



[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

September 2023 Updates

Pride Center Updates!

- **Pride Center Hours of Operation**

Come visit us! In addition to information, services, and events, we have a **public computer lab, an LGBTQ+ lending library, a food pantry, and a selection of clothes and gender affirming garments.** We are here for YOU.

- Tuesday - Thursday, **11:30 am – 6:30 pm**, except Tuesdays between 1 pm - 3 pm will be closed for our team meetings.
 - For anyone who needs to drop by the center outside of these hours, **please connect with us directly** as we strive our best to remain accessible to our community.
- Our programs and services will remain virtual all 5 days/week 11 am - 7 pm or as scheduled with your clinician.
- **The Pride Center is located at 1021 S. El Camino Real San Mateo, 94402. Our building is located at 11th and El Camino.**
- **For accessibility information about the Pride Center, please click this link:**
<https://sanmateopride.org/faq/#faq>

- **Do you want to be a part of our Pride? We are hiring!**

- The Pride Center is expanding! We are hiring for 3 full-time positions. All positions come with health benefits, sick pay, and vacation time. More information about each position can be found in [this link](#)! Join our amazing, talented, and passionate team!
- We are hiring for an:
 - LGBTQ+ Clinical Administrative Coordinator and Mental Clinician
 - LGBTQ+ Case Manager
 - LGBTQ+ Mental Health Front Desk Specialist
- Have questions? Email the Pride Center Director, Frankie Sapp (he/him) at Francisco.sapp@sanmateopride.org.

- **Can You Support the Pride Center? We Need Volunteers to help us with:**
 - [Special events](#) – help bring our community together to decrease isolation & have fun!
 - [Peer Groups](#) – can you help support our Gay Men’s or Queer Women’s Group?
 - [Social media](#) – got graphic skills? Help promote our clinical services and amazing programs!
 - [CAB](#) (Community Advisory Board) Members – for folks with a broad range of interests to support with special projects, this role is for you!
 - Contact Elana Ron (she/they) at elana.ron@sanmateopride.org or 650-465-2407 to connect about volunteering
- **Staff Updates**
 - Azisa Todd, our Lead Trainer & Events Coordinator will be transitioning out of their role with the Pride Center by Wednesday September 20th. We wish them all the best in their new role & are grateful to have been able to work with them since 2020. For ongoing questions & inquires about our trainings and events, please contact Lowellyn Sunga (she/they) at lowellyn.sunga@sanmateopride.org or call us at 650-591-0133.
- **Host Your Meeting at the Pride Center!**
 - **We’re welcoming, inclusive, and we’ve got hybrid technology!** LGBTQ+ and allied businesses/organizations welcome. Click this link to access the [Community Request Form](#). Questions? contact Low Sunga (she/they) at lowellyn.sunga@sanmateopride.org or call us at 650-591-0133.

Trainings/Education

- **[Rainbow Kids Resources](#)**
 - [Rainbow Kids](#) is a project of Community Equity Collaborative in partnership with the San Mateo County Pride Center and with funding from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. We invite community members, parents, and educators for LGBTQ+ youth to check out these free one-page resources here: <https://www.communityequitycollaborative.org/copy-of-rainbow-kids-resources>.
 - For more information, contact Jen Sheldon at jennifer@communityequitycollaborative.org.

Events

- **FriGay Flicks: Pariah** on Friday September 15th from 7-9pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
 - The Pride Center is proud to announce FriGay Flicks are back! Join us for a safe and sober event to watch the critically acclaimed film, Pariah, on Friday September 15th at the San Mateo County Pride Center. This event is free and open to the public. Light snacks will be provided. Doors open at 6:30pm and the movie runs from 7-9pm. The Pride Center is located at 1021 S. El Camino Real in

San Mateo, 94402. Our building is located at 11th and El Camino. RSVP at: <https://tinyurl.com/FriGayFlicks2023>. For more information about the movie, content warnings, and Pride Center accessibility, visit: <https://sanmateopride.org/events/>.

- **Crafternoons** with Guest Artist Christine Tafoya on Thursday, September 28th from 4:30-6:30 at the San Mateo County Pride Center
 - Let's get crafty with Crafternoons! Join the Pride Center and Dragonfly Community Arts on **Thursday, September 28th from 4:30-6:30pm** as we practice mindfulness meditation, bracelet making, and a wire-wrapping jewelry demo with our special guest artist Christine Tafoya! **No previous art skills are required!** In honor of September Suicide Prevention Month, let's connect, craft, and be in community!
 - **This is a free, all ages event. RSVP to attend and receive art supplies at:** <https://tinyurl.com/Crafternoon2023>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact info@sanmateopride.org or call 650-591-0133
 - If you or someone you know is in need of mental health services or more, please visit: <https://sanmateopride.org/resources/>.
 - **About Christine Tafoya:** Christine Tafoya has over 40 years of experience as a spiritual healer and energy worker. As the youngest in her family, Christine comes from a Native American background and generations of healers. She is a passionate visionary artist who infuses love and light into her work. Christine uses many different techniques including card readings, hands-on energy work, and her own spiritual intuition to help others find their own insights and awakenings.

Christine has an affinity for crystals and has extensive knowledge of their properties. Whether you are looking to open your heart, balance your chakras, or create positive energy, Christine can help you find the crystals that will help you on your journey. She will teach and guide you on how to incorporate these stones and crystals into dreamcatchers, bracelets, and wire-wrapped jewelry you can take home with you.

"I am very passionate about my work," says Christine. "I feel I am here to help usher in a greater level of love which we as a human race are so in need of."

Peer Support Groups

- **[Peer Support Groups](#)**- Upcoming meeting dates
 - **We are currently seeking volunteer co-facilitators for our Queer Women's Group, Gay Men's Group & LGBTQ+ Parent Group. These are all virtual**

opportunities for community members 18+. For more information, contact Elana.Ron@sanmateopride.org or 650-465-2407

- **Please note: Most groups are meeting on Zoom, stay tuned for updates**
- LGBTQ Parent Group- Monthly on the 1st Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 PM PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup>
 - Upcoming dates- Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 6
- LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 4:30-6pm PST
 - Hybrid option for in-person group participation at the Pride Center is now available!
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-bookclub>
 - To access a list of books we're reading click [this link](#).
 - Upcoming meeting dates- Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6
- Get Appy (18+)- Monthly in person on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 1-2 PM
 - Please RSVP by contacting helpathand@peninsulafamilyservice.org or **650-403-4300 ext. 4366** preferably by the second Friday of the month to receive call-in or Zoom instructions.
 - Upcoming dates: Oct 18, Nov 15
- Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 7-8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower>
 - Upcoming dates: Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6
- Gay Men's Group (18+)- Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday from 6-7pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPC-gaymensgroup>
 - Upcoming dates: Sept 26, Oct 24
 - Stay tuned for info about Nov & Dec meeting dates
- Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Friday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-queerwomensgroup>
 - Upcoming dates: Aug 25, Sept 22, Oct 27
 - Stay tuned for info about Nov & Dec meeting dates



San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

***From: Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair
LGBTQ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, September 19, 2023 @ 6:00pm***

- ❖ **About the PRIDE Initiative:** The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.

- Join us at the next Pride Initiative meeting (via virtual) on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 4:30-6pm.
 - PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQIA+ updates
 - Conversation regarding SMC Pride Celebration 2024
 - SAVE THE DATE! SMC Pride Celebration Saturday June 8, 2023 from 11am-5pm at San Mateo Central Park
 - To join the Virtual Pride Initiative Meeting please see the Zoom Conference Information below:

Join Pride Initiative Zoom Meeting link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**



CoastPride Report

LGBTQ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, September 19, 2023 @ 6:00pm

From CoastPride Board Member:

Dana “TherActivist” Johnson (they/ them)

- **About CoastPride**

- **Our Vision**

A welcoming and safe Coastside where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

- **Our Mission**

Creating a Coastside that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- CoastPride Events/ Trainings:
- For events and to learn about what’s going on at CoastPride see the CoastPride newsletter.
- Center Hours
 - Drop-in—all are welcome
 - Mondays, 10am–2pm (ring the black doorbell when you arrive. Closed on federal holidays)
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2–6 pm
 - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 12–2pm

Upcoming Event

- CoastPride has 2 new Board Members
 - Lauren & Beth
- CoastPride plans to set up a booth at the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival
- For more details regarding events on the Coast, please reach out to Dana “TherActivist” Johnson.

To: LGBTQ Commission of San Mateo County
From: Tanya Beat, Director
Date: September 19, 2023
Subject: Director's Report

Youth Commission Presentation

- September 28, 6-8pm, 3 minute overview of what we are doing and an invitation to join us. Note that Youth Commission liaisons are prioritized in all of our discussions but do not have a vote.

November 7 Commission Appreciation

- Tuesday, November 7 from 5-7pm.
- SMC Regional Operations Center (ROC), Redwood City
- Gifts provided!

Feedback Survey

- New Survey but it is the same Survey (new QR code)
- [LGBTQIA+ Commission Seeks Your Feedback! | County of San Mateo, CA \(smcgov.org\)](#)
- [Bit.ly/2023_SMC_lgbtqia_survey](#)
- 127 responses, 72.4% are part of the LGBTQIA+ community; top issues include education, safety, community-building, housing
-

Feedback Survey Outreach Plan

- Areas Reached: County Pride, EPA Pride, Inclusion Festival
- Deadline to close?
- Broad Areas from the County to Community:
 - Office of Education -> GSAs
 - Commission Email List -> 1,085
 - Partners: Youth Commission, Pride Center, Pride Initiative, CoastPride, Outlet, Peninsula Family Service, CORA, Faith-based groups, County employees
- Who can you personally invite to take this survey?

VISIBILITY CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Pre-2020

County Proclamation (as early as 2015 on) and Flag-raising (as early as 2018 on).

With a 2019 Retreat, the Commission developed a Visibility Committee that focused on proclamations and flag raising across SMC. The ultimate goal was to have cities independently recognize Pride month annually on their own.

2020

First Visibility Campaign started, led by Lelan Anders, Giuliana Garcia and Krystle Cansino

- All cities and municipalities were invited to issue Proclamation and Raise Flag
- 20 cities issued proclamations and 14 cities raised the Pride flag.

2021

Second Year and still virtual campaign. Led by Giuliana Garcia, Krystle Cansino

- [Pride Month Resources Webpage](#)
- Campaign to introduce Progress Pride Flag; education and awareness-building
- All cities issued proclamations and raised flags. Some only flew the flag for a few days.

2022

Third Year and campaign is hybrid. No lead except for Tanya inviting all cities to participate and commissioners all followed up.

- All cities issued proclamations and majority raised Progress Pride flags.
- Raising flags in-person helped connect commissioners to city councils.

2023

Tanya sent email invitation. Most, if not all cities, already planned on issuing proclamations and raising Progress Pride Flags. Surprisingly, more cities than ever were planning their own independent Pride celebrations.

Visibility in the Future: what is next?

**WE WANT
YOUR**

**1 Minute
en Inglés o Español!**

FEEDBACK!



bit.ly/2023_SMC_lgbtqia_survey