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ON THE COVER: Sen. Jeremy Moss at Urbanrest Brewing Company in Ferndale. Photo: Andrew Potter

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Publisher's Letter

Being queer in Michigan, we've got a lot to celebrate this Pride season.

The amendment passed last March expanded the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) to protect the LGBTQ+ community and bookended 50 years of work and progress – though not always linear – in our state.

Despite the progress we have achieved, it is crucial to remain engaged and vigilant, recognizing that there is still more work to be done. Here in Michigan and throughout America, it's clear that conservative forces seek to walk back our advancements toward acceptance, equality and basic human rights, wielding underhanded tactics and perpetuating outdated narratives to marginalize trans, non-binary and genderqueer individuals.

In this year's edition of Pride Source Magazine, we proudly showcase Michigan's first gay state senator, delve into the journey leading to the historic amendment of the ELCRA, explore Lansing's rich history as a center for queer activism and celebrate drag and trans lives through the lens of a Detroit queer filmmaker's latest work..

Additionally, our Pride Source Equality Vendors directory features over 950 businesses and organizations throughout the state who actively support and uplift the LGBTQ+ community, often fostering inclusive spaces.

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Michigan Sen. Jeremy Moss at Urbanrest Brewing Company in Ferndale. Photo: Andrew Potter

Here, Queer and He Doesn't Care If You Get Used To It

Why Michigan's First Openly Gay State Senator Isn't Letting Up, Even After a Series of Wins

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

In a way, Michigan Sen. Jeremy Moss is a throwback to the kind of classic Michigan Democrat that led to the state's reputation as a union-driven, blue-collar mainstay on the national stage in the latter half of the 20th century. His matter-of-fact State House speeches have won him several national headlines not because they are the fiery, soundbyte-laden stuff late-night cable news hosts love so much, but because they are so earnest. Moss, who has lived in Southfield his whole life, says what he means and means what he says. If that's not a sentiment true of the spirit of this state, it's hard to imagine what would be.

At the same time — Moss, at a solidly Millennial age of 36, is just as much a product of his generation as he is a product of his blue-collar upbringing. He's vocal on social media and well-versed in the modern culture wars. And yes, he's openly gay.

No, he doesn't shy away from that part of his identity. In fact, he wields his queerness in a way that immediately discredits absurd Republican claims about the LGBTQ+

community. He's loud, he's proud and he really doesn't care if you get used to it or not. He's got work to do.

"There was a moment, when I was younger, where I realized I'm never not going to be gay," says Moss, who was elected to the state Senate in 2018, making him the first openly gay person to serve in the Michigan legislature. "This is gonna be me for the rest of my life, and it's never going to change, so I have to live authentically, as who I am. If it's not me at that microphone in the Senate, it's nobody at that microphone in the Senate."

Moss's (very) early political aspirations

Moss may have been born for this role. As childhood friend Lizzie Seagle, who lives in Detroit, recalls, Moss was "super into" politics and politicians even at a very young age. The two went to the same school from first through eighth grade. Seagle says, "Everyone knew he was the kid most likely to become president. His bar mitzvah theme was even 'Moss for Boss,' like a political campaign. Loving politics and loving 'I Love Lucy' were his thing. In hindsight, it's hilarious that a child had such a keen interest in those things."

Seagle remembers sitting in her second grade classroom when Moss broke the somber news that former President Richard

Nixon had died. She describes it as the exact moment she found out who Nixon was. "Jeremy walked into our second grade classroom and announced to the whole class that he had died, as if anyone else in the second grade had any interest in, or even knowledge of, Richard Nixon."

"He's always been passionate about politics, and it's so awesome to watch him actually carry out his childhood dream and make a difference in state government," Seagle adds. "It's especially meaningful to see him proudly represent both the queer community and Jewish community."

Fast forward a few decades and Moss, currently serving as Assistant Democratic Leader in the state Senate, is happy to rattle off the list of wins the party has chalked up since flipping the State House for the first time in more than four decades last November — he just asks that people remember it's been a group effort among various stakeholders, including non-profit organizations, constituents and the legislature.

The crowning achievement so far may be the much-anticipated Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) amendment, which expanded civil rights protections to Michigan's LGBTQ+ community. Moss crafted the legislation alongside Rep. Jason Hoskins (D-Southfield), the first openly gay Black state rep, who Moss frequently refers to as someone who has been his "right-



Moss on the Senate floor. Courtesy photo

“You have to have faith in reasonable people... and Michiganders rejected the hatred and bigotry and embraced our community.”

hand man” throughout Moss’s journey to the State Senate.

Like Moss, Hoskins started his political career on the Southfield City Council and then went on to become a state representative. Hoskins is currently serving his first term representing Michigan’s 18th district, while Moss served as the representative for the 35th district before being elected to the Senate. “I’m so grateful for his leadership and his friendship over the years as they have had a profound impact on my life and I don’t think I would be where

I am now without him,” Hoskins says.

Hoskins describes Moss as “the rare kind of leader who not only lifts up our community but, through a network of advocates and allies, has fostered a sense of solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.”

Moss, Hoskins adds, has been unwavering in his defense of the LGBTQ+ community against hateful rhetoric for years. “It serves as an inspiration to us all, reminding us that true leadership emerges from authenticity, empathy and a relentless pursuit of a better world for everyone.”

The ELCRA amendment is one of several highly impactful progressive accomplishments. In the first quarter of 2023, the legislature also put bills in front of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer that struck down Michigan’s archaic abortion law, ended the anti-union right to work era, implemented the first real gun control legislation in a generation, and the list goes on.

Watching Trump’s influence on Michigan GOP leaders

Moss’s focus on progressive goals is partly an effort to move forward on issues due for a recalibration, like the ELCRA amendment and access to abortion. But it’s also a repudiation of the lingering impact of the Trump administration. Moss remembers watching the Republican party become beholden to the former president when he was serving as a state rep representing Michigan’s 35th district from 2015 to 2019.

“When he came down those escalators and announced his campaign, I can tell you, no Republican in the legislature wanted



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Sen. Moss at the historic signing of the ELCRA amendment. Photo: Michigan Senate

him to become the nominee,” Moss recalls. “None of them felt he was qualified to run and they all avoided him on the campaign trail, but the second he was elected, they wanted to be a part of it.”

“Now it’s just a farce that they’re all kind of lining up behind Ron DeSantis and want to move on from Trump,” he says. “He’s just been this indelible figure in our politics in a

really damaging way. There’s no doubt that his tactics are to prey on people’s fears, to throw facts out the window and to target people who are vulnerable.”

Lately, of course, the LGBTQ+ community has been the target, especially transgender folks and drag performers. “The same people who laughed at drag queens and had no problems with them for years and

years and years, suddenly calling them the greatest threat to our kids is just so ridiculous,” Moss says. “And that’s why I really took 2022 as an opportunity to ensure that that would be the last campaign where the LGBTQ community would be used as a political punching bag.”

Moss says he felt there was a weight on him as an openly gay state leader, one that he tried to harness in an effective way. “I knew if I didn’t stand up for this community, what could happen. I wanted people to know that there are consequences to LGBTQ hate and, in Michigan, there were electoral consequences. Our state absolutely rejected the bigotry and hatred spewed by [former GOP nominee for Michigan governor] Tudor Dixon all the way to Senate candidates who ran against transgender youth and athletes. I am delighted by the opportunity to combat them at every turn.”

Still, Moss acknowledges that things could have gone in the other direction — that his presence on the ticket and his frequent vocalization about the queer community could be a burden on the whole ticket. After all, while progressive voters were clearly motivated by pro-LGBTQ+ messaging, Republicans have ignited a fire among their base by going after the same communities.

“So yes, there was a point where I was thinking ‘Are we going to be the reason that Democrats lose across the state?’ It was in the back of my mind. If we were to lose, how would we move forward as a community? But you have to have faith in reasonable people, compassionate people who just want everybody to have a fair shake, and Michiganders rejected the hatred and bigotry and embraced our community,” he adds.

Time to relax... or not

With the amendment a done deal and the legislature solidly blue (at least for a while), it would surely be easier for Moss to take a breather. But as Republicans push transphobic rhetoric nationally and in pockets across Michigan, Moss is as fired up as he was when the then GOP-led Senate failed to pass a Pride Month resolution in 2022. In a Senate floor speech at the time, he said, “The Republican leadership



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Photo: Andrew Potter

regresses and again throws Pride Month back into the trash heap. I guess the cruelty is the point. ... The Republican leadership will never stand for LGBTQ equality.”

“Their agenda is to make you fear the gay agenda, but I am not the cause of your problems. My community is not the cause of your problems.”

A year later, with the power of the majority on his side, Moss is practically daring the opposing party to bring homophobic and transphobic messaging to the table. “I want to show the lawmakers who are perpetrating this that they won’t get one syllable of homophobia and transphobia out without expecting it to be rebutted by me,” he says. “I want them to know that if they say anything, they will not get away with it without me coming to the same Senate microphone to combat it.”

Moss thinks the trajectory in other

states could rapidly shift if more LGBTQ+ candidates emerged, even in typically conservative areas. “We need more LGBTQ candidates who step up as mothers and fathers, as taxpayers and homeowners and members of society in their own right,” he says. “But also by bringing their lived queer experiences to represent our community in these spaces.”

Moss contends that for the last several years, the Elliott-Larsen amendment had enough bipartisan support to pass, but the “extreme fringe” of the Republican leadership refused to bring it to the floor vote. And, in fact, several Republicans did join Democrats when the time came. “So, remember — in these Republican states, just because they have loud, extreme members of their leadership that prevent these votes from coming forward, don’t let anyone feel like there isn’t a majority here in

this country that supports LGBTQ rights,” he says. “We just have the lawmakers in place to do it.”

As passionate as he is about LGBTQ+ issues, advocating for the community is far from his sole passion. “I am a gay person, but that doesn’t mean it’s all gay all the time,” he says. “All of us are living our lives and have other priorities.”

For example, Moss currently serves as Senate President Pro Tem and as chairman of the Senate Elections and Ethics Committee, a role that has him focused on protecting literal (small d) democracy. This work involves removing barriers to voting by increasing initiatives like early and absentee voting and to clean up Lansing, which Moss says has been plagued by “scandal after scandal after scandal.”

To that end, Moss has been working on rectifying a situation that has left Michigan as one of only two states where a lawmaker does not have to disclose financial conflicts of interest related to proposed legislation. “We need to know whether or not somebody’s being personally enriched by legislation that they’re introducing or moving,” he explains. “We’ve just seen too many dark moneyed interests have a lot of influence over the process. It’s important to me and to our entire democracy to make sure people have faith and confidence that their government actors are working on their behalf and nobody else’s.”

When Moss isn’t working, he’s... well, he’s probably working. Asked about his downtime, he laughs. Sure, he might make his way to a place like Soho, a queer bar in Ferndale, on occasion — in fact, it’s not unusual for constituents to find him there — but it’s likely not for a fun night out on the town. Instead, he’s more likely among rowdy bargoers discussing a homeowner’s association issue over a beer at 1 a.m. To be clear, he’s not unhappy about this circumstance.

“I’m a member of the community; I’m not different and not separate,” he says. “There is no off the clock.”



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LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Expansion in Michigan Was 50 Years in the Making

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Michigan's LGBTQ+ community has had much to celebrate in 2023, thanks to the efforts of a state legislature led by the Democratic party for the first time in more than 40 years. Most notably was Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's signing of an amendment to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act that expanded legal protections against discrimination to the LGBTQ+ community. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before to rally, lobby,

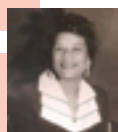
vote and shout from the rooftops that it doesn't matter who you are or whom you love, we are all worthy of protection under state law. It's a great time to be a queer Michigander. Let's celebrate — then get back to work.

"I've been waiting my whole adult life for this," Tim Retzlaff told Pride Source. The Michigan State University history professor and LGBTQ+ historian took a trip to his storage unit to peruse vintage news

clippings to help Pride Source compile this timeline, which follows a journey toward equality rooted in a few brave first steps taken by Michigan activists in the 1960s who entrusted the fight to the generations that came after them. The weight of that responsibility is not lost on modern LGBTQ+ leaders and allies, who have worked tirelessly to enshrine LGBTQ+ rights into Michigan law to benefit generations to come.

1963: The Michigan Civil Rights Commission (MCRC) is created.

1966: State Rep Daisy Elliott (D-Detroit) attempts to pass a law modeled after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. She is told it will fail without a Republican co-sponsor. With voters — including Democrats — leery after the 1968 Detroit riots, legislation would not be introduced for several years.



1976: The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) is introduced, barring discrimination in Michigan on the basis of "religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight and familial status" in employment, housing, education and public accommodations.

1977: The Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR) is founded.

1983: Closeted gay Republican Jim Dressel of Holland introduces an amendment to protect gay and lesbian people from discrimination in employment and housing, the first such bill. A former president of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, Dressel dies in 1992 of AIDS-related pneumonia.

According to Retzlaff, at one time, an amendment was introduced to explicitly exclude "homosexuals" from protection against discrimination, as a pre-emptive measure.

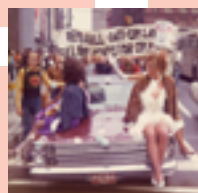


1960s to 1970s The Fight Begins

1964: The federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

June 28, 1969: Following a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a series of LGBTQ+ uprisings launches the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights in the U.S.

June 1972: Christopher Street Detroit is the first Pride celebration in Michigan, with events in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Greater Lansing.



1977: Named for its primary sponsors, Daisy Elliott (D-Detroit) and Melvin (Mel) Larsen (R-Oxford), ELCRA is signed into law by Gov. William Milliken. Notably, Milliken's daughter, Elaine, was gay.

Larsen was elected in 1973 and served on the House civil rights committee. He was a former Catholic high school principal with a deep commitment to civil rights.

Years later, Larsen recalled, "At the time, most of the legislature was Democrat and white male that had come out of suburban, rural areas while the Black community was mostly urban. The attitude of the legislature toward the civil rights act? They would probably have preferred a root canal." From the beginning, LGBTQ+ activists insisted they be included. It would be almost 50 years before that came to fruition.

1980s to 1990s The Early Activists

For context, the era of Ronald Reagan's presidency (1981 to 1989) was not a popular time for LGBTQ+ rights. It wouldn't be until 1987 that he addressed the AIDS crisis seriously.



"Michigan was known as a 'lost state,'" said Jay Kaplan, ACLU of Michigan staff attorney for the LGBTQ Project. Kaplan has been with the organization for 22 years. He recalled the tenure of Republican Gov. John Engler, (1991 to 2003) and "a legislature that was hostile towards the idea of LGBTQ rights" in addition to a politicized state

supreme court where several clearly anti-LGBTQ+ justices served.

"Every time those bills were introduced, there would be a press release, a press conference," Kaplan said. "But you know, it's pretty much dead on arrival because the Republican leadership was not going to let those bills get a vote."



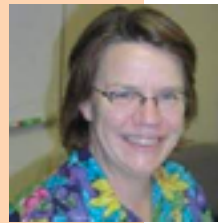
2001: Chris Kolb is elected Michigan's first openly LGBTQ+ state legislator. He is the first of many co-sponsors of an ELCRA bill that year, introduced by Rep Patricia "Pan" Godchaux. Kolb also introduces bills that would expand ELCRA in 2003 and 2005. Later, he would serve as the state of Michigan's budget director for two years, following his appointment by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2019. Today he is vice president for government relations at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor.

March 25, 2013: The Michigan Department of Civil Rights issues a "Report on LGBT Inclusion Under Michigan Law." It is adopted by the MCRC.

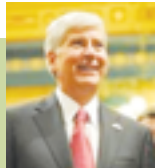
Late '80s: Jan Stevenson moves to Michigan and becomes Affirmations LGBTQ+ community center's first executive director in 1991. In 1993, she and wife Susan Horowitz begin publishing *Between The Lines*.

"I remember going into one of my first [MOHR] meetings when I first came to Michigan [and] the goal was to get Elliott-Larsen amended, and that was in 1988 when I first moved here," Stevenson said. "And every year thereafter, we would sit down as a group and say, 'OK, what are the plans? What are the goals for this year?' And whether it was Jeff Montgomery or any of the many people, many of whom are gone now, I wish they were still here to be able to see it. Every year we'd beat our head against the wall and say, 'How can we get this done?,' and we'd try and come up empty."

With the expansion of ELCRA, Stevenson said, "It's a unique feeling because for most, if not all of my adult life, I've been on the outside of the law, and to actually feel like I have full citizenship with full citizen rights is unique for me. I'm 70 years old, and I've never experienced feeling fully protected under the law."



2014: Republican Gov. Rick Snyder expresses support for adding LGBTQ+ protections to ELCRA and encourages the state Legislature to take up the issue.



Early 2000s A Lost State

1994: MOHR is disbanded and the Triangle Foundation becomes the state's LGBTQ+ rights organization.

2001: In 2001, Representatives William McConico, Chris Kolb and Buzz Thomas (pictured here) introduced a package of pro-LGBTQ bills that went nowhere. As McConico, a powerful ally today as District Court Judge, told Pride Source in 2020, some Democrats told him privately they would not be able to vote for such legislation. Buzz Thomas served in the state House and Senate from 1997 to 2011. He wasn't out publicly, but fought just as hard for LGBTQ+ causes. "I'm feeling pretty equal today," said Thomas, who now serves as chair of Equality Michigan. "That period of time personally began my activism in supporting our community and being able to stand up for myself," he added.



2004: By popular vote, the Michigan Constitution is amended to prohibit marriage of same-sex couples.

Mid-2010s Not Without the Trans Community

2013: Mark LaChey is elected chair of the Michigan Democratic Party LGBT & Allies Caucus. He tells Pride Source, "Our goal is electing pro-LGBT candidates statewide. The ultimate goal is to elect pro-LGBT leaders."



Dec. 2, 2014: Sam Singh (D-East Lansing), pictured here, and State Rep. Frank Foster (R-Petoskey) introduce an amendment to ELCRA to include sexual orientation and gender identity.





2014: Future Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel argues in front of the federal district court on behalf of April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, who sued the Snyder administration to turn over Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage. The case was later combined with three others in the Obergefell (pictured here with husband John) v. Hodges Supreme Court case, which legalized same-sex marriage nationwide in 2017.

2015: Religious Freedom Restoration Act legislation is introduced. If enacted, RFRA would have legalized discrimination if in accordance with one's religious belief.

Continued from page 11



Nov. 24, 2014: The MCRC adopts a resolution in support of expanding ELCRA to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Check your politics at the door on this one and do what is right for the state," said Foster, whose bill would have added sexual orientation. By that point he had already lost his primary. Foster tells Time magazine he has no regrets.

2018: Several of those interviewed commented on the significance of election 2018's Proposal 2, powered by Voters Not Politicians activists. The passage of this initiative would end Republicans' stranglehold on the state legislature. Not to be forgotten is Michigan Supreme Court justice Elizabeth Clement's role in ensuring the proposal appeared on the ballot. A Republican and Snyder-appointee, she told Pride Source in 2019 she was booed at her party's convention for her action.



May 21, 2018: By a 5-0-1 vote, the MCRC issues an interpretive statement on the meaning of "sex" in ELCRA. The motion is presented by Commissioner Alma Wheeler Smith. In a 19-page opinion, Attorney General Bill Schuette calls the ruling invalid. Within days, the MCRC responds that they will continue to hear cases of LGBTQ+ discrimination.

Jan. 2019: Gov. Whitmer signs an executive directive prohibiting state employment discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. In her first State of the State address, Whitmer discusses amending ELCRA.

2018 to 2021 The Tide Turns



2018: Gretchen Whitmer defeats former AG Schuette and is elected governor. Dana Nessel is elected attorney general, becoming Michigan's highest ranking openly LGBTQ+ elected official.

2021: Fair and Equal Michigan releases a scathing statement criticizing the Board of Elections' decision.

2019: The Equality Act is introduced at the federal level. It would effectively amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections for LGBTQ+ people. On May 17, the bill passes the House. The U.S. Senate does not act. It continues to be reintroduced.

*Photos courtesy of Michigan Advance, Michigan House of Reps and various public domain resources

2020: The Fair and Equal ballot initiative is launched. With broader support than the first attempt, yet with some of the same lingering criticism, what appeared promising became a casualty of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite a huge push to collect electronic signatures, the Michigan Supreme Court ultimately ruled they were inadequate in number.



2022: Seven openly LGBTQ+ state legislators, including Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield, pictured above) are elected, and many more are candidates. Democratic majorities rule the House and Senate for the first time in 40 years. Gov. Whitmer, a steadfast ally, is reelected by a wide margin.

Jan. 12, 2023: Moss and State Rep. Jason Hoskins (D-Southfield, pictured here), Michigan's first Black and openly gay state legislator, introduce legislation that would amend ELCRA.



The MCRC adopts a resolution in support of amending ELCRA, introduced by that body's first openly LGBTQ+ commissioner, Luke Londo, an Independent.

July 2022: After out lesbian AG Nessel argues in front of the Michigan Supreme Court, the justices rule in a 5-2 decision in the Rouch World case that "sex" is inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity in ELCRA. Gov. Whitmer calls it "a monumental victory." The majority opinion is written by Snyder-appointed Clement.



March 2023: Bills aimed at amending the ELCRA are introduced in both chambers of the Statehouse. SB4 is adopted by the Senate in a bipartisan 23-15 vote, with three Republicans joining the Democrats. HB4003 is adopted by the House in a bipartisan 64-45. Of the eight Republicans joining their Democratic colleagues is Bill Schuette (R-Midland), son of the former attorney general.

Jan. 2021: Michigan is ranked among lowest in HRC's annual State Equality Index.



2022 Michigan Dems Take Action

March 16, 2023 Whitmer Makes It Official

Gov. Whitmer makes good on her promise to sign the legislation at a ceremony at Urban Beat in Lansing where she stands beside Mel Larsen, for whom the 1976 act is named. Whitmer's openly gay daughter, Sherry, is in the room. "It's about damn time," Whitmer said, quoting Detroit-born performer Lizzo.

Next steps: "This is exactly what Michiganders voted for last November," said Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan. "This is the message that the people here in our state are trying to send to the rest of the country: Hate has no room here, no place here. We are a welcoming and inclusive state."



The MSU Lesbian Gay Council marches in the Pride March in Lansing, June 1989. Photo: Cheryl VanDeKerkhove

A Kind of Defiance

In Lansing, an Overlooked – and Leading – History of Queer Activism

BY GEORGE ELKIND

It's only natural for a state capital to become a center for political activism. But in the case of Lansing, both local and state-level queer activism have taken on a remarkable variety of forms. From early flickers of visibility there in the 1950s and '60s to feminist-lesbian coalitional work rippling out from the 1970s across decades, the city's history makes clear that the gains won last March, with LGBTQ+ protections being enshrined within the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, didn't spring from nowhere.

As activists, historians, archivists and residents of the city have emphasized, these victories were the result of hard work — leading to bits of progress that could,

with some effort, be undone. Even so, the city (and state) have come a long way.

Of the city's early history, Tim Retzloff, a Lansing resident, Pride Source contributor and queer historian at Michigan State University (MSU), observes that the climate for queer people (at least those we'd regard that way now) in the 1930s and '40s could be oppressive in Lansing (and next door in the smaller city of East Lansing, home to the university). Even within the insulated bubble of a campus environment, being out for most anyone proved an impossibility. While the city's university presence attracted a mix of people — some queer and others open-minded — the visibility, prestige and the school's state ties also made it a target for a sort of “clamping down,” according to Retzloff.

“There were these kind of agents in society and of the state at the university — and certainly in the city of East Lansing and Lansing — that tried to tamp down

any kind of nonconformity in terms of sexuality and gender,” Retzloff observes, citing the university's concerns about reputational harm. But, at the same time, he suggests, “there were definitely people who were finding each other.”

As a result of these kinds of tensions, pre-1950s evidence of queer community in Lansing remains “fragmentary,” but still present, Retzloff says, describing the city's queer people then as living in a kind of “defiance against social norms.”

Within both our Zoom conversation and his sweeping overview of the city's LGBTQ+ history for the queer-owned publication City Pulse in Lansing, he notes the quiet presence of Lucile Portwood and Evelyn Sanders, a lesbian couple who moved to the area in the early 1940s for school and became known, beyond their careers, for their successful entrants in dog shows. Around the same time, Alma Goetsch and Kathrine Winckler, another couple, joined MSU's

art faculty and commissioned a Frank Lloyd Wright House in nearby Okemos. Retzloff notes that Albert Hakala, too — a gay man Retzloff interviewed for City Pulse last summer — taught at Lansing's Eastern High School alongside his partner and fellow educator, Bob Walker, who eventually became the school's vice principal. The two had managed to meet despite a difficult climate during their studies at Northern Michigan University in the 1940s before pursuing master's degrees at what is now MSU.

While these cases may have been exceptions in terms of their legibility today, attempts to build such connections seemed to become, as in many American cities, easier over time. The late 1950s and then 1960s gave rise to increasing openness within the growing local bar scene, with visible community emerging after Stonewall by the 1970s from all corners of the city — including among the manufacturing workers, many of them queer and lesbian women according to

Retzloff, of its bustling automotive sector.

Even as the queer community blossomed into a newfound sense of visibility, though — with the founding of the Gay Liberation Movement (GLM) on MSU's campus in 1970 and a march on the Capitol in December 1971 — certain divisions remained in the community. With gay men and lesbian women each having long lived not just quietly but in a sense of isolation from one another, the two coalitions didn't always feel a sense of common ground.

With the exception of moments of crisis (such as the AIDS epidemic in the years to come) or political solidarity (as in the march above), gay men and lesbian women often felt driven to find and grow their own separate spaces, with sexism and gendered tensions often creating a kind of wedge. It was within this context, then, that Lansing became not only a space for both queer men and women but an unlikely, enduring hub for lesbians nationally — and a driver for the broader

national community.

A separatist moment

Within a climate rich in tensions — between heightened visibility and raised political consciousness, gendered divisions and queer solidarity — and a desire for stability as well as for change, Lansing established its own distinct gay and lesbian spaces. As Retzloff recounts, a gay community center opened its doors in 1972, with a constituency overlapping heavily with the GLM; meanwhile, the Helen Diner Memorial Women's Center opened in East Lansing around the same time before moving to Lansing in 1975 after a dispute with their landlady. One of five lesbian centers nationally by 1978, it's this second space that became a key community fixture not only for locals but for lesbians well beyond Lansing's border.

For Paige Hodder, a lesbian-identifying automotive reporter at Crain's Detroit

The Lesbian Alliance Float in the Pride March in Lansing, June 1989. Photo: Cheryl VanDeKerkhove





Rally at the Capitol, June 1989. Photo: Cheryl VanDeKerkhove

Business, this history and practice remains an animating subject — so much so that she made it, along with a second, unaffiliated lesbian center quartered in Ann Arbor, the subject of her undergraduate thesis. While the weekly newsletter published from the Lansing center became one of her research's primary concerns, a second, monthly publication gave Lansing's center its broadest geographical reach.

Hodder describes this second publication, *The Lesbian Connection*, as a “massive magazine, sort of filled out by contributors across the country. They would collate it all and self-print it, literally in the basement of their community center, and then send it out across the country. By the end of the 1970s, it was probably one of the biggest and most-read national, lesbian-specific

publications.”

But despite this reach, the emphasis at the Center itself, suggests Hodder, was less on outward-facing political change than a feminist ethic of care, support and mutuality enacted locally — even as visibility remained a key driver.

“My thesis really focused on ‘internal activism,’ if that makes sense: how these communities were working to support each other,” says Hodder. “They were certainly focused on legislative action and stuff like that... But at the same time, they were focused on helping each other fill in the little things. They would bring in a hairdresser, sometimes, who would volunteer to do more gender neutral or butch haircuts that would have been difficult for women to get elsewhere.”

In addition to the Center's publishing work, other activities, Hodder

remembers, included carpools, potlucks, dance parties and coffee houses. The aim, she says, was to “fill the gaps” left by the familial and other supportive networks so many of the women had lost — providing even legal and financial resources in the spaces and moments they were most needed.

One central fixture among Lansing women's spaces was the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, which ran from 1976-2015 in nearby Hart and was founded by three women. According to Eli Landaverde, the librarian for MSU's LGBTQ+ collection, the festival became a haven for women well outside Lansing, and even Michigan.

“The incentive was to do a kind of Woodstock thing, just for women; that was the background of it. And it really caught on,” Landaverde observes. “The festival was not meant to be only for lesbians — that was not the main idea.”

A similar separatist ethic seemed to drive the concurrent, continuing success of *Goldenrod Music*, founded in 1974 by Terry Grant. Like the festival, *Goldenrod's* mission was informed, according to musicologist Lauron Kehr, by the lesbian and radical feminist thinker Marilyn Frye, who advocated for the exclusion of men and the problems they brought with them from as many spaces as seemed “feasible” within women's lives.

But the festival became, along with the *Lesbian Connection*, *Goldenrod* and the adjacency of the state Capitol, an animating force despite this, drawing women to relocate to Lansing for its sense of community. Lesbians would come, notes Landaverde, from “all over” to attend the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, often straining to make arrangements and depending on the hospitality and support of like-minded local hosts.

Landaverde says there's a kind of “chicken-and-egg” question regarding the origins of Lansing's sturdy lesbian institutions of the time. With Lansing's status as a capital city, the pull of MSU and a range of lesbian organizations all strengthening the community, it's hard to single one out as an initial driving force or cause.

Lesbians lead the charge

For Cheryl VanDeKerkhove, a lesbian activist and longtime resident who moved up to Lansing after visiting in 1982, the robust sense of community was palpable years after these institutions' foundings — outstripping what was available for queer women even in her then home of Metro Detroit.

"This is more than just bars — it's literally a community up here," recalls VanDeKerkhove of her experience of Lansing at the time. "If you were into sports, they had pretty much all the sports. If you were into politics, definitely a lot of political stuff going on. If you were into, you know, sewing, there's a sewing circle... Whatever you wanted to do with other lesbians, you had a chance to do it here."

For VanDeKerkhove, community participation eventually evolved into work on the Lesbian Connection newsletter alongside DJing dances and other work at the Center more broadly. The sense, says VanDeKerkhove, was of more robust engagement and mutuality than the hook-up mentality and romantic orientation that undergirded so much of queer bar life.

"In the Detroit area, it felt like you could go to a bar, and you could see other lesbians. And they'll charge you five or ten bucks for the privilege to get in — but that was it," she remembers. "Whereas in Lansing, you could go out, meet people — and then you could take that to another level and actually socialize outside of a bar, and do things together that are fun; be there for each other and get involved in actions and do nonprofit work. There were things to do with your time and energy in community, as opposed to going to a bar to drink and find a partner."

While creating distinct spaces did much to promote the flourishing of Lansing's lesbian community, the separatist ethos, even while carving out a space for women, was one whose enactment often failed to make everyone feel welcome. Speaking to these stakes as they stood in the late '70s, Hodder explains that the approach modeled by Marilyn Frye and enacted in so many ways locally encountered opposition both often and early from varying fronts.

"They didn't want just equality; they wanted to center their lives entirely around

women — which was entirely disruptive to the gender binary and the family system. At the same time, these groups also faced a lot of criticism from feminists of color, from gender-nonconforming queer people, from trans people, because a lot of their ambitions [aims] were primarily championed by the work they did — centered around mostly white, middle-class, lesbian goals and experiences."

Evolving beyond LGB

For Rachel Crandall-Crocker, the co-founder of Transgender Michigan along with her wife Susan Crocker, these concerns persisted in both social and activist spaces over her decades spent in Lansing beginning in 1978. After starting to come out in 1993, she became closely involved with the Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR) around 1998, eventually going on to found Transgender Day of Visibility in 2009, an experience informed by the frictions involved in her ongoing experience of activist work.

"Very few people had ever met a transgender person. And there I was at their table all of a sudden — and people were not crazy about it," she recalls, describing participation in Lansing's queer community throughout the 1990s as "an uphill climb."

"I had to do an awful lot of education," Crocker remarks, speaking to her experience on boards for LGBTQ+ organizations. "That's what Transgender Michigan was all about; it was really about education and support."

With time and effort (and no shortage of conflicts), the broader community became more understanding of Crocker's concerns, though an essentialist strain of thought in Lansing's feminist community and history made it harder to roll advocacy efforts into broader queer organizations. The Womyn's Music Festival, for instance, declined to feature transgender-centric panels, and local Pride organizers often didn't see a space for trans people in their work.

"There was a lot of discussion," Crocker recalls. "Why doesn't an LGB organization focus on their rights and come back for us? However, I did not like that idea."

While advocating for that stance, she worked in the meantime to create solidaristic spaces of her own, some

beginning modestly, including a gender-nonconformist group that met at El Azteco, an East Lansing Mexican restaurant, and a Transgender Picnic event which followed her through her eventual relocation back to Metro Detroit.

Increasingly, due to these and other persistent efforts, cross-coalitional solidarity became a kind of prevailing model at both a local and a broader level — one which VanDeKerkhove, who'd found fulfillment in the more separatist models of queer community mentioned previously, worked to embody in her own activism and ongoing work. By co-founding the Real World Emporium in Lansing's Old Town (both then and now a particularly visible queer neighborhood within Lansing) in 1994, she worked to address longstanding rifts within the local queer community.

She recalls that even in LAHR, an organization founded by two women, none were present in leadership roles by the late 1980s; in terms of racial diversity, too, she remembers only "a little drop of color in there, on occasion," demonstrating an imbalance she sought to amend. "Our intent with the bookstore all along was to make it LGBT, because what we saw with the lesbian bookstores that had come prior is they couldn't sustain themselves. And so we wanted to have something that the community could access — and hopefully that would make a large enough customer base to keep a store like that going in Michigan."

As not just a business but a responsive form of both political and communitarian work, the store — until facing the twin blows of a divorce with her partner and co-founder, along with construction obscuring foot traffic at a key moments for retail in the late 1990s — proved successful, making it a cross-coalitional anchor for the queer community until its closure in 1998. By this time, LAHR and other local institutions increasingly reflected similar, cross-coalitional models.

Modern LGBTQ+ community-building

Today, this cross-coalitional work seems to color local understanding not only of activist work but of the city's geography as a whole.



Lesbian Connection staff selects cover design, 1989. Photo: Cheryl VanDeKerkhove

Benny Vasquez, one of several directors at Lansing Pride and a nearly lifelong area resident, remembered that after a brief move to Houston for work, she felt acutely conscious of her identity — and need for safety — there, in a way she never had at home in Lansing.

“That said more to me about Lansing than it did about Texas because that made it very, very obvious to me how caring Lansing was. And how little I had to worry about,” Vasquez said.

“Realistically, I don’t think there are queer neighborhoods. I think there are straight neighborhoods. I think there are neighborhoods [where] the rich folk have gathered, and they’re all at least presenting as straight,” she remarked. “And so those are the anomaly; anywhere else I go, I see Pride flags... It’s less about pockets of non-straight people than pockets of straight people.”

One memorable exception to this, at least by the mid-1990s, was an east side neighborhood known as Dyke Heights, a space VanDeKerkhove for years called home, and which, as a home to a dense population of lesbian women, evoked some flavor of the area’s longtime separatist models.

“I lived on Holmes Street with Cindy,

my wife at the time. And one morning at 6:00 a.m. we heard a woman screaming outside. So we ran out with a baseball bat, out of our front door, to go see what was going on and tried to help, only to see, probably, a dozen other lesbians from all the different houses on the street, also running out in their bathrobes with their baseball bats to try to find out why there was a woman screaming. It was just us, it was all lesbians, but we ran out to see what we could do to help. And you know, if that’s not an example of an experience of community, I don’t know what is.”

The scream, said VanDeKerkhove, was caused by an aspiring purse thief — and the culprit fled when her posse of defenders made their presence known. Their effort at achieving solidarity had worked. Today, MSU’s Gender and Sexuality Center offers tours of the area and other queer local landmarks — though it’s less clear if they know or discuss this particular event.

Looking ahead

While the coalitions — and battles — have shifted over time, constant work and a readiness to fight remain the rule in Lansing’s queer activism, which stands as a continuing source of life

for the community. Even in the wake of recent gains, complacency seems not to be an option.

“It’s not necessarily relief or anything like that,” said Vasquez of the atmosphere locally after the ELCRA amendment. “But this place — our corner of the world — feels a little bit safer. Because we know that level of backing is there.”

Given queer representation’s growth at both local and state levels — with lesbian attorney general Dana Nessel, an openly gay city clerk in Chris Swope and an ally in the governor’s mansion — that sense of governmental backing has seemed, with work, to grow. As of this past election, too, much of Lansing can call Emily Dievendorf, who is looking out for the local LGBTQ+ community as a queer, nonbinary person, their new state representative. Dievendorf even has a downtown bookstore of their own.

“It’s representation at its basic level, right?” said Vasquez. “With politicians, the fact that they can be where they are and open — and not have to hide or downplay the part that they play in the LGBTQIA community — that means that we don’t have to, either.”

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He Won Lots of Netflix Money. He Used It To Make a Very Queer Movie in Detroit.

Sam Meier on His Shockingly Normal, Accidentally Political Trans Film 'T-Minus'

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

When filmmaker Sam Meier won a cool 100 grand on the Netflix gameshow “Bullshit” in 2021, it didn’t take long for him to choose what he’d do with all that money.

“I decided pretty quickly that if I didn’t invest in my art, I wasn’t really about that life,” says Meier, who uses he/she pronouns. “This was my opportunity to really be able to put some juice behind the short films I’d been making in the Detroit scene for years.”

After the show “unceremoniously dropped a hundred thousand dollars in my account — no taxes taken out,” Meier says he had to take the day off work. “I had a mental breakdown that day.”

After the dust settled and the taxes got paid, Meier took a headfirst dive into a massive project, completing his 12-minute rom-com meets road trip meets harrowing personal drama, “T-Minus.” The money gave him access to resources like a Hollywood director, Emily Lerer, who

flew in for the production and oversaw a sprawling shoot that encompassed classic Midwestern scenery and instantly recognizable urban Detroit scenes. Meier had connected with Lerer, whose resume includes directorial positions with HBO, Sony and Warner Bros., on the festival circuit for an earlier film.

As an out lesbian and a woman, Lerer, like the other “T-Minus” production team members, falls outside the typical cisgender, straight, white male demographic that dominates the film industry. “I really wanted to focus on working with people who are traditionally excluded from the industry,” Meier explains. “My leadership team was almost entirely queer or of color. And ultimately, it was just good vibes. It was incredible. And that’s even though we had the worst production experience.”

By the time the filming actually started, Meier says the crew had gone through a series of directors of photography, including one who left on the first day of shooting. L.A. cinematographer Jeffrey Carolan wound up serving in the role after the “T-Minus” team contacted him in a near-panic while he was at Disneyland with his family. “We’re basically in tears, on like the third or fourth day of replacing our director of photography. And we’re like, ‘Jeff, can you please fly out tonight and start shooting tomorrow morning?’”

It may have been a messy road to getting Carolan on board with the project, but Meier says Carolan’s work on dozens of Hallmark movies would help to inform an ideal tone for the film, which manages to comele a romantic comedy vibe with a trans-centered storyline focused on a highly controversial topic: abortion.

“It’s funny how that reality [onscreen] is something so shocking to some people and yet so everyday for queer people.”



Sam Meier (left) and Alec Aldridge. Courtesy photo



Sam Meier as Lex (left) and Alec Albright as Andrew in "T-Minus." Photo: Sam Meier

In the film, lead character Andrew, a trans man, discovers he's pregnant — the result of a Grindr hookup with Meier's Lex, a larger-than-life drag queen who needs a little convincing to accompany Andrew to get an abortion at a Planned Parenthood in Detroit, where there are fewer restrictions than in their home state, Ohio.

The pair take off on a road trip that starts with an awkward vibe, but as the miles tick by along two-lane country lanes and a fun stop at a quirky roadside diner, the awkwardness fades. Lex and Andrew get to know each other, and it's clear a real connection has been made. Soon, they've advanced past one-night hookup status to... something else entirely, though we are still left with open-ended questions by the end of the short.

No doubt the film touches on several hot-button political topics, including the mere existence of the trans community, which has triggered rightwing politicians to the point of absurdity over the past several months. While Meier says he wasn't nervous about how audiences might react to the film, he was curious.

At the Oscar-qualifying Cleveland International Film Festival in March, reactions were mixed. "From laughing to shocked to people who were vocalizing as they processed what they were seeing," he recalls. "You could hear

"I've had producers tell me that I can't make LGBT content if I want to make money, and I kindly say, 'You can go f yourself.'"

people thinking aloud and adjusting, and then we had so many people come up to us after screenings and say, like, 'This changed my way of looking at this issue. I've never seen anything like this on camera before.' Really, though, I think no matter how you identify, there's a very human story at the root of this all that anyone can identify with."

Meier says he based the characters on people from his real life and built a story around them. "It's funny how that reality is something so shocking to some people and yet so everyday for queer people," he says.

As a screenwriter, Meier frequently draws from his lived experience, which includes growing up in a religious cult in Wisconsin, a formative set of childhood memories that includes his family surviving a serious bus crash in Bosnia, where the cult had traveled to witness a

vision of the Virgin Mary that locals had reported. The accident left Meier's father partially paralyzed, and while the family left the cult soon after, no longer willing to participate in the "right wing, hyper-conservative Christian" nature of the group, the experience left a permanent mark.

Today, Meier often weaves autobiographical elements into his stories, partly as catharsis but also because stories about people like him are rare. "I've been rejected a lot through the course of this career, and it's part of the reason why I really started pursuing screenwriting," he explains. "I wanted bigger and better roles than I was being offered. I am a plus-size, flamboyant, queer person. And I see that for a lot of my friends, too — people aren't necessarily thinking of us because they don't come from our communities."



“So I’m less concerned about people’s responses to the characters that they see on screen or the people who, I mean, if they don’t get it, they don’t get it... but on the other side of that, we are emailing festivals in red states to ask if it’s even legal for us to attend, so there’s that.”

So far, Meier says they haven’t been warned off from attending or even from attending in drag, but despite lots of apologies from film festival organizers about what’s happening in various

state legislatures, he’d like to see more attention on security at events. “You’re sorry, but who are your security managers?” he wonders.

Still, he isn’t willing to change how he presents on the festival circuit. “My appearance is very loud for film festivals, but also I’m very prepared to dance on every public monument in Tennessee if we get into Nashville, as one example.”

When “T-Minus” was in production, it was prior to the flurry of hundreds of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ flooding state houses across the country. “Was I expecting the world to fall apart? Nope. I think one reason Planned Parenthood was so willing to work with me is that I started emailing them before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. We had no idea that was going to happen.”

Meier said the intent all along was to create a “cute rom-com” with queer characters, which, he says, is a political message in and of itself. In the wake of all the political frenzy, he thinks the film has become more relevant. “And that’s unfortunate,” he adds.

Looking ahead, Meier hopes to secure funding to expand the short to a full-length feature shot in Detroit and Ohio. If Hollywood turns him down, he’s open

to fundraising on his own. “I take a lot of inspiration from [‘Insecure’ creator] Issa Rae,” he says. “She was the one who galvanized me to start producing my own work. She said in an interview that no one in the industry was giving a woman like her the opportunities she was looking for, so she went out and she made them herself.”

“I’ve had producers tell me that I can’t make LGBT content if I want to make money, and I kindly say, ‘You can go f yourself,’” Meier adds. “I’ve been doing it without them, and I will continue to do so without them.”

Hollywood funding or not, Meier is not about to stop prioritizing queer inclusion in his productions. He mentions reading about a study regarding why people become famous.

“The only identifying factor for famous artists, in particular, was being friends with other famous artists. Groups of artists rise together, which is part of the reason that community and working with the kind of people I want to work with is so important to me,” he says. “I’m really interested in having the community rise together rather than just trying to claw my way to the top.”



(Left) Still from “T-Minus.” (Right) Sam Meier as Lex. Photos: Sam Meier





Franchising and the LGBTQ+ Community

The Perfect Deluxe Combo

BY JULİYANA FRIDLİNE

When you think about franchising, what's the first thing that comes to mind?

Probably McDonald's or Super Cuts, as they're two of the most popular franchises in the U.S.

But franchises aren't just big-name fast-food chains or hair salons. There are more than 750,000 franchise organizations in the U.S., ranging from mental health to home services to pets! There is an organization out there for everyone, especially the LGBTQ+ community.

This opportunity to start your own business venture with a partner like Franchise Playmaker can get you closer to achieving your lifestyle and wealth-building goals and service a need within your local community.

"Working with a franchise consultant like Franchise Playmaker is a no-brainer. Don't waste your time trying to sort through the thousands of franchises yourself. You'll get expert guidance at no cost to you—it's a win-win," says Alex Roberts of Franchise Playmaker.

Fighting workplace discrimination from within

It's no secret that the LGBTQ+ community has faced frequent challenges

within the workplace from discrimination to verbal abuse to even physical violence. Everyone deserves to feel safe in the workplace, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

While workplace equity and inclusion have become a popular topic of discussion, there's still work to do. Still today, 38% of transgender and non-binary employees are either unsure of their employer's support or stated that their employer was trans-unsupportive. Tip-toeing around leadership, unsure if they support who you truly are, is certainly not a fulfilling way to spend your time.

Moreover, the #1 reported cause of dissatisfaction in the workplace is unfair treatment at work. A lack of respect, inclusivity and feeling of community all contribute to this experience.

These negative workplace experiences are often cited as the reason for members of the LGBTQ+ community to begin their own ventures. The benefit is twofold: You can create a safe and inclusive workplace for both yourself and the entire community and beyond. And as a bonus, you can do it while working for an industry that lights your soul on fire.

On the flip side, your sexuality and gender identity can be an asset in business ownership. Studies show that starting a business can give LGBTQ+ people the strength and confidence they need to be their most authentic selves. Calling the shots and driving a culture of positivity and acceptance within your business eliminates the barriers you, and fellow LGBTQ+ members, once faced.

Why should you consider owning a franchise?

Taking part in this business model is a great way to develop and capitalize on your business experience without the risk of starting from scratch. There are several advantages to owning a franchise:

#1: No industry experience? No problem.

No specific industry experience is necessary to purchase, and succeed with, a franchise. One of the many benefits of franchising is that you receive supportive training, business assistance and expert knowledge from the franchisor. Having years of experience readily available to you makes it a lot easier to run a successful business from the start.

The LGBTQ+ community also has a variety of resources available to support and provide guidance throughout the business development process including the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce and local queer chambers like the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce further reinforces how the support system within the LGBTQ+ community is undeniable:

“The LGBTQ+ community is a self-supportive group where, whether people

are business owners or simply consumers, community members are excited to support businesses led by people in the community,” said Jayson Mamaclay, founder of Think Quick Events, a Certified LGBTBE® supplier.

#2: Follow your passion

More than 60% of people reported being emotionally detached at work last year. This could be caused by negative workplace culture, not feeling appreciated, lack of direction, or feeling like work is meaningless.

Owning a franchise allows you to dive head-first into an industry you're passionate about. Are you the type of person to ask if you can pet every dog you see? Take a look at franchises like Fetch Pet Care that offer reliable animal care services. Or maybe you've always dreamed of getting into the salon industry after doing your cousin's hair for prom. Whatever your interests are, there's a franchise out there that supports your goals and beliefs.

#3: Your customer base is taken care of

When starting a franchise, you're buying into an established business, so the customer base and brand awareness

is already taken care of. A franchise's target market is already set and active, so franchisors have established strategies to attract customers and those customers already know what to expect when they walk into your store. Establishing a brand and attracting loyal customers is one of the most difficult parts of business ownership, but when you buy a franchise, the heavy lifting has already been done for you.

Being an LGBTQ+ business owner also allows you to connect with the LGBTQ+ community, a group that's often overlooked, which holds roughly \$917 billion of purchasing power in the U.S.

#4: Lower risk than starting a business from scratch

The fear of failure is the reason why many don't go out and start their own business. We get it — owning a business can be downright terrifying! But in general, franchises have a higher success rate than others because they're owned by established corporations that have a proven success model.

#5: Be your own boss

One of the top reasons to own your own business is the opportunity to be your own boss. When starting a franchise



Franchise Playmaker coaches Alex Roberts (left) and John McLellan



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business, you get the pleasure of being your own boss while receiving support and knowledge from the franchise itself.

Owning a business is hard work, there's no doubt about that, but being your own boss means having the freedom to create your own schedule and be in the driver's seat of your career.

How to find your perfect (franchise) match

To find your ideal franchise, your first stop should be with Franchise Playmaker. Seasoned franchise executives John McLellan and Alex Roberts have extensive experience in franchise and business development. Think of them as the realtors of your professional life. They'll guide you to the franchise opportunities that match up with your specific personal and financial goals.

What if you have no idea what industry you want to be in? That's perfect. Coming into these conversations as a blank slate is ideal — you don't have blinders on and are open to learning more about the hundreds of opportunities available.

Finding your perfect franchise starts with some discovery work. What keeps you up at night? What are you looking for? Perhaps you are looking for an opportunity to build on your existing passions or control your financial future.

Think about what you've done in your professional life up to this point. What have you enjoyed doing the most? It could be sales, marketing, business development or a combination of all three. Venturing into franchising allows you to capitalize on your skills and interests.

Want to take control of your schedule? You can decide to work full-time or part-time, in-office or from home. At the end of the day, owning a franchise can be anything you want it to be. You decide what your goals and dreams are, and Franchise Playmaker helps you chase after them.

"Owning your own business means taking the reins of your future. For many LGBTQ+ members in the corporate workforce, there is a glass ceiling that's limiting the potential for greatness. With franchising, there is no glass ceiling — no one to limit the opportunities before you. You are in control of your future," says McLellan.

Making money while making a difference

A diverse organization builds strong ties to the community it serves. Owning a franchise as a member of the LGBTQ+ community will open doors for those in the same negative workplace culture you're in right now. The community is loyal to and supports its LGBTQ+ owned businesses, so you're already gaining traction in customer loyalty.

This article is a sponsored editorial produced in collaboration with Franchise Playmaker.

Franchise Playmaker offers **free, nationwide consulting services** to those interested in franchising opportunities. Take the first step to franchise ownership and take control of your future with Franchise Playmaker's free guide at franchiseplaymaker.com/pride, email John and Alex at aroberts@franchisechoice.com or call (734) 812-4757.

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Michele Sharp, Executive Director
David Lenz, Director of Resource Development

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aids Windsor.org
admin@aids Windsor.org
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info@CARESSwm.org
269-381-2437

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CHAG - Community Health Awareness Group

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Detroit, MI 48226

chagdetroit.org
info@chagdetroit.org
(313) 963-3434 ext. 108

Community Health Outreach Workers

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[med.umich.edu/intmed/infectious/hiv/
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info@jacksonpridecenter.org
734-627-7570

Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit
6600 W. Maple Rd.
W. Bloomfield, MI 48322
jccdet.org
248-661-1000

Jim Toy Community Center
jimtoycenter.org
info@jimtoycenter.org
734-995-9867

Great Lakes Bay Pride
P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641

greatlakesbaypride.org
info@perceptionsmi.org
989-891-1429

GLBP provides inclusive sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression (SOGIE) education, advocacy, networking, and resources to individuals and organizations throughout Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Region including Saginaw, Bay, Midland, and Isabella counties. Perceptions offers educational meetings, support groups, collaborations with regional partners, and signature events including the Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival.

LGBT Detroit
The Center in Detroit

20025 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48235

lgbtdetroit.org
detroit@lgbtdetroit.org
313-397-2127

See our ad on page 51

OutCenter
132 Water St.
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
outcenter.org
Info@outcenter.org
269-925-8330

Seeking to provide support and advocacy for respect, understanding and nondiscrimination to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied persons and their families in Berrien County.

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outfrontkzoo.org
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theark.org
734-761-1818 or 734-761-1800

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cabaret313.org/
313-405-5061
Cabaret 313 produces a series of cabaret concerts in and around Detroit.

The Croswell Opera House
129 E. Maumee St
Adrian, MI 49221
croswell.org
egable@croswell.org
(517) 263-6868

Michigan Theater
603 East Liberty
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
michtheater.org
734-668-8397

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Michigan Opera Theater
1526 Broadway St
Detroit, MI 48226
michiganopera.org
313-237-SING (7464)

Midland Center for the Arts

1801 W. Saint Andrews Rd.
Midland, MI 48640
midlandcenter.org
989-631-5930

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ums.org
umstix@umich.edu
734-764-2538

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248-399-7317

Joe Kort, Ph.D., is a clinical sexologist and relationship therapist, coach and founded his practice in 1985. His specialties include: IMAGO Relationship Therapy, sexual identity issues, out-of-control sexual behaviors, responsible non-monogamy/monogamy, childhood sexual, physical and emotional abuse, mixed-orientation marriages and depression and anxiety. Dr. Kort writes for Huffington Post, Psychology Today and has been interviewed and mentioned on a regular basis in the New York Times on various issues and has published four books.

See our ads on pages 53 & 54

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joshcurietherapy.org
josh.curie@gmail.com
313-355-2796

Joyce C. Pearlman, M.S.W., C.S.W.

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joyciepc@gmail.com
248-542-5375

Julian Diaz, LMSW Birmingham Maple Clinic

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Troy, MI 48064

birminghammaple.com
248-646-6659

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See our ad on next page

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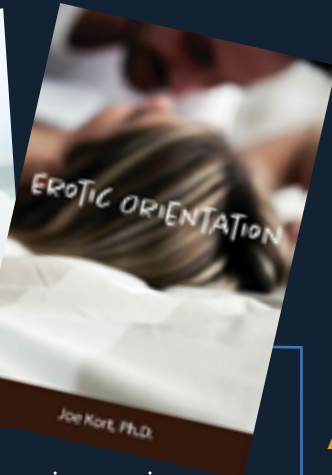
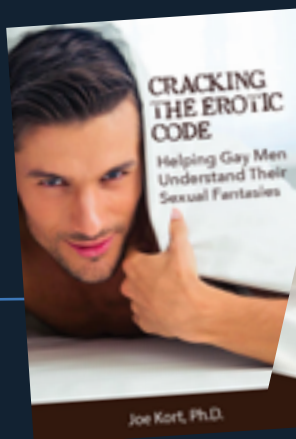
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See our ad on this page

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horizonbank.com
(248) 781-2584

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Okemos, MI 48864

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E. Lansing, MI 48823

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E. Lansing, MI 48823

msufcu.org
517-353-2280

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PNC.com
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raymondjames.com/berkleyMI
reid.beyerlein@raymondjames.com
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uwm.com
nbartolone@uwm.com

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Ferndale, MI 48220

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audrey@wellbridgeconsulting.com
734-417-5771

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34100 Woodward Ave., Ste. 300
Birmingham, MI 48009
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guss.pappas@wellsfargo.com
248-723-3148

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Joseph Productions, Inc.

34525 Glendale Street
Livonia, MI 48103

jpitel.com
snueman@jpitel.com
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Desi, Joe, Daiejah



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Women's Wealth Financial Planning

A2 Investment Solutions was founded with the goal of assisting women in every aspect of their financial lives. We work closely with clients to help them achieve their retirement and long-term planning goals. We specialize in women's financial planning including retirement, investments, estate, insurance, and divorce preparation.



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GENISYS
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Film Production continued...

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merithot.com

See our ad on page 7

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Ann Arbor, MI 48103esquireinteriors.com
sales@esquireinteriors.com
734-663-7011**Hagopian Cleaning Services**43223 Twelve Mile Rd.
Novi, MI 48377originalhagopian.com
800-424-6742**Merkel Furniture and Carpet One**205 S. Main St.
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West Bloomfield, MI 48322
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New York, MI 10001
arcusfoundation.org
contact@arcusfoundation.org
212-488-3000**The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice**116 E. Sixteenth St., 7th Floor
New York, New York 10003
astreaefoundation.org
info@astreaefoundation.org
212-529-8021**Community Foundation for SE Michigan**Mariam Noland, Pres.
333 W. Fort St., Ste. 2010
Detroit, MI 48226
cfsem.org
cfsm@cfsem.org
313-961-6675**Detroit Area Art Deco Society**P.O. Box 1393
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1393
daads.org**The Forum Foundation**P.O. Box 3073
Center Line, MI 48015
theforumfoundation.org
jdidonato9932@comcast.net
586-573-9932An endowed foundation for the purpose
of granting scholarships to LGBT
students in Michigan.**The Gill Foundation**2215 Market St.
Denver, MI 80205
gillfoundation.org
303-292-4455**The HOPE Fund***Community Foundation for
Southeast Michigan*333 W. Fort St., Ste. 2010
Detroit, MI 48226TheHOPEFund.com
313-961-6675A fund of the Community Foundation
for Southeast Michigan, The HOPE
Fund is dedicated to funding LGBT
projects in the seven county region of
southeast Michigan.**Kresge Arts In Detroit**201 E. Kirby
Detroit, MI 48202
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313-744-3204**OUT Fund for Lesbian & Gay Liberation**116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor
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212-529-8021**FRAMING****Gianna's Fine Art and Custom Picture Framing***Gianna Lampertius*30006 W 12 Mile Rd (across from the
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408 Berkley Avenue,
Ann Arbor, MI, 48103734-812-4757
franchiseplaymaker.com/pride
See our story and ad on pages 32-34**FUNERAL HOMES****Michigan Memorial Funeral Home**30895 W. Huron River Dr.
Flat Rock, MI 48134MiMemorial.com
734-783-2646**FURNITURE****Esquire Interiors**863 West Ann Arbor Trail
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Ann Arbor, MI 48103esquireinteriors.com
sales@esquireinteriors.com
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Chelsea, MI 481182396 E. Stadium
Ann Arbor, MI 48104merkelfurniture.com
734-971-2795**Three Chairs Company**215 S. River
Holland, MI 49423215 S. Ashley St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104threechairs.com
annarbor@threechairs.com
734-665-2796**FURRIERS****Ceresnie & Offen Fur Group**181 S. Old Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009ceresnieandoffenfurs.com
248-642-1690**GARAGE DOORS****Town & Country Door, LLC**1991 Orchard Lake
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320townandcountrydoor.net
townandcountrydoor@comcast.net
248-213-7882**GAY MEN'S HEALTH CLUB****Body Zone Health Club**1617 E. McNichols Rd.
Detroit, MI 48203
facebook.com/pg/bodyzonedetroit/
about/?ref=page_internal
bodyzone@detroitbz.com
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Grand Rapids, MI 49507
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Royal Oak, MI 48067

holiday-market.comholidaymarket@holiday-market.com**248-541-1414**

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Joe's Produce Gourmet Market

33152 W. Seven Mile Road

Livonia, 48152

joesproduce.cominfo@joesproduce.com

248-477-4333

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Hancock, MI 49930

keweenaw.coop**HAIR & BEAUTY****Charmed Salon and Boutique**

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detroitbrows.cominfo@detroitbrows.com**(313) 241-8612****Elizabeth Face + Body Med Spa**

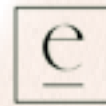
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Ferndale, MI 48220

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See our editorial and ad on page 32-34



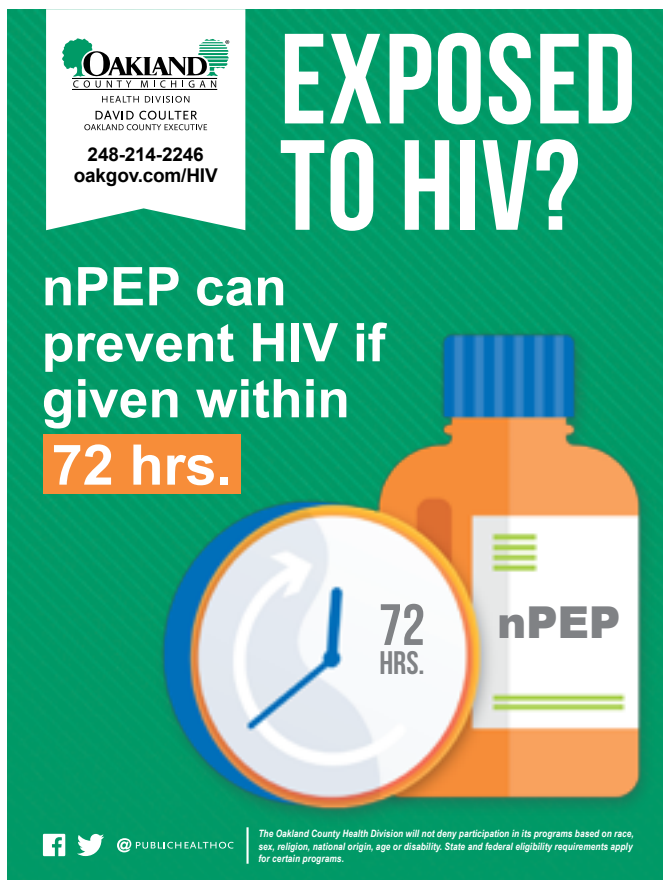
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OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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Once a day PrEP can reduce your risk.

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The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.



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HEALTH DIVISION
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OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE
248-214-2246
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nPEP can prevent HIV if given within 72 hrs.

[oakgov.com/HIV](https://www.oakgov.com/HIV)

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

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Chris Adamski

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CHAG - Community Health Awareness Group

1300 W. Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226

chagdetroit.org
info@chagdetroit.org
(313) 963-3434 ext. 108

CNS Healthcare

Cara Johnson

24230 Karim BLVD
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corktownhealth.org
info@corktownhealth.org
313-832-3300

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Dr. Tiffany Inman, Au.D, CCC-A, F-AA

1651 W Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48064

inmanaudiology.com/
InmanAudiology@gmail.com
248-839-5429

Amber Bordoley, M.A. CCC-SLP, provides speech therapy to adults and children 3 and older. She specializes in treating communication difficulties following stroke or TBI, and in providing American English accent training.

See our ad on next page

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Ann Arbor, MI, MI 48103

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Allegan County Health Department

Cindy Stiles, R.N.

3255 122nd Ave., Ste. 200
Allegan, MI 49010
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cstiles@allegancounty.org
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Detroit Health Department

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detroitmi.gov/health

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Genesee County Health Department Primary Care Clinic

Sandra Manssur FNP, BC
630 S. Saginaw St., Ste. 4
Flint, MI 48502

gchd.us
smanssur@gchd.us
810-257-3621

Ingham County Health Department

5303 S Cedar St
Lansing, MI, MI 48911
hd.ingham.org
(517) 887-4311

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services

311 E. Alcott St
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
kalcounty.com
269-373-5200

Michigan Department of Community Health- Division of Health, Wellness, & Disease Control

109 Michigan Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48913

michigan.gov/mdch
517-241-5900

Oakland County Health Division

1200 N. Telegraph, Building 34 East
Pontiac, MI 48341

oakgov.com/Health800-848-5533

The Oakland County Health Division provides health services for the public, businesses and educational communities. The Health Division's 40+ programs/services focus on preventing the spread of disease; ensuring a safe and clean environment; promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors; preparing for emergencies; surveillance of disease threats; and ensuring accessibility of health services.

See our ad on previous page

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 448343

olhsa.org

Ottawa County Department of Public Health

12251 James St #400
Holland, MI 49424

miOttawa.org/SexualHealth
616-396-5266

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Adam Fitzgerald**

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Madison Hts., MI 48071

aacforyou.com

adam@aacforyou.com

248-399-9111

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See our Health Department ad on page 17



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karmanos.org

Corewell Health

<https://corewellhealth.org>

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Henry Ford Health System

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Detroit, MI 48202

henryford.com

Henry Ford Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases

2799 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
henryford.com
313-876-2556

HOTLINES & SWITCHBOARDS

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aa-semi.org/
usrecovery.info/AA/Michigan.htm
313-831-5550

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1200 N. Telegraph Rd, Bldg #32E
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commongroundhelps.org
248-456-8150

RAP Line-Runaway Assistance Program

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877-211-MASS (6277) or just dial 211

Transgender Michigan

563 W 9 Mile Rd. #309
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info@transgendermichigan.org
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thetrevorproject.org
866-488-7386

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<http://farmersagent.com/wreames>

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bluellamajazzclub.com
734-372-3200

See our ad on page 85

Blue LLama
JAZZ CLUB

See our ad on page 85

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201 North Riverside Ave., Suite A-5
St. Clair, MI 48079
4ever2.com
patrick@4ever2.com
810-289-3905

Birmingham Jewelry

34756 Dequindre, Sterling Heights,
MI 48310

birminghamjewelry.com
info@birminghamjewelry.com
(586) 939-5100

Abracadabra Jewelry / Gem Gallery

205 E. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

abragem.com
734-994-4848

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Patrick Coughlin

516 South Riverside Ave.
St. Clair, MI 48079

coughlinjewelers.com
contactus@coughlinjewelers.com
810-329-6866

Darakjian Jewelers

101 Willits St.
Birmingham, 48009
darakjian.com
248-356-7140

Diamond Castle Jewelers

39955 Grand River
Novi, MI 48375
diamondcastlejewelers.com
248-442-2440

Elements Custom Jewelry Studio

512 S. Center St
Royal Oak, MI 48067
elementsjewelrystudio.com
248-544-4111

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300 South Maple Rd
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<http://lewisjewelers.com>
734-994-5111

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minersden.com
tilla@minersden.com
248-585-6950

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deanaspenner@battlecreekpride.org
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gogirlsaugatuck.com

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info@grpride.org
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ANDREW.K.GFL@gmail.com

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info@jacksonpridecenter.org
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LGBT Detroit

The Center in Detroit

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outfrontkzoo.org
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Traverse City Pride - UPNorth Pride

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upnorthpride@gmail.com

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kheard@detroitlgbtchamber.com

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Motor City Pride works toward our vision of a society characterized by a strong commitment to universal civil rights as well as safe communities, workplaces and schools.

Motor City Pride; Michigan's largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Festival draws almost 60,000 attendees from throughout the region, including Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and our neighbors from Ontario, Canada. Highlights of the festival include a parade, rally, family fun area, youth activities, five stages of entertainment and over 120 non-profit, sponsor, food and sales booths.

The festival is designed for an open-ended appeal for our diverse community. There is something truly energizing, exciting and empowering about holding Motor City Pride at such a prominent location as Hart Plaza because it solidifies the notion of LGBT people as contributing members of our larger community. It also demonstrates the strength, vitality and unity of our community within the collective fabric of Southeastern Michigan.

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313-279-5561

Cathedral Church Of St. Paul

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313-833-7547

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centralwoodward.org
248-644-0512

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
christchurchcranbrook.org
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christthekingcatholicdetroit.org
313-532-1211

Christ Lutheran Church of Waterford

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300 Grove St.
East Lansing, MI 48823 **517-816-4300**

25 Ionia Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503 **616-451-4577**

80 W. 8th St
Holland, MI 49423 **616-499-6269**

300 E Water St.,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007 **269-210-0075**

601 P St Ste 105,
Lincoln, NE 68508 **402-971-0700**

430 S. Main St
Royal Oak, MI 48067 **248-744-2544**

hopcat.com/
See our ad on page 84

Of Rice & Men

312 S. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI, MI 48104
ofriceandmen.com
info@ofriceandmen.com
734-222-0202

See our ad on page 85

Sozai Restaurant

449 West 14 Mile Rd.
Clawson, MI, MI 48017
sozairrestaurant.com
(248) 677-3232

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Urbanrest Brewing Company

2615 Wolcott St.,
Ferndale, MI 48220
urbanrest.com
313-389-6439

SENIOR LIVING**Fox Run Senior Living Community**

41000 W 13 Mile Rd
Novi, 48377
ericksonliving.com/fox-run
248-926-5200

Allegría Village

15181 Ford Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48126
henryfordvillage.com
877-796-3458

MiGen – Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network
Angela Gabridge, Executive Director

migenconnect.org
313-241-8994
Formerly SAGE Metro Detroit, MiGen provides services, advocacy, fun, and connection to LGBTQ+ folks ages 45+. At MiGen, we believe in vibrant, authentic lives at any age, safe spaces and connected communities.

See our ad on 13

SOCIAL/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**Al Gamea**

P.O. Box 471, Hazel Park, MI 48030
algamea.org

A.L.O.R.D.E. Collective
African-American Lesbians Organized to Renew Dignity and Empowerment.
ALORDEcollective@gmail.com

Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality

220 Bagley, Ste. 808, Detroit, MI 48226
detroitcoalition.org
313-963-8116

Detroit Latin@z

facebook.com/detroitlatinaz/
734-474-2372

Dykes on Bikes

dykesonbikesdetroit.com
Heather@Dykesonbikesdetroit.com

Freedom House Detroit

2630 West Lafayette
Detroit, MI 48216-2019
freedomhousedetroit.org
313-964-4320

Lambda Car Club

P.O. Box 446, Royal Oak, MI 48068
lccdetroit.org
248-321-5025

Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR)

P.O. Box 14009
E. Lansing, MI 48901-4009
lahronline.org

LGBT Detroit
The Center in Detroit

20025 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48235

lgbtdetroit.org
detroit@lgbtdetroit.org
313-397-2127

See our ad on page 51

Michiana Dunes Region Lambda Car Club International

P.O. Box 51416
Kalamazoo, MI 49005-1416
lambdacarclub.com
734-649-5295

Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

3031 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 525
Detroit, MI 48202-3025
miroundtable.org

Motor City Bears

P.O. Box 1894, Royal Oak, MI 48068
motorcitybears.com
mcbinfo@motorcitybears.com

Perceptions

P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
perceptionsmi.org
info@perceptionsmi.org
989-891-1429

SOLAR ENERGY**The Green Panel**
325 84th St SW

Suite 204
Byron Center, MI, MI 49315
thegreenpanel.com
866-633-8553

SPEECH THERAPY**Communication Key**

29823 Fernhill Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
ckspeech.org
abordoley@ckspeech.org
(248) 987-8464

SPORTS**Ann Arbor Women's Rugby**

Jamie Frech
annarborwomensrugby.com
womentradesmenrugby@gmail.com
586-404-2152.

GOAL: Get Out And Live!

Metro-Detroit Area, MI
getoutandlive.me

IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization)

igbo.org/about/default.cfm
nah-region@igbo.org

Metro Detroit Softball League

Chris Harris, Commissioner
P.O. Box 20215, Ferndale, MI 48220
mdsl.org
586-945-4029

Michigan Panthers Football Club

Livonia, MI
michiganpanthers.org
info@michiganpanthers.org
Michigan's gay flag football team.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI GROUPS**Alma College Gender & Sexual Diversity**

614 W. Superior St.
Alma, MI 48801
alma.edu/student-life/what-can-i-do-on-campus/diversity-focused.php
lambrechtak@alma.edu

Eastern Michigan University, LGBT Resource Center

354 EMU Student Center
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
emich.edu/lgbtrc
lgbtrc@emich.edu
734-487-4149

Grand Rapids Community College StandOut

facebook.com/StandOutGRCC
orgsync.com/25610/chapter
616-234-3752

Grand Valley State University GLBT Resources

1161 Kirkoff Center
Allendale, MI 49401
gvsu.edu/lgbtrc
lgbtcenter@gvsu.edu
616-331-2530

Lawrence Technological University LGBT Resource Center

21000 W. 10 Mile Road, A. Alfred Taubman
Student Services Center, C404
Southfield, MI 48075
LTU.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
248-204-3142

Michigan State University Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay & Transgendered Students

441 Student Union
East Lansing, MI 48824-1020
lgbtrc.msu.edu
517-353-9520

Michigan State University LGBT Resource Center

302 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113
Lgbtrc.msu.edu/student-faculty-staff-and-alumni-organizations
517-353-9520

Oakland University

Rochester, MI 48309
oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

University of Michigan - Dearborn, LGBTQ Inclusion Initiatives

University Center, 4901 Evergreen Rd.
Dearborn, MI 48128-1491
umd.umich.edu/lgbtqa
313-593-5390



Authenticity is Ageless.

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University of Michigan - Division of Student Affairs Spectrum Center

3200 Michigan Union - 530 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1308
spectrumcenter.umich.edu
spectrumcenter@umich.edu
734-763-4186

University of Michigan - Flint Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center

213 University Center 303 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI 48502-1950
Umfliint.edu/lgbt
dept.lgbt-center@umflint.edu
810-766-6606

Western Michigan University, Office of LGBT Student Services Nathan Nguyen, Director

1321 Trimpe, Mail Stop 5372
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5326
wmich.edu/lgbt
lgbt-coordinator@wmich.edu
269-387-2133

Offering education and advocacy to the campus community.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Al-Anon Office of Metro Detroit

26150 Five Mile Rd.
Redford, MI 48239
al-anon-semi.org
313-242-0300

Alcoholic Anonymous

aa-semi.org/
usrecovery.info/AA/Michigan.htm
313-831-5550

All Well-Being Services

1413 Field St.
Detroit, MI 48214

awbs.org
313-924-7860

AWBS has four locations in Wayne and Macomb counties and a dedicated staff that works to offer the resources necessary to enjoy a full and meaningful life. Our services include; mental health, support for those with intellectual developmental disabilities, substance use disorder treatment and prevention, integrated health care and HIV/AIDS prevention.

See our ad on page 9

Mariners Inn

445 Ledyard St.
Detroit, MI 48201
marinersinn.org
mgrusche@aol.com
313-962-9446

Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center

1106 S. Washington
Bay City, MI 48708

sacredheartcenter.com
810-392-2167

Together We Can

P.O. Box 247
Royal Oak, MI 48068
twcdetroit.com
twc@twcdetroit.com
248-838-9905

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

220 E. Huron, Ste. 470
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
a2so.com
info@a2so.com
734-994-4801

Detroit Symphony Orchestra

Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center
3711 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
dso.org

Flint Institute of Music

1025 East Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503
thefim.org
810-238-1350

Lansing Symphony Orchestra

104 S. Washington Square, Suite 300
Lansing, MI 48933
LansingSymphony.org

Michigan Philharmonic

Nan Washburn, Music Director & Conductor
650 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170
michiganphil.org
info@michiganphil.org
734-451-2112

TATTOO

Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing

515 E Grand River Ave
East Lansing, MI 48823
https://splashtattoos.com
info@splashtattoos.com
(517) 333-0990

TATTOO REMOVAL

Lansing Laser Tattoo Removal

515 East Grand River
East Lansing, MI 48823
lansinglaser.com
lansinglaser@gmail.com
517-881-6880

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http://msphelpscpa.com

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313Presents.com

Allesee Dance Theatre

Old Main, Third Floor, 4841 Cass Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
theatreanddanceatwayne.com
313-577-2972

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
a2ct.org
manager@a2ct.org
734-971-2228

Broadway In Detroit

Fisher Theater

3011 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202

broadwayindetroit.com contact@
broadwayindetroit.com
800-982-2787

Cabaret 313

24901 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 312
Southfield, MI
cabaret313.org
313-405-5061
Cabaret 313 produces a series of cabaret
concerts in and around Detroit.

Detroit Repertory Theatre

13103 Woodrow Wilson Dr.
Detroit, MI 48238
detroitreptheatre.com
313-868-1347

Fisher Theatre

3011 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48202
broadwayindetroit.com
contact@broadwayindetroit.com
313-872-1000

Flint Institute of Music

1025 East Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503
thefim.org
810-238-1350

Fox Theatre

2211 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48201
313presents.com/fox-theatre
313-471-3200

Jewish Ensemble Theatre

1124 West Maple Rd
Walled Lake, MI 48390
jettheatre.org
248-788-2900

Macomb Center for Performing Arts

44575 Garfield Rd
Clinton Twp., MI 4838-1139
macombcenter.com
(586) 226-4737

Michigan Opera Theatre

1526 Broadway St.
Detroit, MI 48226
michiganopera.org
313-237-7464

P E W A
B
C

See our ad on page 75

MICHIGAN
THEATER

See our ad on page 1

Michigan Theater

603 East Liberty
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

michtheater.org
734-668-8397

See our ad on page 1

Midland Center for the Arts

1801 W. Saint Andrews Rd.
Midland, MI 48640

midlandcenter.org
989-631-5930

See our ad on page 89

Purple Rose Theatre Company

137 Park St., Chelsea, MI 48118

purplerosetheatre.org
734-433-7782

See our ad on page 88

Ringwald Theatre

290 W Nine Mile Rd
Ferndale, MI 48220
TheRingwald.com
248-545-5545

Royal Oak Music Theatre
Justin Miller, General Manager

318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak, MI 48067
royaloakmusictheatre.com
justin@royaloakmusictheatre.com
248-399-2980

Slipstream Theatre Initiative

460 Hilton Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
slipstreamti.com
slipstreamti@slipstreamti.com
313-268-3739

Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theatre

415 S. Lafayette Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067

stagecrafters.org
info@stagecrafters.org
248-541-6430

Stagecrafters makes their home at the historic Baldwin Theatre, a beautifully restored former vaudeville playhouse built in 1922.

State Theater

233 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
michtheater.org
734-668-8397

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316 S. Main St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
theark.org
734-761-1818 or 734-761-1800

The Fillmore Detroit

2115 Woodward
Detroit, MI 48201
thefillmoredetroit.com
313-961-5451

The Masonic

500 Temple Ave., Detroit, MI 48201
themasonic.com

University Musical Society

881 North University Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
ums.org
734-764-2538

Wayne State University Maggie Allesee Dept. of Theatre & Dance

4841 Cass Ave. Suite 3226
Detroit, MI 48202
theatreanddance.wayne.edu
313-577-3511

Wharton Center for Performing Arts

Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1318
whartoncenter.com

TILE**Pewabic Pottery**

10125 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214

pewabic.org

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TRANSGENDER GROUPS/SERVICES**Gender Identity Network Alliance**

Hannah Hartley, President/Chair

Ferndale, MI
gna-usa.com

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
standwithtrans.org

TG Detroit

tgdetroit.com

Transgender Michigan

563 W 9 Mile Rd. #309
Hazel Park, MI 48030
transgendermichigan.org
855-345-TGMI

TRAVEL PROFESSIONALS**Rainbow Getaways**

rainbowgetaways.net

contactus@rainbowgetaways.net

321-344-9001

At Rainbow Getaways, we understand that planning travel for the LGBTQ community (and our allies) can be super stressful. Members of our community not only have the standard overwhelm of making sure that all our i's are dotted and t's are crossed, but we also have an additional element of planning that is required. It is essential that we feel confident and comfortable to explore and enjoy the destinations that we visit.

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See our ad on page next page

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Arbor Pointe Veterinary Hospital Dr. Michael Petty, DVM

42043 Ford Rd., Canton, MI 48187
arborpointe.com
734-844-8844

Brookeside Veterinary Hospital Dr. Nancy Smaltz DVM Dr. Vincent Rozyczko DVM

3010 Warren Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
brookesidevet.net
brookesidevet@sbcglobal.net
734-761-7523

Comfort Care Veterinary Services Dr. Steve Zinderman

41740 Michigan Ave.
Canton, MI 48188
comfortcarevet.com
comfortcarevet@gmail.com
248-429-9866

Humane Society of Huron Valley Providing low cost vet services

3100 Cherry Hill Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
hshv.org
734-662-5585

Michigan Humane Society

30300 Telegraph Rd. Ste 220
Bingham Farms, MI 48025
michiganhumane.org
248-283-1000

Patterson Dog & Cat Hospital Glynes D. Graham, DVM

3800 Grand River Ave.
Detroit, MI 48208
pattersondogandcat.com
313-832-7282

See our ad on this page

The Pet Authority Animal Hospital

4588 Walton
Waterford, MI 48329
petsloved.com
thepetauthority@aol.com
248-673-3490

Washtenaw Veterinary Hospital Dr. Lauren Danskin

2729 Packard Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
washtenawveterinaryhospital.com
frontdesk@wvhcares.com
734-971-5800

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Clinton Twp, MI 48036
jdentertainment.com
info@jdentertainment.net
586-468-9560

Joseph Productions, Inc.

jpitel.com
734-266-0500 Ext 114

Merithot Creative Marketing

merithot.com

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I offer video services to LGBTQ+ couples / throuples / polycules / partners – especially folks of Color – who are choosing to celebrate their love through a wedding or similar event.

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weddings@dainevans.com
248-763-1214

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inside front cover

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315 W Huron St #340
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

visitannarbor.org
info@annarbor.org
734-995-7281

See our ad on the inside front cover

Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau

56638 Calumet Avenue
Calumet, MI, MI 49913
keweenaw.info
(906) 337-4579 | (800) 338-7982

Saugatuck-Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

P.O. Box 28, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453
https://saugatuck.com/
staff@saugatuck.com
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merithot.com

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carolyn@cjceventplanning.com
312-498-9129

We offer Wedding Planning Packages including everything from Day of Event Coordination to Full-Service Planning from start to finish, Social Gatherings including Private Chef Dinners and Cocktail Receptions, Corporate Meetings and Events for your team, product roll outs, fundraisers or holiday gatherings and Special Celebrations; showers, anniversaries, graduations and birthdays. Any excuse you can think of to get together and have an amazing time, we want to be part of the fun!

See our ad on page 92

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6877 State Rd Suite B
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whitearborbridal.com
734-470-6805

WEDDING GOWNS**The Wedding Shoppe**

2186 Coolidge Highway
Berkley, MI 48072
theweddingshoppe.net
info@theweddingshoppe.net
248-541-1988

White Arbor Bridal & Formals

6877 State Rd Suite B, Saline, MI 48176
whitearborbridal.com
whitearborbridal@gmail.com
734-470-6805

WEDDING VENUE**Ford House – Edsel & Eleanor**

1100 Lake Shore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236
313-884-4222
info@fordhouse.org

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See our ad on page 70

Hell's Chapel of Love

4045 Patterson Lake Rd
Hell, MI 48169
gotohellmi.com,
saleshellmichigan@gmail.com
734-878-2233

Hyatt Place and Diamond Center at Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River Ave.
Novi, MI 48374
diamondbanquetcenter.com
dc@suburbanshowplace.com
248-348-5600 x231

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Todd & Tracy Osann
499 S. Main Street
Plymouth, MI 48170
meetinghousegrandballroom.com
meetinghousegb@aol.com

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otsegoclub.com
989-732-5181

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rochesterhills.org/museum
248-841-2674

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Shane Pliska**

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planterra.com

Ronora Lodge and Retreat Center

9325 Dwight Boyer Rd., Watervliet, MI 49098
ronoralodge.com
269-463-6315

The Gem & Colony Club

333 Madison Ave., Detroit, MI 48226
gemtheatre.com
313-963-9800

The Henry Autograph Collection

300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn, MI 48126
behenny.com
313-441-2000

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21803 West River Rd.
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
westcroftgardens.com
info@westcroftgardens.com
734-676-2444
Where moments blossom and memories grow. Established in 1776, our historic farm has been changing with the times for nearly 250 years and offers a seasonal Garden Center, an Event Space, Heritage Gardens, cherry and lavender fields as well as manufacture our acid soil conditioner, Greenleaf Compound. We look forward to your history becoming part of our history.

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Dexter, MI 48130

zingermanscornmanfarms.com

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**WOMEN'S/AFAB'S
HEALTH**

Planned Parenthood of Michigan

950 Victors Way, Suite 100
Ann Arbor, MI 48108
contact@ppmi.org
734-926-4800

Safe House Center

4100 Clark Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
safehousecenter.org
734-995-5444

YOUTH SERVICES

Common Ground Sanctuary

1200 N. Telegraph Rd, Bldg #32E
Pontiac, MI 48341
commongroundhelps.org
248-456-8150

Horizons Project

Wayne State University School of
Medicine Childrens Hospital of Michigan
50 East Canfield
Detroit, MI 48201
peds.med.wayne.edu
313-924-9493

**Ozone House LGBTQ Youth &
Family Services**

102 N. Hamilton St.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
ozonehouse.org
734-662-2222

Ruth Ellis Center

95 Victor St., Highland Park, MI 48203
ruthelliscenter.org
info@ruthelliscenter.org
313-252-1950

Ruth Ellis Center's mission is to create opportunities with LGBTQ+ young people to build their vision for a positive future and currently operates 5 major programs including the Drop-In Center, Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center, Housing, Ruth Ellis Institute, and Kofi House: Center for Lesbian and Queer Women and Girls, to provide a safe space and a variety of support services.

**The Corner Health Center - Young
Adult Health Center**

47 N. Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197
cornerhealth.org
734-484-3600

The Trevor Helpline

thetrevorproject.org
866-488-7386

ZINGERMAN'S
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