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September 23, 2023





# OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL

(AND WONDERFUL COMMUNITY PARTNER!)

The DoubleTree Hotel - Johnson City has been an invaluable partner as we bring TriPride back to Johnson City after completing our first full circuit around the TriCities! We are beyond grateful to our regional partners like The DoubleTree Hotel - Johnson City for supporting pride in Appalachia.

The DoubleTree Hotel - Johnson City has been generous enough to donate their space and their time to our organization. They host our Planning Committee for monthly meetings, and continue to go above and beyond supporting our mission of creating a more inclusive, local community.

# Welcome To TriPride In Johnson City!

Thank you for being here to celebrate with us today. A special thanks to the city of Johnson City for hosting us, all our amazing sponsors, and each of the wonderful humans that donated. It is because of you all this event is possible.

Pride events have a special and meaningful history in our community. It is the time for LGBTQ+ visibility and for us to reflect on how far we have come in our fight for equality. Unfortunately, we are in a time today that feels very heavy for a lot of our community and it's hard to see the light. We hope that the TriPride parade and festival gives you a chance to let your Pride shine bright. This is our opportunity to celebrate all the uniqueness our community has to offer., to show those who came before us that we will continue the fight, and to show those who come after us that there is no shame in who you are! Our core mission is to build a stronger, more inclusive community across NE Tennessee and SW Virginia. By being here today you are helping us take a huge step towards that mission.

We hope you enjoy your day and walk away with some amazing memories, new friends, and increased PRIDE!

Melody Taylor

Justin Hall

**President**

**Vice President**

## TriPride Schedule

11:00.....	PARADE	3:05.....	IMANI (ALT. HIPHOP ARTIST)
12:25.....	WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (RECOGNITION OF GRAND MARSHALL)	4:00.....	DRAG ACT III PERFORMANCES
12:35.....	APPALACHIAN EQUALITY CHORUS	4:20.....	FLORENCIA & THE FEELING
1:05.....	DRAG ACT I PERFORMANCES	5:20.....	TRIPRIDE REPRESENTATIVES
1:45.....	ROXANNE AND THE BIG BAD BUZZ	5:30.....	EUREKA O'HARA (ACT I)
2:35.....	REP. GLORIA JOHNSON	5:45.....	MISS TRIPRIDE INTRODUCTION & SPECIAL DRAG PERFORMANCES
2:45.....	DRAG ACT II PERFORMANCES	6:15.....	EUREKA O'HARA (FINALE)
		6:35.....	CLOSING STATEMENTS

# Welcome to Johnson City!



## **TODD FOWLER**

### **JOHNSON CITY, TN MAYOR**

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Johnson City, welcome. We are happy to once again host TriPride for your parade and festival.

I hope you have time to explore the city while you're here. Ours is a thriving region that offers breathtaking scenery, delicious cuisine, and a variety of amenities. But it's the people that truly sets us apart. We live in the most welcoming and hospitable part of the world, and I hope your experience is filled with that Appalachian warmth and kindness.

Great care has gone into planning a safe and fun event for 2023, and we hope you enjoy all that it offers.

# **HAPPY PRIDE!**

Use #TriPride2023 on your social posts and images!

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## OFFICIAL 2023 TRIPRIDE SHIRT

ONLY \$25 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

AVAILABLE AT THE TRIPRIDE MERCH & INFO BOOTH

### Let Your Pride Shine!

Unveiling the heartwarming 2023 TriPride festival design of this year's festival by local artist Angie Connelly.

A celebration of diversity and authenticity, the theme "Let Your Pride Shine" sets the tone for our event. Drawing from Founders Park architecture, the design nods to where TriPride began.





## APPALACHIAN EQUALITY CHORUS

## APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND



### CHANGE, NOT CHARITY

ACF funds and encourages grassroots social change in Central Appalachia. ACF works to build a sustainable base of resources to support community-led organizations seeking to overcome and address issues of race, economic status, gender, sexual identity, and disability.

[www.appalachiancommunityfund.org](http://www.appalachiancommunityfund.org)



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# Let Your PRIDE Shine!

The 2023 TriPride Pride Parade and Festival theme: “Let Your Pride Shine.”

As we gather once again in the heart of Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, we invite all members of our vibrant LGBTQ+ community and its allies to join us in a celebration that radiates love, acceptance, and authenticity.

“Let Your Pride Shine” encapsulates the essence of our movement, reminding us that our individual and collective brilliance is what makes our community shine so brightly. This theme is a beacon of empowerment, encouraging every unique identity and experience to come forth and be celebrated without reservation. It’s a call to embrace our diverse stories, experiences, and backgrounds, knowing that it’s this very diversity that adds to the richness of our shared tapestry.

Throughout history, the LGBTQ+ community has shown incredible resilience and strength. In the face of adversity, we’ve continually risen, each time stronger than before. “Let Your Pride Shine ” reflects this ongoing journey of growth and self-discovery. It’s a reminder that by being unapologetically true to ourselves, we pave the way for others to do the same. Just as light dispels darkness, our pride has the power to dissolve ignorance, prejudice, and fear.

Thank you for joining us this year in Johnson City for a day of celebrating pride, entertainment , and forging heartwarming connections. As the streets come alive with vibrant colors, joyful music, and a sea of smiling faces, let us all “Let Your Pride Shine” together, painting the world with the brilliance of our unity.

**Let’s make the 2023 TriPride Pride Parade and Festival a radiant testament to the strength of our community. Shine on, shine bright, and let your pride illuminate the path to a more inclusive and accepting future.**

Thank you for being here.

# The TriPride Parade

The 2023 TriPride Pride Parade has returned to Johnson City, celebrating diversity and unity. The event highlights progress in promoting LGBTQ+ acceptance and serves as a powerful symbol of equality. The streets come alive with vibrant colors and joyful cheers, leaving a lasting impact on all participants and observers.

Pride parades are an empowering event that break down barriers of prejudice and discrimination. It is an opportunity to be seen and to identify with a larger community. You make a difference with your participation, whether you're watching and cheering or participating in the parade.

Our fourth annual TriPride parade is composed of multiple contingencies including floats, decorated cars, and hundreds of walkers. Each group is encouraged to take this opportunity to be creative, self-expressive, and to celebrate our diversity!

Pride parades have a Grand Marshall near the beginning of the parade. This person is someone who has contributed to the community through advocacy for and support of our community. We are lucky enough to have 2 incredible Grand Marshalls this year!

Thank you to all who were a part of the parade this year! Happy Pride!



OFFICIAL PARADE SPONSOR



## 2023 TriPride Grand Marshall: Gloria Johnson

Gloria Johnson is a special education teacher of 27 years who got fed up with Tennessee elected officials attacking the rights of public school students and teachers.

After the legislature took away a teacher's seat at the table, she decided to run for the Tennessee House in Knoxville — and she's been fighting for kids and teachers ever since.

And after a school shooter stole the lives of six Tennesseans in March, Gloria was a leading voice for new gun safety laws. Going to the well as one of the "Tennessee Three," Gloria called for immediate action to stop gun violence. She survived a politically charged expulsion vote and is now helping to build a statewide movement for change.

Though she's retired from the classroom now, she still stands tall for public education. Whether she's advocating for equitable investments in students or pushing back against high-stakes testing and cynical efforts to end public education as we know it, Gloria is working for solutions like Community Schools that improve learning while supporting teachers and student families.

That's why Gloria works so hard to make health care and child care affordable, boost wages for working people, and expand policies like paid leave. When we invest in kids and families, we invest in our future — and shift power back to people who work for a living.



## 2023 TriPride Grand Marshall: Jon Meadows

In 1983, Jon Meadows' drag persona Franchesca Wakeland was crowned Miss Gay America. Jon was representing Connections bar in Johnson City, a precursor to today's New Beginnings and an important piece of history in today's thriving Johnson City LGBTQ+ community. Jon had to weather through protests to vie for the title, but their southern charm won out! Jon was the entertainment director for the Connection from 1975 to 1983 and would continue into a long career with a local grocer as a training coordinator.



# Embracing Pride In The Tri-Cities

## Amplify Voices and Celebrate Progress

Highlight the stories of resilience, progress, and personal growth within the LGBTQ+ community in the Tri-Cities area. When you find stories of individuals who have overcome obstacles and found their own unique ways to express pride and authenticity, share them! Follow us on social media to hear these stories. By amplifying these voices, we inspire others and foster understanding within our community.

“When you put love out in the world it travels, and it can touch people and reach people in ways that we never even expected.” — Laverne Cox

## Support LGBTQ+-Owned and Inclusive Businesses

Patronize and celebrate LGBTQ+-owned businesses that prioritize inclusivity and acceptance. Additionally, support local businesses that actively embrace diversity and provide safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community. You'll find many of these businesses at our annual TriPride Festival. By supporting these businesses, we contribute to a more accepting and inclusive environment for everyone.

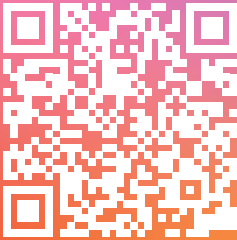
## Create Safe Spaces and Foster Connections

Organize and attend inclusive events, gatherings, and support groups that provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals in the Tri-Cities area. The Pride Community Center of the Tri-Cities (different from TriPride) hosts several support groups on a weekly basis. You can also use social media to find other affirming organizations, or you can work with your network to host your own! These spaces offer opportunities to connect, share experiences, and find support. By creating and participating in these safe spaces, we build a stronger and more resilient community.

## READ THE FULL BLOG



# JOIN THE BAND



IF YOU ARE READY FOR AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN A CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU CAN BRING YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF TO WORK, WE WANT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!



## ALL IS ONE



If you or someone you know has a gambling problem and wants help, call 1-800-GAMBLER.

CELEBRATING  
**Pride**

*for the love of*  
**seeing you  
for you.**

*for the love of progress<sup>SM</sup>*

Being seen is the beginning of everything. That's why we're giving our transgender and non-binary customers the choice to update their eligible Citi-branded consumer credit and debit cards to match who they are. Learn more at [citi.com/updatesmyname](https://citi.com/updatesmyname)

# Roxanne McDaniel & THE BIG BAD BUZZ



## Florencia & the Feeling

Since its conception in April 2021, the five-piece has been impressing listeners with its upbeat funky grooves, heartfelt songwriting, and all-around good vibes, loading its music with four-part harmonies, hints of jazz, and Latin roots.

## Imani

Tennessee-based alternative hip-hop artist, Imani, is a musical force to be reckoned with. Vibrant and bright, Imani is a free-spirited artist from the South who seamlessly blends playful lyricism with spirited storytelling.



2023 TriPride Festival  
Master of Ceremonies

JYA COX O'HARA





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# TriPride Festival In Johnson City

With immense joy and gratitude, TriPride extends its deepest appreciation to our incredible community for making the 2023 Pride Parade and Festival an unforgettable success. Gathering once again in our beloved Johnson City, we were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, support, and unity that filled the streets. It is you, our cherished community members and allies, who brought vibrancy, energy, and a profound sense of togetherness to this joyous celebration.

Returning to Johnson City holds a special place in our hearts, and this year's festival marks not only a jubilant homecoming but also a significant milestone for TriPride. It symbolizes the completion of our city circuit – a journey that has taken us through the heart of the Tri-Cities, embodying the essence of unity across our diverse and vibrant region. From our inaugural event in Johnson City in 2018 to Kingsport in 2019, Bristol in 2022, and now back to Johnson City in 2023, this circuit has been a remarkable testament to our collective commitment to equality, acceptance, and progress.

The outpouring of support we experienced during this year's festival reaffirms the power of love and community. Your presence, your enthusiasm, and your unwavering support uplift us, inspire us, and remind us of the incredible strides we have made together. As we bask in the glow of a successful event, we reflect on the steps we've taken toward fostering a more inclusive and understanding society.

TriPride wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, performers, vendors, sponsors, and everyone who played a part in making this celebration possible. Your dedication and passion are the driving forces behind our success, and we are honored to have you by our side on this journey.

As we look ahead, let us continue to carry the spirit of unity, love, and pride that defines our community. Together, we have created something truly remarkable, and we are excited to build on this foundation for an even brighter future.











# **EASTMAN**

**Y'all means all —  
every single person.**

**We thrive when we live and work in a place where people are free to be their authentic selves. We believe the strongest team is one with a rich variety of viewpoints representing multiple backgrounds, cultures and experiences. Building a more inclusive society where we celebrate our differences and build understanding will make our region, our communities and our businesses stronger.**

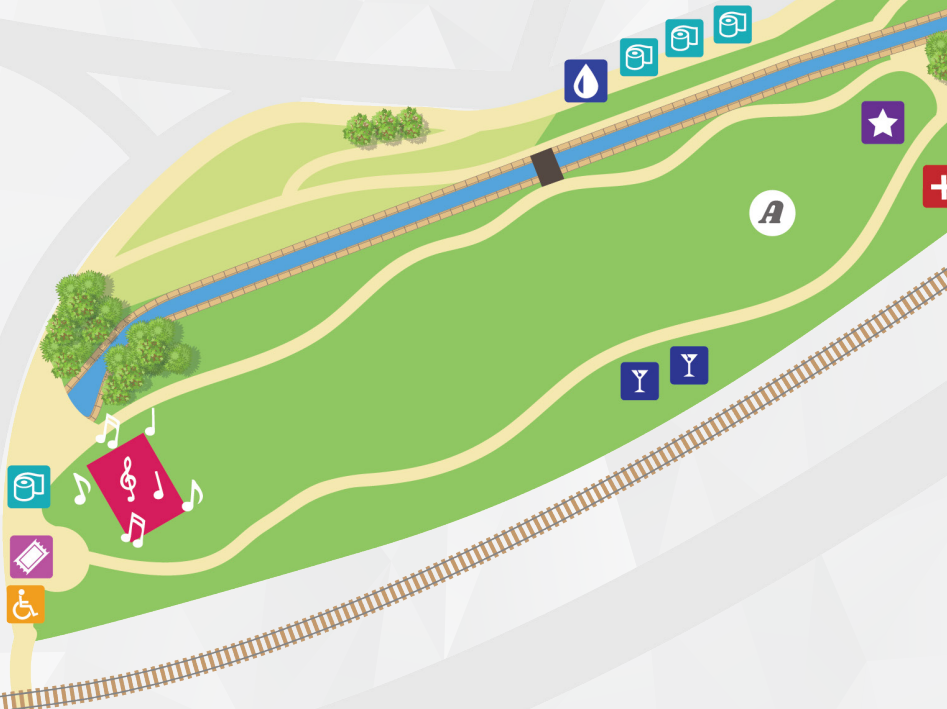
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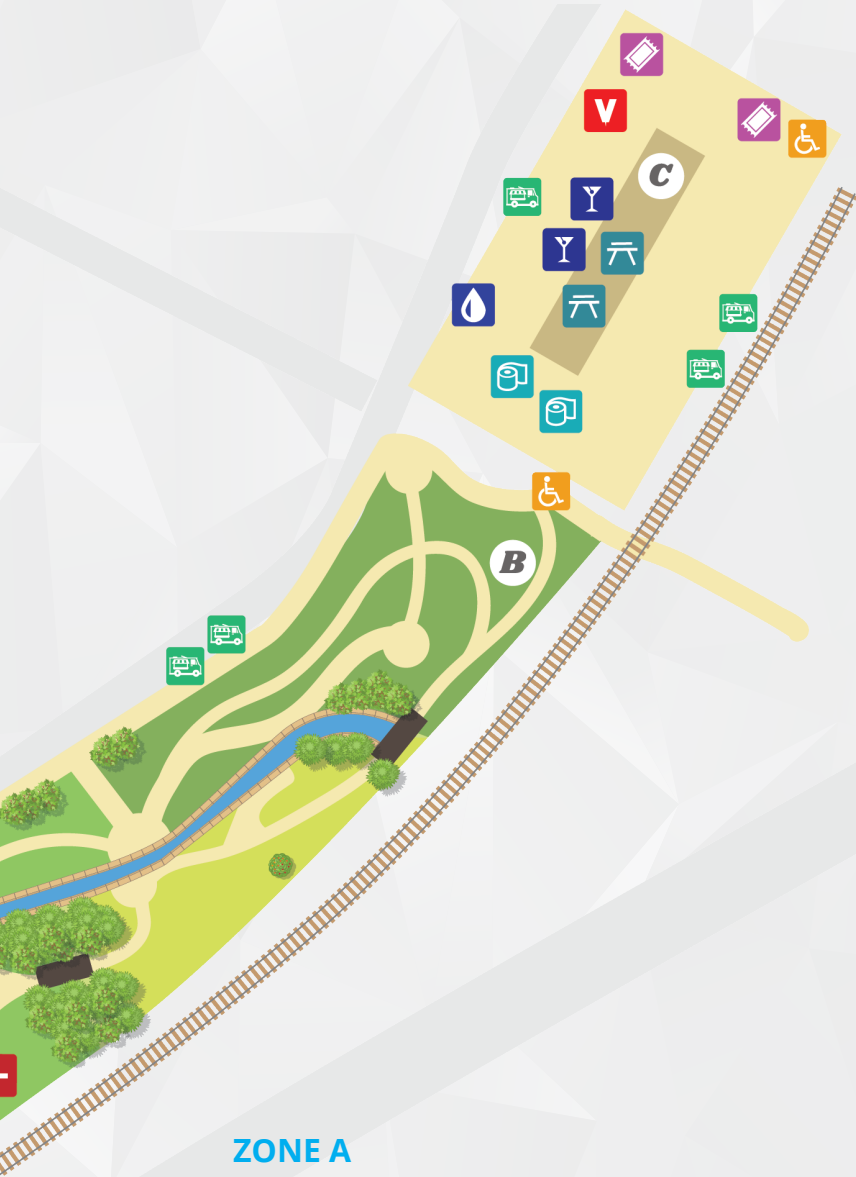


-  TriPride Tent
-  Volunteer Check-in
-  Food Trucks
-  First Aid
-  Bathrooms
-  Picnic Tables
-  Beer Tent
-  Water Station
-  Entrance
-  Accessible Entrance

# EASTMAN

OFFICIAL FESTIVAL SPONSOR





## **ZONE A**

**TRIPRIDE TENT, VENDOR ZONE, BEER TENT,  
ENTERTAINMENT STAGE**

## **ZONE B**

**KIDS ZONE**

## **ZONE C**

**HEALTH SERVICES TESTING, VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN,  
ENTRANCES, WATER STATION, FOOD TRUCKS**

# MEET YOUR Festival Entertainers

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CHELLE THE BOMBSHELL



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DYAMOND ESSENCE



GIANNA LUXE



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EBONI ALEXANDER



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# Free and Confidential HIV and STI Testing, and other Health Services

TriPride is proud to offer free and confidential HIV and STI testing at our festival, as well as other health services, made possible by made possible by Va. Dept of Health-Lenowisco District, Sullivan Co. Health Dept., TN Dept. of Health, Sullivan Co. Regional Health Dept., ETSU COE and CEMPA Community Care.

In addition to testing, each health organization will also provide an assortment of educational information regarding local health programs accessible to the community. Please visit each booth to see what programs are available. TriPride encourages all festival goers to visit our health service providers. Peace of mind and knowing your status is worth a few minutes of your time. Thank you TriPride Health Partners!



**TENNESSEE  
EQUALITY  
PROJECT**

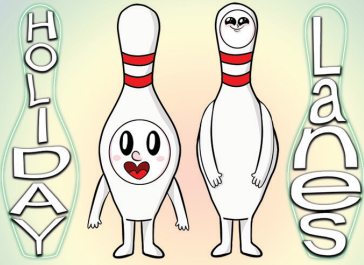


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## **TriPride After Party**

**Hosted By**

**New Beginnings**

**Doors open @ 8pm Cover**

**Shows @ 11:00 and 1:30 TBA**

**September 23rd**



## **Pride Drag Brunch**

**Hosted By**

**New Beginnings**

**Doors open @ 11am September 24.**



APPALACHIAN  
sustainable  
DEVELOPMENT  
LIVING BETTER. LOCALLY

## Fun for all ages!

Who doesn't love playing? ASD will have plants to pot, terrariums, coloring sheets, bubbles and more activities! Make sure and swing by for some FREE fun for all ages!

# LGBTQ+ Support Groups

The groups listed below are not the only LGBTQ+ support and social groups in our area. However, they are four passionate, dedicated organizations serving our community.

## **PRISM**

[www.fb.com/prismteensjc](http://www.fb.com/prismteensjc)

PRISM is a teen LGBTQ+ support and empowerment group for the Tri-Cities. Monthly meetings and events, hosted by the Pride Community & Education Center in Johnson City, are arranged by trained, professional counselors. These meetings facilitate an environment where teens can support and empower each other.

## **Tri-Cities Transgender**

[www.fb.com/3CitiesTrans](http://www.fb.com/3CitiesTrans)

TCT is a local trans-led organization whose mission is to support and empower the local trans and gender independent community through visibility and developing/maintaining area resources.

## **Tennessee Equality Project**

[www.tnep.org](http://www.tnep.org)

TEP was founded in 2004 as a statewide LGBTQ+ rights and public policy organization. We help fight discriminatory state legislation and work to create a more accepting climate in the state.

## **Pride Community & Education Center**

[www.pridetricities.com](http://www.pridetricities.com)

PCEC is a non-profit community center established to nurture and empower LGBTQIA+ community. Hosted in the King Center in downtown Johnson City, PCEC hosts events and a meeting space for the community. They also support the Johnson City Rainbows, the Tri-Cities LGBTQ+ softball team.

# Check Out Our Blog!

We have several exciting expansions and additions coming in the next year - stay up to date by visiting our Blog & News / Resource pages on the website!



# Your 2023 TriPride Board

TriPride is lead by our all volunteer Board of Directors, five of which serve as the Executive Committee. These folks bring everything they can to produce Pride to the Tri-Cities!



## **Melody Taylor: President**

Welcome to TriPride! It has been the greatest honor to serve this organization for the last several years. Seeing all the donors, volunteers and community members come together to support the LGBTQ+ community is truly heartwarming. I am so proud of what TriPride has accomplished in showing our region that we are a place that supports diversity and inclusion and all the strengths that come with that. I love these mountains, I love my community, and I am so thankful to be able to stand proudly next to each of you. Have fun, enjoy the day, and always remember you are EXACTLY who you were meant to be!



## **Justin Hall: Vice President**

I'm honored to help bring TriPride back to the inaugural city! I'm incredibly proud of the hard work our team has done to make this parade and festival a success! I truly hope you enjoy the event! Kingsport here we come!



## **Angie Connelly: Marketing Director**

It's been a truly great highlight of my life to be able to contribute to TriPride. The community's welcoming response to our events and organization continually warms my heart and makes the work very easy to do. I can't wait to see what the next year looks like - stay tuned!



## **Ritchie Roark: Secretary**

After attending each of the TriPride festivals since 2018, it is an honor to be a part of bringing it back to Johnson City. My husband and I live in Johnson City, and are both actively involved in the Mr and Miss Gay America pageant system. I have been involved in the LGBTQIA+ community since the 1990s and am excited to be a part of TriPride!



## **Terry Marek: Secretary**

Giving back to the LGBTQ+ community can mean donating time, money, love and energy. Being an involved member of the TriPride Board of Directors as Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator has meant all of the above. It takes a ton of effort, support, patience, laughter and kindness. Hopefully there will be many more individuals who believe in our mission and want to share the love. Come, give back however you can.



## **Khalid El-Shabazz**

As a queer person of color, I wanted to make it my mission to make sure TriPride has the most diverse and eclectic artists performing this year. As a fellow artist, I'm proud of what we've accomplished! I hope you enjoy all the amazing entertainers this year!



## **Lori Suttles**

I've been participating with TriPride since 2018 as a co-founder of our local Free Mom Hugs chapter. The more I become involved, the more my passion to create safe spaces and community where diversity, inclusion, and equality are welcomed and celebrated. I'm excited for this year's festival and can't wait to see what the future holds for TriPride.



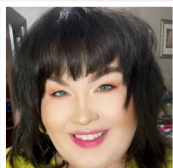
## **Carrie Holt**

I'm truly honored to serve on the TriPride Board and help plan another exciting pride event in our region! I love seeing the collaboration of individuals and organizations to advance the inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community and that TriPride plays a huge role in this!



## **Greg Griffey**

Greg serves as co-chair of the Vendors Relations Committee. He's a native of Southwest Virginia and feels privileged to serve the LGBTQIA+ community in the Appalachia Highlands.



## **Jacob Besseck**

I joined the board in April of this year and have found working with our local LGBT+ community to be incredibly rewarding. Being queer in the heart of Appalachia is not always easy, but since joining TriPride I see so much hope and so many people that are full of love and compassion. I am proud to serve the community and to work with so many talented, intelligent, and warm-hearted individuals. TriPride has become a part of my life that feeds my soul.



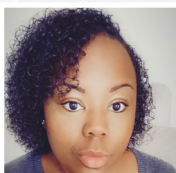
## **Sarah Rovere**

I love being a TriPride board member. This is important work and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of it. It is so important that individuals can be the most authentic expression of themselves. I am looking forward to celebrating this beautiful community in Johnson City this year!



### **Autumn Baggett-Griggs**

I'm so thrilled to be a part of this group and event! TriPride has been such a beautiful way for our community to come together through a tough year and celebrate each other. Cheers to being a resilient group of (fun!) people. Happy Pride!



### **Indya Scalf**

As a native of Johnson City, I am excited to witness the immense advancements the city has gone through throughout the years. I am very excited to have the TriPride Festival back in my hometown and even more excited to serve on the Board of Directors. The privilege of working on the board is having the capacity to bring creative ideas, collaboration, networking, and outreach to the table. Being a member of the board allows me the opportunity to serve in several capacities. It truly warms my heart each year to see so many people in attendance at the events. The LGBTQ+ community deserves an inclusive community where they are seen, heard, and safe to be their true selves; and it is an honor to be a part of an organization that strives to provide those factors. I am so proud of the achievements TriPride has made from 2018 to the present and cannot wait to see the additional goals the organization achieves in the future.



### **Jeremy White**

I am so excited about this year's parade and festival. It has been an honor to serve our community through my involvement with the TriPride Board of Directors. Growing up in this area, I understand the value of being seen and belong to a community. I am excited for the chance to celebrate with our community today. Enjoy and live in your authenticity.



### **Steven Reeves**

Originally from North Carolina, he has lived in Bristol since 2003. His entire life revolves around the creative arts, education, and directing a nonprofit organization. Being in the arena of life making a positive impact for LGBTQ+ people is where it counts. Actions speak louder than words.



**Want to get involved?**

**Join the TriPride  
Planning Committee**

**&**

**Help plan the 2024  
Parade and Festival**

**Check the TriPride Facebook  
account for meeting announcements**

# EMBRACING THE POWER OF VOLUNTEER WORK: IGNITING CHANGE AND CELEBRATING PRIDE!

## **Making a Difference:**

Volunteer work provides a tangible opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals and the broader community. By devoting your time, skills, and passion, you actively contribute to creating an environment that embraces diversity, acceptance, and equality. Every act of volunteering, no matter how small, has the potential to leave an indelible mark on someone's life.

"I grew up in an area, New Orleans, that was for the most part fairly accepting with a strong LGBTQ+ community. Once I moved to Northeast TN in 2019 I realized that there was a strong need for visibility, inclusion and acceptance for our community. A very positive way to work towards these goals is to help make TriPride a permanent fixture in our community. No matter where you stand, as an ally or a card carrying member, the LGBTQ+ community is worth giving at the very least a couple hours of your time. TriPride accepts ALL forms of effort, whatever your strengths and abilities, we can use the help!"

-Terry Marek, TriPride Secretary & Volunteers Co-Chair

## **Building Strong Communities:**

Volunteering strengthens the fabric of our communities by fostering a sense of belonging and unity. As volunteers, we come together with a shared purpose and a common goal – to uplift and support one another. Through the collective efforts of dedicated individuals, we create safe spaces, organize events, and provide essential services that positively impact the lives of LGBTQIA+ individuals and their allies.

## **Inspiring Change:**

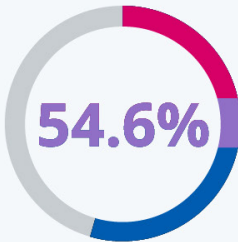
Volunteers serve as catalysts for change. By actively participating in Pride events and engaging with the community, you inspire others to challenge prejudices, fight discrimination, and promote inclusivity. Each act of kindness, advocacy, or education is a powerful step towards dismantling barriers and fostering a more equitable society.



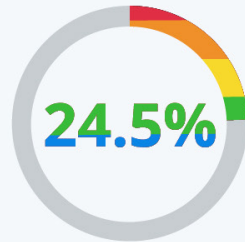
# How LGBT Americans Identify

Self-identified LGBT adults' responses to following question: "Which of the following do you consider yourself to be?"

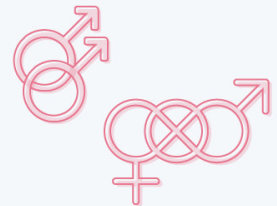
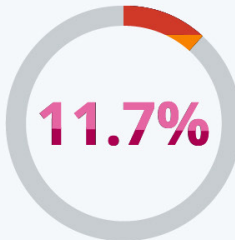
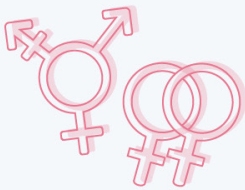
Bisexual



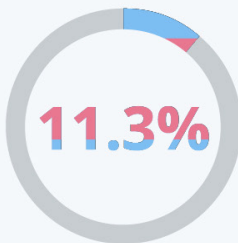
Gay



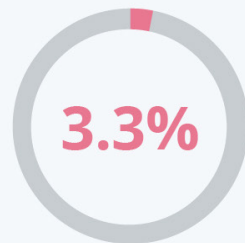
Lesbian



Transgender



Other



\* Percentages total more than 100% as respondents could choose more than one category

Source: Gallup



# PRIDE Flags

Since the original 8-striped Pride flag was debuted in 1978, there have been several variations, the most common being the six-striped flag seen below.

As our LGBTQ+ movement has become more inclusive and aware of itself, various segments have created their own flags to fly alongside the Pride flag. Below are 12 flags you may or may not know. We invite you to learn more about each, plus more, at [www.tripridetn.org/pride-flags](http://www.tripridetn.org/pride-flags)



LGBTQ+ PRIDE FLAG



POLYSEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



ASEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



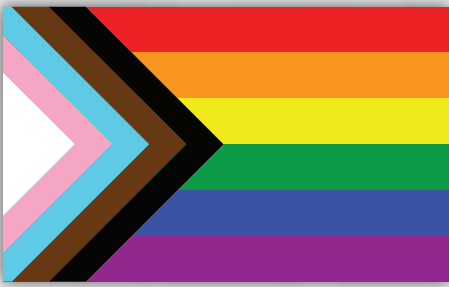
PANSEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



TRANSGENDER PRIDE FLAG



INTERSEX PRIDE FLAG



PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG



GENDERQUEER PRIDE FLAG



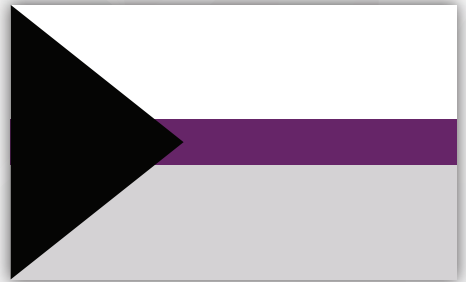
BISEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



LESBIAN PRIDE FLAG



NONBINARY PRIDE FLAG



DEMISEXUAL PRIDE FLAG



BEAR PRIDE FLAG



ALLY PRIDE FLAG

# FREE



# HUGS

## **A Special Shout Out...**

Since our first TriPride event in 2018, we've always asked our community for feedback. The aspect that consistently ranks as the Tri-Cities' favorite aspect of Pride is getting a hug by the wonderful women (and men too!) that make up the Free Mom Hugs group. So we say thank you to these individuals — for their love, their passion, their commitment, and those incredible hugs. If you see someone with a Free Mom Hug shirt, or Free Dad Hug, Free Uncle or Auntie Hug... take advantage of it. It truly is a special moment, and we're so proud of them for doing what they do. Thank you to our Free Mom Hugs group!

How did we do?



**Please consider filling out  
our completely anonymous  
feedback form for this year's  
festival and parade.**

# Let Your PRIDE Shine!

To our community, we want to share our sincere gratitude for your support, whether it's from volunteering, donations, passion, talent, or all the above! We are forever grateful!

We are a community-focused, volunteer-led organization. Without the support of you-our community- we would not be able to do this work and bring this Pride Celebration to Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee every year! In 2022, TriPride became one of the largest single day festivals in the area and that's all because of you!

The positive community reception and response has been phenomenal and heartwarming. You support our goal to establish our region as an open and welcoming community that everyone can be even more proud of to call home.

Every donation, whether it's time, products, or money, sends a strong message of inclusion. Countless volunteer hours and donations have culminated in today's event. Thank you for supporting TriPride and our mission.

This year is also special because we have officially completed our first rotation throughout the TriCities. Each year, we rotate between Johnson City, TN; Kingsport, TN; and Bristol, VA/TN and today we are officially back to the inaugural city of Johnson City, TN. We are excited and happy to be back! We are already working hard on next year's event in Kingsport, TN.

There are so many individuals and businesses that deserve special recognition for helping this year. Some of those amazing folks are:

City of Johnson City, TN Employees

Abby Rubenfeld

Dr. Alan Stevens

Jason Willis

Michael Trivette

The Down Home

The Bristol Hotel

Shelley K.

Double Tree

Sam V.

Kingsport Chamber of Commerce

Rep. Gloria Johnson

Unnamed Friends & Allies!

**Thank you everyone! Now let's get started on TriPride 2024 in Kingsport, TN! See ya there!**