join us to play Nintendo Switch
- **Tuesday, April 22** – Learn to crochet or knit
- **Thursday, April 24** – Make woven bracelets

For accessibility information about the Pride Center, please visit this link- <https://sanmateopride.org/accessibility>

Name and Gender Change Workshop

The format of the Name and Gender Change workshop is changing. Part 1 of the workshop will continue to take place monthly & part 2 of the workshop will take place every other month. Part 2 is scheduled to take place – April, June, August, October & December.

Part 1 will cover court order forms, filing instructions, and fee waivers. Part 2 will cover updating social security documents, DMV documents, passports, birth certificates, and other documents.

*Please reach out to us If the dates or times above don't work for you, We can arrange individual appointments or consultations. If you would like to attend part 2 before the scheduled month, please reach out to us!

Upcoming workshops: Part 2– April 23

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/name-and-gender-change-rsvp>

Please reach out to info@sanmateopride.org or call 650-591-0133 if you have questions or would like to schedule an individual appointment.

NeuroQueer Fruitfulness Group - Opening rolling registration

(An online productivity/body doubling group)

Learn ADHD and executive functioning strategies from therapists. No goal is too big or too small to tackle! Whether you're looking to do your dishes or write a novel, this group might help. **In this group, you can meet fellow neurodivergent and LGBTQ+ folks in a supportive productivity space.**

This group meets 5 days a week on Zoom in 1-hour sessions and starts Monday, January 13th. **Sessions are drop in and participants set how many sessions they want to attend. This group is \$59/month and is covered by HPSM. This group is in English and is intended for LGBTQ+ 18+ based in California.**

To learn more about what to expect from this group and/or to register, please click this link - tinyurl.com/NeuroQueerFruitfulness

Questions? Contact Drac@sanmateopride.org or 650-591-0133

PRIDE IS AROUND THE CORNER!

If your organization, business, group, church, or school is interested in having the Pride Center participate in your programming in any capacity during June, we ask that **you submit your request [via this form](#) no later than APRIL 15th**. Organizations can still submit their requests after April 15th, but they will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Some examples of what you can request include speaking at your flag raising ceremony, tabling at your event, co-hosting an event and requesting a training. Please note – trainings have a cost.

Please note: submitting a request is not a guarantee that we can participate. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser for the Pride Center, please email Marilyn.Fernando@sanmateopride.org

You can also volunteer with us or donate to us!

SMC Pride Celebration Saturday, June 14th

SMC Pride 2025 theme: Breaking Boundaries, Shaping Futures

Interested in joining an SMC Pride subcommittee?! Organized by the PRIDE Initiative, contact co-chair Dana Johnson at theractivist@gmail.com for more information and Zoom link.

We are actively looking for community members to join SMC Pride Celebration Subcommittee and support with planning an amazing celebration!

Planning committees include:

- Youth Space
- Website
- Older Adult
- Parade
- Booth Vendors
- Food Trucks
- Entertainment

Mental Health Services at SMC Pride Center:

There is currently a waitlist for therapy services.

The Pride Center provides both **therapy and case management services**. For therapy services we accept Medi-Cal/HPSM and also offer a sliding scale for any self-pay clients.

We offer individual, couples/relationship, and family therapy. If you or someone you know is looking for LGBTQ+ or gender-affirming and inclusive mental health support, please share our information with them and encourage them to connect with us. We are here to help!

Case management services (navigating housing, employment, gender-affirming care, connection to resources, etc.) are provided at no cost. Services are available to clients located in California. Priority is given to LGBTQ+ community members based in San Mateo County.

If you are interested in receiving mental health services, please fill out our [Clinical Services Request Form](#) or visit <https://sanmateopride.org/programs/mental-health-services/>

[Outlet](#), our youth program partner agency, also has clinical openings. For more information, please contact Mimi Castro (he/him) at mimi@acs-teens.org.

Can You Support the Pride Center by Volunteering?

Virtual and onsite volunteer roles with the Pride Center include, but are not limited to:

- Assisting with fundraising/development goals

- Youth or Older Adult specific programming
- Social media support
- Peer support co-facilitator (LGBTQ+ Book club and Queer Women's Group)
- Join our Community Advisory Board

To learn more, or if you have other ideas of how you can support by volunteering, please contact Low (she/they) at Lowellyn.Sunga@sanmateopride.org (preferred) or 650-591-0133 who can help you figure out the best match for a mutually rewarding experience. You can also complete our Volunteer Interest Form: <https://sanmateopride.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Peer Support Groups

These are all virtual opportunities for community members 18+. For more information, contact Ishani.Dugar@sanmateopride.org or 650-554-1234 (text ok)

Please note: Most groups are meeting on Zoom, stay tuned for updates.

Peer Support Groups- Upcoming meeting dates

- LGBTQ Parent Group- Monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 7:30-8:30pm PST
- Upcoming meeting dates: April 16, May 21
 - Registration is required: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup>
- LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 4:30- 6pm PST
 - This group is hybrid- community members will meet onsite at the Pride Center or on Zoom.
 - Upcoming book
 - ♣ May 7: *Open Throat* by Henry Hoke
 - ♣ June 4: *The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School* by Sonora Reyes
 - Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcpc-bookclub
- Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 7- 8:30pm
 - Upcoming dates: May 7, June 4
 - Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower
- Trans* Group (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Thursday from 6-7:30pm
 - **We're excited to announce that the Trans* Group is now HYBRID! Attendees have the option of joining this group onsite at San Mateo County Pride Center or through Zoom!**
 - Upcoming meeting dates: May 1, June 5
 - Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcpc-transgroup1
- Gay Men's Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Tuesday from 6-7pm
 - Upcoming dates: April 22, May 27
 - Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcpc-gaymensgroup
- Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Friday from 6-7:30pm
 - Upcoming dates: April 25, May 23

- o Registration is required: tinyurl.com/smcp-queerwomensgroup

Reminders & Resources:

Mask friendly Announcement

The Pride Center is switching from being a “mask required” to a “**mask friendly**” site. This means that community members have the option of wearing a mask when visiting the Pride Center. This decision was made in response to the feedback received from our community, clients, surveys, and in comparison, to other community centers.

The Pride Center is always deeply committed to the health and safety of our community and team. We will continue to keep our space as ventilated as possible, which includes utilizing multiple air purifying machines throughout the center. Additionally, we will remain diligent about regularly sanitizing high volume spaces and providing masks at the entrance of the center for those who choose to wear them.

To be mindful of others, if you are feeling unwell, please reach out to reschedule your visit when you are feeling better or consider changing it to a virtual appointment.

Resource Guide - Post Election FAQ

The San Mateo County Pride Center and CoastPride have received many questions about what is in store for the LGBTQ+ community since the 2024 election. In response, we’ve created this list of commonly asked questions and answers, along with a linktree of related resources (use QR code at top of document).

Please note that these are living resources | <https://linktr.ee/smclgbtq>

They were first created in January of 2025 and will be updated as the political and social landscape develops. There is a lot of fear and uncertainty around LGBTQIA+ and immigrant rights. When you’re utilizing this document, we recommend that you consider what risks are imminent (i.e. laws have been changed) and what risks are possibilities (i.e. a political leader said something verbally instead of issuing an official policy). Check your sources carefully and try to avoid doom scrolling.

To access the digital version of this document, please click here:

https://coastpride.org/images/pdf/post-election-faq_final.pdf

SMC Pride Center FY 23-24 Annual Report

We are proud to share with you our latest **Fiscal Year in Review!** As you will see, FY2023-2024 was a BIG year for the Pride Center. Across all of our programs and services we reached **over 12,000 individuals!** We have consistently increased our reach year after year, and it’s clear that the Pride Center is needed now more than ever.

To read our 2023-2024 Fiscal Year in Review in full, please see the attached document. You can also download it directly from our website, along with our past quarterly and annual reports here: <https://sanmateopride.org/impact-reports>.

We are now on Bluesky!

Meta's new content moderation guidelines allowing hate speech have made their platforms harmful and unsafe for the LGBTQ+ Community and other marginalized groups.

We decided to open a Bluesky account to expand our ability to share information in a space where our community members are safe and respected.

While we will continue to use Instagram, Facebook and Threads to promote, we will begin to lean on Bluesky more.

Follow us!

<https://bsky.app/profile/sanmateopride.bsky.social>

General Pride Center Information:

Pride Center Hours of Operation:

Come visit us! In addition to information, services and events, we have a **public computer lab, an LGBTQ+ lending library, a food pantry, and a selection of clothes and gender affirming garments.** We are here for YOU.

- **Onsite Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30am -6:30pm**
- Virtually, our programs/services are available **Monday - Friday 10:00am 7:00pm** or as scheduled with your clinician.
- Anyone who needs to drop by the center outside of these hours, please connect with us directly as we strive our best to remain accessible.
- We are located at 1021 S. El Camino Real San Mateo, 94402 (corner of 11th and El Camino). Accessibility information: <https://sanmateopride.org/accessibility>

Quick Links:

- Resources: <https://sanmateopride.org/resources/>
- Events: <https://sanmateopride.org/events/>
- Peer Support groups: <https://sanmateopride.org/programs/peer-groups/>
- Youth Resources: <https://www.acs-teens.org/what-we-do/outlet/>

SMC PRIDE 2025 Report- 13th Annual Pride in the Peninsula

Event Theme: *“Breaking Boundaries, Shaping Futures”*

LGBTQIA+ Commission Meeting, Tuesday April 15th at 6:30pm

Greetings LGBTQIA+ Commissioners,

Please see the topics below for us to discuss:

- Share SMC Pride 2025 official flyer with networks
- Marching in the Parade and who can lead it
- Commission have a Booth at SMC Pride
- SMC Pride Planning meetings
- Pride Planning Meeting Schedule
 - Next Meetings- 4/11/25 from 12-1pm
 - Next Meeting- 4/25/25 from 12-1pm
 - Next Meeting- 5/9/25 from 12-1pm
 - **Meeting Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86067944846>

Please join us as we continue to shape and organize this exciting event!

SMC Pride 2025 Details

- **Saturday, June 14, 2025**
- **Approximately 10:30-11:30am (Parade) {Downtown San Mateo, Ending at San Mateo Central Park}**
- **SMC Pride Celebration- 11am-5pm (San Mateo Central Park)**

Your presence and input are crucial to making this event a meaningful and impactful celebration for the community. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meetings and working together to make SMC Pride 2025 a huge success!

San Mateo County 13th Annual Pride Celebration 2025

Saturday, June 14th



Parade:
Downtown San Mateo
10:30AM



2nd and B Street
San Mateo, CA



Parade concludes at
PRIDE celebration!

Celebration:
Central Park
11AM-5PM



50 E. 5th Avenue
San Mateo CA

Free and Sober Family Event
Resource & Vendor Booths • Entertainment • Food Trucks
Live DJ • Pet friendly areas • Youth & Older Adult areas
& More

Scan for more info
or to donate:



To: LGBTQIA+ Commission of San Mateo County
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: April 15, 2025
Subject: Director's Report

Vacancies, Elections, and Future Meetings

- Jana Rickerson's last meeting will be May 20th.
- The vacancies are still open, allowing us to recruit via the Meet-Up. May 2 is new deadline.
- Because we are not meeting in June, **Co-chair elections will be in July**. Please let Tanya know of your interest in these two positions.
- We will be meeting in Redwood City moving forward but will return to the Pride Center in October and November unless you would like to try another location.

Inclusion Community Campaign

- **Special Meeting:** Meet up April 17, 6:00-7:30pm
 - Socializing, networking from 6:00-6:40pm
 - 6:40pm Meeting Start with Standard Meeting Items

- **Program**
 - Co-Chairs will run the meeting.
 - Information about the LGBTQIA+ Commission
 - Transition to Information about the ICC and intro to Dana Johnson

- **Table with Information**
 - Provide Information about LGBTQIA+ Commission
 - 1 pager with QR code to website
 - Pride Center Outreach staff will be there



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual + Commission

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

In-Person Only

Thursday, April 17, 2025

6:00–6:45PM Informal Networking

6:45-7:15 PM Meeting Start/End

The Yard, 1018 Main Street, Redwood City, CA 94063

1. **Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**
2. **Roll Call/Introductions**
3. **Public Comment** is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any topic that is not on the agenda. If your subject is not on the agenda, the Chair will recognize you at this time.
4. **San Mateo County LGBTQIA+ Commission** - *Co-Chairs Aaron Adriano & Bismay Mishra*
 - History of the LGBTQIA+ Commission
 - Visibility is Crucial
5. **Inclusion Community Campaign** - *Dana Johnson*
 - The Idea of Grassroots Organizing
 - Goals of the Campaign
 - How to Get Involved
6. **Adjournment**

Public records that relate to any item on the open session agenda for a regular or special meeting of the LGBTQIA+ Commission are available for public inspection. Those records that are distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting are available for public inspection at the same time they are distributed to members of the Commission. Those public records are available for public inspection at the Human Resources Department located at 500 County Center, 4th floor, Redwood City, CA 94063 by appointment. The public records may also be transmitted electronically by emailing tbeat@smcgov.org or calling 650-363-4467.

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three days' notice. Please call 650-363-4467 (voice) or email tbeat@smcgov.org to make such a request.



CoastPride Report

LGBTQIA+ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, April , 15, 2025

From CoastPride Board Member: Dana "TherActivist" Johnson (they/ them/ he), MSW

❖ **Our Vision**

A welcoming and safe Coastsides where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

❖ **Our Mission**

Creating a Coastsides that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- CoastPride Events/ Trainings:
- *For events and to learn about what's going on at CoastPride see the CoastPride newsletter.*
- **Center Hours:**
 - Drop-in—all are welcome
 - Mondays, 10am–2pm (ring the black doorbell when you arrive. (**Closed on federal holidays)
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2–6 pm
 - 1st Saturdays, 12 noon–2pm
- **CoastPride Groups**
 - More details regarding the groups please reach out to CoastPride Operation Director, Cameron Zeller cameron@coastpride.org
- ***CoastPride is HIRING for an Executive Director & Allcove on the Coast is Hiring for Clinical Director "VISIT CoastPride website for more details"***
<https://coastpride.org/about/employment>

❖ **Upcoming Events/ Announcements**

- **Half Moon Bay Pride- June 22nd**
- For more details regarding LGBTQIA+ events on the Coast, please reach out to CoastPride board member Dana "TherActivist" Johnson (they/ he) dana@coastpride.org or CoastPride Operation Director, Cameron Zeller (they/ them) cameron@coastpride.org



San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

***From: Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair
LGBTQIA+ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm***

About the PRIDE Initiative: The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.

- **Join us at the next Pride Initiative meetings (via virtually) on
***Wednesday, May 14th from 4:30-6pm**
 - PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQIA+ updates
 - Special Presentations regarding LGBTQIA+ resources in the County

❖ **Join us for SMC Pride 2025 Planning Meetings**

- **We are in need for LGBTQIA+ Commissioners support and advocacy for SMC Pride 2025**

➤ **Join the PRIDE Initiative Zoom Meeting on 5-14-25 at 4:30pm. Join using the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, plus

LGBTQIA+ Commission

Inclusive Community Campaign



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION

Overview

- LGBTQIA+ Community Serving Organizations
- San Mateo County Pride Celebration
- Inclusive Community Campaign (ICC)
- Next Steps



**COUNTY OF
SAN MATEO**

LGBTQIA+ Commission

Founded in 2014

Mission

Cultivating San Mateo County as a welcoming, affirming, and safe environment where its lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and gender expansive community members can thrive.

Recent Key Accomplishments

- Gender Neutral Restroom Awareness, 2020
- Pride Visibility Project, 2020-present
- Inclusion of Youth Commission and Commission on Disabilities, 2020-present
- Transgender Day of Remembrance, 2015-present
- Partnerships: Pride Initiative, Pride Center, Coast Pride
- “LGBTQIA+” is more inclusive
- ?

Meeting Day & Time

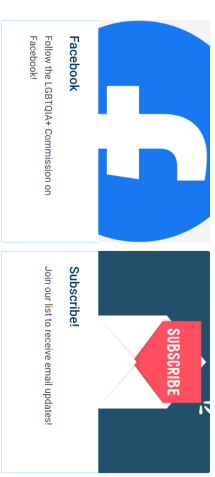
3rd Tuesday of each month from **6:30 - 8:30PM** unless otherwise noted

Website: <https://www.smcgov.org/lgbtqia>

Advising Board of Supervisors

- SB107, Gender-affirming healthcare
- SMC joined Colorado Case Amicus Brief
- Transgender Policy Catalyst
- Gender-Inclusive/Gender-Neutral Language Resolution
- Supporting the coast
- Mental Health Services Act
- SB 59 Change of gender and sex identifier

Current Commissioners?



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION**



Mission

Our mission is to create a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and affirming community climate that fosters personal growth, health, and opportunities to thrive for individuals of all ages, sexual orientations, and gender identities through education, counseling, advocacy, and support.



Welcome!

The San Mateo County Pride Center is a place where you can be you.

As the first of its kind in San Mateo County, we recognize, affirm, value, and support all LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and friends.

We're glad you're here!

Programs

Case Management
Crisis Intervention
Mental Health Services
Older Adults
Peer Groups
Youth

Peer Groups

Gay Men's Group, LGBTQ+ Book Club, LGBTQ+ Parent Group, Polyamory Peer Power group, Queer Women's Group, Trans* Peer Group

Youth Groups

QTBIPOC Group, LGBTQIA+ Youth Group, Thursday Trans Group

Website: <https://sanmateopride.org/>

Address: 1021 S El Camino Real San Mateo, CA 94402



sanmateopride



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION



❖ Our Vision

A welcoming and safe Coastside where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

❖ Our Mission

Creating a Coastside that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.



Background

The PRIDE Initiative was founded in April of 2007 under the Office of Diversity & Equity with Behavioral

Health and Recovery Services; it was one of the first LGBTQ focused efforts in San Mateo County. This

Health Equity Initiative is comprised of individuals concerned about the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questions individuals in San Mateo County.

Mission, Vision, & Objectives

The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in

equality and parity for LGBTQI+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By

adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to

partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and

respectful of LGBTQI+ issues.

Highlights & Accomplishments

While the PRIDE Initiative organizes several community-based events,

Pride Celebration

Saturday, June 14th
Parade, 10:30am
Celebration, 11am-5pm



San Mateo County
13th Annual Pride
Celebration 2025
Saturday, June 14th



Parade:
Downtown San Mateo

10:30AM

D and B Street
San Mateo, CA



Parade concludes at
PRIDE celebration!

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Free and Sober Family Event

source & Vendor Booths ● Entertainment ● Food Trucks
Live DJ ● Pet friendly areas ● Youth & Older Adult areas
& More

Scan for more info
or to donate:



100 COUNTY HEALTH
NATIONAL HEALTH
EQUIPMENT SERVICES



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
LGBTQIA+ COMMISSION







Inclusive Community Campaign (ICC)



- Visibility Year-Round
- Launched 4/17/25
- Recruit volunteers to make public comment
- Hold bimonthly public comment trainings
- First training on Thursday, May 8



Next Steps

-  Walk in the SMC Pride Parade
-  Come to the Pride Celebration
-  Share the Parade and Festival with your network
-  Sponsor the Festival
-  Raise the Transgender Flag
-  Visit www.smcpridecelebration.com for more information