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ON THE COVER: Artist and creative provocateur Machine Dazzle's solo exhibition "Ouroboros" opened at University of Michigan Museum of Art on March 14, 2024. Photo: Gregory Kramer

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BY CATEGORY

Find all listings online at PrideSource.com

Accommodations	32	Economic Development	47	Opera Company	60
Accounting	33	Electricians	47	Optometrists	60
Adoption Services	33	Employee Resource Group	47	Personal Protective Equipment	60
Adventure Parks	33	Entertainment	47	Pet Adoption	60
AIDS/HIV Hotlines	33	Erotica	48	Pet Boarding	60
AIDS/HIV Organizations	33	Families and Parents	48	Pet Day Care	60
Air Conditioning/Heating	34	Farmers Market	48	Pet Grooming	61
Alzheimer's Association	34	Fertility Services	48	Pet Services - Memorial	61
Animal Shelter	34	Festival Production	48	Pet Services/Boutique	61
Anti-Violence	36	Financial Services	48	Pet Supplies	61
Antiques	36	Flooring	50	Pet Training/Behavior	61
Archives/Collections	36	Florists/Floral Design	50	Pharmacy	62
Art Organizations & Fairs	36	Foster Care	50	Photography	62
Art Galleries	36	Foundations and Funding	50	Physicians	62
Artists	36	Framing	50	Physicians/Gynecology	62
Attorneys	36	Funeral Homes	50	Plumbing	62
Auto Collision	36	Furniture	50	Political Organizations	62
Auto Manufacturing	36	Gay Men's Health Club	50	Pottery	62
Auto/Dealer	36	Generators	50	Pride & Event Organizers	62
Auto/Repair	38	Gift Shops	51	Printing	64
Bakeries	38	Golf Course	51	Professional Organizations	64
Banks	38	Grocers	51	Prosthetics & Orthotics	64
Banquet Hall/Catering	38	Hair & Beauty	51	Publications	64
Bars - LGBTQ+	39	Handyman	51	Real Estate/Agent	64
Bars - LGBTQ+ Friendly	39	Health Care Services	51	REIKI	66
Beauty Spas	39	Health Department	52	Religious & Spiritual	66
Bicycle Shops	39	Heating & Cooling	52	Reproductive Health	69
Blinds / Drapery	39	Home Goods	53	Restaurants	69
Bookstores	39	Homeopathic Remedies	53	Senior Living	70
Brick and Patio	39	Hospitals	53	Social/Community Organizations	70
Bridal Gowns	39	Hotlines & Switchboards	53	Skin Care	70
Cancer Support Groups	39	Human resources	53	Sports	70
Candy Store	39	Insurance	53	Storage	70
Carpeting	39	Janitorial Supplies	54	Student and Alumni Groups	70
Casino	39	Jazz Clubs	54	Substance Abuse	72
Catering	39	Jewelers	54	Symphony Orchestra	72
Cemeteries	39	Nurseries	54	Tattoo	72
Chambers	39	Leather Gear	56	Tattoo Removal	72
Chiropractors	40	Legal Organizations	56	Tax Planning/Preparation	72
Choral Music	40	Library	56	Theaters	72
Community Centers	40	Logistics	56	Tile	74
Concert/Music	40	Manufacturing	56	Transgender Groups/Services	74
Construction/Builders	42	Marijuana/Cannabis	56	Travel Professionals	74
Counseling	42	Marketing agency	56	Unions	74
Counseling Education	46	Massage Therapy	58	Veterinarians	74
Credit Union	46	Mortgages	58	Video Production	74
Cremation Services	47	Moving Companies	58	Visitors Bureau	74
Cybersecurity	47	Municipalities/Governments	58	Wedding / Event Planner	76
Dancing	47	Museums	58	Wedding Venue	76
Dentists	47	Music Groups	58	Women's/AFAB'S Health	76
D&I Assessments	47	Musical Instruments	58	Youth Services	76
DJ	47	National Organizations	58		
Domestic Violence Shelter	47	Nutritional Supplements	60		
Doors	47	Officiants	60		
Drapery	47				

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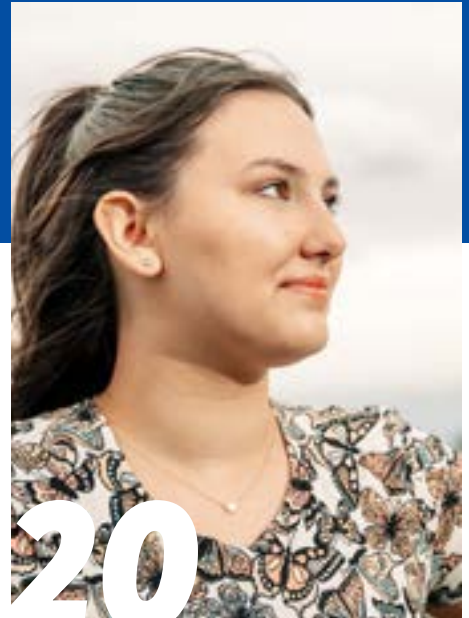
What's Inside



Machine Dazzle
Finds Beauty in the Beast



How Chris Sutton Is Preserving
30 Years of Local Black Queer
History



Abigail Rowe Put Ortonville on
the Map as a Safe Destination for
Small-Town Queer Kids



Cyndi Lauper Talks Reflective
New Era — One She Has More
Than Earned



The Pride Source Directory

Over 850 Michigan-Based LGBTQ+ Businesses, Organizations and Non-Profits

Alphabetical Index p. 81



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A Letter From the Publisher

As the publisher of Pride Source and Between The Lines, Michigan's award-winning LGBTQ+ print publication, I find myself continuously humbled and profoundly grateful.

This role comes with fringe benefits I truly value, especially opportunities to engage with and to spotlight the passionate, diverse voices that make up our community and shape our collective experience. Particularly in an election year, the significance of this opportunity is not lost on me. Our team feels privileged to bring the stories of queer Michigan to you — stories we hope will continue to inspire joy, foster hope and spur you to action at the voting booth and as vital members of your local neighborhoods.

In this year's edition of Pride Source Magazine, we are proud to feature artists, activists and icons, including acclaimed conceptualist Machine Dazzle as he prepares for his Michigan debut; Abigail Rowe, a brave young woman creating safe spaces for queer youth in rural Ortonville, and accomplished Michigan-based filmmaker Chris Sutton, who reflects on his journey documenting LGBT Detroit's 30 years of important work dedicated to the Black queer experience.

Additionally, our Pride Source Equality Vendors directory features over 850 businesses and organizations throughout the state that recognize the importance of creating affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ Michiganders and their families.

By choosing to frequent and support LGBTQ-friendly coffee shops, bookstores, hair salons and other inclusive businesses, you help drive the economic empowerment of LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs and their allies. This action demonstrates that Michigan is a place built on inclusivity and progress, firmly committed to equality and acceptance for all.

As we navigate this pivotal election year, it's crucial to stay engaged and active locally. Our voices matter, and our participation can continue to shape the future of Michigan's policies, as our lawmakers work to secure protections and equity for those still disenfranchised in the LGBTQ+ community. We invite readers to celebrate the talents and contributions of this edition's featured artists and activists, to support the businesses investing back into the community, and — as we approach November 5 — to watch for candidate profiles and local election coverage at PrideSource.com and in Between The Lines.

With pride,

Benjamin





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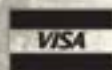
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Machine Dazzle during his second visit to the U-M Stamps' Green Road Studio location to work on his sculpture piece Ouroboros. Photo: Neil Kagerer

Machine Dazzle Finds Beauty in the Beast

His first Midwest exhibition in Ann Arbor doesn't just turn trash into treasure — it examines who we are and what we can become

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The dildo sitting upright on the tabletop next to me looks like if it attacked me, I wouldn't stand a chance. I don't necessarily feel like I have to keep an eye on it, but I also can't help it — it's just that big. Later, when it's not looking me in the eye, it appears smaller and less aggressive, even artfully elegant; that's because this time, that phallus is inside a giant coiled vessel hanging from the ceiling of the evolving installation, in its first phase of three, at the Irving Stenn Jr. Family Gallery inside the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) — a university museum, bless them, is the home to this dildo.

But when I initially come face to head with it, it's still in Machine Dazzle's modest-sized studio, just casually hanging out. It's the end of February when I meet with the New York-based artist internationally lauded for his special ability to maximize his resources for conceptual purposes, turning the most random objects into stunningly wearable

sculptures — “more is more,” he told Artnet News in 2020.

As he sits in his studio among an assortment of everyday household items he's picked out of trash recovered from the Huron River and waste management facilities in Michigan, it's impossible to imagine how plastic Tide detergent containers and all these multi-colored dildos, many printed on a 3D printer at U-M, will be incorporated into his ambitious project, titled “Ouroboros,” described in press materials as “a maximalist wonderland inspired by the ancient symbol of a snake consuming its own tail.”

“What do you think that black thing is?” Machine says to me in his studio in February, pointing to something other than the dildo. He's motioning to the opposite side of the room, where I try but fail to identify the distorted and reshaped black plastic — once flimsy flower pots, he tells me. Some of this trash Machine has handpicked straight from local bodies of water and recycling and garbage bins; some of it has come from dorms and residences on this very campus. “At the end of the day, it doesn't really matter,” he says. “It came from fossil fuels.”

The plastic pieces on the floor, walls and tables in his studio haven't coalesced just yet except inside the expansive universe of Machine's mind, where there really seems to be no such thing as “less.” It's anyone's guess at this point exactly how he will work

all of this stuff into his first major museum commission and debut exhibition in the Midwest, a project that began with site visits in October 2022 and made its museum debut in March.

Like us, Ouroboros was always intended to change and grow over time, through three phases, the last occurring during Pride Month in June. So, how exactly will all of this be assembled into something meaningful when more trash and phalluses enter the vessel?

Calling it a “symbolic odyssey,” the museum answers this question over the course of six months, through Aug. 25, the last day to see Ouroboros up close and personal. On the day of our interview, just a couple of weeks before the initial installation, Machine is, of course, making very specific considerations as to how he sees it coming together. He shares his surprisingly relatable vision with me before the big base structure even enters the 1,200-square-foot Irving Stenn space, explaining how Ouroboros, if you're looking at it with a degree of existential dread, which he can't help but do given our sit-down is on the day of the presidential primaries when conservative-wielded queerphobia continues to run rampant, is really a physical representation of a renewal process that reshapes some kind of current state. What a coffee container can be. What a Kirkland olive oil bottle might be morphed



Machine Dazzle working on his installation for Ouroboros at the U-M Stamps' Green Road Studio location. Photo: Neil Kagerer

“What I’m trying to do is transform it into queer joy. That manifests in costume, music and sculpture. I’m turning it into something else because there’s nothing I can really do about it. I can vote. But I’m only one person.”

into. What our country could become. And the part we play in all of this — “the past, present and future of waste,” he says.

“I mean, this is plastic,” he continues. “And so if you are a human and you’re alive, you’re participating in this never-ending cycle; it’s inevitable. I was just inspired by the objects. I started melting them or cutting them up or doing something, transforming them. And so this is kind of what I had interest in achieving. Once it’s in the sculpture, it’s like I have to make all of

the objects and then I have to put them all together. It’s a whole process.”

The past is the plastic and the present is Ouroboros itself; the future is also Ouroboros as well as the 3D technology that Machine uses to print dildos or various containers, like one for antifreeze, that will enter the vessel. “We’re still in a very rough digital age,” he says. “This is kind of like the Atari or Coleco of what will happen in 20 years. Things are going to be so lifelike, you’re not going to be able to tell the difference. Even

though we’re doing this now, it’s almost like I’m considering it like the future. And I really wanted to make it obviously sexual as if the garbage is reproducing itself, which is kind of what it’s doing already.”

If you think of the trash as humankind, which Machine does (“The garbage is us,” he says), then you could think of Ouroboros as a pioneering pursuit that broadens horizons to the uncharted realms of possibility. “Humankind is forever changing the earth’s surface and everything about it: the air, the water, the soil, our bodies; it’s just a never-ending cycle.” At 51, Machine has gone through enough of his own life cycles to be at least somewhat pessimistic about the future — these possibilities could get ugly — but he also isn’t going to stop people from turning their own trash, what they can control, into treasure. Including himself. Ouroboros, after all, is his version of changing what he can.

“We are never going to be on the same page,” he says. “I’m just being realistic.



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Machine Dazzle makes a waste management visit to find trash for his Ouroboros sculpture. Photo: Andrew Cohen

We can dream and we can hope. Fine. It's not exactly a waste of time because if that makes you feel better, good. But when you think about it, if people aren't all on the same page, we're never going to work together, and problems are just going to get worse. Things are not going to get better. They're going to get worse."

Existential dread aside, it also just boils down to Machine's prolonged need for escapism: "I love transforming objects into things," he says. As a kid, Machine transformed his own dislike for other young people into self-produced isolation. Born Matthew Flower in 1972 in rural Pennsylvania, he transformed his name too, at least for the stage. Before moving to New York City in the late 1990s and joining

the group The Dazzle Dancers as a drag performer and costume designer, he always had a fascination for objects, going all the way back to his formative years growing up in Texas. At 6, he felt "not like the other boys," and preferred looking for rocks and leaves by himself versus engaging with his peers. Teachers encouraged him to play with other students, "but they would annoy the fuck out of me," Machine says.

"I grew up in pretty conservative places, and my parents were fairly conservative and from a very small town, and they didn't know what to do with me," he recalls. "They were dealing with their own homophobia. But they knew. My father admitted to me after my mother died, 'I knew you were gay since you were 2 years old.' But I think he

was probably afraid to encourage it based on maybe his own homophobia, just not wanting to deal with what."

Possibilities began to emerge for Machine on family visits to a whole generation's ultimate hangout: the mall. Growing up, there wasn't a community of TikTok creators to help him on his path to self-discovery. No computers, even. And definitely no cell phones.

"Here we are at JCPenney, here we are at Sears, and I was aware of fashion," he says. "I had instincts that I couldn't act on because we didn't have the money, and my parents were not comfortable buying certain things for me. Of course, I was going to school with kids where their parents were doing that for them. And I would always just be like, 'Wow,

that's what I want to do. I want to do my hair like that, or I would love to wear that."

Weeks after Machine tells me about his suppressed past, I'm watching him, someone who finally did do his hair "like that" (and then some), onstage during the opening day of Ouroboros, as he speaks at the Michigan Theater for his Penny Stamps Speaker Series talk. In delightful socks that feature the Whoppers candy logo, a glittery headdress resembling that of a Vegas showgirl and a silver-painted dress made from a tarp (he's downright gleeful about the trip to Michaels he took to complete his look), his manifestation of self is as spectacularly alive and defiant as what I see during the unveiling of the installation inside the Irving Stenn Jr. Family Gallery just hours later.

"I definitely have a lot of suppressed anger," he tells me in his studio, without needing to justify it — just look around at the current state of the world. "And what I'm trying to do is transform it into queer joy. That manifests in costume, music and sculpture. I'm turning it into something else because there's nothing I can really do about it. I can vote. But I'm only one person."

During the public viewing of the first phase of Ouroboros in March, the UMMA deputy director of public experience and learning, Jim Leija, gave opening remarks that reflected on just how long the idea of bringing Machine's work to the museum

had been percolating. Back in 2016, Leija said, he met Machine across campus in the basement of the Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, where Machine was making what Leija described as "a human-sized macrame bikini type thing," an experience he, as an onlooker, said was "wild, wonderful and joyful." That garment was being made for performing artist Taylor Mac's Pulitzer Prize-nominated "A 24-Decade History Of Popular Music," which recently found a streaming home at HBO, where you can see Machine's visionary costume work, made again from found objects and acquired materials, that meticulously interprets the time period from 1776 to 2016 in ways that are nothing short of fabulous. His "24-Decade" costumes represented pivotal moments in American and world history: the Vietnam War, the Summer of Love and the first man on the moon. "My work with Taylor is by far my most significant work that I've ever done," Machine tells me.

For Leija, he couldn't forget that week in 2016, which led up to the "24-Decade" performance and then to Ouroboros. "For me personally, I never forgot that week of watching Machine work and his incredible spirit, creativity and craftsmanship, and his amazing, mischievous sense of humor," Leija said in his remarks. "I had always hoped that we would work together again, and being able to do this project together has truly been such a special privilege

and a dream come true. To be in Machine's universe is to be in a universe governed by endless possibilities, where 'more is more' is the law of the land, and where larger than life is just the right size." Looking at Machine that night, he added, "You inspire us all to be bigger, better versions of ourselves, and see the fabulous in everything."

Ouroboros will likely be the most stunning trash receptacle at a museum you've ever set your eyes on, where old junk is radiantly revived as if to say, during this precarious election year when so much is at stake for the queer community, we are capable of transformational beauty. Somehow, seeing everyday garbage that very well could've been mine morphed into sculpture is weirdly reassuring in a way that is life-affirming; it tells me that nearly everything we are looking at now, be it the instant coffee container on Machine's studio floor or the bans on gender-affirming healthcare for trans youth that seem never-ending in our modern era, is ephemeral. The effects on kids and climate change may be horrifying in this moment and in the future too, but even political and social change has similar malleable properties as a Sprite bottle that now looks like a gorgeous piece of blown glass. With Ouroboros, there's hope in all of Machine's dazzle — that the past may be the past, but something old can always be made into something new.



With Ouroboros, Machine Dazzle presents a maximalist wonderland inspired by the ancient symbol of a snake consuming its own tail. Photos: Christopher Ankney / Mark Gjukich



Chris Sutton. Photo: Andrew Potter

How Chris Sutton Is Preserving 30 Years of Local Black Queer History

'30 Years of LGBT Detroit' spotlights influential queer non-profit

BY JASON COLLINS

Chris Inpaq Sutton's groundbreaking film "30 Years of LGBT Detroit: A Documentary

Preserving Three Decades" celebrates three decades of community empowerment as it recognizes LGBT Detroit as a Michigan-based organization that has advocated for LGBTQ+ culture, education and human rights during that time.

"Filming this documentary has become a healing process for the inner gay child in me," he says, "and I hope that it can also

be healing for audiences who witness this journey on screen."

A native Detroiter, Sutton grew up in the Seven Mile and Meyers Road corridor. Though he is currently the program manager for the LGBT Detroit Broadcast Network and part of the team behind the successful "Listen Togethr" podcast, "it was hard for me to even imagine making it to



to LGBT Detroit, early in his career, as an “extremely self-conscious and somewhat lost Black gay youth,” he says. “When I entered the LGBT Detroit offices for the first time in 2012, I discovered a space where not only was I embraced fully in being my authentic self, but I also found a chosen family, which provided me with love and support that still fills my heart to this day. So now, working at LGBT Detroit full-time as the in-house broadcast manager and directing this upcoming documentary, it truly feels that my journey in this community has come full circle.”

Even when Sutton isn't working, he's still constantly thinking about filmmaking “when I eat, sleep, dream or simply navigate day-to-day tasks,” he says. “It truly is my life force.”

His film premieres during LGBT Detroit's annual Pride event Hotter Than July at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 26 at the Wright Museum. In anticipation of the premiere, Sutton spoke to Pride Source about the making of the film and the inspiration behind it.

How did the concept for the documentary come about?

LGBT Detroit has a long history of documenting and honoring the vast experiences of the LGBTQ+ community that continues to thrive within Detroit, which has often been undocumented and highly underrepresented. Highlighting our stories has especially been a key focus for LGBT Detroit's Executive Director, Nzere Kwabena.

When I met Nzere as a young, aspiring filmmaker in 2012, I had the opportunity to showcase a short film I shot, recapping the 2011 Hotter Than July festivities. I've always been extremely humble regarding my film work, but when Nzere saw my 2011 HTJ recap with this almost tangible joy in his eyes, he immediately saw something creatively magical in me that I had difficulty seeing in myself.

From that rainy spring day in 2012, when I first showcased my film work to Nzere, we have been in constant conversation in developing a documentary highlighting the story of LGBT Detroit and the community we serve. Fast forward 12 years later, as we

celebrate the 30-year anniversary of LGBT Detroit, we are finally ready to share “30 Years of LGBT Detroit” with the world.

How does it feel to make a film where you are part of the evolving story of the film's subject matter?

It's almost polarizing to develop this film and constantly reflect on my own experiences with people, places and pioneering moments with Detroit's LGBT community that have honestly molded me as a Black gay Detroit. I have such a deep pride for my LGBTQ+ community and my city, which is a constant theme in much of my film work. As a nearly 40-year-old, openly Black gay filmmaker, the immense blessing of directing “30 Years of LGBT Detroit” has honestly been therapeutic for me since it has allowed me to reflect on how far we have come as a community and how much more we can still achieve moving forward.

At the time of this interview, the film is still in production — has the focus or concept of the film shifted, given the nature of politics in an election year?

As an organization, LGBT Detroit has a long history of advocating and educating our community on the political stances that are impacting our human rights. This constant is only further amplified by the 2024 presidential election cycle, which can have a devastating impact on LGBTQ+ rights nationally. We've already seen laws passed across the United States, specifically in Texas and Florida, that are literally targeting the freedoms of LGBTQ+ people and stripping away the rights we have sacrificed so much for.

With this documentary, we want to reflect on the progress we've made in our fight for LGBTQ+ rights while simultaneously bringing greater urgency to how much we can lose if we are not vigilant on the political front.

Has filmmaking always been a passion for you?

My earliest memories as a toddler centered around creating stories and

adulthood,” he says, “let alone living my dream as an unapologetic, openly Black gay filmmaker thriving in Detroit.”

When he thinks back to his younger self, Sutton says at times he felt his sexuality had been a curse. Today, he says “embracing that aspect of myself has become such a profound blessing.”

He also now embraces queerness in his work as a visual storyteller, serving as director, cinematographer and video editor. His films often focus on Detroit's LGBTQ+ community and include shorts like “London” (2010) and “Voodoo” (2016) and documentaries like “What's T” (2018) and “Chosen Family” (2020).

Sutton joined KICK, the predecessor



Chris Sutton. Photo: Andrew Potter

worlds with anything around me, from crayons to LEGOs. Growing up in Northwest Detroit, I had limited access to filmmaking tools, but when I acquired a Game Boy Camera when I was 12 years old, my love for filmmaking flourished.

From that day on, I would use any cheap camera device I could get my hands on to make short films. While in film school, I purchased my first prosumer DSLR camera, a Canon T2i, and began doing freelance videography. Around this time, I met Nzere, who embraced my passion for filmmaking and hired me to film various projects within Detroit's LGBTQ+ community. My experience working as a freelance videographer helped me to creatively connect with community trailblazers and further crafted my passion for filmmaking.

honoring a community that poured into my love for filmmaking.

What do you love about Detroit and the people of Detroit?

Detroit is not only the city I was born in, where I currently reside and where much of my core community is based, but it is also what fuels much of my creative work. A significant portion of mainstream media has pushed this false narrative that, up until recently, Detroit was just some type of violent "Mad Max"-depicted wasteland that needed to be rescued by non-Detroiters and outside corporations using it as a "blank canvas."

The actual reality of Detroit is that it's always been, and still is, one of the most magnificent cities in the world

"The actual reality of Detroit is that it's always been, and still is, one of the most magnificent cities in the world and has literally cultivated much of American culture today."

So now, working as the full-time broadcast program coordinator at LGBT Detroit, it feels that my creative journey has come full circle with being blessed to direct the "30 Years of LGBT Detroit" documentary while

and has literally cultivated much of American culture today. And the longtime, hardworking residents of Detroit have always been the foundation of its greatness. I hope with the "30 Years of LGBT Detroit" documentary, audiences can obtain a deep understanding surrounding the brilliance of Detroit, the people who are a part of this great city, and the LGBTQ+ community that continues to grow here.

What is something you want viewers to walk away with after seeing this film?

It's the collective power we have when we unite together as a community. I often witness LGBTQ+ people reflect on their gender and sexual identities as a curse or something to be ashamed of based on societal stigmas. To be honest, I used to be one of those individuals who felt my sexuality was such a shameful aspect of myself that, even as a child, I felt my life as a whole was a waste before I even began truly living life. I know I'm not alone in this common experience, and I hope with "30 Years of LGBT Detroit" our incredible LGBTQ+ community can see the power within themselves when we come together to celebrate each other.

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AGAINST THE WIND

Abigail Rowe put Ortonville on the map as a safe destination for small-town queer kids

BY SARAH BRICKER HUNT

Before 18-year-old Abigail Rowe heads off to Saginaw Valley State University for college, where she'll major in public administration and theater, she wants to ensure the grassroots festival she founded at age 14 is in good hands.

Those hands belong to a dedicated group of supporters and admirers in small-town Ortonville who have vowed to maintain the myriad details required to keep the annual festival afloat. Rowe has reason to trust her community members, many of whom stood up and vocally supported her at meetings in March, when the local town council voted to deny an event permit to Abigail's Pride, the non-profit she created to support her annual

festival of the same name. That support was critical at a time when Rowe tells Pride Source she felt "beyond disappointed."

"There are still some things I'm kind of bummed about," she says in early May, about a month from the 2024 festival, set for June 1, which she will host in a park outside of town instead of along Ortonville's quaint Main Street. The event has been held there for the past two years, free from safety incidents or significant impacts to town commerce, issues the council claims it was trying to mitigate when members voted down the permit 4-2.

Prior to the denial, which both "surprised and did not surprise" her, Rowe had been writing the annual speech she presents at the opening of each festival. "It was really sentimental," she shares. "It was about how I'm so happy about this town and support that I've received from this community, but now it feels more divided. It's not actually support from the whole town, and that's sad."

Ortonville resident Carol Ulman, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, told Pride Source, "It was very moving to see the amount of residents from this community

willing to turn out at the village meeting and want to support Abby and her cause." Ulman is "grateful and thankful" nearby Brandon Township was able to work with Abigail's Pride on a new location.

Rowe has since pivoted from the sting of rejection and the feeling that the whole world was watching how she would react to the council's decision. "Moving on!" she says. "I'm really, really excited for the festival. I feel like the new venue, Brandon Township Community Park, opens doors for us to do things that I've been wanting to do for the past two years that we couldn't do safely. We're gonna have things like bounce houses for kids to just jump in — they're gonna love it."

Providing local kids a moment of joy has always been at the heart of why Rowe has poured so much into the annual festival. Almost immediately after coming out to her parents as bisexual at age 14, Rowe started planning an event where kids like her, who often felt ostracized and unwelcome in conservative-leaning Ortonville in northwest Oakland County, could have a day to just exist in a peaceful, affirming and loving environment.



"I really just wanted to go to a Pride festival," she recalls. "I wanted to meet all the people and know that all of the people there are safe to talk to, but I was 14 and I couldn't just go to Ferndale or Detroit or Grand Rapids where they have these big Pride festivals. I couldn't drive or ask my parents to drive me to a festival I didn't know anything about. I realized there are probably a lot of kids who can't make it out there, so we needed something here, somewhere where we can see people from our own school, and then we'd know who was safe at school, too."

Rowe's mom, Beth, has been her number-one fan and supporter from the start. "It's always been easy to support Abby in this venture," Beth says. "She has always been so driven and focused on what she wants to do. I'm just here to tell her she can do anything and everything she wants. That's the easy part."

Not so easy is watching her daughter face down detractors who can be downright cruel. "The hardest part of my job is watching and trying to protect her from the awful things people say," Beth says. "She has been attacked by her peers, community leaders and strangers who know nothing about her. I just want to sweep her away and stop all of it sometimes. But I know she would have none of that."

Rowe is gratified her festival has impacted the real lives of other students. She recounts an experience a fellow student shared with her about moving to Ortonville as a high school student: "This person wanted to move in with their dad and stepmom, but they were in Ortonville, and they had heard Ortonville is homophobic," she says. "They didn't want to go school here and deal with the negative vibe they thought our town

had toward LGBTQ+ people, but after the first Pride festival, they decided they were going to come spend the summer with their dad and test out the waters, to make sure they felt safe to come here. Because of the festival. And that makes me cry, hearing that our festival helps kids see that there are other people like them or people who can support them here."

"I don't think anybody who tells me these stories understands how much it means to me," she adds.

Rowe says she is frequently asked why "people need to hear about it." "People wonder why it is important to have education about LGBTQ+ people," she says. "On that front, my favorite story is about my dad."

Rowe says that before she came out, her dad sometimes expressed homophobic views, a painful emotional experience. "So I came out, and we didn't talk about it at all, the two of us. He didn't say anything nasty to me, but just didn't talk about it," she recalls. "I think he didn't know what to do. I told him what I was doing with the festival and he was just like, 'That's cool.'"

Soon after she came out, the family traveled together to a nearby country fair, "and he took off his hoodie, and underneath he had a T-shirt that said 'Proud Ally' in rainbow colors," Rowe recalls, tearing up. "I've never cried so much at a fair. It just meant so much to me, and I wondered why all of a sudden did that change, and it's because he wasn't homophobic because he had any good reason to be — it was because he had no idea what he was talking about. And then somebody started telling him how it is — somebody started educating him, and it was me. I was educating him, and then it clicked and he was like, 'She's the same kid that she was before I knew.'"

"She is such an inspiration to myself and to others," Ulman told Pride Source during the Ortonville saga. "She has been an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and has done it with grace and compassion while hate has been aimed towards her and her supporters."

While Rowe is wistful about leaving behind her "baby," she's also ready to step forward as a young adult, away

from Ortonville and the inherent pressures of organizing a huge community event as a high school student, an experience she says has sometimes been stressful and "freaky."

"It can be hard for me to be the person facing the entire town," she notes. "And lately, it's been much bigger than the entire town. It's people from everywhere. I'm on the news and doing interviews for magazines, and that's kind of a freaky feeling. Sometimes, I realize I need to take a step back and just be a normal teenager."

Rowe pauses and looks away. "I don't actually get a lot of opportunities to do that," she says, finally, but quickly follows up: "And that's fine! This is the path I've chosen for myself because I love it and I love doing this. It's just sometimes I have to say, 'I'm not doing this right now.' Like that week when everything kind of crumbled with the village was the week I was doing my last performance, and it was too much." (Rowe is a musical theater actor with her school's drama club, an activity that has kept her connected to other LGBTQ+ students over the years.)

In the big picture, Rowe says it all balances out. "It's a lot of pressure, for sure, but then there's also massive rewards that come with it, and I think that means it's worth it, for me," she says.

Still, with college just around the corner, Rowe is excited to begin a new chapter. "I am ready to get out. I gotta get out of here," she says, though she also seems to wrestle with a twinge of guilt. "I live in Ortonville," she says, carefully. "Because I live in Ortonville, a very small town, most if not all of the people at my school are ready to get out, and it makes me sad that they can't all get out, too. They are why we even do this festival."

"Really, who doesn't want to just have fun?" she adds. "I refuse to believe there are people out there who don't enjoy having fun. We all eat the same food. We all drink the same kinds of drinks. We walk on two feet and speak the same language. There's no difference except for who I want to spend my life with and who I love, and that's not a negative thing."

Rowe plans to be involved with Abigail's Pride throughout college, but mostly, she's handing over the reins to support staff like her mom and her social media manager



Abigail Rowe. Photo: Andrew Potter

Tara, who helped shield Rowe from some of the vicious Facebook and Instagram comments that poured in during the controversy with the town council. “I’ve had many conversations with my mom about how I don’t want to let down the kids here,” she says. “I don’t want it to be like, ‘She moved away and we never had it again.’”

In fact, Rowe plans to tie her college endeavors to a long future with Abigail’s Pride, noting that her chosen major, public administration, could help her gain skills she can apply to expand her non-profit. She plans to enroll in a program that will lead to both a bachelor’s and her MPA degree in five years. “And then, 10 years from now, my dream is to have Abigail’s Pride running to the point where it’s my career. I’m certainly not going

to make a bunch of money, but that isn’t the goal,” she says. “I just don’t want to have to do anything else. This is the thing that I learned that I love, and I would love to do this for the rest of my life.”

Rowe dreams of having a brick-and-mortar location for Abigail’s Pride, a place where local LGBTQ+ youth and allies can be together in a small town — maybe Ortonville, but she’s open to other locations. “It would just have maybe a little library, a place to watch movies in a room with a bunch of couches where if you need to go take a nap, go lay down,” she says, describing the vision in her head. “We’ll run programs and have therapists that we pay so you don’t have to pay to go to therapy, and peer counselors to be able to help kids who can’t get parental consent for licensed

therapists. People you can just go talk to.”

Rowe’s mom has no doubt Abigail will achieve her goal. “She is a strong woman who is about to change the world,” she says. “I am so proud of Abby for always keeping her goals in mind and not letting the negativity get to her.”

In the meantime, Rowe is grateful she can rely on her supporters to support her first big dream, the one she had at the age of 14 — to create a safe, affirming event for local LGBTQ+ kids where they would feel loved and accepted. “It means I can move on with my life, like a normal person would, while still trusting that there’s someone to... I don’t know — this is my baby, so it helps me to know that there are people who are gonna take care of it when I’m gone.”



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Cyndi Lauper. Photo: Timothy Greenfield-Sanders

Time After Time. After More Time.

Over forty years into her influential career, Cyndi Lauper is embarking on a reflective new era — one she has more than earned

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

At 70, Cyndi Lauper's special place in pop music history can be seen everywhere you look. Look around at abortion rights rallies and you'll see "Girls Just Want to Have Fun(damental) Rights" signs held high. Look up at a gay Pride float and there she'll be with her lesbian sister, Ellen. And look at a recent NPR Tiny Desk concert featuring rising 26-year-old pop artist Chappell Roan, with cigarettes tucked into her towering red wig and lipstick smeared all over her teeth,

and tell me you don't see the "she's so unusual" vibes that made Lauper famous, theatrical mannerisms and all.

Of course, her timeless songs did too. It says a lot about an artist who recorded songs decades ago that have either taken on new life or speak to our lives currently, which Lauper's do. Co-written by Lauper, "Sally's Pigeons," from her 1993 album "Hat Full of Stars," didn't shy away from putting a face on the issue of abortion rights, as

Read the full interview with Cyndi Lauper in the June 6 edition of *Between The Lines* or online at PrideSource.com.



it tells the story of two childhood friends — “little girls in ponytails,” Lauper sings, wistfully — and one who dies from a back-alley abortion. That song resurfaced in 2022 after the Supreme Court ruled to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, prompting Lauper to record an updated version.

These days, I can't help but think of today's LGBTQ+ youth who, facing the hostility of queerphobic rhetoric and harmful legislation, need what is perhaps Lauper's most heartening and universally loved anthem, “True Colors,” as much as I did when I came out 25 years ago. When Lauper whispers, “If this world makes you crazy

and you've taken all you can bear, you call me up because you know I'll be there,” her voice sounds like a warm hug from a dear friend who hurts for a whole community of people who are still disenfranchised.

It sounds that way because Lauper has been one of the dearest friends anyone could ask for — a true LGBTQ+ community ally. “Let the Canary Sing,” a new documentary that goes behind the scenes of Lauper's enduring career, looks at her rising stardom in the '80s and reflects on some of her most seminal songs, including how “True Colors” was inspired by her close friend Gregory, who died of AIDS-related illness. About that whispered message: “I wanted to speak to a human being in the most tender spot,” she says in the film.

“Let the Canary Sing,” which fittingly premieres during Pride Month on June 4 on Paramount+, illustrates Lauper's close bond with the LGBTQ+ community — just look at that footage of her testifying on Capitol Hill before a Senate subcommittee about youth homelessness in 2015. “I want to implore you not to pray to God to change your kid. I'm a mom. Pray to God to change your heart so you can love and help your kid,” she said at the time. In 2008, she co-founded True Colors United, a nonprofit addressing that very problem in the United States. As an artist and through her advocacy, Lauper has always been passionate about helping young queer people. Just by extending her allyship into songs, she made me feel affirmed for being gay and helped the closeted, quietly suffering teenager I was grow into the very openly queer journalist adult I became — the adult who could now tell her the part she played in helping me get here. So it's true: Cyndi Lauper's place in pop music history, off the charts, where she has perhaps made her most profound impact, can be seen everywhere you look.

I'm laughing because at the beginning of the documentary you say that you're late for everything, and you're a few minutes late.

[Laughs.] No, we're *very* late. This guy that I just did this interview with, the poor bastard, took him for a walk in Central Park, and then he was like, Cyn, we've been sitting here talking for a long time, but we

didn't even get up to 1983 yet. I talked him into the ground. Poor thing.

I watched the documentary. I cried like a baby. Your musical history is so embedded in my identity as a queer person, and so I just really felt that come through in the film.

Well, [director Alison Ellwood] has a lot of heart, and when I was first approached I felt like, ah, why do I need a documentary? But we were all sitting there watching documentaries. It was like, it was ridiculous. It was the pandemic, right? You remember.

And I kept saying, look, I'm not dead. There's no reason. And then they said, “Yeah, but you're alive, so you can make sure it's true.” And so then I saw this docuseries called “Laurel Canyon.” It was so beautifully done, and also a wonderful story. And it was obvious that this person that did that documentary was a filmmaker. And I looked her up and I said, “Well, if I'm going to do a documentary, I'd like to do it with this filmmaker because she's a wonderful filmmaker.” I thought, she really knows how to tell a story. I was excited to work with her.

It's great to have it on the record, in your own words. It's also very special to have your sister Ellen be a part of this. After seeing the film, I feel like she's a big part of your story.

When I went to Washington to sing “True Colors” for President Biden [in 2022] — and actually, I sat next to Senator Tammy Baldwin, who wrote the Respect for Marriage Act — the first thing I started to see was everything we all worked so hard for rolled back to prehistoric times. Some people were very happy, not most. When I went, I met this Republican senator that voted for the bill, Senator Portman (R-Ohio), who has an LGBTQ+ kid. I looked at him and I said, “It's different when it's in your family, isn't it?” And he said, “Yes.” I said, “You're doing right because you really see the truth of it, not the crazy people who are fear-mongers, hate-mongers, God-is-a-white man-who-hates-everyone-mongers.”

It's a scary thing when you think about it. For me, as a little kid, it was a scary thing, but that's why I guess I was asked to leave



Cyndi Lauper. Photo: Ruven Afanado

two Catholic grade schools, because when they told me my mother was going to hell, I said, "She's not going to hell. You don't even know her. She's not going to hell. She works hard, loves her kids, and really tries hard to take care of them. She's not going to hell."

How big of a role did the LGBTQ+ people in your life — Ellen, but also your gay friends Carl and Gregory — play in shaping you as an LGBTQ+ activist?

Oh no, it wasn't that. Are you kidding? What really made me say, "OK, that's it, we got to do something," is when I was pregnant with my son, and the shape of a beached whale, so you can't do much. And it was the beginning of the internet, which I thought was very "Star Trek," like Captain Kirk, because now, you could type something and somewhere far away, someone else would read what you typed instantaneously. This was "Star Trek" to me because it was so new.

And I just kept reading these letters for the first time about people, because I never had time to read anything. I was always working, working, working, working. And when I read the letters, people were talking about feeling horrible and wanting to commit suicide because they were disenfranchised from everything — from their family, their friends, their school, their job, whatever. And then they heard "True Colors." And I called Ellen and I read them to her and I said, "Ellen, we've got to do something. When the time is right, you and me have got to do something." And then we started. Started with PFLAG. Poor Ellen, because I styled her, too. She don't like being styled.

What did she hate most about how you styled her?

The mousse that gave her a pointy head. I thought it was good. She kind of liked it, but I pinned the shirt in the back a little bit. I thought it was too big, and she wasn't keen on that. But she's great. Always an inspiration. She is 18 months older than me, and my mother used to dress us alike and people would go, "Are they twins?" And my mother would say, "Almost." And I used to go to my mother, "Ma, it's not almost, what do you mean almost? You either are or you're not. We're not." But oh, I was up Ellen's butt no matter what. Whatever she did, I did. Whatever she wore, I wanted to wear. Whatever she did, I wanted to do. She still talks to me, though, so that's good.

Despite the mousse! So, you're somebody who has lived and fought through Stonewall, the AIDS epidemic and the fight for marriage equality, and you've been on the front lines during all of this as an ally. And we are obviously going through a very hostile period currently for queer people in this country.

“The one thing I learned about the ‘True Colors’ thing was that if you want to have somebody listen to you, you got to listen to them, too. And if you share your personal stories, you might find that you have more in common than you think.”

You know what I got to say to that? Vote. Research your voting. Don't just vote. Don't just think, “Oh, they don't have anything on the ballot.” Bullshit. There's always shit on the ballot. There's laws, there's a little this, little amendment, little that, little this, and [it's] hidden. Vote411.com — that's what you got to print. Find out who's running in your district, who's voting in favor of you, who's voting against you, and vote for the person that's your advocate, not somebody trying to squash you.

You were involved in the 2008 election, encouraging people to vote for President Obama. Do you plan on getting involved with this year's election campaigning?

Yeah, I have to. Because what are we supposed to do? I am supporting Tammy Baldwin because I think she's brilliant. She always champions families. What do you think was going to happen with all the families that there are now? And there's all different kinds of families, and you know what? Family is family. And when it's in your family, right in your face every day, what do I always say? Button up your shirt, your heart's falling out of your chest. If these people got no heart, they got cold. Cold as can be. But when it's your kid, are you going to vote against your kid, or are you going to help your kid? You're going to vote against your sister, your brother, your cousin? No. I'm not. I'm not going to do that. Guess why? Because I was taught blood's thicker than water. You stand together. You can wear down hate. Hate is not a good thing.

There's an old clip in the film of you talking about how you didn't want to be an icon; you just always wanted to be an artist. It's undeniable that you have become an icon in the eyes of many, though. In fact, I can't recall a time when you haven't been referred to as an icon of some sort — a

style icon, a gay icon, and now you've been named a Lifetime Ally Icon by WeHo Pride. What are your feelings on being an “icon” now, at this point in your career?

I don't know, sweetie. I don't know what that is. All I know is I've always strived to contribute to the world to make it better. Make it better for the kids, make it better for the Earth if we can. Although we're so stuck in plastic, I don't know what's going to happen. But you want to stand together. The one thing I learned about the “True Colors” thing was that if you want to have somebody listen to you, you got to listen to them, too. And if you share your personal stories, you might find that you have more in common than you think.

Sometimes there's people that go, “Oh, you are a liberal.” “Oh, you are a Republican.” But the truth is, we are Americans. That's what we are. And these party things, I don't know. I just know I'm an American, and I believe deep in my heart that Americans, deep in their heart, are fair-minded people. And I think that what the Republican Party used to be was Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln was a Republican. I don't know what's happened to the party. I'm telling you that even though you may be dismayed, don't be hijacked. Don't let zealous religious people force their religion down your throat.

As our beloved Lifetime Ally Icon, any last words that you'd like to get out there regarding Pride this year?

Well, I've always enjoyed Pride because it gave us the opportunity to celebrate

everybody together, and straight, not straight, everybody together. Families, friend families, just everybody. And I want to wish everyone a very happy Pride. It's been years since I've been able to celebrate with everybody because of work. But my sister will be with me. The last time she was with me, my mom was with us, too, on the float. It was a fire truck we were on.

And my sister and I and my mother were able to celebrate Pride together, and that meant the world to me. And in '94, when we had the “Deadly Cyns” record out, that was incredible; they were so afraid that we were going to be shut down in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral because they didn't want noise. It was Cardinal O'Connor, and I felt that he was definitely a man with braces on his heart. And I thought, please, please, God. Let them shut me down in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral, so the headline could read “Cardinal O'Connor just didn't want to have any fun.”

Love that you thought that.

Of course I did. Are you kidding? And so I made them stop there, and I did every version of “Girls Just Want to Have Fun” from the “Hey Now” [version], to the first one, to Arthur Baker's version, everything. Because I was like, come on, you see this battery on my shoulder? Go ahead, knock it down.

Like your sister says in the film, you've got that “Italian moxie.”

Sicilian, my friend. Sicilian.



SPONSORED EDITORIAL

UNIFIED HIV Services Gets a Power-Up With New Vivent Health Merger

For more than 40 years, Southeast Michiganders have relied on UNIFIED HIV Health and Beyond for a wealth of resources, from pop-up, confidential testing sites to connecting with preventive measures like PrEP and the management of HIV. A recent merger with Vivent Health, a leading national provider of integrated HIV prevention,

care and treatment services, will expand UNIFIED's umbrella of services to include a more holistic approach, one that addresses wide-ranging treatment barriers, from housing and food insecurity to comprehensive mental health care.

"We're not just treating HIV, we're treating disparities created

by socioeconomic and structural barriers to care. That includes food and housing issues that are plaguing many areas. But when you're also trying to manage or establish care for HIV, they become essential. You want to tend to those first before you can think about managing chronic disease or conditions," explains Vivent Health



President and CEO Brandon Hill.

Hill says the UNIFIED board of directors approached Vivent Health about a potential merger with a goal of replicating the success the organization has had in other cities across the country. The UNIFIED merger will extend Vivent Health's reach to six states and the number of clients served to nearly 20,000. Says Hill, "Like other organizations in other parts of the country, the UNIFIED board came to us and said, 'We want what you're doing in Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Louis. How can we forge a partnership?'"

While UNIFIED has been a lifeline for people in the Detroit metro area for four decades, the organization's smaller footprint has made it challenging to deliver on the need for a more holistic approach – something the organization identified as a priority to achieve the best outcomes.

The latest research indicates that roughly 20% of the 11,000 people

"We're not just treating HIV, we're treating disparities created by socioeconomic and structural barriers to care."

- BRANDON HILL, VIVENT HEALTH PRESIDENT AND CEO

living with HIV in metro Detroit are not engaged in care, which is shown to lead to poorer health outcomes (AIDSvu, 2021). Further, a disproportionate number of metro Detroit people living with HIV are people of color (68% are Black and 23% are Hispanic/Latinx).

Vivent Health's integrated HIV care and treatment approach has been shown to reduce these disparities in other cities, with 95% of patients served achieving viral suppression. These results surpass the U.S. Department

of Health and Human Services' 2030 Ending the HIV Epidemic target of 90%, as well as the national rate of 66% and Michigan's rate of 72%. Particularly noteworthy is that 93% of Vivent Health's Black/African American patients have attained viral suppression, a marked improvement compared to the national rate of 62% and Michigan's rate of 67%. (AIDSvu, 2021). Viral suppression is key in ensuring individuals with HIV can enjoy a full life expectancy and also prevents



HIV transmission to others, thus curbing new infections.

“With racial inequities continuing to drive the HIV epidemic, the need to transform the way we deliver HIV care and prevention services in Detroit and broader Michigan is clear. Which is why our Board pursued bringing Vivent Health’s innovative model of care to our community,” said Matt Browning, Chair of UNIFIED’s Board of Directors. “Seeing the positive impact Vivent Health is making in a growing number of communities, we’re confident that adopting their transformational approach will enable us to battle gaps in access to HIV care and provide longterm sustainability.”

Expanded Services on the Way

In the coming months, metro Detroiters

will gain access to a menu of services reaching far beyond HIV prevention, testing and treatment. Hill says the Vivent Health merger will soon connect clients to services aimed at helping people meet fundamental needs identified by the local community. “We believe it’s so important that local boards, communities and organizations determine what additional healthcare and services should be in the space for the HIV community,” Hill says. “UNIFIED has been doing case management for a long time and they’ve provided a wealth of support, so we [were] confident when they pointed to a need for more integrated care.”

Everybody’s needs are unique, and Vivent Health believes their care should be too. Whether a person needs HIV medical care or help overcoming food and housing insecurity, mental and behavioral health, pharmacy care, or other social services, Vivent Health’s

goal is to be here for them. Some services will be provided in-house, and others will be delivered through partnerships and referrals with local healthcare systems and community organizations.

“We’re here to complement what Detroit and Southeast Michigan already offer,” says Hill. “Our model of care is known for engaging people living with HIV who are out of care. Doing all we can do to connect with and better serve these folks is the only way we will end the HIV epidemic.”

Follow the UNIFIED-Vivent Health merger journey and find resources at mionified.org/home.

This content is made possible through our partnership with UNIFIED-Vivent Health. Partnerships like these enable Pride Source to produce free, quality storytelling for the LGBTQ+ community.

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radissonhotelsamericas.com/en-us/hotels/country-inn-houghton-mi
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Detroit, MI 48207
800-872-2437

AIDS/HIV ORGANIZATIONS**AIDS Committee Of Windsor**

Michele Sharp, Executive Director

David Lenz, Director of Resource Development

511 Pelissier St.
Windsor ONT., N9A 4L2
aidswindsor.com
admin@aidswindsor.org
519-973-0222

The AIDS Committee of Windsor provides client advocacy, support, harm reduction, health promotion and education services for people at risk of, living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS in Windsor-Essex and Chatham-Kent.



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313-924-7860

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aihfs.org
313 846-3718

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accesscommunity.org
dponsart@accesscommunity.org
(313) 216-2200

Cabrini Clinic

1234 Porter St.
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cabrinclinic.org
313-961-7863

CARES (Community AIDS Resource and Education Services)

Pioneer Bldg., 629 Pioneer St. Suite 200
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185 E. Main St. Suite 600
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
CARESswm.org
info@CARESswm.org
269-381-2437

CDC National Prevention Information Network

P. O. Box 6003
Rockville, MI 20849-6003
cdcnpin.org/info@cdcnpin.org
800-HIV-0440

CHAG - Community Health Awareness Group

1300 W. Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226

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

Community Health Outreach Workers

220 Bagley, Suite 740
Detroit, MI 48226
313-963-3352

Corktown Health

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corktownhealth.org
info@corktownhealth.org
313-832-3300

The Corner Health Center Young Adult Health Center

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

Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.

1211 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216
dhdc1.org
313-967-4880

Henry Ford Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases

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henryford.com
313-876-2556

Horizons Project

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313-924-9493

Lansing Area AIDS Network

913 W. Holmes Rd., Suite 115
Lansing, MI 48910
laanonline.org
517-394-3719

Macomb County STI Clinic

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health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting

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See our ad on page 33

University of Michigan HIV/AIDS Treatment Program

3120 Taubman Center
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-5378
med.umich.edu/intmed/infectious/hiv/services.html

Vivent Health

viventhealth.org
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equalitymi.org
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artisticagallery.netinfo@artisticagallery.net
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deanaspencer@battlecreekpride.org
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 Joe Kort, Ph.D. & Associates, PC

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 joekort.com
 joekort@joekort.com
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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 and 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 page 43 and 45

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 josh.curie@gmail.com
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39320 Venetian Dr.
Harrison Twp., MI 48045
swensenweddingservices.com
info@swensenvideo.com
586-491-8888

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

Safe House Center

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

DOORS

Birmingham Door L.L.C.

1407 Allen St. #H
Troy, MI 48063
birminghamdoor.com
birminghamdoor@yahoo.com
248-808-6561

Town & Country Door, LLC

1991 Orchard Lake
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320
townandcountrydoor.net
townandcountrydoor@comcast.net
248-213-7882

DRAPERY

Delux Drapery and Shade Co.

2215 W. Stadium Blvd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
deluxdrapery.com
734-662-6524

Esquire Interiors

863 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
5863 Jackson Rd., across from Lowe's
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
esquireinteriors.com
sales@esquireinteriors.com
734-663-7011

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

300 N. Washington Sq.,
Lansing, MI 48913
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a public-private partnership between the state and local communities, promotes smart economic growth by developing strategies and providing services to create and retain good jobs and a high quality of life.

michiganbusiness.org
888-522-0103

See our ad on back cover

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330 E. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
<https://annarborusa.org>
(734) 761-9317

Ann Arbor SPARK serves the greater Ann Arbor region as a catalyst for economic development. They incubate startups, work with site selectors and connect job seekers with employers.

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EMPLOYEE RESOURCE GROUP

Comerica LGBT Affinity Group

Ann Arbor, MI
comerica.com/Pages/default.aspx

Equally Blue

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
bcbsm.com/index/about-us/why-choose-us/diversity/company.html

EY Unity

777 Woodward Ave. #1000
Detroit, MI 48226
ey.com/us/LGBT
megan.miller1@ey.com
Facebook: facebook.com/EY-195665063800329/n
LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company-beta/1073/
Twitter: twitter.com/EY_CareersUS

Ford GLOBE

PMB #187 26300 Ford Rd.
Dearborn Hts., MI 48127
fordglobe.org/info@fordglobe.org

Ford GLOBE's mission is to foster an inclusive and supportive atmosphere within Ford for LGBT persons and their allies.

GM PLUS - General Motors LGBT & Ally Employee Resource Group

P.O. Box 446
Royal Oak, MI 48068-0446
gmplus.gm.com (GM intranet only)
GM.PLUS.ERG@gmail.com

GM PLUS (People Like US) is the affinity group for direct, contract and retired employees of General Motors, its subsidiaries and affiliates, in support of LGBTQ workplace equality.

LGBTQ Go Forward - USA

TODAY Network/Gannett
Kevin Heard
160 W. Fort St.
Detroit, MI 48226

PRIDE-Henry Ford Health System

pride@hfhs.org
Pride Alliance of Consumers Energy (PACE)
Consumersenergy.com/diversity

ENTERTAINMENT

Bluewater Kings Band

Detroit, MI
bluewaterkingsband.com/info@bluewaterkingsband.com
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MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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313-869-9477

16401 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Detroit, MI 48235

313-836-0647

See our ad on page 49

FAMILIES AND PARENTS

Al-Anon Office of Metro Detroit

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

Open Monday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tues. & Wed. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Closed Thursday and Friday.

Family Equality Council

475 Park Ave. South, Suite 2100
New York, Washington 10016
familyequality.org
info@familyequality.org
617-502-8700

Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) National Office

1828 L St. NW, Suite 660
Washington, Washington 20036
pflag.org
202-467-8180

PFLAG Ann Arbor

P.O. Box 7471
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
pflagaa.org
info@pflagaa.org
734-741-0659

PFLAG Clinton Township

35127 Garfield
Clinton Township, MI 48035
pflagct.org
pflag.ct@gmail.com
586-296-8760

PFLAG Detroit

pflagdetroit.org
genoffice@pflagdetroit.org
248-656-2875

PFLAG Genesee County

2474 S. Ballenger Hwy
Flint, MI 48507-1301
pflagflint.com
pflagflint@yahoo.com
810-496-8302

PFLAG - Holland/Lakeshore

P.O. Box 1246
Holland, MI 49422-1246
pflaglakeshore.org
pflaghols@juno.com
616-399-2161

PFLAG Jackson

P.O. Box 4065
Jackson, MI 49204
facebook.com/pflagjacksonmich
pflag.jackson2011@gmail.com
517-395-4080

PFLAG Lansing

P.O. Box 35
Okemos, MI 48805
greaterlansingpflag@gmail.com
517-925-1125

PFLAG Livingston County

P.O. Box 2116
Howell, MI 48844
pflaglivingston.weebly.com

PFLAG Tri-Cities

P.O. Box 362
Bay City, MI 48707-0362
pflag-mbs.org
989-941-1458

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facebook.com/pages/Royal-Oak-Farmers-Market/61634046945
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Orlando, FL 32826

usa.cryosinternational.com
usa@cryosinternational.com
407-203-1175

At Cryos International, we take great pride in the responsibility of helping create life, with which we have been entrusted. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the joy of parenthood and it is our vision to help the childless fulfill their dreams of creating a family.

Michigan Reproductive Medicine

Michael S. Mersol-Barg, MD

41000 Woodward Ave., Suite 100 E.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034

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info@mireproductivemedicine.com
248-593-6990

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Macomb Township, MI 48044-3904

partridgecreekobgyn.com
586-247-8609

FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

See also Event & Pride Organizers

The Guild of Artists & Artisans

118 N. Fourth Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

theguild.org
info@theguild.org
734-662-3382

Producer of the annual Ann Arbor Art Fair, The Royal Oak Art Fair and the Birmingham Art Fair.

Hot Works, LLC

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MichiganArt Shows.com

Ann Arbor Summer Festival

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Ann Arbor, MI 48103
A2sf.org
734-994-5999

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michiganfernfest.com

July 9-14, 2024. A music festival for women, nonbinary and trans folks and those that live on the spectrum of the feminine spirit.

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Holly, MI 48442

michrenfest.com
weddingsmichrenfest@outlook.com
248-634-5552

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Suite 15
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734-418-2111

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At A2 Investment Solutions, we prioritize taking care of our clients above all else and operate with a service-oriented and servant-minded mentality. Our goal is to build long-term relationships with our clients and offer them the highest quality financial plans and service available in the industry.

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800-266-3742

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Troy, MI, MI 48083

horizonbank.com

(248) 781-2584

Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU)

653 Migaldi Lane, Lansing, MI 48917

1775 Central Park Dr., Okemos, MI 48864

523 E. Grand River Blvd., E. Lansing, MI 48823

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PNC.com
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raymondjames.com/berkleyMI
reid.beyerlein@raymondjames.com
248-399-3245

United Wholesale Mortgage

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Pontiac, MI 48341
uwm.com
nbartolone@uwm.com

Wellbridge Consulting
Audrey Wojtkowiak

290 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale, MI 48220
wellbridgeconsulting.com
audrey@wellbridgeconsulting.com
734-417-5771

Wells Fargo Advisors
Guss Pappas, Financial Advisor

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

Zhang Financial
Charles Zhang

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Troy, MI 48084
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clientservice@zhangfinancial.com
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Hagopian Cleaning Services

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blumz.com
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planterra.com

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FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDING

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44 W. 28th St., 17th Floor.
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., Suite 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
586-573-9932

An 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., Suite 2010
Detroit, MI 48226
TheHOPEFund.com
313-961-6675

A 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
kresgeartsindetroit.org
313-744-3204

OUT Fund for Lesbian & Gay Liberation

116 E. 16th St., 7th Floor
New York, New York 10003
212-529-8021

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Gianna's Fine Art and Custom Picture Framing

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30006 W. 12 Mile Rd., (across from the "Hawk" activities center)
Farmington Hills, MI, MI 48334
GiannasFrameShop.com,
Art@GiannasFrameShop.com
248-506-7922

Posterity Gallery and Custom Framing

17005 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
posteritygallery.com
printing313@gmail.com
313-884-8105

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Flat Rock, MI 48134
MiMemorial.com
734-783-2646

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Ann Arbor, MI 48103
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sales@esquireinteriors.com
734-663-7011

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merkelfurniture.com
734-971-2795

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215 S. Ashley St.
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annarbor@threechairs.com
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Body Zone Health Club

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Detroit, MI 48203
facebook.com/pg/bodyzonedetroit/about/?ref=page_internal
bodyzone@detroitbz.com
313-366-9663

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otsegoclub.com
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boyne.com/weddings
jwingate@boyne.com
855-688-7025

Sycamore Hills Golf Club

48787 N. Ave.
Macomb, MI 48042

sycamorehills.com
banquets@sycamorehills.com
586-598-9500

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holidaymarket@holiday-market.com
248-541-1414

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info@joesproduce.com
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about/?ref=page_internal
charmedsm@gmail.com
734-416-0400

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Novi, MI 48375

detroitbrows.com
info@detroitbrows.com
313-241-8612

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https://elizabethmedspa.com

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iveysalon.com
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IVEY

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birthedetroit.com
info@birthedetroit.com
3139770962

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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.
Suite 100, MI 48375
cnshealthcare.org

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Patrick Yankee, Director

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corktownhealth.org
info@corktownhealth.org
313-832-3300

Providing direct primary care to the LGBTQ, as well as the and Corktown community.

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ruthelliscenter.org
313-756-8600

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2366 Oak Valley Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

hom.org
info@hom.org
8882475701

Inman Audiology

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

1651 W. Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084

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 this page

O'Connor Hearing Center

203 S. Zeeb Rd., Suite 207
Ann Arbor, MI, MI 48103

<https://oconnorhearing.com>
(734) 994-8300

Rush University Medical Center

rush.edu/affirm
8336245428

Vivent Health

viventhealth.org
800-359-9272

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See our ad on page 31

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Allegan County Health Department

Cindy Stiles, R.N.

3255 122nd Ave., Suite 200
Allegan, MI 49010
allegancounty.org
cstiles@allegancounty.org
269-686-5424

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Detroit Health Department

100 Mack Ave. - 3rd Floor
Detroit, MI 48201

detroitmi.gov/health

Genesee County Health Department Primary Care Clinic

Sandra Manssur FNP, BC

630 S. Saginaw St., Suite 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 E.
Pontiac, MI 48341

oakgov.com/Health
800-848-5533

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.

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

HEATING & COOLING

AAC Services

Adam Fitzgerald

30029 John R. Rd.
Madison Hts., MI 48071

aacforyou.com

adam@aacforyou.com
248-399-9111



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Groundbreaking Tinnitus Treatment

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Ziyad T Iskenderian, MD

Ascension Medical Group
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248-844-6100, 248-552-1200
https://zocdoc.com/doctor/ziyad-iskenderian-md-392659/about

Dr. Ziyad Iskenderian, MD, is an Internal Medicine physician with the Ascension Medical Group in Ferndale and Lathrup Village.

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He focuses on LGBTQ+ health and advocates for health equity.

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313-537-7000 office

Equality Research Center

Michael Tew, Director
124 Quirk, E.ern Michigan University
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equality_humanrights@emich.edu
734-487-3032

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Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund

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facebook.comTheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP
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pfaw@pfaw.org
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battlecreekpride.org
deanaspencer@battlecreekpride.org
269-245-1440

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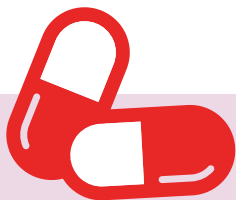
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Motor City Pride, Michigan's largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Festival draws almost 60,000 attendees from throughout the region, including Ohio, Indiana and Illinois and our neighbors from Ontario, Canada. Highlights of the festival include 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.

Motor City Pride also produces the Michigan LGBTQ ComedyFest, to bring people together in laughter to raise support for our community.



Motor City Pride

Dave Wait, President

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motorcitypride.org
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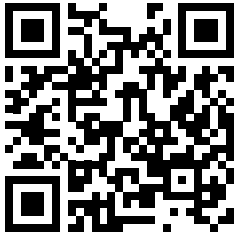
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616-949-7034

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248-524-9339

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dawn@fpcbirmingham.org
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trinityaa.org
734-662-4419

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lahronline.org

LGBT Detroit

20025 Greenfield
Detroit, MI 48235

lgbtdetroit.org

detroit@lgbtdetroit.org
313-397-2127

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Michiana Dunes Region Lambda Car Club International

Kalamazoo, MI
lambdacarclub.com
734-649-5295

Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion

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Detroit, MI 48202-3025
miroundtable.org

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IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization)

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

Metro Detroit Softball League

mdsl.org
586-945-4029

Michigan Panthers Football Club

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michiganpanthers.org
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lambrechtak@alma.edu

Eastern Michigan University, LGBT Resource Center

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

Grand Valley State University GLBT Resources

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

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517-353-9520

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302 Student Services Building
East Lansing, MI 48824-1113
Lbgtcr.msu.edu
517-353-9520

Oakland University
oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

University of Michigan - Division of Student Affairs Spectrum Center
3200 Michigan Union - 530 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1308
spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186

University of Michigan - Flint Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center
213 University Center 303 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48502-1950
Umflint.edu/lgbt
dept.lgbt-center@umflint.edu
810-766-6606

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

Mariners Inn
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marinersinn.org
mgrusche@aol.com
313-962-9446

Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center
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Bay City, MI 48708
sacredheartcenter.com
810-392-2167

Together We Can
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twc@twcdetroit.com
248-838-9905

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a2so.com
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734-994-4801

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
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Detroit, MI 48201
dso.org

Flint Institute of Music
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thefim.org
810-238-1350

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

Michigan Philharmonic
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michiganphil.org
734-451-2112

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Detroit, MI 48202

broadwayindetroit.com
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313-237-7464

Michigan Theater

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michtheater.org
734-668-8397

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1801 W. Saint Andrews Rd.
Midland, MI 48640

midlandcenter.org
989-631-5930

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plowsharestheatre.org
info@plowsharestheatre.org
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justin@royaloakmusictheater.com
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The Fillmore Detroit

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thefillmoredetroit.com
313-961-5451

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361 E. Cady St.
Northville, MI 48167
tippingpointtheatre.com
248-347-0003

University Musical Society

911 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48109
ums.org
734-764-2538

Wayne State University Maggie Allesee Dept. of Theatre & Dance

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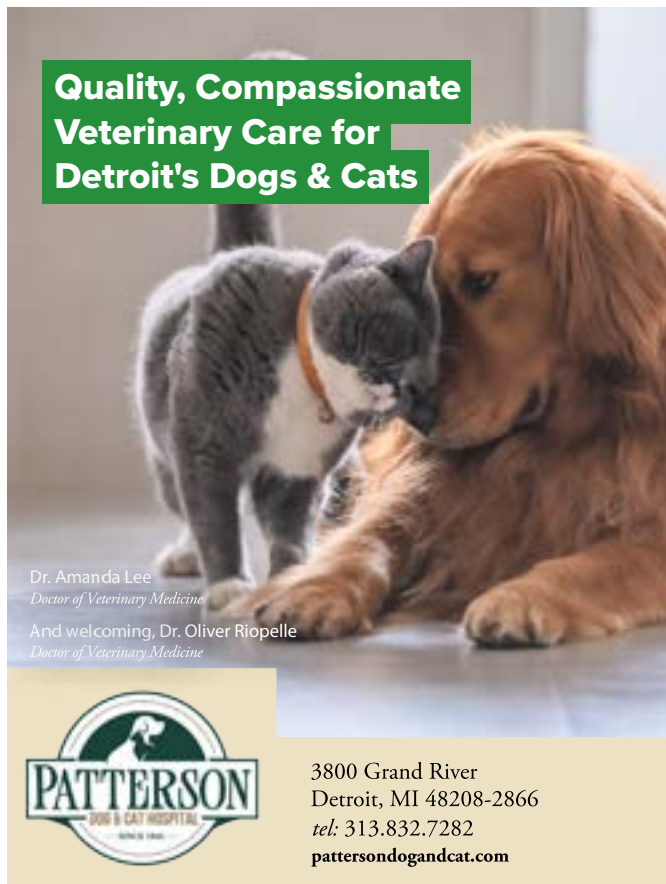
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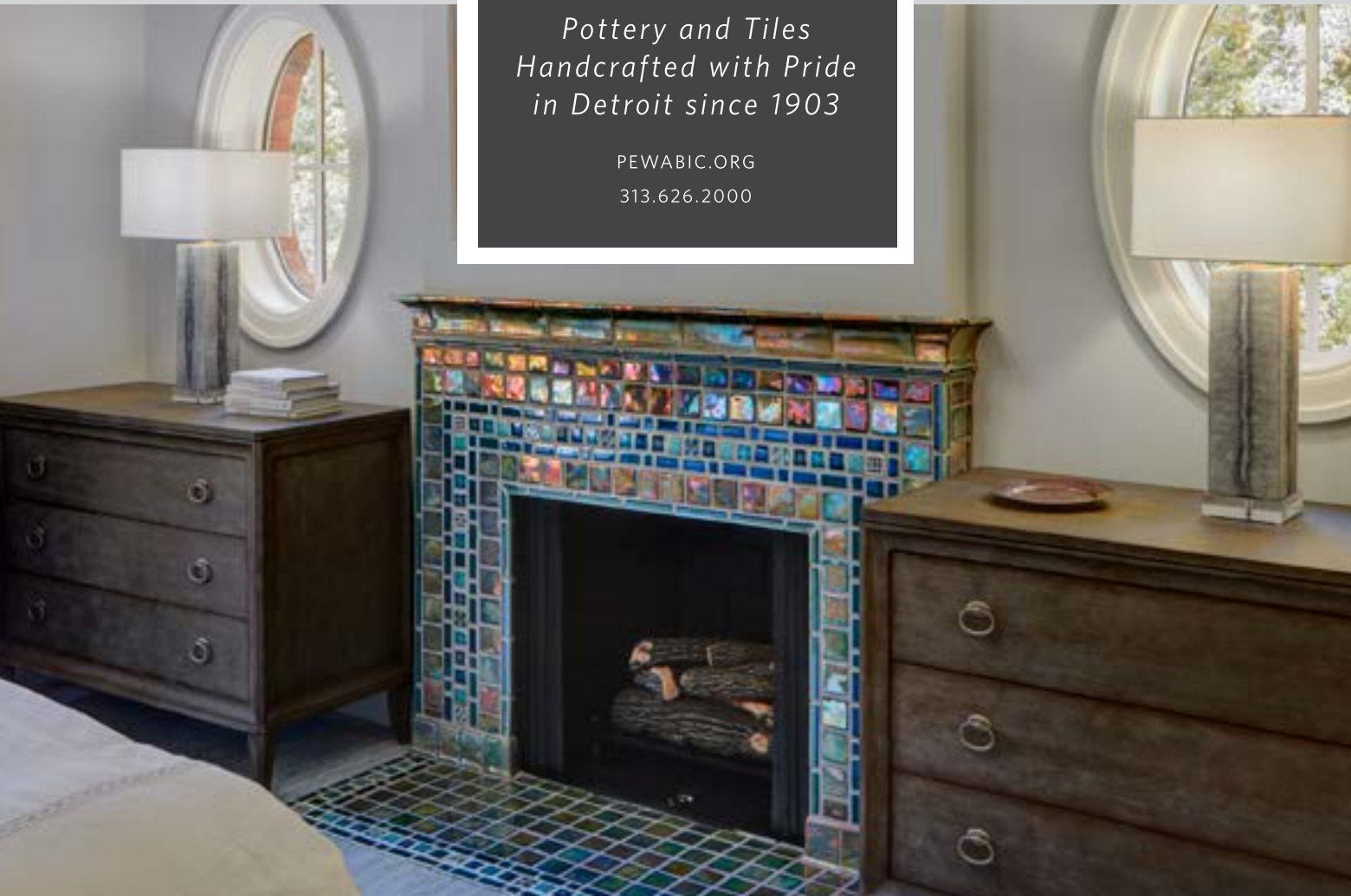


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dc@suburbanshowplace.com
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ruthelliscenter.org
info@ruthelliscenter.org
313-252-1950

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AaDya Security	47	Bluewater Kings Band	58	Corktown Health	34	Fenton Community Orchestra	42
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church	66	Blumz by JRDesigns	50	Counseling	42	Ferndale Pride	62
Accommodations	32	Body Zone Health Club	50	Counseling Education	46	Fernlee Kennels	60
Accounting	33	Bookstores	39	Country Inn & Suites by Radisson	32	Fertility Services	48
Adam's Apple	39	Bos Moving & Service, Inc.	58	Crane Optical	60	Festival Production	48
Adoption Services	33	Boyne Resorts	32	Credit Union	46	Fido Personal Dog Training, LLC	61
Adventure Parks	33	Boyne Resorts	51	Cremation Services	47	Financial Services	48
AIDS Committee Of Windsor	33	Brian Stone, Realtor	64	Crowne Plaza Lansing West	32	First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor	68
AIDS/HIV Hotlines	33	Brick and Patio	39	Cummings Law PLLC	36	First Presbyterian Church Ann Arbor	68
AIDS/HIV Organizations	33	Bridal Gowns	39	Curie, Josh	44	First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham	68
Air Conditioning/Heating	34	Broadway In Detroit	72	Cybersecurity	47	First Presbyterian Church of Northville	68
AJ Leo Electric & Solar	47, 50	Buckstad & Associates	36	D&I Assessments	47	First Presbyterian of Birmingham	68
Al Gamea	70	Button Gallery	36	Dancing	47	Fisher Theatre	73
Al-Anon Office of Metro Detroit	48, 72	Cabaret 313	42, 72	Darakjian Jewelers	54	Flagstar Bank	38, 48
Alcoholic Anonymous	53, 72	Cabrini Clinic	34	Darrell's Firestone	38	Flinders, Susan	46
Allegan County Health Department	52	Cadillac of Novi	36	David Harris Ph. D.	46	Flint Institute of Music	72, 73
Allegria Village	70	Camp Bow Wow of Brighton	61	Delta Hotels Marriott	32	Flooring	50
Allesee Dance Theatre	47	Cancer Support Groups	39	Delux Drapery and Shade Co.	39	Florists/Floral Design	50
Alma College Gender & Sexuality Diversity	70	Candy Store	39	Dentists	47	Ford House – Edsel & Eleanor	58
Alzheimer's Association	34	Canine College	61	Destination Ann Arbor	38	Fortunate Families Detroit	68
Alzheimer's Association - Michigan Chapter	34	Canine College	61	Detroit Area Art Deco Society	50	Foster Care	50
American Civil Liberties Union, Lesbian and Gay Project	58	Cannabis	56	Detroit Health Department	52	Foundations and Funding	50
American Indian Health & Family Services of SE Michigan	34	Cara Johnson	52	Detroit Hispanic Development Corp.	34	Four Seasons Garden Center & Custom Landscaping Services	54
Ameritax Plus	33	CARES (Community AIDS Resource and Education Services)	34	Detroit Institute of Arts	58	Fox Run Senior Living Community	70
Anew Life Prosthetics and Orthotics	64	Carpeting	39	Detroit Latin@z	70	Fox Theatre	73
Animal Shelter	34	Casino	39	Detroit Opera House	38	Framing	50
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre	72	Catering	39	Detroit Repertory Theatre	73	Frankel, Judy	36
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	66	CDC National Prevention Information Network	34	Detroit Symphony Orchestra	72	Freedom House Detroit	70
Ann Arbor Summer Festival	48	Cedar Point Cabins	32	Diamond Castle Jewelers	54	Full Truth Fellowship Of Christ Church	68
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra	72	Cemeteries	39	Dignity Detroit	66	Funeral Homes	50
Ann Arbor Women's Rugby	70	Center for Transforming Health	62	Diplomat Health Club	50	Furniture	50
Anti-Violence	36	Central United Methodist Church	66	Diversity Insurance Group	53	Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund	58, 62
Antiques	36	Central Woodward Christian Church	66	Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church	66	Gay and Lesbian Medical Association	58
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)	34	CHAG - Community Health Awareness Group	34, 52	DJ	47	Gay Men's Health Club	50
Arbor Pointe Veterinary Hospital	74	Chambers	39	Domestic Violence Shelter	47	Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network National	58
Archives/Collections	36	Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History	58	Don Chisholm	64	Gayle R. Beck, Ph.D.	42
Armene Kaye, Esq.	36	Charmed Salon and Boutique	51	Doors	47	Gender Identity Network Alliance	74
Art Galleries	36	Chiropractors	40	Doubletree by Hilton Detroit/Dearborn	32, 38	Generators	50
Art Organizations & Fairs	36	Chisholm, Don	64	Dow Event Center	42	Genessee County Health Department Primary Care Clinic	52
Artistica Gallery	36	Chive Kitchen	39	Dr. Bernadine Petzold PhD, LPC, BCPC, CQTP	42	Genisys Credit Union	48
Artists	36	Choral Music	40	Dr. Michael N. Henein MD FACS	62	Gesu Catholic Church	68
Arts, Beats and Eats	36	Christ Church Cranbrook	66	Drapery	47	Gift Shops	51
Asbury Church	66	Christ Church Detroit	66	Dykes on Bikes	70	Gilda's Club Metro Detroit	39
Ascension Lutheran Church	66	Christine Yared	36	Eastern Michigan University, LGBT Resource Center	70	GLAAD	58
Attorneys	36	City Living Detroit	64	Economic Development	47	GM PLUS - General Motors LGBT & Ally Employee Resource Group	47
Auto Collision	36	City of Ferndale	58	Edelson, Lori	44	Go Girl! Saugatuck	62
Auto Manufacturing	36	Clancy, Diane	60	Elderly Instruments	58	Golf Course	51
Auto/Dealer	36	Club Gold Coast	39	Electricians	47	Graduate Ann Arbor	32
Auto/Repair	38	Club Pet Too	60, 61	Embassy Suites by Hilton Detroit Troy/ Auburn Hills	32, 38	Grand Haven Spring Lake Waterfront Holiday Inn	32
Backstreet At large Multiplex	39	Club Venetian	38	Embassy Suites Livonia	32, 38	Grand Rapids Pride Center	40, 62
Bakeries	38	CNS Healthcare	48	Emerson Church Unitarian Universalist	66	Grand Rapids Women's Chorus	40
Bank of America	38	Comerica Bank	47	Employee Resource Group	47	Grand Valley State University GLBT Resources	70
Bank of America/Merrill Lynch	48	Comerica LGBT Affinity Group	47	Entertainment	47	Great Lakes Bay Pride	40
Banks	38	Comfort Keepers	52	Equality Band of Michigan	58	Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival	62
Banquet Hall/Catering	38	Common Ground Sanctuary	53	Equality Research Center	62	Great Lakes Collision	36
Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute	53	Common Ground Sanctuary	76	Equally Blue	47	Grocers	51
Bars - LGBTQ+	39	Communication Key Speech Language Pathology Services	52	Equipment	60	GSA International LTD	50
Bars - LGBTQ+ Friendly	39	Community Centers	40	Erotica	48	Hagopian Cleaning Services	51
Barson's Greenhouses	54	Community Foundation for SE Michigan	50	Esquire Interiors	47	Hair & Beauty	51
Battle Creek Pride	40, 62	Community Health Outreach Workers	34	Expert Realty Solutions	64	Handyman	51
Beacon Unitarian Universalist Church	66	Community of Christ the Good Shepherd	66	EY Unity	47	Happy Hounds Dog Day Care & Lodging	61
Beauty Spas	39	Comprehensive Women's Health, P.C.	62	Fair and Equal Michigan	62	Hardcore Collectibles	36
Beck, Gayle R.	42	Concert/Music	40	Families and Parents	48	Harris, David	46
Begonia Brothers	54	Condor Heating & Cooling	34	Family Equality Council	48, 58	Hayloft Saloon	39
Bethel United Church of Christ	66	Congregation of Humanistic Judaism of Metro Detroit	68	Family Service & Children's Aid	33	Health Care Services	51
Bicycle Shops	39	Congregation Shir Tikvah	66	Farmers Market	48	Health Department	52
Bill Sneathkamp Chrysler Dodge Jeep	36	Congregation T'chiyah	66			Hearth Home	34
Birmingham Door L.L.C.	47	Construction/Builders	42			Heating & Cooling	52
Birmingham Jewelry	54						

Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan	34	Lansing Symphony Orchestra	72	Mortgages	58	Photography	62
Henry Ford Health System	53	Laurel A. Sills, Psy.D	44	Motor City Bears	70	Physicians	62
Henry Ford Hospital Division of Infectious Diseases	53	Law Offices of Bradley Vauter & Associates P.C.	36	MotorCity Casino Hotel	33, 38, 39, 66	Physicians/Gynecology	62
Holiday Inn Express Houghton - Keweenaw	32	Lawrence Technological University LGBT Resource Center	70	Moving Companies	58	Pincanna	56
Holiday Market	38	Leather Gear	56	Municipalities/Governments	58	Planned Parenthood of Michigan	76
Holiday Market	39	Legal Organizations	56	Museums	58	Planterra Conservatory	50, 76
Holland Pride	62	Level One Bank	38	Music Groups	58	Plants & Patios, Inc.	39, 42, 54
Home Goods	53	LGBT Detroit	62, 70	Musical Instruments	58	Pliska, Shane 50,	76
Homeopathic Remedies	53	LGBTQ & Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party	62	Myrina Mortgage Group, LLC	58	Plowshares Theatre	73
HopCat	69	LGBTQ Go Forward - USA TODAY Network/Gannett	47	Natalie Mae Photography	62	Plumbing	62
Horizon Bank	38	Liberty Bar and Grill	39	National LGBTQ Task Force	58	Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ	68
Horizon Bank	48	Library	56	National Organizations	58	PNC Financial Service Group	58
Horizons Project	34	Logistics	56	Nativity Episcopal Church	68	Political Organizations	62
Hospice of Michigan	52	Lori Edelson, LMSW,ACSW, BCD,LMFT	44	Nature's Remedy Cannabis	56	Portofino Restaurant, Banquet Facility & Dinner Cruises	76
Hospitals	53	LunchboxWax	39	Necto	39	Pottery	62
Hot Works, LLC	48	Lutheran Church of the Savior	68	Neighborhood Legal Services of Michigan	56	PrairieSide Suites Luxury Bed & Breakfast	33
Hotlines & Switchboards	53	Lynn Stange	64	Northside Presbyterian Church	68	Premier Pet Supply	61
Human resources	53	M. Mazzoni Jewelers	54	Nothing Bundt Cakes	38	Pride & Event Organizers	62
Human Rights Campaign	58	M.S. Phelps, CPA, PLLC	72	Nurseries	54	Pride Alliance of Consumers Energy (PACE)	47
Humane Society of Huron Valley	34, 74	Macomb Bike & Fitness	39	Nutritional Supplements	60	Pride Source Media/ Between The Lines	64
Hyatt Place and Diamond Center at Suburban Collection Showplace	76	Macomb Center for Performing Arts	73	Oakland County Health Division	52	PRIDE-Henry Ford Health System	47
IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization)	70	Macomb County STI Clinic	34	Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency	52	Printing	64
Iglesia Martell Law Firm PLLC	36	Mae, Natalie	62	Oakland University	72	PRISM Gay Men & Allies Chorus	40
Immanuel Lutheran Church	68	Manufacturing	56	Officiants	60	Prism Park Optical Studio - Hazel Park	60
Immigration Equality	58	Marijuana/		One Church Detroit	68	Prism Park Optical Studio - Royal Oak	60
Inclusion Score	47	Mariners Inn	34, 72	Open Door Counseling Center	46	Professional Organizations	64
Ingham County Health Department	52	Mario's Detroit	39, 69	Opera Company	60	Progress Michigan	62
InkBird Print Studio	64	Mark Simpson	56	Opera Grand Rapids	60	Prosthetics & Orthotics	64
Inman Audiology	52	Marketing agency	56	Optometrists	60	Publications	64
Insurance	53	Martinez, Robert	52	Orchard Lake Fine Art Show	36	Quality Roots	56
Integrity Shows	48	Marx Layne	56	Organizations	70	Queen's Bar Detroit	39
Iskenderian, Ziyad T.	62	Mary K. Anderson, PhD, PLLC	44	Orin Jewelers, Inc.	54	Rackham Choir	42
IVEY Salon	51	Massage Therapy	58	Otsego Club & Resort	33, 38, 76	Rainbow Crossing - First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor	68
Jackson Pride Center	40	Matrix MAC Health	34	Ottawa County Department of Public Health	52	RAP Line-Runaway Assistance Program	53
Jackson Pride Center	62	Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program	34	Otus Supply	39	Raymond James	50
Janitorial Supplies	54	Matt Sweet, MSW, PC	44	Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church	68	Real Estate/Agent	64
Jazz Clubs	54	MCC of Flint	68	Our Savior's Lutheran Church	68	Realty Executives Home Towne	66
JD Entertainment	47, 58	Meeting House Grand Ballroom	38, 76	OUT Fund for Lesbian & Gay Liberation	50	REIKI	66
Jewelers	54	Men on the Move	58	Out Loud Chorus	40	Religious & Spiritual	66
Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit	40	Menjos Gay Entertainment Complex	39	OutCenter	40, 64	Renaissance Unity Spiritual Center	68
Jewish Ensemble Theatre	73	Merithot Creative Marketing	56	OutFront	40, 64	Reproductive Health	69
Jim Toy Community Center	40	Merkel Furniture and Carpet One	50	Ozone House LGBTQ Youth & Family Services	76	Restaurants	69
Joe Kort, Ph.D., LMSW	44	Metro Comfort	34, 47, 53	O'Connor Hearing Center	52	Reverend Diane Clancy	60
Joe's Gourmet Catering & Events	39	Metro Detroit Softball League	70	Page Toyota/Page Honda	36	Ringwald Theatre	73
Joe's Produce Gourmet Market	51	Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit	68	Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) National Office	48	Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm	58, 76
Jonathan Witz & Associates	48	MGM Grand Detroit	33, 38, 76	Parkway Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram	36	Ron T. Williamson DDS	47
Josh Curie & Associates Therapy	44	Michael B. Anthony	50	Partridge Creek	62, 69	Ronora Lodge & Retreat Center	33
Journey of Faith	68	Michiana Dunes Region Lambda Car Club International	70	Pearlman, Joyce C.	44	Rosemary A. Jozwiak and Associates	46
Joyce C. Pearlman, M.S.W., C.S.W.	44	Michigan Fern Fest	48	People for the American Way	58, 62	Royal Oak Farmers Market	36
Judy Frankel Antiques	36	Michigan HIV/STD Hotline	33	Perkins Family Wellness	40	Royal Oak Music Theatre	73
Julian Diaz, LMSW	44	Michigan Humane Society	36, 60, 74	Personal Protective		Rush University Medical Center	52
Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services	52	Michigan Opera Theatre	60, 73	Pet Adoption	60	Ruth Ellis Center	76
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts	58	Michigan Panthers Football Club	70	Pet Boarding	60	Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center	72
Kevin Kinsel, LMSW	44	Michigan Philharmonic	72	Pet Day Care	60	Safe House Center	36
Keweenaw Coop	51	Michigan Renaissance Festival	48	Pet Grooming	61	Safe House Center	76
Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau	74	Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion	70	Pet Services - Memorial	61	Saugatuck Center for the Arts	58, 73, 76
Key-Lore Pet Rest Gardens	61	Michigan School of Psychology	46	Pet Services/Boutique	61	Saugatuck-Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	74
King of Kings Lutheran Church	68	Michigan State University	36	Pet Supplies	61	Senior Living	70
Kinsel, Kevin	44	Michigan State University Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay & Transgendered Students	72	Pet Training/Behavior	61	Services	74
Kort, Joe	44	Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFUCU)	48	PFLAG - Holland/Lakeshore	48	Shane Pliska	50, 76
Kresge Arts In Detroit	50	Michigan State University LGBT Resource Center	72	PFLAG Ann Arbor	48	Shanty Creek Resort	33
Labrys Resort	33	Michigan Theater	42, 73	PFLAG Clinton Township	48	Shoreline Event Design	76
Lambda Car Club	70	Midland Center for the Arts	42	PFLAG Detroit	48	Sills, Laurel A.	44
Lansing Area AIDS Network	34	MiGen	70	PFLAG Genesee County	48	Simpson, Mark	56
Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR)	70	Miner's Den Jewelers	54	PFLAG Jackson	48	Sing Out Detroit Chorus	40
Lansing Laser Tattoo Removal	72			PFLAG Lansing	48	Skin Care	70
Lansing Pride	62			PFLAG Livingston County	48	Slipstream Theatre Initiative	73
Lansing Psychological Associates	44			Pharmacy	62	Sloan Museum & Longway Planetarium	58
				Phelps, M.S.	72	Snethkamp, Bill	36

Social/Community	70	That Gay Photographer	62	Traverse City Pride - UPNorth Pride	64	Weddings by Dain	62, 74
SoHo	39	The Arcus Foundation	50	Tri-Pups, Inc.	42	Wellbridge Consulting	50
Sorella's Custom Cakes	38	The Ark	40, 73	Trinity Lutheran Church	69	Wellness AIDS Services	34
Sozai Restaurant	69	The Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice	50	Trinity St. Marks Church	69	Wells Fargo Advisors	50
Spartan Hospitality Group	33, 38	The Corner Health Center	34	TrueChild	58	Westcroft Gardens	39, 56
Spirit of Hope Church	68	The Corner Health Center - Young Adult Health Center	76	Two Unique Caterers & Event Planners	76	Westcroft Gardens & Farm	76
Splash of Color Tattoo & Piercing	72	The Crofoot	42	Tyrrell Electric	47	Westside Art Hop	36
Sports	70	The Crosswell Opera House	42	UNIFIED-Vivent	34	White Arbor Bridal & Formals	39, 76
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church	68	The Dunes Resort	32	Unions	74	Whosoever Ministry United Church of Christ	69
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	68	The Fillmore Detroit	73	United Wholesale Mortgage	50	Williamson, Ron T.	47
St. Johns United Church of Christ	68	The Forum Foundation	50	Unity Church of Ann Arbor	69	Willowbrook Mill	39
St. John's Episcopal Church	68	The Gem & Colony Club	38	Unity Church of Royal Oak	69	Witz, Jonathan	48
St. Lukes Episcopal Church	69	The Gill Foundation	50	Universalist Unitarian Church of Farmington	69	Wolverine Human Services	33
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	69	The Guild of Artists & Artisans	36	University Musical Society	73	Women's/AFAB'S Health	76
St. Philip Lutheran Church	69	The Henry Autograph Collection	32	University of Michigan	36	Woodward Video Bar & Grill	39
Stafford's Hospitality	76	The Home Bakery	38	University of Michigan - Flint Ellen Bommarito LGBT Center	72	Yared, Christine	36
Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theatre	73	The Peninsula Room at Bowers Harbor Estates	38	University of Michigan HIV/AIDS Treatment Program	34	Youth Services	76
Stand With Trans	74	The Pet Authority Animal Hospital	60	University of Michigan Museum of Art	58	Zhang Financial	50
Stange, Lynn	64	The Scarab Club	36	Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts	58	Zingerman's Cornman Farms	76
State Theater	73	The Trevor Helpline	53	Vauter, Bradley	36	Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA)	69
Stone, Brian	64	The Trevor Helpline	76	VELN	36	Ziyad T. Iskenderian, MD	62
Storage	70	The Wedding Shoppe	39	Veterinarians	74		
Student and Alumni Groups	70	Theaters	72	Video Production	74		
Studio Xandra	62, 74	Three Chairs Company	50	Visitors Bureau	74		
Substance Abuse	72	Three Dog Bakery	61	Vogue Vintage	36		
Suits And The City	64	Ties Like Me	64	Wag'n Tails Pet Resort	60		
Super 8 by Wyndham Houghton	33	Tile	74	Wave Goodbye Vacations and Honeymoons	74		
Susan Flinders, Ph.D.	46	Timothy Lutheran Church	69	Wayne County Airport Authority	74		
Sweet Dreams	38	Tipping Point Theatre	73	Wayne State University	36		
Sweet, Matt	44	Together We Can	72	Wayne State University Maggie Allesee Dept. of Theatre & Dance	73		
Swensen Wedding Services	47	Town & Country Door, LLC	47	WC SAFE	46		
Symphony Orchestra	72	Transcendence Behavioral Health	46	Wedding / Event Planner	76		
Tattoo	72	Transgender Groups/		Wedding Venue	76		
Tattoo Removal	72	Transgender Michigan	53, 74				
Tax Planning/Preparation	72	Travel Professionals	74				
Temple Emanu-El	69						
TG Detroit	74						



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