

Vol 1 Issue 4 April 2024

# OUT **NW**

Pacific NW's LGBTQ+ Magazine



## **Pride Foundation's**

**Katie Carter**

**Talks about Community,  
Our Challenges, Giving,  
and Making a Difference**

## **THE MONEY ISSUE**

With Articles Covering

Personal Finance, Queer Aging, Marriage,  
Real Estate, **The Pink Dollar**, and the Power of the Pink Dollar.



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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Anthony Polimeni | Publisher & Co-Editor



Michael Montgomery | Editor-In-Chief

Dear Readers,

The term “pink dollar” encapsulates the economic power wielded by the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. It represents the purchasing power and economic influence of individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, pink, and other diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. This demographic group has emerged as a significant market segment, prompting businesses to cater specifically to their needs and preferences.

The pink dollar reflects not only the buying power of LGBTQ+ individuals but also their commitment to supporting businesses and brands that align with their values of diversity, inclusion, and equality. Companies that actively embrace LGBTQ+-friendly policies, representation, and marketing strategies often enjoy greater loyalty and patronage from this community.

Furthermore, the pink dollar contributes to societal change by fostering economic empowerment within the LGBTQ+ community and advocating for greater visibility and acceptance in the marketplace. As more businesses recognize the economic potential of this demographic, they strive to create inclusive environments and offer products and services that resonate with LGBTQ+ consumers.

Ultimately, the concept of the pink dollar highlights the intersection of economics and social progress, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and valuing the diverse perspectives and experiences within the marketplace.

Real estate with a focus on LGBTQ+ individuals and couples often prioritize inclusive neighborhoods, legal protections, and amenities catering to the community’s needs. Gay real estate agents may specialize in understanding these unique considerations, fostering a sense of belonging and safety for buyers.

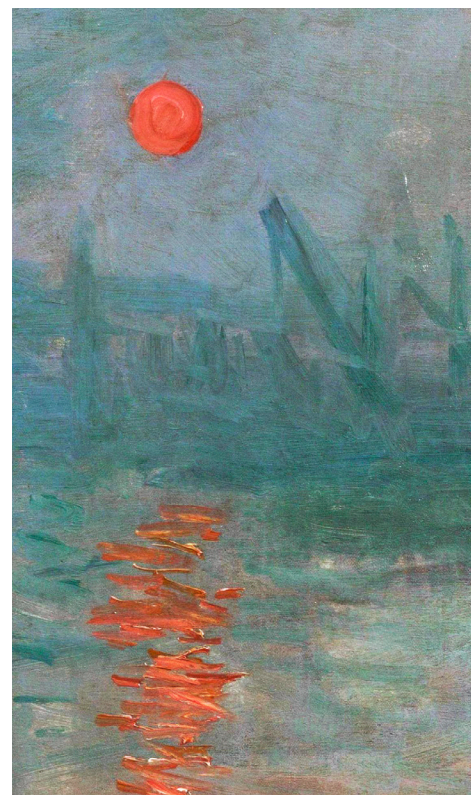
Planning ahead for LGBTQ seniors involves addressing unique challenges such as legal rights, healthcare discrimination, and social support. It includes estate planning, choosing LGBTQ-friendly retirement communities, and establishing healthcare proxies. Financial and legal advisors with expertise in LGBTQ issues can provide invaluable assistance in ensuring a secure future.

Building a better future for LGBTQ citizens in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) involves advocating for inclusive policies, healthcare access, and anti-discrimination laws. It requires fostering supportive communities, promoting LGBTQ representation in leadership roles, and addressing disparities faced by marginalized LGBTQ individuals, ensuring equality and acceptance across the region.

Onward,  
Michael Montgomery, Editor-in-Chief

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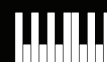
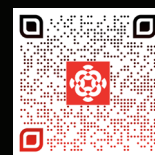
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# The **Pink** Dollar

## A Historical Powerhouse in the LGBTQ+ Economy

by Dr. William Kapfer

Global Head, Supplier Diversity - Community Engagement  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.



I was taken aback when I came across an article touting “the pink dollar” as a newly prominent economic force, a testament to the LGBTQ+ community’s purchasing clout. It made me pause and ask out loud, “Really?”

The economic clout of the queer community has been a topic of conversation since the 1990s. To me, this is far from a new revelation.

The gay consumer demographic isn’t just a footnote in economic history; it has been a powerful player across travel, entertainment, fashion, and technology sectors for years.

Understanding the pink dollar goes beyond just acknowledging financial influence; it’s a recognition of how essential diversity and inclusion are to the fabric of a prosperous, vibrant economy.

To put it simply, the pink dollar represents the financial might of the LGBTQ+ community, and it’s something that savvy businesses and marketers have been paying attention to for a while now. For instance, Absolut Vodka began targeting this market in the early 1980s by placing ads in gay publications — a bold move that set it apart from its peers.

This particular consumer group is known for its strong brand loyalty, above-average disposable income, and willingness to spend on travel and high-end products.

It’s clear from research that LGBTQ+ people often choose to support companies that mirror their personal values, particularly those that stand for inclusivity and LGBTQ+ rights, and for freedom.

The impact of the pink dollar is especially palpable in the travel and tourism sector. Organizations such as the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association, founded in 1983, have played a pivotal role in advocating for and promoting safe and equal LGBTQ+ travel experiences globally.

Statistics underscore that LGBTQ+ people tend to travel more frequently and spend more money per trip than their heterosexual counterparts, contributing significantly to the global tourist economy.

With the growing popularity of Pride events, LGBTQ+-friendly cruises, and travel packages, these have become more than just celebratory experiences — they’re also substantial economic contributors to regions that celebrate and embrace diversity.

The reach of the pink dollar, however, goes far beyond economic metrics.

It’s about the message businesses send when they cater to the LGBTQ+ market. It’s a message of acceptance and inclusion that helps to chip away at prejudice, fight discrimination, and build a culture steeped in respect and mutual understanding.

I’m convinced that the pink dollar is more than just a current trend — it’s a significant and growing segment of our economy.

The gay consumer is not a niche to be sidelined; they’re movers and shakers, driving progress, setting trends, and igniting change across industries.

Companies that authentically embrace diversity and inclusion are poised to not only enjoy economic

benefits but also to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society — a kinder society that sees and honors the differences among us.

As the global economy evolves, the importance of the pink dollar only stands to grow, emphasizing the need for businesses to engage with the LGBTQ+ community in a meaningful and respectful manner.



# MONEY

## 101 Basics

### An Expert's Take

by Eric Brown, CMFC

Many in the LGBTQ+ community face unique financial challenges and opportunities that differ from those of their heterosexual counterparts. Some think that we earn outrageous incomes. Unfortunately, that has not been proven.

Yet our community does tend to incur higher expenses, such as those for housing, travel, entertainment, and healthcare. We can also face discrimination, harassment, or violence in the workplace, which can affect our career prospects and earning potential.

When it comes to saving, investing, and planning for retirement, if one is single or childless, or has recently left a relationship, financial success or failure can be terribly impactful. Without adequate resources, life becomes far more challenging.

It is essential to develop a solid understanding of money management and financial literacy. Here are some tips and resources to help you move toward financial wellness and security:

- **Budget carefully:** A budget is a plan that helps you track your

income and expenses, helping you to allocate your money according to your needs and goals. Get a budget app and list all your sources of income and all your fixed and variable expenses, such as rent, utilities, food, transportation, entertainment, etc. Don't have one? Get one. If you are old enough for Grindr, you are the right age to start managing your budget. Seek out those who you believe have a handle on managing their expenses.

- **Insure adequately:** Insure yourself against risks, harm, or loss. Getting the right amount of insurance to cover where you rent, what you drive, or the income you are earning is important. Seek out a friend, financial advisor, or insurance agent to learn more.
- **Save strategically:** Set aside money for emergencies, goals, or opportunities. Savings can protect you from financial shocks, impacts from illness, or homelessness while providing peace of mind. Choose a safe and accessible place to store your money, such as a bank or money market account. Save for yourself too: have an account that only you can access and is yours alone.

- **Invest wisely:** Investing can help you achieve your long-term goals. To invest wisely, you need to have a clear objective and a suitable risk tolerance for your investments. Diversify your portfolio across different asset classes. Use tax-advantaged accounts, such as 401(k)s, IRAs, or Roth IRAs to save for retirement. Don't wait to start investing.

These are basic principles and practices of money management for our community. There is much more to learn and explore in the world of LGBTQ+ personal finance, however. There are numerous online tools, apps, and spreadsheets to help you create and monitor your budget, evaluate insurance, track savings, or research and manage investments.

Money 101 is not just about numbers and calculations but also values and choices. It is about finding your own path and living your best life. Remember, money is a tool, not a goal. Use it wisely and enjoy it responsibly.



# OUT NW Oregon



## The LGBT Community in Oregon

By SeanPavone via Envato

# Oregon's Pink Power

Oregon's reputation as a progressive and inclusive state reflects not only a strong rights-based commitment but also an understanding of the significant economic power of its LGBTQ+ community. This buying power isn't just about dollars and cents; it's woven into the fabric of businesses, tourism, and the state's overall vibrancy.

## **Understanding the Impact**

Let's delve deeper into the numbers and trends that illustrate the LGBTQ+ community's economic footprint:

- **Beyond the Urban Core:** While Portland is a recognized LGBTQ+ hub, communities across the state are home to a growing number of LGBTQ+ residents. This translates to spending power and entrepreneurial spirit dispersed throughout Oregon.
- **Targeted Spending:** LGBTQ+ consumers are often

early adopters, demonstrate strong brand loyalty to those businesses that support the community, and prioritize travel to destinations with welcoming reputations.

- **The Business Angle:** Oregon boasts a high density of LGBTQ+-owned businesses. These enterprises serve their customers while also creating jobs and contributing to the state's diverse economic landscape.

## **Support Systems: Organizations Fueling Success**

Oregon's strong network of advocacy and community-building organizations plays a vital role in fostering an environment for LGBTQ+ economic growth:

- **Legal Champions:** Basic Rights of Oregon (BRO) has tirelessly advocated for legal protections and non-discrimination policies, creating a foundation for security and inclusion that benefits

individuals and businesses alike.

- **Community Hubs:** From Portland's Q Center to smaller organizations throughout the state, these centers act as engines of support. They provide career resources, networking opportunities, and social spaces tailored to the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Underserved Populations:** Organizations like SAGE Metro Portland and the PFLAG Portland Black Chapter provide critical support addressing the needs of older LGBTQ+ individuals and Black LGBTQ+ communities. These organizations understand how intersecting identities can impact economic opportunity and act to address those disparities.
- **State Investment:** Oregon's commitment extends beyond social policies. State programs dedicate funding to address LGBTQ+ specific issues like access to healthcare, youth homelessness,

and building economic resilience within the community.

### **Tangible Economic Outcomes**

Here's where this support translates into economic benefits for the entire state:

- **Attracting Talent:** Oregon's reputation as an inclusive state makes it a desirable location for talented and ambitious LGBTQ+ individuals seeking a welcoming work environment.
- **Economic Multipliers:** LGBTQ+-owned or LGBTQ+-friendly businesses attract customers, create jobs, and generate tax revenue, having a ripple effect throughout local economies.
- **Thriving Tourism:** Oregon's stunning natural beauty, coupled

with its progressive atmosphere, makes it a highly attractive destination for LGBTQ+ travelers, contributing significantly to the state's tourism industry.

### **The Road Ahead: Areas for Continued Growth**

While Oregon serves as a positive example, continuous improvement ensures maximum economic benefit:

- **Intersectionality:** Efforts to increase economic equity within the LGBTQ+ community must focus on often-overlooked segments such as LGBTQ+ people of color, transgender individuals, and those living with disabilities.
- **Addressing Disparities:** LGBTQ+ Oregonians still face economic hurdles from employment discrimination to housing instability. Targeted programs and policies can

remove these barriers, unleashing further economic potential.

- **Investing in the Future:** Supporting LGBTQ+ youth entrepreneurship, workforce training programs, and community-led initiatives lays the groundwork for sustainable long-term economic health within the community.

### **Oregon's Win-Win Scenario**

By championing inclusion, equity, and investment in its LGBTQ+ community, Oregon creates a true win-win scenario. Economic flourishing goes hand in hand with a social landscape where individuals feel valued and secure – ultimately strengthening the state as a whole. Oregon stands as a model, demonstrating that progressive values and economic prosperity are powerfully intertwined.

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# LOVE, DEATH, & TAXES!

## I Do or Don't?

by Mona Smith

In Washington State prior to 2008, many same-sex couples who wanted to marry for love and to protect their relationships in the same ways afforded to married, opposite-sex couples sought legal assistance to provide them with legal rights absent marriage. They established their relationships through “partnership agreements” that included provisions for their separate and joint properties and a division-of-property plan in the event the relationship terminated through separation or death. They titled real property in both their names as joint tenants with the

right of survivorship, so that in the event that one passed away, the survivor would become the sole owner without the need to probate the real property.

In addition, couples sought, as they still do, estate planning to make sure that their partner became a beneficiary (most often the primary beneficiary) of the decedent’s estate. Each partner made the other their attorney-in-fact or agent in the event of incapacity, incompetency, or disability to make financial, legal, and medical decisions for the impaired partner. All of these

documents ensured that same-sex couples could legally take care of each other in life and in death.

However, despite these documents, same-sex relationships were not recognized by the federal government, and each partner had to file separate tax returns. When a same-sex partner died, the survivor did not have any rights to the decedent’s Social Security benefits, especially if the latter was the higher wage earner.

Then on June 12, 2008, the Gov. Christine Gregoire signed the

first iteration of the Washington Domestic Partnership law, which allowed same-sex couples and senior opposite-sex couples over the age of 60 to register with the state as domestic partners, who would obtain limited rights, such as hospital visitation and the ability to make funeral and burial arrangements for each other.

The following year, the Washington legislature expanded the rights and obligations of registered domestic partners, who effectively then had almost all the state rights of married couples — except marriage itself. Same-sex couples choosing to dissolve their domestic partnership had to seek a dissolution decree from the court, which would apply state community property and child custody laws. (Some states refused to grant full faith and credit to Washington domestic partners and recognize the legality of their relationships.)

On December 6, 2012, following a defeated referendum, marriage equality became law in Washington State. The federal government still did not recognize same-sex domestic partnerships, civil unions, or marriages enacted in any of the states, so attorneys, accountants, and financial planners across the country began to develop cumbersome and costly methods for same-sex couples to file federal and applicable state income tax returns.

The next year, the United State Supreme Court decided in *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. 744 (2013) held that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act was a violation of the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution. After *Windsor*, the

federal government could no longer deny recognition of marriages of same-sex couples. That meant that they could file joint tax returns and are entitled to federal benefits (such as spousal Social Security, unlimited gifting between spouses during one's lifetime and in death [except if one spouse is not a US citizen], the portability of the estate tax exclusion, and being able to take advantage of other tax-reducing estate planning measures). However, the *Windsor* decision fell short of granting same-sex couples the same right to marry as opposite-sex couples no matter where they lived in the country.

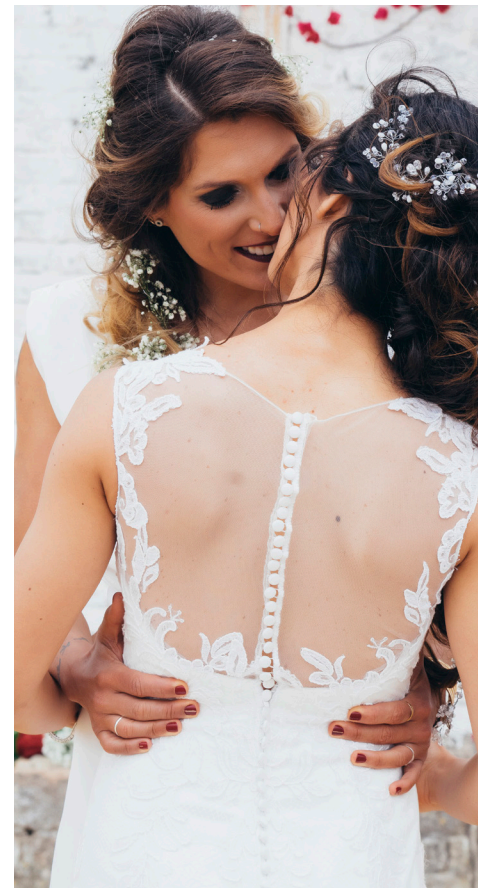
Two years later, the United States Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 564 U.S. 644 (2015) ruled that the fundamental right to marriage is guaranteed to same-sex couples under both the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. All the rights and responsibilities of marriage were then conferred to married couples whether they were same-sex or opposite-sex.

Other rights and benefits of marriage include the entitlement of a portion of a deceased spouse's estate according to intestate laws if that person did not have a will or a trust, and the right to make medical, financial, or legal decisions for an incapacitated spouse. Taking family leave to care for an ill spouse and making funeral and burial arrangements for a deceased spouse are other benefits of marriage. (However, all these rights do not negate the need for estate planning.) Also, depending on the health care insurance plan of an employer, the employee's spouse may be

covered; some employers may also offer life insurance for an employee's spouse.

The road to marriage for same-sex couples has had a lot of twists and turns, and even though it's 2024 and marriage equality is the law of land, the political landscape is such that marriage for our families is on the chopping block for some Supreme Court justices and members of Congress. We must be vigilant to keep these rights. I recommend that couples meet with an attorney about their estate and create a plan that provides the maximum protection for their family.

*This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide any legal advice, and no attorney-client relationship is formed. Mona Smith is licensed to practice law in Washington and California and accepts cases in estate planning and business law.*



# IMAGINE A RADICAL

*"I was enthusiastically run down by every critic of the period."*

*Claude Monet*

# IMAGINE MONET

Created by Annabelle Mauger & Julien Baron

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# OUT NW Washington

## The LGBT Community in Washington

By Galyna\_Andrushko via Envato

# Washington's Pink Power

Washington State's reputation as a haven for diversity and acceptance extends to its LGBTQ community, creating a unique environment where both social progress and economic prosperity find fertile ground. The collective buying power of LGBTQ individuals, affectionately known as the "pink dollar," has transformed Washington's business landscape, influencing everything from consumer trends to state-level policies.

## **Beyond the Numbers: The Diverse LGBTQ Economy**

While national estimates place the LGBTQ community's spending power in the trillions, Washington boasts its own thriving network of LGBTQ-owned businesses and consumers. This network includes a vast spectrum of enterprises – from vibrant restaurants and bars catering to the community to specialized legal, healthcare, and financial service providers. The presence of these businesses demonstrates both

the entrepreneurial spirit within the LGBTQ community and the increasing demand for their unique services.

Moreover, progressive employers across Washington recognize the value of a diverse and inclusive workforce. Companies actively seeking to attract and retain LGBTQ talent signal a commitment to equitable practices. This creates a competitive advantage in recruiting top employees and fostering a workplace environment where everyone can thrive.

## **Local Impact: Community Organizations and Initiatives**

The economic influence of Washington's LGBTQ community reverberates through the dynamic work of advocacy groups and community organizations. Let's explore a few more impactful players:

- Ingersoll Gender Center: A beacon for transgender and gender-diverse individuals,

Ingersoll offers vital support services, community building, and education that translates to economic empowerment and well-being.

- Seattle LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce: Fostering LGBTQ entrepreneurship, this chamber provides resources, mentorship, and advocacy, ensuring small businesses thrive within the state.
- Lifelong : Addressing the health disparities faced by the LGBTQ community, this organization's work in prevention and care strengthens the community both socially and economically.

## **Statewide Support: Policies Fueling Progress**

Washington's government policies frequently mirror the state's commitment to LGBTQ rights, further bolstering the community's economic standing. Examples of this include:



- **Non-discrimination laws:** Comprehensive state protections in employment, housing, and public accommodations create a safer, more equitable environment, allowing LGBTQ individuals to fully participate in the workforce.

- **Tax incentives:** Programs fostering LGBTQ business development in designated areas promote economic revitalization and job creation.

- **Cultural competency training:** Government-funded initiatives for businesses and service providers on LGBTQ-specific needs enhance inclusivity and market reach.

### **The Ripple Effect: Tourism and Beyond**

Washington's LGBTQ-friendly reputation is a magnet for tourism. Major cities like Seattle, with its annual Pride festivities and welcoming atmosphere, attract LGBTQ visitors from across the nation and around the globe. This tourism influx pumps significant revenue into the state's hospitality, retail, and entertainment sectors.

The influence of the LGBTQ community on Washington's economy extends far beyond direct consumer spending. It inspires innovation, encourages an atmosphere of inclusion, and contributes to a vibrant and resilient workforce that benefits all Washingtonians. By embracing diversity and championing equality, Washington State positions itself as both a leader in social progress and an attractive destination for businesses and talent – a testament to the enduring power of the pink dollar.

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# CLOTHING



# Boycotts, Buycotts, and the Bigger Picture:

LGBTQ+ Advocacy Beyond the Bottom Line

Curated Content by the Editors

While the concept of a boycott seems straightforward, its effectiveness within the LGBTQ+ rights movement hinges on careful strategy and recognition of its limitations. It's essential to understand the nuances of economic pressure, acknowledge potential pitfalls, and remember that social progress requires a multifaceted approach.

## **When Boycotts Backfire: The Risks of Entrenching Opposition**

Boycotting companies deeply invested in a discriminatory stance carries a significant risk: it can provide them with a platform to galvanize their opposition. In a hyper-polarized environment, playing to a base that views itself as under attack reinforces the very prejudice these boycotts seek to dismantle. It solidifies divisions, hindering any chance of dialogue and turning potential conversion into unwavering hostility.

Moreover, some businesses may calculate that the financial loss from a boycott is outweighed by the loyalty it generates among a certain segment of consumers.

This emboldens them, turning discrimination into a lucrative business model instead of a social liability.

## **The Power of Persuasion: Untapped Potential**

In instances where misguided corporate leadership, rather than entrenched ideological opposition, is the core issue, a premature boycott risks undermining positive change. Open channels of communication with businesses receptive to evolving their stance – even if that evolution is gradual – can lead to transformative internal changes. These changes impact not only LGBTQ+ customers, but also employees who may feel trapped in an unwelcoming workplace.

## **Harnessing the 'Buycott': Spending as Activism**

Intentional consumerism, the act of deliberately supporting businesses that embody positive values, is a potent tool in its own right. By bolstering LGBTQ+-owned businesses or those with a proven commitment to diversity and inclusion, advocates create a

thriving economic model that others are compelled to emulate to remain competitive. It's the carrot to the boycott's stick – rewarding inclusive behavior while subtly nudging those lagging behind.

### **The Grassroots Bedrock: Organizing for Sustainable Change**

Consumer choices, while impactful, cannot be the sole focus of the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Legislative action, lobbying for stronger anti-discrimination protections, and shifting societal attitudes through education and visibility ultimately create the environment where true corporate accountability becomes the norm. Boycotts make headlines, but the unsung work of grassroots organizing paves the road to lasting progress.

### **Beyond Economic Pressure: The Essential Role of Internal Allies**

LGBTQ+ employees and straight allies within targeted companies can be powerful catalysts for transformation. External pressure

from boycotts should be seen as a way to lend momentum and legitimacy to their internal advocacy efforts. Fostering dialogue between company insiders pushing for reform and those applying pressure from the outside forms a far more effective pincer movement.

### **The Strategic Activist's Toolkit**

In the fight for LGBTQ+ liberation, the boycott is but one tool among many. To wield it effectively, consider these key questions:

- **Goal Clarity:** Is the goal punishment or change? Understanding this determines whether a boycott is the most fitting tactic for that specific instance.
- **Timing and Target:** Will a boycott pressure a company wavering on the edge towards inclusivity or solidify the stance of one fundamentally opposed to LGBTQ+ equality?
- **Collective Action:** Boycotts sustained by broad coalitions

(LGBTQ+ groups, labor unions, consumer rights organizations, etc.) carry far more weight and staying power than those initiated without strong alliances.

- **Alternative Avenues:** Have attempts been made to engage in dialogue? Are there existing allies within the company? Are legislative or community-based solutions being pursued to address the root causes of the boycott-worthy behavior?

### **The Long Game: Social Movements as Multi-pronged Strategies**

While the boycott offers the allure of tangible, immediate action, the battle for LGBTQ+ rights is ultimately won through a comprehensive battle plan. Consumer activism, strategic boycotts, direct communication, community support, legislative victories, and visibility campaigns must work in concert to break down systemic barriers and foster a society where inclusivity is not considered a brave and profitable business choice, but an undeniable, non-negotiable societal expectation.



By David Shankbone

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# Making Queer Progress

An Interview with  
Katie Carter from  
the Pride Foundation

by Anthony Polimeni



This month, as publisher, I sat down with Katie Carter, the chief executive officer at the Pride Foundation . I wanted to personally talk about how money affects us all, especially when we think beyond ourselves. Whether it is our finances, government programs, or community-based support, money can impact our lives in incredible ways that we might not even realize.

## **Pride Foundations Beginnings and Mission**

First, I wanted Katie to introduce the Pride Foundation to our readers, as some may not have heard about it. It was interesting to learn about the organization’s mission, how it started, and who it serves.

“We are the only LGBTQ+ community foundation that serves the Northwest region (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington),” she said, “and our mission is to fuel the transformational movement that advances equity and justice for LGBTQ+ people in all the communities in the Northwest. And really what we envision ... is a world where all LGBTQ+ people live safely and openly as our whole selves and all of the communities that we call home.

“Our work started back in the mid-’80s. We were founded in the midst of the HIV/AIDS crisis, as I’m sure you know all too well... It was a time when members of our community were dying, and there were very few sources ... formal sources of support. That’s [when] the Pride Foundation was birthed, at that moment when some people were passing away and wanted

to return their estates to their community.

“So, we served as a vehicle for that, but we also were one of the only entities then — and unfortunately still now — that was set up to support the ... burgeoning movement of LGBTQ+ and HIV support service groups that were emerging at that time, right? We were able to move resources out to those groups in the community at a time when we were supporting people, when ... often nobody else was.

“That was the history of our mission, and it has continued to be a big part of the work we focus on as we’ve grown over the past almost 40 years. We’re about to celebrate our fortieth anniversary next year.”

## **The Role of a Foundation**

For those of you who might not know the difference between a regular nonprofit and a foundation, the latter are really financial stewards that help manage funds for particular causes or large amounts of money meant to help the community. Nonprofits, on the other hand, normally are the beneficiaries of foundations; they then help put the money to work for the community. With that in mind, Katie explained the role of the Pride Foundation.

“We’re a foundation [in that] we move resources out through grants, scholarships [and] our advocacy work. But we also receive donations, right? We’re a fundraising foundation. We’re driven by our community to make that work happen, so literally the entirety of Pride Foundation exists

because of the generosity of our community...

“That, in turn, enables us to move resources out to support small grassroots organizations, from rural parts of Montana to the far reaches of Alaska to Southern Oregon, and everything in between — supporting QTPOC communities; transgender, [gender-] nonconforming, and nonbinary communities; and folks in rural spaces. Our work is about ensuring we can find all those groups and organizations and [that] they have what they need to thrive...

“Grant-making is a big part of our work, but we also do scholarships and move resources to LGBTQ+ student leaders [in addition to] our community advocacy, research, and education work, which is about shifting [the] culture and transforming narratives in the Northwest to be inhospitable to the kind of anti-LGBTQ legislation and mentalities that we’ve seen become very pervasive.”



## The Work Made Possible by the Pride Foundation

Given how much Pride Foundation gives out every year, I wanted to find out more about the types of projects it supports and if there are any great examples of how this money impacts our community.

“It’s hard to pick one, right?” she replied. “We have over a hundred grantees who are doing incredible work. And I would say they’re all our joy. ... All the groups [are] making incredible, impactful change in different ways in communities that [we] supported last year.

“We shared a video [in which] we featured ... [a] group called Transvisible Montana. They’re the only trans-led ... group in Montana that is really focused on combating what we know is one of the most heinous legislative cycles that we have seen, in Montana and elsewhere. ... They did an



Helen and Omni at the First Drag Time Story Hour Ever in Seward, AK



Tend  
Portland, OR

incredible job of activating the community.

“One of the things that I thought was really powerful was the way that they resisted... a legislature that was a super-majority Republican, right? We weren’t going to win in that legislature, and [bad] things were going to move through, despite our best efforts... [But] there was an incredible amount of perseverance to make sure we were doing everything we could to show up and to testify — ‘we’ being the entirety of the LGBTQ+ community — and all these efforts [were] specifically being led by trans folks there.

“But there were also these incredible acts of resistance that happened, like after a legislative session: it was especially challenging having a sit-in in the legislature where people could gather and scream at the top of their lungs. There’s a really powerful video of people doing this and [trying to convey] the hurt and

harm happening in those halls, as well as the incredible power of the community responding to it. ... That was voicing and naming in that act that, you know, we will not be silent. We will not take this without incredible acts of resistance.

“And they did other amazing things. [A large] exhibit was put on by trans artists in Montana. Transvisible didn’t do that directly; they did it in partnership with other folks and the museum there, but it was happening at the same time as the [legislation]. People had to walk through this incredible art exhibit featuring [portraits] of trans people — all made by trans people — as they were continuing to pass [harmful] legislation. ...

“You know, you think of the more than a hundred groups that we are supporting. That is one example of what is happening in our region and the incredible work that our community does in the face of so much oppression.”

## A True Regional Organization

I mentioned that many people in Seattle see the Pride Foundation and are proud it's in their city, but they rarely get to see the work that it does. Some have said they wished it had more presence in Seattle since its headquarters are there. I asked how the Pride Foundation saw itself and its position. Katie really clarified how the Pride Foundation is structured and operates.

“Technically, our headquarters is here in Seattle, but we have staff and board members in all five states where we work. Most of us, as you can see, [work from our] home offices... We'll continue to have a physical space here in Seattle, but we have staff in Portland, Montana, Idaho, [and] Alaska, and we have at least two board members in each of the states we serve. So we're spread across the region...

“A big part of our work is traveling to different places in our region to be able to have a presence there and then doing lots of outreach to ... communities ... across the region... Our staff retreat is in Anchorage this year; our board and staff retreat will be in Bozeman. This fall, our grant and development teams are doing work across the region and reaching out to organizations.

“Our biggest fundraising event is called ‘Tend!,’ and 5–10 events are planned over the summer. We'll be raising resources for our work in every single state that we're in.

“[But] if people haven't seen [us] lately, a lot of that is because we



did a little travel hiatus during the pandemic. But a big part of our work is actually meeting people where they're at, going to different communities, and understanding what ... might seem similar in Idaho and Montana. ... Similar political realities might look really different in terms of the landscape of the organizations and financial support those groups are facing. [So] we try to get really clear on what that might look like and how we can show up differently in those communities.

“This is a big part of our mission. We've often framed it as: we believe people should be able to be who they are, where they are... [Someone] should not have to leave Tacoma and move to Seattle. Folks should not have to leave Montana and move to Portland in order to find safety and access to services and community. So

much of our work is place-based, grounded in honoring how people are trying to build community and show up for one another in the different places they call [home].”

I found this to be incredibly important to understand . Especially when we think about how much impact it can have beyond our control. Those of us living west of the Cascades are very privileged. Sometimes we forget that, but just because we have our comforts here does not mean that what happens in Montana, Idaho, or Alaska might not impact us.

### Challenges on the Horizon

Katie and I discussed some of the challenges that are coming up. “I won't belabor the reality of the presidential election this year.



You know about that. We know about that,” she said. “But I do want to underscore it’s not just the legislation, right? Like we are in a deeply, deeply, deeply [cultural] backlash against our communities in a really intersectional way... We’re seeing this through the attacks on reproductive justice. We’re seeing this through the attacks on affirmative action. And we’re seeing it through the targeting of LGBTQ+ people and so much [harmful] legislation across the country. Every year since 2020, we’ve had more anti-LGBTQ legislation than has ever existed... There are hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of bills, regardless of whether those [get] passed or not. It is affecting the culture we exist within, and I can’t underscore that point enough.

“We are living during a time when our communities are being targeted

or being attacked. We’re seeing increases in violence in places where this legislation is being introduced, regardless of whether or not it’s being passed. And I want to underscore this, because it is really [creating] a moment where you think about ... [having won] marriage equality and some of the other things that [made it really feel like we would] continue to make progress... , [but] we are in the midst of a backlash.

“It has been setting [a new] tone for our community: to have to be in a sort of reactive mode and ... fight back against this legislation, but it’s hindered us from being able to make further progress on ... economic security ... being able to access housing, being able to find the kind of support services that we need. We recognize the support that trans [and] nonbinary communities need, both in terms

of gender-affirming care and being able to access jobs without fear of discrimination and being in an inclusive workplace — all the things that we know contribute to long-term economic stability.”

We also discussed youth programs and helping those with coming-out and gender-identity challenges, as well as an issue that is not talked about enough: the lack of services and support for aging LGBTQ+ seniors. After coming to understand the enormous scope of work that the Pride Foundation helps support, the question that came to mind was whether there is enough money to help solve and work on these challenges.

### **The Disparities Even in Funding**

“A big part of our work is around engaging LGBTQ+ people and our allies in philanthropy, right?” she replied. “And by philanthropy, I mean helping to resource the groups, organizations, and people who are leading in our communities. We encourage people to do that in any way that [they] can. One of the realities is that on a national scale, when we look at institutional foundations, only 28 cents for every \$100 invested by institutional philanthropy goes to LGBTQ+ communities. That’s not even on par with our prevalence in the community...

“[This is] why Pride Foundation exists. We are one of the only foundations in the Northwest that are intentionally investing in LGBTQ communities. We don’t want to hold that title — we want other partners in this work. We want other people



Northern Idaho Pride with Chelsea



Protect Trans Youth Rally In Boise, ID

... investing alongside us and ensuring that these groups are getting the resources that [they] need. Because, as you know, [these] groups provide incredible support, do incredible work, and do incredible things with hardly any resources. Philanthropy has a role to play ... with the way that foundation funding is moving. But we, as individuals, also have a role to play.”

### **How We Can Make Our Money Impact Our Community**

I shifted the conversation to money. Pride Foundation has a strong portfolio and track record of being an incredible custodian for the community, but I wanted to learn

what the Pride Foundation could ask of us as a community.

“There are different ways we can show up, such as donating directly to organizations,” she answered. “There are often times when we can fund meals and other ways that we can move money directly to individuals...”

“But you know, ensuring that we are showing up in all of the multifaceted ways makes a difference. These organizations will make magic without hardly any resources ... Imagine what they could do if they were well resourced. What if they were thriving right now, and [didn't] have to worry about sustainability from year to year? Not only would those

groups be stronger and more able to support [their] communities, but our communities would be better supported, because these groups often play an incredible role in building ... infrastructure, especially in rural communities.

“So, I encourage people to find groups doing work in their communities [and] support them, volunteer with them, and ask how they can be helpful... We always encourage people to give to the Pride Foundation if they don't know where to donate or where to give. We'll move those resources where they need to go. We do a lot of work building those relationships in different communities. [But] we can ... help get people connected directly to those groups that are meaningful to them in their home communities.”

That really brought together what the Pride Foundation is all about: being a hub for those dollars that don't have a specific direction. If you want your money to stay local, find a charity that does work in your neighborhood. If you have a specific purpose you want to donate your money for, find an organization that does that and support it. But if you want to help move us forward as an entire community through programs that impact those we call neighbors, whether neighboring cities or states, Pride Foundation is the only organization that has the capacity to achieve this.

### **How To Support Pride Foundation and Create Your Legacy**

As for what people can do to help the Pride Foundation grow and make a bigger impact, Katie said,

“There are so many companies in our region that do employee matching. You know, there are a lot of [corporations] in our region who match their employees’ gifts, sometimes up to three times the [donation], which is extraordinary. [The] way of really amplifying your own impact [is] at least doubling your gift and sometimes more. But it also helps ensure that the corporate resources meant to give back to our community are going to places and communities that you care about.

“A really powerful way people can think about supporting their community in the next generation is through financial planning and ... leaving their legacy to the communities that they’re a part of [and] the organizations set up to support those communities.”

Because of legacy planning, the Pride Foundation has been able to do amazing work. For example, Ric Weiland, who amassed a fortune at Microsoft, dedicated \$65 million to 11 LGBTQ+ charities, with the Pride Foundation being one of the recipients.

### **The Collective Economy: Our Community Money**

Giving is for all of us; your money is part of a collective economy that fuels change in our community. No amount is too small, and every dollar allows our community to access care and promotes inclusion and equality. Philanthropy is for everyone.

“Literally, [philanthropy] means ‘the love of humanity,’ right?” Katie added. “It doesn’t mean [just] rich people giving money away; it’s about all of us sharing

the resources we have with one another. Because it’s not about competing and having the most rights — it’s about making sure everybody has everything [they need].”

### **A Special Thank You!**

I want to thank Katie Carter for spending time with me and for all the work she and the incredible team at Pride Foundation do for our community. We know there is still more work to do, but our region is stronger because of the support they provide.

*For more information about the Pride Foundation and the work it does, go to [pridefoundation.org](http://pridefoundation.org).*



Katie Carter  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pride Foundation

# THE CENTER

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# OUT NW Montana



## The LGBT Community in Montana

By Galyna\_Andrushko via Envato

# Montana's Pink Power

Montana's image as the "Treasure State" extends beyond gold and stunning landscapes. The state increasingly harbors a diverse and economically influential LGBTQ community. While often less visible in Montana's more rural areas, this community is expanding, contributing to Montana's economy, and demanding recognition and equity.

## **Beyond the 'Pink Dollar': LGBTQ Economic Impact**

The LGBTQ community isn't merely a market segment; it's a network of individuals, businesses, and consumers. LGBTQ+ Montanans are entrepreneurs, employees, innovators, and taxpayers. Their economic contributions go far beyond just spending habits. Here's how they shape Montana's landscape:

- **LGBTQ-Owned Businesses:** From cafes and bookstores to tech startups, LGBTQ-owned businesses add to the

state's economic vitality. These businesses create jobs, contribute to tax revenues, and often revitalize neighborhoods.

- **Attracting Talent:** Inclusive communities with strong LGBTQ support are more likely to attract and retain skilled workers. This is vital in a state like Montana, where a competitive workforce is essential.

- **Tourism Boost:** Montana's natural beauty draws visitors worldwide. LGBTQ-friendly events like Pride festivals and destinations catering to LGBTQ travelers further enhance the state's tourism sector.

## **Obstacles and Resilience**

The LGBTQ community in Montana, especially in less populated regions, still contends with unique obstacles. These include:

- **Social Isolation:** Limited access to LGBTQ-specific

community centers and events can leave individuals feeling isolated, impacting mental and economic well-being.

- **Healthcare Disparities:** LGBTQ Montanans might face barriers in finding affirming healthcare providers, particularly those specializing in gender-affirming care.

- **Employment Discrimination:** While Montana has some legal protections, LGBTQ individuals might still experience discrimination in hiring and promotion.

## **Organizations Building a Stronger Future**

Despite challenges, a network of dedicated organizations tirelessly work to improve the lives of Montana's LGBTQ community. In addition to those previously mentioned, others include:

- **The Trevor Project (Montana):** Offers crisis intervention

and suicide prevention services specifically tailored to LGBTQ youth.

- **Gender Spectrum (Montana):** Provides education, training, and support to families, educators, and professionals working with gender-expansive children and teens.
- **The Montana ACLU:** A crucial defender of civil liberties, including fighting for LGBTQ+ rights in courts and legislatures.

### **Investing in Equality**

Supporting programs that uplift the LGBTQ community isn't simply about social justice; it's sound economic strategy. Here's how Montana can capitalize on its LGBTQ potential:

- **Statewide Non-Discrimination Protections:** Ensure LGBTQ Montanans have equal opportunities in housing, employment, and public accommodations.
- **Funding for LGBTQ+ Health Initiatives:** Expand access to affirming physical and mental healthcare, addressing the specific needs of the community.
- **Education and Awareness Campaigns:** Promote understanding and reduce stigma surrounding LGBTQ identities within Montana's schools and communities.

### **The Future of Montana**

Montana's future rests on its ability to embrace all its residents. By recognizing the economic power of the LGBTQ community, investing in essential programs, and fostering an environment of inclusivity, Montana positions itself for long-term success. A Montana where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered to contribute is a Montana poised to thrive.



# The Biggest Purchase!

Rent or Buy?  
When and How?

by Patrick Beringer





## Is it better to buy a home or rent?

Either way, you're paying someone's mortgage — yours or theirs. Here are some things to think about as you compare options:

- **Up-front costs:** One of the most significant differences between renting and buying is the initial cost. When renting, you typically pay a security deposit and perhaps the first and last month's rent. Buying, on the other hand, typically requires a down payment of 5–20% of the purchase price (depending on your loan product), around 1–3% in closing costs, ongoing mortgage payments, and, of course, taxes and insurance. Condos also come with HOA dues. In some markets, renting is cheaper than buying, but long-term, owning a property is usually more beneficial.
- **Equity and appreciation:** Buying a home allows you to build equity over time, as your property's value may appreciate. Renting doesn't offer this potential for wealth accumulation, but it can be a more flexible option if your job changes and you need to move to another town quickly.
- **Tax implications:** Homeowners can often benefit from tax deductions, such as for mortgage interest and property taxes. Renters typically do not have access to these deductions.
- **Flexibility:** It's easier to move when renting, making it a better option for those who anticipate changes in their lives or careers.
- **Home customization:** Owning a home allows you to personalize your living space to your liking, whereas renters may have limitations imposed by their landlords.
- **Maintenance:** While renters can rely on landlords for repairs, homeowners are responsible for maintaining their property.
- **Freedom:** Owning your home means only the government (and the HOA, if applicable) can place restrictions on your use. Renting typically will come with more oversight on how you can use the property (pet limits, roommates, etc.).
- **Real estate market:** The state of the real estate market plays a significant role in the rent vs. buy decision. Right now, we're seeing higher interest rates and lower inventory, which makes it more difficult for buyers.
- **Long-term vs. short-term:** If you plan to stay in one location for at least five years, buying might make more sense. If not, renting might be the better option.
- **Financial stability:** Assess your financial situation, including your credit score, savings, and monthly income. Make sure you can comfortably afford homeownership, including mortgage payments and related expenses.
- **Goals and timeline:** Determine your long-term goals. Consider factors like family plans, career stability, and lifestyle preferences.
- **Consult experts:** Talk to your real estate agent and lender about your options.

There are advantages and disadvantages to both renting and buying, and the key is to make a decision that aligns with your long-term goals and financial capacity.

# SFLGBT CENTER

## BUILDING AN EQUITABLE WORLD FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE



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- Youth Services
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# OUT NW

## Northern California

**The LGBT Community in Northern California**

By wirestock via Envato

# California's Pink Power

California has long been at the forefront of LGBTQ rights, not just legally and socially, but also by recognizing and actively supporting the economic influence of its diverse LGBTQ community. This progressive approach sets a powerful example for other states across the nation.

## The Numbers Speak for Themselves

Let's delve into the compelling statistics that highlight the significant economic impact of California's LGBTQ community:

- **Consumer Spending:** LGBTQ Californians hold a remarkable collective purchasing power exceeding \$1 trillion annually. This vast spending power translates into substantial support for businesses spanning a wide range of industries, from retail and hospitality to technology and professional services.

- **Entrepreneurship:** California fosters a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem where LGBTQ-owned businesses thrive. These enterprises inject innovation, create jobs, and drive economic growth at the local and state levels.

- **Tourism Magnet:** California's reputation as an LGBTQ-friendly destination attracts queer travelers from around the world. This influx of tourism dollars stimulates the hospitality industry, benefiting hotels, restaurants, and cultural attractions across the state.

## State Initiatives: Paving the Way for LGBTQ Economic Success

California's government demonstrates its firm commitment to LGBTQ economic empowerment through a suite of programs and policies designed to level the playing field:

- **Office of the Small Business**

**Advocate (CalOSBA):** This dedicated office extends tailored support services, certification resources, and access to financing opportunities specifically for LGBTQ businesses. This helps ensure their full participation in the state's economic development.

- **LGBT Business Enterprise Certification:** This valuable certification provides a gateway for LGBTQ-owned businesses to bid on government contracts, boosting their visibility and establishing their credibility within California's vast marketplace.

- **Targeted Funding and Support:** Through grants, mentorship programs, and technical assistance initiatives, California channels financial resources directly into the LGBTQ business community. These programs are often designed to address unique challenges faced by LGBTQ entrepreneurs.

## The Power of Advocacy: Key Organizations

California's robust network of advocacy organizations plays a vital role in shaping the state's economic landscape and securing a more equitable future for its LGBTQ residents. Here are a few influential players:

- **Equality California:** The state's largest LGBTQ civil rights organization serves as a tireless advocate for legislation and policies that promote economic inclusivity, fight wage discrimination, and create a more welcoming business climate.
- **National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC):** The NGLCC amplifies the voices of LGBTQ businesses on a national scale. It provides crucial networking opportunities, valuable resources, and certification support, empowering LGBTQ entrepreneurs across California.
- **Local LGBTQ Chambers of Commerce:** These regionally focused organizations serve as community hubs for LGBTQ business owners and professionals throughout California cities and towns. They provide vital support services, targeted advocacy, and a strong sense of local connection.

## Investing in LGBTQ Economic Equity: Benefits for All

California's inclusive approach to LGBTQ economic development extends far beyond the community itself:

- **Economic Prosperity:** A flourishing LGBTQ business sector

directly translates into a stronger, more resilient state economy that benefits all Californians.

- **Job Creation:** When LGBTQ-owned businesses succeed and expand, they create new employment opportunities for a diverse workforce, fostering a more inclusive job market.
- **Attracting Talent:** California's reputation for inclusivity acts as a magnet for highly skilled and innovative LGBTQ individuals from across the country and beyond. This influx of talent enriches the state's diverse workforce and supports a thriving business climate.
- **A More Just Society:** Championing LGBTQ economic empowerment demonstrates California's dedication to social justice and equality of opportunity. It sends a powerful message that all residents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, deserve the chance to succeed.

## The Road Ahead: Areas for Continued Growth

While California continues to be a leader in fostering LGBTQ economic success, opportunities for further progress exist:

- **Expanding Access to Capital:** Initiatives focused on increasing access to start-up funds, loans, and investment opportunities for LGBTQ entrepreneurs are crucial, especially for those from marginalized communities who may experience additional barriers.
- **Addressing Intersectionality:** Programs and policies must be designed with an understanding of

the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender identity, disability, and socioeconomic status within the LGBTQ community. Targeted programs ensure no one is left behind.

- **Data-Driven Strategies:** Collecting comprehensive data on LGBTQ-owned businesses and economic trends will empower policymakers to implement evermore effective and impactful support programs.

California's unwavering commitment to cultivating the economic success of its LGBTQ citizens reflects both its progressive values and a recognition of the sound economic benefits this investment yields. By promoting equality, removing barriers, and providing targeted support, the state ensures its economy thrives with the contributions of all its diverse and talented residents.





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# OUT NW Idaho

## The LGBT Community in Idaho

By mcmastrmj721503 from Vecteezy

# Idaho's Pink Power

While the LGBTQ community in Idaho represents a growing demographic with substantial economic influence, its full potential remains constrained by social barriers and a lack of targeted support. Understanding this complex landscape is crucial for businesses and policymakers who seek to create a truly inclusive and thriving environment within the state.

## **Beyond Buying Power: Challenges and Disparities**

The LGBTQ consumer market holds immense promise for Idaho businesses. Not only does this community tend to have higher disposable income, but its members are also often trendsetters in various industries. However, focusing solely on economic power obscures the stark realities faced by many LGBTQ individuals in Idaho.

Discrimination in employment, housing, and even accessing

essential services like healthcare remains a persistent issue. This discrimination fuels disparities in mental health outcomes, with LGBTQ Idahoans experiencing higher rates of depression, anxiety, and substance abuse than their heterosexual and cisgender counterparts.

## **The Role of Advocacy and Support**

Organizations like Add the Words, Idaho, the Idaho Pride Foundation, and others tirelessly advocate for policy changes and provide direct support to the LGBTQ community. Their work includes fighting for legal protections, increasing visibility through events such as Boise Pride, and establishing safe spaces on college campuses.

However, insufficient funding poses a significant obstacle. Limited resources can translate to inadequate healthcare access—particularly for transgender individuals seeking gender-

affirming treatments—and reduced capacity to address the mental health needs of the LGBTQ population. Furthermore, LGBTQ-owned businesses may struggle to secure loans or compete for contracts due to a lack of specific support networks.

## **A Roadmap for Inclusion and Economic Growth**

To unlock the full economic potential of Idaho's LGBTQ community while ensuring equitable treatment, a multi-faceted approach is crucial:

- **Legal Safeguards:** The most fundamental step is the expansion of Idaho's Human Rights Act to explicitly protect individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This would provide vital legal recourse against discrimination in key areas of life.
- **Understanding the Community:** State-supported initiatives to collect comprehensive



data about Idaho's LGBTQ demographics would allow for targeted policy interventions and more effective resource allocation.

- **The Power of the Private Sector:** Businesses can play a pivotal role by implementing LGBTQ-inclusive employment policies and marketing strategies. This signals both support for the community and savvy economic sense by recognizing a significant consumer base.
- **Philanthropic and Government Support:** Boosting funding for LGBTQ organizations through private donations and targeted government grants is essential. This would enable the expansion of vital programs supporting mental health, legal advocacy, and community safety.

### **The Benefits of True Inclusion**

Idaho stands to gain immensely from the full participation of its LGBTQ citizens. An inclusive, equitable environment fosters a sense of belonging that can retain skilled workers, attract innovative businesses, and promote a vibrant cultural landscape. The economic benefits are undeniable, but perhaps more importantly, such a shift ensures that all Idahoans have the opportunity to thrive regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

**Disclaimer:** Sensitivity to the ongoing struggle for LGBTQ rights in Idaho is paramount. An honest assessment of economic factors must never overshadow the fundamental human right to live freely and with dignity.





## A Journey of Resilience, Ongoing Challenges, and the Blueprint for Equitable Support

Curated Content by the Editors

The LGBTQ+ seniors of today are pioneers. Having navigated decades of societal shifts, they possess a unique brand of strength tempered by the complexities of their lived experiences.

While historic victories in legal and social recognition have undoubtedly improved conditions for this generation, navigating the landscape of aging presents additional hurdles that demand tailored solutions and a renewed commitment to inclusivity.

### **Barriers Beyond the Obvious: The Invisible Weight**

- **Social Stigma's Hidden Cost:** Even after coming out, many LGBTQ+ seniors carry the psychological scars of years spent concealing their identities. This internalized shame and fear of rejection

can prevent them from seeking out care or building meaningful connections, even in environments perceived as more accepting.

- **The “Double Closet” of Aging:** Ageism can compound existing prejudice. LGBTQ+ seniors may feel pressure to retreat back into the closet for fear of discrimination within senior-focused social circles, healthcare settings, or assisted living facilities. This forced isolation amplifies existing risks of mental health struggles and reluctance to access services.
- **Navigating Systems as a “Non-Traditional” Older Adult:** \*\* Forms, benefits programs, and legal frameworks are often designed around the assumption of a heterosexual, cisgender, nuclear family

model. LGBTQ+ seniors may face confusing paperwork, denial of rights when caring for a partner who lacks legal recognition, or insensitive interactions with service providers who misinterpret their relationships.

### **Beyond City Limits: Rural Realities and Urban Inequalities**

- **Out of Sight, Out of Mind:** Small towns and rural communities may lack visible LGBTQ+ networks, forcing older individuals to choose between living authentically and potential ostracization, or hiding their identities to access necessary medical and social services. Limited transportation options further amplify this isolation.

- **The High Cost of Acceptance:** Even in major metropolitan areas, LGBTQ+ seniors struggle to find affordable senior housing that feels truly inclusive and welcoming. The risk of discrimination or encountering staff untrained in LGBTQ+ cultural competency can leave seniors feeling unwelcome in traditional housing options.

### **The Enduring Impact of HIV/AIDS: Financial Strain and Healthcare Complexities**

The battle for many HIV+ LGBTQ+ seniors is far from over. Their resilience, however, does not shield them from the lasting repercussions of the epidemic:

- **The Cost of Survival:** Ongoing management of HIV requires medications, frequent specialist visits, and potentially the need for disability support – costs that strain already limited incomes. Those with long-term HIV may also face unique health challenges including organ damage, neurological conditions, or an increased propensity for certain cancers.
- **The Trauma That Lingers:** Witnessing the devastation of AIDS within their community has left deep emotional scars. Survivors' guilt, PTSD, and complicated grief require specialized mental healthcare, but these services are not always tailored to the experiences of long-term HIV+ individuals.

### **The Vision: A Future Where LGBTQ+ Seniors Thrive**

True equity means ensuring that LGBTQ+ older adults not only survive, but have the resources and environment to live fulfilling lives. Here's how we get there:

- **Policy as Protection:** Legal protections specifically addressing LGBTQ+ senior care must be expanded. This includes the right to have chosen support persons (including same-sex partners) involved in medical decisions and the guarantee of inclusive visitation policies in long-term care settings.
- **Reimagining Senior Housing:** The development of affordable, LGBTQ+-affirming senior housing complexes is crucial. Models that encourage intergenerational living offer benefits for reducing isolation among both young queer individuals and older LGBTQ+ residents.
- **Culturally Competent Care:** Mandatory training on LGBTQ+ aging and the creation of health centers specializing in the unique needs of this community are essential. Focus must also include addressing the mental health burdens faced by LGBTQ+ elders, both within primary care settings and via accessible, specialized therapy when needed.

**Community as a Lifeline:** Beyond dedicated LGBTQ+ senior centers, wider social service agencies require training in creating welcoming environments. Programs that bridge divides,

such as those pairing seniors with younger LGBTQ+ volunteers or initiatives specifically geared towards LGBTQ+ individuals of color or transgender elders, further strengthen support networks.

### **A Legacy of Change: Empowering the Next Generation**

LGBTQ+ seniors have earned the right to a fulfilling final chapter. By addressing these challenges head-on we invest in a more just present and create the blueprint for the next generation of LGBTQ+ elders to age with dignity, security, and the unwavering support of their community.



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# Quickies

Quickies are short summaries of stories from OutNW.com. You can scan the QR Code to read the full article or use the link. These shorties give you a quick sip for what the tea is all about.

## In Case You Missed It Events & News from the Region

Out NW Website has all the News Articles, Events and more.

Visit Out NW News Facebook page and website!



## Bianca Del Rio Returns to the PNW This Month with 'Dead Inside'

By MK Scott

Rupaul's Drag Race Season 6 winner, Bianca Del Rio is back in the PNW this April and she is looking forward to this and she says the [PNW] audience is the best. She told me about this past week via Zoom, "Well, I have to say, it's usually the audiences. I mean, you guys get wild. I've been lucky enough, as you had mentioned earlier, for me to come in and do a couple of theatrical productions. I've also, with Peaches Christ, I've also done National Treasures with my group of old gals, some drag legends. Not me, I was just the host. And then I've been, this is my sixth world tour that I've traveled in, so I've been there quite a few times."

## Daydream State Announces Capitol Hill Block Party 2024 Festival Lineup

By MK Scott

Today, Daydream State announced the lineup of performers for its 26th annual Capitol Hill Block Party (CHBP) music and arts festival. Scheduled for July 19-21 in the heart of Capitol Hill in the Pike/Pine corridor, this year's headliners will include Grammy-winning producer Kaytranada, electropop superstar Kim Petras, and indie rock group Still Woozy.



## WorldMark Offers '90s Movie-Themed Vacation Package to Celebrate 25th Anniversary of "10 Things I Hate About You"

By MK Scott

Vacation club brand WorldMark commemorates the 25th anniversary of the popular 1999 rom-com "10 Things I Hate About You" with a special vacation package. For a limited time, movie-lovers can book a discounted stay at WorldMark – The Camlin in Seattle, Washington (where the movie takes place), and receive plenty of in-suite freebies to inspire serious '90s nostalgia.



## SGN decries unconstitutional censorship in Ocean Shores library (UPDATE: Library Has Corrected Their Actions)

Repost and commented by MK Scott, Original by Renee Raketty of SNG

I was stunned to hear that censorship has hit the westside of the cascades. Our contributor and colleague, Renee Raketty, who is back at the Seattle Gay News as Editor, penned an Op-Ed in this week's issue of SGN about the City of Ocean Shores, WA using their influence on censored copies of the SGN from view at the Ocean Shores Public Library. The following is the Op-ed by Raketty that is published in the current issue.

## Brooks Running Announces CEO Transition

From Business Wire

Brooks Running Company today announced Jim Weber will step down as Chief Executive Officer after 23 years in the position. Dan Sheridan, who currently serves as President and Chief Operating Officer, will become Brooks' next CEO, effective April 26, 2024.



## Allen Fitzpatrick Returns to Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre for Some Madcap Fun in Something's Afoot

BY MK Scott

As an avid musical historian, I admit I hadn't heard of James McDonald, David Voss, and Robert Gerlach's Something's Afoot from 1972, but as soon as I found out that it was a parody of Agatha Christie's And There Were None, I was intrigued.

I hadn't had the desire to see a show at the 5th Avenue in years (West Side Story in 2019 was the last one I saw), but the ensemble cast of Seattle's A-list talent is what got my attention, including Sarah Rudinoff, Brandon O'Neil, Adam Standley, Anne Allgood, and Allen Fitzpatrick.

## Going Green! Tom Lisanti On His New Book, Ryan's Hope: An Oral History of Daytime's Groundbreaking Soap

By MK Scott

With this being St Patrick's Day, I wanted to remind people that there once was a soap that would be celebrating the holiday in the most festive way possible. Even when the show, Ryan's Hope (1975-1989), after 13 years, went off the air. Who could forget the show's matriarch, Maeve Ryan (Played by Broadway legend, Helen Gallagher) singing the song, "Danny Boy" as the last frame faded to black.



## Dear James Part 2: My Country

By Sif

TV in front of me. Lights off, early summer. Fading light. Lilac and cut grass...

The plain-spoken audacity of the title had sucked me in originally, but the man himself — James Baldwin — had kept me there, transfixed, for those ninety-or-so minutes that I watched the documentary I Am Not Your Negro.

## All of Us Strangers buys into tropes of tragic queer lives – but there is hope there, too

By OpenSource

On the surface, All of Us Strangers, directed by Andrew Haigh, is a dark and twisty love story. Underneath, there is the often-present storyline seen in queer cinema: that of trauma and tragedy.

All of Us Strangers follows lonely middle-aged gay man Adam (Andrew Scott), struggling to come to terms with his tragic past and sexuality. Adam is a screenwriter, attempting to use his craft to work through his trauma, but his solitary life is interrupted by his new neighbour Harry (Paul Mescal).



## Get Paid for Your Quickies!

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\*All decisions on selected Quickies is made by the editorial staff at OutNW. Submissions of stories and articles are non-paid and voluntary and must follow the terms and conditions of OutNW.

# What is **identity**

ADVANCING ALASKA'S LGBTQIA2S+ COMMUNITY

*We're an Alaskan-based non-profit LGBTQIA2S+ Health Clinic and Community Center*



## What we offer



**No barrier trauma informed health care**



**Gender affirming care**



**General wellness**



**Programs for youth, adults, and seniors!**



**Community Discord Server**

*24/7 safe space moderated by staff and volunteers*



**Year-round free community events**

*HallowQueer Carnival, Camp Identity, Movie Nights, Gayme Nights, and more!*



**Alaska Rainbow Elders**

*Community and Opportunity for LGBTQIA2S+ Elders*



**TransParent**

*Support group for parents/guardians of gender expansive youth*

**Learn more at [identityalaska.org](https://identityalaska.org)**



# OUT NW Alaska

## The LGBT Community in Alaska

By Malisunshine via Envato

# Alaska's Pink Power

Alaska, with its image of vast wilderness and independent spirit, might seem an unlikely place for a thriving LGBTQ community. Yet, beneath the surface, there's a dynamic group of individuals fostering a sense of belonging, driving economic impact, and working tirelessly towards greater inclusion.

## **The Economic Influence of LGBTQ Alaskans**

- **Diverse Professions:** LGBTQ individuals are found across all of Alaska's economic sectors. From the bustling cities to fishing villages, they work as educators, healthcare professionals, artists, entrepreneurs, and in countless other roles, contributing to the state's economic vitality.

- **Supporting Inclusive Businesses:** LGBTQ Alaskans understand the power of their purchasing decisions. They purposefully support businesses demonstrating values of fairness

and equality, fostering a market where inclusivity is rewarded.

- **The Lure of LGBTQ-Friendly Destinations:** Certain Alaskan towns and cities are gaining reputations as welcoming destinations for LGBTQ travelers. This niche tourism brings valuable revenue to local economies, particularly to those businesses catering to diverse clientele.

## **Organizational Pillars: Advocacy and Community**

A network of dedicated organizations forms the backbone of support for Alaska's LGBTQ community:

- **Youth-Centered Organizations:** Groups like Identity, Inc. are crucial in providing safe havens for LGBTQ youth. These spaces offer mentorship, mental health resources, and a lifeline to young people who may be struggling with their identities in less accepting environments.

- **Expanding Across the State:** While major centers like Anchorage and Juneau have stronger support structures, organizations like Fairbanks PFLAG and SEALASKA bring advocacy and resources to more remote regions of Alaska.

- **Legal Champions:** The Alaska ACLU remains a staunch defender of LGBTQ rights. They've played key roles in landmark cases establishing marriage equality and fighting against workplace discrimination.

## **Sources of Support: Funding and Allies**

The fight for LGBTQ equality in Alaska is fueled by a variety of funding sources and vital allies:

- **Grant Programs:** Foundations like the Rasmuson Foundation and the Pride Foundation provide crucial funding for projects addressing LGBTQ health disparities, economic empowerment initiatives, and community-building efforts.

- **The Role of Higher Education:** Alaska's universities are increasingly becoming centers for LGBTQ inclusion. They offer scholarships, safe zones, and educational programming that raises awareness and fosters a more welcoming climate for LGBTQ students.

- **Corporate Responsibility:** More companies, from national chains to local businesses, understand the value of LGBTQ-inclusive workplaces. They provide benefits tailored to LGBTQ employees, sponsor Pride events, and contribute to community programs.

### **Challenges and Resilience in the Last Frontier**

Alaska's diverse geography and sometimes conservative social pockets present unique obstacles for the LGBTQ community. Access to specialized healthcare, particularly for transgender individuals, remains limited outside of major cities. Additionally, LGBTQ youth in rural areas might lack the local support networks readily available in urban centers.

However, the Alaskan LGBTQ community demonstrates remarkable resilience. Activists continue to build alliances, push for anti-discrimination policies statewide, and lead educational outreach efforts that are slowly breaking down barriers. This growing visibility, coupled with the community's economic influence, creates a powerful force for positive social change within the state.

### **Looking Ahead: A More Inclusive Alaska**

The future of Alaska's LGBTQ community is one of cautious optimism. As younger generations demonstrate greater acceptance and as businesses seek to attract diverse talent, the momentum for inclusivity continues to build. Empowered by a growing sense of community, exercising their economic influence, and supported by a network of dedicated organizations, Alaska's LGBTQ individuals are shaping a future where they can live, work, and thrive with dignity in the land they call home.



# '24 Regional

## National LGBTQ+ Awareness and Observed Days

### April

April 6: International Asexuality Day  
April 10: National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
Third Friday of April: Day of Silence  
April 18: National Transgender HIV Testing Day  
April 18: Nonbinary Parents Day  
April 26: Lesbian Visibility Day

### May

First Sunday In May: International Family Equality Day  
**May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**  
May 19: National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
May 22: Harvey Milk Day  
May 24: Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day

### June

**June: LGBTQ Pride Month**  
June 1: LGBTQ Families Day  
June 12: Pulse Remembrance  
June 15: Anniversary of U.S. Supreme Court Bostock decision expanding protections to LGBTQ employees  
June 26: Anniversary of U.S. Supreme Court legalizing marriage equality  
June 27: National HIV Testing Day  
**June 28: Stonewall Day**  
June 30: Queer Youth of Faith Day

### July

Week of July 14: Nonbinary Awareness Week, culminates in International Nonbinary People's Day on July 14  
July 16: International Drag Day

### August

August 14: Gay Uncles Day  
August 20: Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### September

September 18: National HIV/AIDS & Aging Awareness Day  
Week of September 23: Bisexual+ Awareness Week, culminates in Celebrate Bisexuality Day on September 23  
September 27: National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

### October

**October: LGBTQ History Month**  
October 8: International Lesbian Day  
**October 11: National Coming Out Day**  
October 15: National Latinx HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
October 19: National LGBT Center Awareness Day  
Third Wednesday in October: International Pronouns Day  
Third Thursday in October: Spirit Day  
Last week in October: Asexual Awareness Week

October 26: Intersex Awareness Day

### November

First Sunday of November: Transgender Parent Day  
November 13 – 19: Transgender Awareness Week  
November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

### December

**December 1: World AIDS Day**  
December 8: Pansexual/Panromantic Pride Day  
December 14: HIV Cure Research Day

Source:  
<https://glaad.org/reference/calendar/>

# Calendar

## Pacific Northwest Prides

Preliminary dates that have been set for 2024.

### Oregon

Portland Pride  
July 20-21, 2024

Southern Oregon Pride  
October 5, 2024

Astoria Pride  
June 6-9, 2024

Albany Pride  
June 22, 2024

### Washington

Seattle Pride  
June 29-30, 2024

Tacoma Pride  
July 13, 2024\*

Spokane Pride  
June 8, 2024

Clark County Pride  
June 2, 2024

### Montana

Missoula Pride  
June 14-16, 2024

### Northern California

San Francisco Pride  
June 29-30, 2024

Sacramento Pride  
June 8-9, 2024

Sonoma County Pride  
June 1-2, 2024\*

Silicon Valley Pride  
August 24-25, 2024

Oakland Pride  
September 8, 2024

Monterey Peninsula Pride  
June 29-30, 2024

Redding Pride  
June 1, 2024\*

### Idaho

Northern Idaho Pride  
June 1, 2024\*

Boise Pride  
September 6-9, 2024\*

Twin Falls Pride  
June 8, 2024

### Alaska

Anchorage Pride  
June 22-29, 2024

Seaward Pride  
June 7-9, 2024

Skagway Pride Celebration  
June 1, 2024

Underground Pride  
July 24, 2024

**\*Based on previous calendar dates. Check their official websites for accurate information and changes.**



# Call to Action

Money, Money, Money. It is on most people's minds all the time. It makes the world go round, as it is said. As a former financial planner, I understand its importance in our lives, the impact it can have, and the negatives it can bring when you don't have enough. This month's Call to Action is about being responsible people to ourselves, our families, and our communities.

First, you must be responsible for yourself. This means sometimes putting yourself first and not always in the ways you think. It might mean going out with friends a little less to save money, being a conscious shopper, or standing up for what you are worth at work. At the end of the day, your bank account balance is what keeps you fed, clothed, and housed. The bright side to it is that when we learn to adult well, we can take breaks and enjoy the fruits of our labors more without guilt. Remember, financial responsibility also includes taking care of yourself and your needs, not just your financial obligations.

Next is responsibility to Family. This doesn't have to mean blood; if you don't have strong relationships with your natural family, your chosen family means just as much to you. Responsibility is being there and supporting one another, whether financially or emotionally. Sometimes, just dedicating time is enough. How many of you really value the people who help you move? Come on, these are the keepers of our lives. They are also there for the moments of change, too. They celebrate a promotion at work or a new job and are a shoulder to lean on or an ear to vent to when things are going well. These people are worth way more than any dollar figure. These connections are priceless.

And once you have yourself and your family solid, focus on community. The LGBTQ+ community is always at a disadvantage. From trying to survive the AIDS crisis of the '80s and '90s to fighting for the right to work and get married and now trying to make sure all of the spectrum of our community has equal rights, we are always behind as a community. Don't get it wrong; we are one of the wealthiest groups when it comes to individuals, but ultimately, we end up short when it comes to internal equity and who has what. This doesn't mean you have to donate your entire paycheck or do big gifts. One of the best ways to really make an impact is to have your money matched by your employer. Just talk to your HR people and see if they do charity matching. If you can't afford to donate, volunteer. Every hour a person volunteers makes a huge difference in the community.

Finally, I want to return to personal responsibility. Never be ashamed to ask for help. So often, we are afraid of what people will think if we need a helping hand. Many have gone hungry, homeless, and jobless because of pride. This is not the type of pride that should be celebrated. Having pride in yourself means knowing when you need assistance to get you through to the other side. I, for one, have asked for help. If it weren't for my friends letting me couch surf and rebuild myself, I would have never found the courage to do it for me. It would have been easy to move home, but I dared to go through the struggles and accepted help from my friends. It has helped me form my role and responsibilities to other people for the rest of my life.

In closing, the change in your pocket really is the change we can make in the world. No amount of change in one's life is too small to make a difference.

Anthony Polimeni, Publisher of Out NW

# OUTNW

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Queer Publishing Inc.

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