



**BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER
THROUGH EMPOWERMENT,
COLLABORATION,
AND CELEBRATION**

JUNE 2020



LOUISVILLE PRIDE

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

Louisville Pride is not a political advocacy organization, but we are responding to the crisis in our community that has come about through years and years of systemic racism. Our official statement follows on the next page. We are discussing internally and with other LGBTQ groups how we will continue to take action.

I am pleased to report that our community came together, and we have **raised over \$50,000 for The Bail Project** in less than a week. Our Executive Committee has created a permanent **Social Justice Fund** to build on this success.

I had originally hoped to publicly present our **community center plan** this month, but that may be pushed back a little further. While an LGBTQ Community Center is an extremely important project, we do not want to shift our focus at this historic moment.

Normally, I include specific sponsor and donor opportunities in these updates. However, that doesn't feel appropriate right now. If you are interested, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss.

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which reads "Mike Slaton". The script is fluid and cursive.

Mike Slaton

Executive Director

Louisville Pride Foundation

This is a quick update to let you know what we have been working on. If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to get involved, please visit us online at www.louisvillepride.com or contact mike@louisvillepride.com.

ANTI-RACISM

LOUISVILLE PRIDE STATEMENT - MAY 29

"The vision of Louisville Pride is to bring communities together. We believe in providing leadership through service, and do not generally speak out on controversial political issues. We prefer to let our actions speak for us.

However, there are times when a clear and forceful statement is needed. The escalating situation following the death of Breonna Taylor at the hands of the Louisville Metro Police Department is such a situation.

We stand with those who call for justice for Breonna's family, and we stand with those who call for long overdue, significant structural reforms to prevent this from happening again. We are not the leaders in this fight, but we are in it, as LGBTQ people and allies, as people of color and allies, and as Louisvillians.

Police abuse is an LGBTQ issue. Moreover, police abuse affects LGBTQ people of color disproportionately. Systems must be implemented to hold police accountable and restore the trust in the community. We support the calls for reform and proposals put forth by the ACLU, the Fairness Campaign, and the NAACP. We support Black Lives Matter Louisville and Showing Up For Racial Justice for the work they are doing in speaking up against racial injustice and their efforts in community organizing.

Louisville Pride will continue to hold anti-racism as a core principle in our work, which is to bring communities together through collaboration, empowerment, and celebration.

We are starting a fundraiser to give bail funds to The Bail Project with a \$500 contribution from our operating budget."

As of June 5, this fundraiser has raised nearly \$50,000

LOUISVILLE LGBTQ CRISIS RESPONSE

At the outset of COVID-19, we joined with the Fairness Campaign to organize **the Louisville LGBTQ COVID-19 Response Call**. This is a weekly conference call of social service agencies, LGBTQ groups, Employee Resource Groups, and mutual aid networks to exchange information and try to match available volunteers where they are needed.

We are shifting this to be a more general "crisis response" call, so it can serve as a framework for how the LGBTQ community responds to issues of racism and police violence. This call will continue even after the crisis is over, because we believe there is a need for better coordination within the Louisville LGBTQ community.



DIGITAL PRIDE

QUEENS IN QUARANTINE

Following the success of **The UAW Local 862 Virtual Drag Show**, we have now launched **The Republic Bank "Queens in Quarantine" Variety Show**. This weekly show is hosted by Syimone and Leah Halston, and features more comedy and interaction.

The first episode was on May 29, just as the police protests were escalating. We began the show with a panel discussion featuring several of our Board members, and led by Syimone. We were proud to be able to deliver at that moment. The conversation was important, but we also know that even in times of trauma, people need a release. We were able to address the issues at hand, but also give people one hour of relief. We have planned for this series to raise money for a group of LGBTQ organizations, but we may shift the focus to anti-racism work.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Community Conversations is a twice-a-week series hosted by Louisville Pride Executive Director Mike Slaton. The series is premiered on Facebook and then uploaded to YouTube and as a podcast on iTunes, Spotify, and other platforms. The series began with a focus on COVID-19, and has expanded to a broader range of topics. the LGBTQ Community, and more. Current episodes are focusing on race and racism. We will begin including a **Virtual Vendor** segment soon, introducing viewers to vendors that they could normally meet at the Pride Festival.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAY

Wellness Wednesday began an in-person event at Beechmont Community Center, and we have now hosted several digital sessions. Some have been more private, and some have been live-streamed. Topics have included self-compassion, mindfulness, and legal well-being.

QUEER GAME NIGHT

Queer Game Night was one of several programs that had JUST started when they had to be canceled. Around 35 people attended our first game night at Beechmont Community Center, and we were all excited to see it continue! We have moved the format online with a Trivia Night, and are exploring other ways to have interactive games. Unfortunately, we did fall victim to a brief "Zoom-bombing" during the Trivia Night, but the team running the show responded instantly, and the night continued with a few adjustments.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

BUSINESS LISTINGS

We have been developing an online searchable database for our website to serve as a source for information on LGBTQ-owned and LGBTQ-friendly businesses, as well as non-profit service providers. We are also going to focus on highlighting minority-owned businesses. We plan to roll this out by the end of June.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Following several months of one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, research, and small meetings, we are ready to present a plan for community review and feedback. As soon as it is appropriate to do so, we will begin the public phase of this planning process. This will then be followed by the launch of a capital campaign and a site selection process.

BLOG

We're tinkering with our website, and we have added a blog, which will feature news, LGBTQ history, vendor profiles, and more. This is part of our effort to continue to engage people in as many ways as possible.

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