

# news from the center



For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Jon Pushkin, 303-733-3441, [jon@pushkinpr.com](mailto:jon@pushkinpr.com)

[www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest](http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest)

## **GLBT Community Center of Colorado Celebrates Activism at 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Denver PrideFest, June 16-17**

*-Festival expected to draw more than 350,000 to Civic Center Park -*

Denver, CO— June 6, 2018 - The GLBT Community Center of Colorado is issuing a call to action at this year's annual Denver PrideFest celebration with the theme, Say it Loud, Say it Proud. The festival will celebrate empowerment and honor the activism of Charlie Craig and David Mullins, the couple who took a case against a Lakewood baker who refused to make their wedding cake all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 2, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the baker. The duo spent the last five years vocally advocating for fair and equal access for the LGBT community, and will serve as the grand marshals of the 2018 Coors Light PrideFest Parade.

"Charlie and David have endured an incredible battle standing up for their civil rights. We wanted to recognize their determination and acknowledge that this year has been a year of activism on many fronts, for many people," Debra Pollock, CEO of The GLBT Community Center of Colorado (The Center), which hosts Denver PrideFest.

The Say it Loud, Say it Proud theme was chosen by community members who voted on the theme from three options proposed by the Denver PrideFest Committee.

"Our community is strongest when we're the loudest, when we come together and speak with many voices," said Craig. "We all deserve equal access to businesses, bathrooms, housing, and jobs. Say it loud say it proud."

Denver PrideFest, which runs from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, is expected to draw more than 350,000 people over two days. The event is one of the largest LGBT celebrations in the nation and generates \$25 million in economic impact for the city of Denver. It is also the largest fundraiser for The Center, which serves more than 47,000 people annually with programs for LGBT youth, seniors, Colorado's transgender community, and training and legal programs.

Featuring more than 200 vendors from across the country, over 21 culinary vendors, a political rally, family activities, a 5K race and three stages of entertainment, Denver PrideFest draws attendees from Colorado as well as neighboring states. The Coors Light PrideFest Parade is a cornerstone of the event, drawing 200 entries this year, representing a wide array of organizations.

Denver PrideFest will also celebrate activism through art. Artist Lonnie Hanzon will showcase the monumental sculpture, *Equal Threshold*, an interactive piece that will invite viewers to walk through a series of doors highlighting quotes from the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act. As viewers choose a door, they will step across a threshold and join the fight for equality.

This year's entertainers include dance music legend Crystal Waters, Kameron Michaels, a contestant on the current season of *RuPaul's Drag Race* and former *Drag Race* stars Morgan McMichaels and Thorgy Thor.

The mission of Denver PrideFest is to create a fun, safe and empowering space to celebrate and promote the heritage and culture of the LGBT and allied communities of Colorado. As such, all bags, containers and packages will be subject to search. The festival also prohibits coolers, outside beverages, marijuana usage and weapons of any type.

The Center has been hosting PrideFest for four decades, growing the event from a grassroots celebration to one of Denver's largest cultural events and tourism draws. The Center, which employs 20 staff members and has more than 500 community volunteers, gives voice to Colorado's LGBT community and plays a pivotal role in statewide initiatives to reduce harassment and discrimination.

Highlights of the 2018 Denver PrideFest include:

Saturday, June 16th:

- **Pride 5K.** Kicking off at 9:30 a.m., the 3.1-mile race starts and ends at Civic Center Park and is open to walkers, runners and kids.
- **Smarty Pants Vitamins Area.** Located on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Broadway, this family-friendly area will feature dancing, games, educational activities created by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science and a free concert from the Mile High Freedom Band. For more information visit <https://denverpride.org/family-area/>
- **Walmart Youth Alley.** Youth ages 11-21, can check out performances on the Youth Alley stage and learn more about Rainbow Alley, The Center's youth program.

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

- **Coors Light PrideFest Parade.** Stepping off from Cheesman Park at 9:30 a.m., the parade travels to Civic Center via Colfax Avenue. Participants include community groups, politicians, and businesses.

- **Denver Pride Rally for Equality.** Hosted by One Colorado, the rally will take place on the west steps of the Capitol immediately following the parade. The Colorado LGBT Legislative Caucus, state leaders as well as activists and groups from throughout the Denver community will speak out for LGBTQ civil rights.

**More Denver PrideFest activities can be found at**

**The Center's website:**

**[www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest](http://www.glbtcOLORADO.org/pridefest)**

Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DenverPrideFest](http://www.facebook.com/DenverPrideFest)

Follow us on Twitter: @COCenter

## **Denver PrideFest thanks our Corporate Sponsors**

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**The GLBT Community Center of Colorado**

The Center opened in 1976 and over the years has grown to become the largest community center in the Rocky Mountain region, giving voice to Colorado's LGBT community and playing a pivotal role in statewide initiatives to reduce harassment and discrimination. Today the Center is focused on fulfilling its mission – to engage, empower, enrich and advance the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community of Colorado – by ensuring that every member of the LGBT community has access to the programs and resources they need to live happy, healthy, and productive lives. The Center currently

operates on an annual budget of \$1.8 million, employs 20 staff members and utilizes more than 500 community volunteers to serve more than 47,000 people each year. [www.gbtcolorado.org](http://www.gbtcolorado.org).

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