



## City of West Hollywood | WeHo Pride 2023

### West Hollywood's Early LGBTQ History Timeline & Information Pride Starts Here.

The Los Angeles region was an early incubator of the LGBTQ rights movement and West Hollywood is an epicenter – even before its municipal incorporation in 1984 – for LGBTQ activism, organizing, and progress. West Hollywood has been instrumental in mobilizing advocacy for LGBTQ people and has been a center-point for LGBTQ community members for many decades. This LGBTQ History Timeline is a look at early LGBTQ history in West Hollywood and in the region that highlights many of pioneers and allies of the LGBTQ movement. It marks extraordinary advancement in the tireless efforts to win inclusion, representation, and rights.

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#### West Hollywood's Early LGBTQ History Timeline

In 1950, the *Mattachine Society*—the nation's first “homophile” political organization—was founded by **Harry Hay**, an activist who is often considered to be the father of the modern gay rights movement.

By 1953, however, significant tensions had developed within the Mattachine Society's local L.A. chapter. Hay—who'd earlier been ousted from the American Communist Party for being gay—was now being ousted from the Mattachine Society for being communist. By this time, however, Mattachine had already branched out to several U.S. cities. The burgeoning homophile movement was destined to continue gaining momentum.

Meanwhile, in 1952, **Dorr Legg** established ONE, Inc.—whose magazine *ONE* was the nation's first publicly-sold gay publication. Activist-Writer **Jim Kepner** penned a regular column for *ONE*, entitled “tangents, news & views.”

Though *ONE* magazine was published continuously by Dorr Legg until 1968, the parent organization (ONE, Inc.) expanded its mission over time to include a range of educational and social services. For example, ONE pioneered the academic field of Gay Studies, awarding the first masters and doctoral degrees in the discipline. In addition, ONE pioneered gay tourism by organizing the first gay tours of Europe.

Jim Kepner began collecting gay and lesbian books in 1942 and continued amassing the collection until his death in 1997. In the 1970's, he opened his archives to researchers

and by 1989 they were housed in West Hollywood's Werle Building (626 N. Robertson Boulevard). Today, the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives—housed in part inside the Werle Building, but primarily housed at USC—combines Kepner's archives with those of the ONE Foundation. Today, one may visit the ONE Gallery at the Werle Building to see a rotating series of LGBTQ-themed exhibitions. In addition, the *June L. Mazer Archives*, also housed at the Werle Building, includes a plethora of historical lesbian ephemera, including a fascinating 1950's-era lesbian softball t-shirt and memorabilia collection.

Though gay bars first appeared in Los Angeles as early as 1931 (a Hollywood speakeasy known as *Jimmy's Backyard* where many hundreds of gay men were regularly in attendance in 1930's Hollywood), West Hollywood's first gay bar was most likely the *Four Star*, which opened in 1961. Having been converted from a working-class tavern, the Four Star was located on Santa Monica Boulevard several blocks east of what was then known as Clark Street (now N. San Vicente Boulevard.)

By 1966, police harassment of gays had become enough of a growing concern that local activist **Steve Ginsberg** founded *PRIDE* (Personal Rights in Defense and Education), whose organizational newsletter aimed at further awakening the gay political consciousness.

The LAPD raid of two gay bars—the *Black Cat* and *New Faces*—on January 1, 1967 (two years before Stonewall) was a major inflection point in local LGBTQ history. In the raids, police vandalized the establishments and arrested sixteen men who were later found guilty of “lewd conduct” (in other words, same-sex kissing as the New Year's Eve clock struck midnight).

Several patrons were injured in the midnight raids—and one individual suffered a fractured skull and ruptured spleen. The outrage over the violence spawned a legal effort aimed at questioning the constitutionality of police raids on gay bars. Local Los Angeles attorney **Herbert Selwyn** fought appeals on behalf of the gay community all the way up to the Supreme Court—however, the gay community ultimately lost the fight due to the fact that the Supreme Court refused to hear the case. Nevertheless, the gay community was galvanized by the fight and PRIDE's local membership soared.

In 1967, the PRIDE newsletter evolved to become the *Los Angeles Advocate* (whose name was eventually shortened to *The Advocate* when the publication went national.)

*The Los Angeles Advocate* began its tenure shrouded in secrecy, founded by **Richard Mitch** (under the pseudonym “Dick Michaels”), and **Bill Rau** (under the pseudonym Bill Rand), along with **Sam Winston** and **Aristide Laurent**. The magazine's initial runs were printed clandestinely on Xerox machines located in the basement of ABC Television's Los Angeles headquarters, by some of its gay employees. Comprised of a dozen or so roughly edited pages, runs of about five hundred copies of early editions were distributed inside area bars.

In September 1967, **Vernon Mitchell** formed his *Committee to Eradicate Syphilis* and opened a first-of-its-kind gay men's health clinic in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County now known as West Hollywood. The opening was not without controversy as many gay activists worried that the clinic's interfacing with the public health department might foster further police abuse.

In October 1967, the Reverend **Troy Perry** placed a paid ad in the *Los Angeles Advocate* announcing the formation of the *Metropolitan Community Church*. Opening in 1968, Reverend Perry's church became the first gay congregation in the nation. This momentous development served to embolden local gay bars and restaurants and other gay area businesses to come out of the shadows and publicly affirm that they were, in fact, gay establishments serving a gay clientele. (Nevertheless, police harassment continued with the arrest of a go-go dancer in January 1968 for showing his pubic hair while performing inside a West Hollywood gay bar.)

In February 1970, dozens of protesters descended on Barney's Beanery to demand the removal of its infamous (and misspelled) sign over the bar declaring 'FAGOTS STAY OUT.' Barney's Beanery had been in business since the 1930's and the sign had been in place since sometime in the 1950's. The sign came to symbolize anti-gay discrimination and it was removed and reinstalled at least three times throughout the 1970's.

Activist **Morris Kight**, founder of the *Los Angeles Gay Liberation Front*, was one of the key individuals who coordinated the ongoing battle against Barney's Beanery over the sign, which he won and is now part of the Morris Kight Collection.

In 1969, Kight was instrumental in founding the *Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center* (now known as the *Los Angeles LGBTQ Center*)—one of the nation's first gay community services center, along with the Center in Hudson, New York.

More national *firsts* soon followed suit.

The nation's first gay temple, *Beth Chayim Chadashim*, was founded in 1972 on Los Angeles' Pico Boulevard.

And in 1973, the Woman's Building opened, a non-profit arts and education center which was soon viewed as the West Coast epicenter of the women's movement. The brainchild of a trio of Cal Arts professors—artist **Judy Chicago**, graphic designer **Sheila Levrant de Bretteville**, and art historian **Arlene Raven**--the Woman's Building remained in operation until 1991.

Despite the establishment of these important community resources, persistent battles continued to be waged. In August 1972, twenty-two gay men were arrested at the *Black Pipe*, a Hollywood beer bar, prompting a requisite surge in gay activism. In October 1972, a University of California study revealed that California prison sentences for sodomy nearly matched the sentences for manslaughter in the state. And in December 1973, a local L.A. woman picketed outside the *Donut Chalet*, a teen hangout which she argued had turned her 15-year-old son gay after he began spending his after-school hours there. In other words, enlightenment and progress do not always enjoy a straight upward trajectory.

In May 1975, some welcome psychic relief arrived with the passage of the *California Sex Bill*, which approved of all consensual sexual acts between adults—the first law in the U.S. that specifically decriminalized sex acts, passed and signed into law by Governor **Jerry Brown**.

In 1977, the first gay political action committee was formed in L.A. At that time, there was a group of seven gay men (who founded a group known as *Orion*) led by lawyers **Peter Scott**,

**Stephen Lachs** (who later became the nation's first openly gay judge), and local activist and author **David Mixner**, who formed the *Metropolitan Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA)* with the mission of expanding gay legal protections and eventually attaining full LGBTQ equality.

In 1978, local activist **Ivy Bottini** was one of many individuals instrumental in defeating the Briggs Initiative, a homophobic, fear-based, hate-fueled effort to drive gays and lesbians from California's public teaching ranks.

Ivy Bottini had earlier helped found the New York chapter of *NOW*, the *National Organization for Women*. She later designed the NOW logo, still in use today. Bottini moved to Los Angeles in 1971 and in later years, she founded *AIDS Network LA* as well as the *Los Angeles Lesbian/Gay Police Advisory Board*.

**One of the most notable moments in LGBTQ history occurred in November 1984, with the incorporation of the City of West Hollywood.** Cityhood had been proposed by a coalition of LGBTQ and AIDS activists, along with seniors and renters, with an eye towards greater economic justice won through stronger tenants' rights and championing other progressive causes. When it first formed, West Hollywood elected two gay men and a lesbian (Valerie Terrigno, who became the nation's first openly lesbian mayor) to the five-member city council—the nation's first majority-gay city council.

One of the mayor's very first orders of business was to march down to Barney's Beanery and demand the permanent removal of the notorious FAGOTS STAY OUT sign.

A later WeHo mayor, **Steve Schulte** reflected on the period, "in the 60s, many of us—myself included—stood on the outside and shouted epithets. It was easy to criticize...but one of the really important lessons of the eighties is that gay and lesbian people have to run for office and get elected."

David Mixner later opined that "West Hollywood was one of the first places in the country where we took a majority on the city council and then showed that we could not only organize well, but govern. West Hollywood has become a showcase for a well-run, extremely livable, exciting city."

In March 1989, as the AIDS epidemic raged, West Hollywood introduced a policy that granted up to \$20,000 dollars in medical insurance coverage to the domestic partners of the city's gay and lesbian workers. That same year, *Project Angel Food*, began to deliver food to those living with AIDS and other critical illnesses. Operating for many years out of the *Crescent Heights Methodist Church* on Fountain Avenue, Project Angel Food was co-founded by current Democratic presidential candidate **Marianne Williamson** and death-and-dying advocate **David Kessler**, following a successful 1989 fundraiser.

West Hollywood's *Human Rights Triangle* (sited opposite the *Matthew Shepard Memorial Triangle* at the intersection of Santa Monica Boulevard and Crescent Heights Boulevard) is sometimes referred to as "Queer Village." In 1989, two HIV-positive men, **Wayne Karr** and **Lou Lance**, held a hunger strike at the triangle to demand the compassionate release of experimental AIDS drugs. The activist group *Queer Nation* held their formative meetings outside

at the triangle. And in 1991, gay activist **Rob Roberts** fasted there in support of *AB 101*, a gay civil rights bill that was passed by the California State Legislature. But after Governor Pete Wilson vetoed the bill, thousands of LGBTQ activists (and many straight allies) nightly gathered at the triangle for a rally before marching through the city. Continuing protests took place on five successive nights. There is a plaque commemorating these actions at the triangle, as well as tribute plaques honoring Ivy Bottini and Morris Kight. (Kight was known to visit the Matthew Shepard Human Rights Triangle quite frequently. He tended to the garden by watering and planting new flowers and he encouraged others to do likewise.)

In 1989, the City of West Hollywood presented a proclamation to Harry Hay, the father of LGBTQ civil rights, on the occasion of his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday, at which Hay was declared an honorary citizen of West Hollywood.

During the 1980s and in the years that followed, the City of West Hollywood led many of the LGBTQ community's policy priorities, including in the following areas:

### [AIDS and HIV](#)

HIV and AIDS have had a disproportionate impact in the City of West Hollywood and, since its incorporation, the City of West Hollywood has been at the forefront of efforts to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The City of West Hollywood was one of the first government entities to provide social services grants to local AIDS and HIV organizations and, throughout its history, the City has directed millions of dollars to fund HIV/AIDS direct services, education, and public awareness efforts.

The West Hollywood Memorial Walk was created in 1993 to honor people who were lost to the AIDS epidemic. Developed through a partnership with the City of West Hollywood and the Alliance for Housing and Healing, bronze memorial plaques with the names of those who passed away are embedded in the sidewalks of Santa Monica Boulevard from Crescent Heights Boulevard to Robertson Boulevard.

The Memorial Walk is both a tribute to those we have lost and a promise to continue our commitment to improve the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS. There are more than 150 plaques, with more added each year. Every West Hollywood Memorial Walk plaque donation is used to provide funding for the pivotal services Alliance for Housing and Healing provides to people living with HIV/AIDS, including financial and housing assistance. The Alliance for Housing and Healing administers the Memorial Walk program and maintains a website that contains an application process and an inventory of existing markers. For more information, please visit [www.alliancehh.org/memorialwalk](http://www.alliancehh.org/memorialwalk).

The City of West Hollywood is currently implementing its HIV Zero Strategic Plan. The prejudice and discrimination resulting from HIV stigma can be overt, such as barriers to healthcare coverage or employment termination, or subtle, such as social exclusion. A goal of the HIV Zero Strategic Plan is to build an inclusive community that supports underserved groups and honors the contributions made by people living with HIV.

### [Domestic Partnerships and Marriage Equality](#)

The City of West Hollywood was the first city in the nation to adopt a Domestic Partnership ordinance in 1985, before legal challenges granted marriage equality in 2015. The Domestic Partnership Program in West Hollywood grants two non-married adults the ability to declare a Domestic Partnership if they are each other's sole partner and responsible for each other's welfare. Couples do not have to be residents of West Hollywood to register; many couples who file do so because it provides an opportunity to be counted and make a documented public commitment. A West Hollywood Domestic Partnership may be used by other agencies or entities that recognize such arrangements. Domestic Partners who do reside in West Hollywood gain certain rights and responsibilities, such as visitation rights in health care facilities and jails, as well as benefits under the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance.

Just weeks after incorporating as a municipality in late 1984, the West Hollywood City Council unanimously adopted the City's Domestic Partnership ordinance, Ordinance No. 22, on February 21, 1985. Later that year, the City successfully lobbied to change California state law so that the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) included Domestic Partners in benefit plans statewide.

On May 20, 1996, the West Hollywood City Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance No. 466 to extend the City's Domestic Partnership program to recognize Domestic Partnerships registered in other jurisdictions, thus providing all Domestic Partners the same rights as couples who became Domestic Partners in West Hollywood. In 2003, West Hollywood enacted an ordinance requiring contractors, vendors, and franchises to provide Domestic Partnership benefits to their employees as a condition of contracts with the City.

Domestic Partnership helped to pave the way for marriage equality. The City of West Hollywood was one of the first cities in the country to pass a resolution in support of marriage equality. The City has been one of the most ardent and vocal advocates for the legal rights of same-sex couples and the right to marry, both in and outside its City boundaries. Since 1995, the City Council passed almost a dozen resolutions supporting progressive domestic rights initiatives, and condemning the opposite, in various states and on the federal level. In 2004, the West Hollywood City Council passed a resolution supporting San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's direction to the City and County of San Francisco, Office of the County Clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The City of West Hollywood, later that year, declared its vocal opposition to a proposed federal Constitutional Amendment, which would have served to ban same-sex marriages.

In a monumental moment in U.S. history, the City of West Hollywood in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Register-Recorder Clerk began to issue marriage licenses and perform civil ceremonies for same-sex couples in June 2008, following the Supreme Court of California ruling on Proposition 8, which found that barring same-sex couples from marriage violated the state's constitution. The issuance of marriage licenses was halted on November 5, 2008. On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed an appeal in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* on jurisdictional grounds, ruling that private parties do not have standing to defend California's Proposition 8 ballot measure prohibiting gay and lesbian couples from marrying. In refusing to directly decide the case, the Court cleared the way for marriages to resume in the state. On July 1, 2013, the City of West Hollywood launched a marriage celebration. West Hollywood City Councilmembers and City Officials performed hundreds of civil ceremonies at West Hollywood City Council Chambers, located at the West Hollywood Library.

On June 26, 2015, the City of West Hollywood celebrated the historic U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding marriage equality. The justices ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which is linked to three other cases, by a 5-4 decision that all states must license and recognize same-sex marriages. LGBTQ community leaders and dozens of community organizations joined together with thousands of LGBTQ people and allies for a celebration rally in the City of West Hollywood at West Hollywood Park to mark the decision.

- [View Decision Day video](#)
- [View Decision Day photos](#)

### [Pride and Dyke March](#)

Throughout its nearly 40-year history, the City of West Hollywood has remained a steadfast advocate for LGBTQ rights. The City annually hosts one of the world's largest LGBTQ pride celebrations, now [#WeHoPride](#).

The City of West Hollywood also celebrates pride with its [WeHo Pride Arts Festival](#), which runs for 40-days from Harvey Milk Day (May 22) through the end of June Pride month (June 30).

The City has been home to the Dyke March since its inception in Southern California in the mid-1990s following the first March on Washington, regularly supporting lesbian visibility in an area of the City that is sometimes referred to as "Boystown."

In 2018, the City of West Hollywood was the [first city in the nation](#) to sponsor a [Bisexual Pride Festival](#).

In 2020 and 2021, due to the global COVID pandemic, there were no large-scale Pride festivities in the City of West Hollywood due to pandemic restrictions. The City had been home to the annual LA Pride Festival for more than decades.

In 2022, the City of West Hollywood hosted its first self-produced WeHo Pride event, spanning 40 days, including the WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival (May 22 through June 30), and the three-day WeHo Pride Weekend, including the annual Dyke March, the Women's Freedom Festival, the WeHo Pride Street Fair, the WeHo Pride Parade and the weekend OUTLOUD LGBTQ Music Festival. The inaugural event featured appearances during the weekend from Janelle Monae, JoJo Siwa, Lil Kim, and Cardi B., among others.

In 2023, the City continues to be the home of Pride with scheduled OUTLOUD @ WeHo Pride appearances from Grace Jones, Carly Rae Jepsen, Idina Menzel, Shangela, and others soon to-be-announced.

### [Transgender Resources](#)

The City of West Hollywood is one of the first municipalities anywhere to form a Transgender Advisory Board (TAB), which addresses matters of advocacy on behalf of transgender people in the areas of education, community awareness, and empowerment, and makes recommendations to the West Hollywood City Council. Through its Transgender Advisory

Board, the City of West Hollywood regularly co-sponsors programming, including Transgender Day of Visibility and Transgender Awareness Month. For more information please visit the City's website: <https://www.weho.org/city-government/boards-commissions/advisory-boards/transgender-advisory-board>

As part of its support of the transgender community, the City of West Hollywood has a [Transgender Resource Guide](#) available on the City's website, which provides information about a variety of resources including legal, health, and social services, available in the Greater Los Angeles area to enhance and improve the well-being of transgender people. There is also specific information for transgender service members and veterans with legal questions.

### [Pride Flags and Pride Crosswalks](#)

The City of West Hollywood proudly displays flags symbols of LGBTQ pride in the City's medians, at West Hollywood City Hall, and at some City facilities. LGBTQ flags displayed on a continuous basis in the City include the Rainbow Flag, the Transgender Pride Flag, and the Progress Flag. In addition, the City's official flag features the City's rainbow logo as its main image.

In the late 1970s, Gilbert Baker created the Rainbow Flag as a symbol of hope "for all races, all genders and all ages." He called it "the rainbow of humanity" and the flag's colors represent elements in all of us: Sex, Life, Healing, Sunlight, Nature, Magic, Spirit, and Serenity. Learn more [here](#).

The Lambda flag, with the Greek letter "L" is one of many variations on the Rainbow Flag that has become known worldwide, and this is the flag displayed in the City's medians in the Rainbow District.

The Transgender Flag was then created by American trans woman Monica Helms in 1999.

Most recently, the Progress Flag was created by Daniel Quasar to include a background of six rainbow stripes with a hoist of five stripes representing trans and non-binary individuals and stripes representing marginalized POC communities and representing those living with AIDS and the stigma and prejudice surrounding them, and those who have been lost to the disease. The Progress Flag is displayed in adherence to Creative Commons permissions. Details are available [here](#).

In 2022, the City of West Hollywood debuted inclusive pride crosswalks on what had formerly been rainbow crosswalks, incorporating additional inclusivity design elements to recognize the diverse LGBTQ community. First installed in 2012 based on the design of the iconic rainbow flag, the City's rainbow crosswalks were the world's first permanent crosswalks of their kind to embody a theme of pride. During a decade, the bright red-orange-yellow-green-blue-violet striped crosswalks garnered worldwide attention and became an iconic symbol of hope, pride, and acceptance.

The City's new inclusive pride crosswalks have been installed at the same location in the heart of the City's Rainbow District at the intersection of Santa Monica and N. San Vicente Boulevards. This intersection has served not only as focal point of LGBTQ community-making,



but also as a historic spot for protests and activism, and the site of countless actions that embrace the catalyst for progress in the fight for full civil and human rights of LGBTQ people, everywhere.

Newly updated crosswalk graphics feature rainbow flag colors in the center of the crosswalk; the overall design has been expanded with a chevron pattern on both sides featuring black and brown stripes to represent LGBTQ people of color and pink, light blue, and white to represent transgender people.

### **Sanctuary City and Social Services**

In December 2016, the City Council of the City of West Hollywood affirmed its commitment as a Sanctuary City. West Hollywood is a safe space for LGBTQ people, regardless of nationality or immigration status, and the City has a commitment to promoting social justice and equal rights for all LGBTQ people nationwide and globally.

The City's Social Services Division has developed a Guide for LGBTQ Immigrants and Asylum Seekers to help people navigate the many resources and programs available; it is available in a variety of languages and is posted on the City's website at: [www.weho.org/services/social-services/lgbt-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-services/lgbt-immigrants](http://www.weho.org/services/social-services/lgbt-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-services/lgbt-immigrants).

People around the world face violence, even execution, for who they are, who they love, and how they look. For more than two decades, the United States has granted asylum and refugee status based on persecution due to sexual orientation and gender identity. Asylum seekers have one year to claim asylum and if granted, they have the immediate right to live and work in the United States; but must wait an additional year to apply for permanent residency.

For a list of LGBTQ social service providers, please visit <https://www.weho.org/services/social-services/lgbt-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-services>.

### **West Hollywood Library**

[West Hollywood Library](#) houses an expansive collection of LGBTQ literature and history, including the Ron Shipton HIV Information Center. Not only is this collection of interest to the public at large, it is particularly relevant to the community in City of West Hollywood, which is estimated to be more than 40% LGBTQ and approximately 10% of which is HIV positive. West Hollywood Library is located at 625 N. San Vicente Boulevard in West Hollywood. The library is operated by LA County Library.

On opening day in 2011, West Hollywood Library's LGBTQ Collection had 3,000 volumes as well as DVDs and periodical subscriptions. It is unique in that it is not an archive, but a circulating public library collection. Notable among the holdings is an array of Lambda Literary Award-winning books (the "Lammy" is the most prestigious, competitive, and comprehensive award given specifically to LGBTQ authors.) The LGBTQ space in the new library has room to expand the collection to 7,000 volumes. The library continues to host speakers and book talks on LGBTQ-related topics.

## **Public Art**

The City of West Hollywood is home to the largest concentration of public art for a city its size in the nation. Multiple permanent and temporary public artworks are LGBTQ-themed, including the 2022 City Hall mural, [Our Pride](#) by LaToya D. Peoples. City Hall is located at 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard.

## **LGBTQ History Walking Tour**

The City of West Hollywood's LGBTQ history is highlighted in the Stuart Timmons West Hollywood LGBTQ History Tour. Originally written by acclaimed author/historian Stuart Timmons (*The Trouble With Harry Hay*, *GAY L.A.*), and produced/directed by Jason Jenn, the tour first dazzled audiences in 2015 as part of a celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the City of West Hollywood's incorporation. Timmons' West Hollywood LGBTQ History Tour was in the process of being written in 2008 as the final in a trio of walking tours (Downtown LA and Silverlake are the other two) when he had a stroke. It remained incomplete until a grant from the City of West Hollywood allowed Timmons and a small team to help finish his research, bringing it to a rousing completion as both a self-guided walking tour and a special in-person performance event. It returned for two more invigorating performance art events during One City One Pride (now WeHo Pride LGBTQ Arts Festival) programs in 2016 and 2017. For 2021, the tour was recorded as a [collection](#) of short films available for viewing at [www.youtube.com/wehoarts](http://www.youtube.com/wehoarts).

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*Since its incorporation in 1984, the City of West Hollywood has become one of the most influential cities in the nation for its outspoken advocacy on LGBTQ issues. No other city of its size has had a greater impact on the national public policy discourse on fairness and inclusiveness for LGBTQ people. Home to the "Rainbow District" along Santa Monica Boulevard, which features a concentration of historic LGBTQ clubs, restaurants, and retail shops, the City consistently tops lists of "most LGBTQ friendly cities" in the nation. More than 40 percent of residents in West Hollywood identify as LGBTQ and three of the five members of the West Hollywood City Council are openly gay. The City has advocated for nearly four decades for measures that support LGBTQ individuals and the City is in the vanguard on efforts to gain and protect equality for all people on a state, national, and international level.*

**For reporters and members of the media seeking additional information about the City of West Hollywood, please contact the City of West Hollywood's Public Information Officer, Sheri A. Lunn, at (323) 848-6391 or [slunn@weho.org](mailto:slunn@weho.org).**