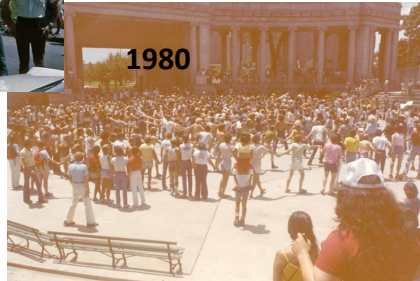




Pride Through the Years



1976



1980



1981



2016



2021

Director of Elder Services:

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In this Issue

EVENTS

NextStop: Transit Training pg. 3

Kadie's Pancake Party pg. 3

A Legacy of Pride Rooftop Party pg. 5

AARP Creativity in Response to Adversity pg. 6

SHOUT! pg. 3

The Lunch Bunch pg. 6

Pride Accessibility Town Hall pg. 7

Pride Sign Workshop pg. 7

Calendar of Events pg. 11

Community & Culture

50 years of PrideFest pg. 2

An Interview with Janeshly pg. 4

We Want you! pg. 7

West of 50's Pride Neighborhood

pg. 8

West of 50's PrideFest Schedule pg. 9

50 years of PrideFest~ Denver's first Pride welcomed around 50 individuals to Cheesman Park in June 1974 . Today, Denver PrideFest welcomes over five hundred and fifty thousand people and is one of the largest in the country. The free two-day celebration is The Center's largest fundraiser and the city's largest event. A 2023 survey in partnership with the City of Denver concluded *"PrideFest appears to be the most powerful driver of visitation and spending among the summer events in Denver. As the third largest Pride celebration in the U.S. with over half a million attendees, it's clearly a major attraction for the LGBTQ+ community from Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region."* Pride has become an economic juggernaut for Denver and its businesses.



Among the survey respondents, 59% were residents from the metro area and 41% were visiting the city. 88% of the visitors to Denver reported they were in town primarily to attend PrideFest. Guests to the city spent over \$550 a day whereas locals spent around \$150. This is the highest per capita spending of any event surveyed in 2023. The closest competitor was the Cherry Creek Arts Festival



where overnight guests spent \$525 on their overnight experience. Pride visitors reported spending more than other eventgoers on lodging per night with an average of \$322 spent per night. Pride attracts a younger crowd; with the average age being 34. I did not need a survey to tell me that Pride skewed toward a younger demographic.

When I started revamping West of 50's presence at PrideFest, I decided it was better to leverage the age gap. I

concluded that I wanted to get people to spend time in our area, learn from the community, and build an appetite for The Center even if it does not directly relate to West of 50. After all, one day those attendees will be our target demographic and we too can benefit from their spending power and presence at the festival.

For 2024 we are excited to announce an expansion of the West of 50 neighborhood. With our larger footprint, we have decided to focus on four areas:

1. **Increase traffic** in the area by welcoming vendors, service providers, and product sales to the space.
2. We will move to provide **educational programming** that is focused on informing the community through presentations from local queer organizations that will focus on building community and helping one find their place in the community.
3. **Expand interaction** with the community. We will be expanding our erotic yard games with two new games. In 2023 the program made over \$1,400 in donations from these games. Homosexual BINGO has become a staple for the program and this activation will continue forward.
4. During West of 50 community engagements, we will be **asking more of our participants!** The expansion of the activation requires more community power! We need people to help highlight the program and work with pride attendees to get them to our many engagements. This includes the erotic yard games, set up and take down of BINGO, and supporting the art project in the middle of the activation.



As most of you know, I am not a big PrideFest person. I do, however, understand its purpose and know how to leverage opportunities to ensure that they serve the program to the fullest. I assure you there has not been a year when the office gets a call from someone who wants to join West of 50 following the activation. They love seeing the creativity, smiles, and comradery. As we roll into this new pride month, please celebrate the 50 years and I hope to see you at pride if you're not volunteering in our space.

Xoxo – Jason

Kadie's Pancake Party -With great sadness, Kadie's last day with the program will be June 7th. Our internships provide the opportunity for current BSW and MSW students to learn new skills, explore career opportunities, and develop as budding social workers. Additionally, I love learning from our interns! They bring new ideas and energy to the program. Their talent is vital to the success of the program. Kadie is an amazing social worker! I deeply enjoyed learning from them and seeing their confidence and skills grow.



Kadie – the office will miss you! Thank you for choosing The Center as your placement and please know that we are here for you! We truly enjoyed working with you and we hope you will stop by and say hello. Thank you for sharing your wisdom, all your work, and being a delight to work with. You are awesome!

Join the West of 50 team as we thank Kadie for their work with a pancake celebration. In addition to this celebration, Kadie will take the time and fill us in on what they learned from the program. Pancakes and coffee provided.

Date: Tuesday, June 4th

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Stop: Trip to Boulder Farmers Market- In collaboration with the Denver Regional Mobility & Access Council and MTM Transit, we invite you to join MTM Transit for a class on Denver's public transportation system Monday, June 3rd at 12:00pm. MTM not only confirms eligibility for Access-a-Ride for RTD but also provides travel trainings ranging from presentations like this, group trips, to one-on-one training for seniors and folx with disabilities. The training on the 3rd will be a general overview of the RTD system, an opportunity to provide feedback from previous trips, and learn about the route for this travel day!

For our trip this time around, we will be going to the Farmers Market in Boulder, CO. We will leave The Center at around 1:15 on Wednesday, June 5th and return around 6pm. Please arrive around 12:45 for our 1:15 departure. Register through our website for this two-day program. You are not required to attend the Monday class to attend the travel day.



Hybrid Class

Date: Monday, June 3rd

When: 12-1:00pm

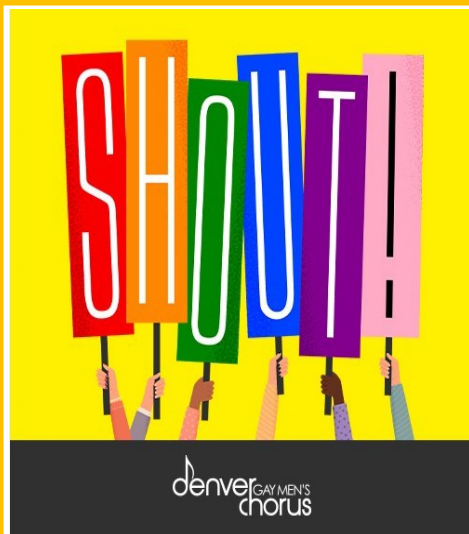
Where: Online/Center on Colfax

Travel Trip

Date: Wednesday, June 5th

When: 1pm-6pm

Where: Boulder Farmers Market



The Denver Gay Men's Chorus has offered us free tickets to their dress rehearsal for their Pride concert. The rehearsal dates is **June 11th** at the **King Center on Auraria Campus**. The show starts at **7:15p**. Parking is not included.

About the show: This Pride, DGMC *Shouts!* for justice, equality, unity, love, and joy! The Chorus raises their voices to the songs of the LGBTQIA+ (including allies) composers and performers who were brave enough to inspire the world with their truth.

RSVP for this event by **June 7th**. This invitation is only available to registered community participants.

Please RSVP with Jason or Bryant.

An Interview with Janeshly The Center's Communications & Development Manager.

Jason- What is your position at The Center?

Janeshly- *"Um, I do pick up trash... she laughs. You are typing so much! I have only said two words. Okay. So, I am the Communications and Development Manager". **She looks down at her name tag to remind herself***

Jason- What do you do for the organization?

Janeshly- *"I create pretty photos and videos. It's mostly for pride... but I also work on the pride job fair and donor relations".*

Jason- What are you looking forward to most at this year's pride?

Janeshly- *"Humm. **She covers her nose giggling** I have not said anything, and you are typing way too much? I don't know! Taking photos and wearing a cute outfit. My friend is coming to visit so I am excited. OHHHH! Center-stage entertainment is going to be sick. I am pumped".*

Jason- Who are this year's performers?

Janeshly— *"I can't tell you that! Well at that point you will know. But I can't say. Come to pride and find out..."*

Jason -Why is pride important to you?

Janeshly—*"Well, I have been interviewing a lot of people this year. We have been talking about stuff like pride and the history of it. It reminded me of how important the event is. We need to be out loud and proud".*

Jason—What's your favorite part about working on pride?

Janeshly- *"Creating new designs and new ideas that people have never seen before. An example would be the addition of the Pride app. I also hope that people lean into the '70s disco vibes. Just getting to be playful with that type of energy."*

Jason- *"Last year Erin reported there was going to be a contingency of dancing panda bears. Attendees were shocked to find out that no panda bears performed. Additionally, the bear community was even more upset by the lack of representation. Care to comment on the tragedy?"*

Janeshly— *"Um. I plead the 5th!"* She laughs.

Jason—That is all you're going to say...

Janeshly— *"Sending thoughts and prayers to the bear community".*

Jason- *"Last year Erin reported on the buildup of poo at pride. Her solution was to start charging people to snap one off. Care to comment on why people choose to use Pride as the continued place to knit a brown sweater?"*

Janeshly- *"Humm. It's from all the food people eat. I mean, you're drinking and eating ... thus, one must participate in some water sports. It's only natural that one would have the runny grunts. It's part of the human condition".*

Jason- *For the record, last year Erin noted that Disney on Ice would be at pride. Imagine the shock when all that the attendees got was the Kool Aid Man. How much sawdust can you put into a Rice Krispie Treat before people start to notice?*

Janeshly- *"What!?!"* ***She squeaked like a window recently cleaned with Windex. She is now laughing hysterically.** "Did we even have the Kool Aid Man?! And the ice rink was not in the budget".*

"As for the Rick Krispies... Erin, Ashely, and Kris have yet to notice. So, at this point, I think you can add six cups of sawdust and be just fine".

Jason - What is your favorite pride memory?

Janeshly- *"Oh. That's what I am supposed to ask people. Oh, being proposed to at pride!"*

You can spot Janeshly picking up trash around The Center five days a week.



A Legacy of Pride

WEST OF 50 ROOFTOP PRIDE PARTY

 Hosted by **Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi**

JUNE 6, 2024

4:00 - 7:00 PM



UNLEASHED PUP MOSH

SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND & SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD
 11:00am-7:00pm 10:00am-6:00pm

DENVER PRIDE 

18+ | GATED PUP PLAY AREA
 located WEST OF 50 NEIGHBOURHOOD

AARP CO Creativity in Response to Adversity Presentation, Denver, CO 6/13/24

Join Jason at the AARP Colorado State Office for “**Creativity in Response to Adversity**”. Death of a loved one, illness, loss of autonomy, or any undesirable change can induce adversity. Severe circumstances can provoke despair, anxiety, depression, or develop a sense of helplessness. Creativity is a natural mechanism that can be used to displace these feelings and emotions. In this conversation, we will explore how creativity presents us with a way to heal. We will answer the following questions.

- What is adversity and how does our body respond to it?
- What is creativity and why is it important to our health and well-being?
- What can one do to be more creative in their daily life?
- Enjoy an activity that sparks the imagination and encourages one to create.

Participants will engage in an activity called The Creativity Game that will encourage them to engage the community and be more creative in their daily lives.

Refreshments provided

Date: June 13th

Time: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Location: AARP Colorado, 303 E. 17th Ave, Suite 510, Denver, CO 80203

Parking: Parking fee waived for garage on Logan Street between 17th & 18th Ave. Bring parking ticket with you to be validated.

Registration must be completed on the AARP Site at:

<https://events.aarp.org/qXwvgM>



Need to get out of the house and spend time with a few of your closest friends?

Join Jason for lunch

at Atomic Cowboy. Attendees will have to cover the cost of their meals. RSVP is strongly recommended to ensure we get enough seats for everyone.

Atomic Cowboy is a cultural mashup of ideas serving pizza, drinks, and biscuits.

Date: Tuesday, June 18th

Time: 12:15p

Location: Atomic Cowboy 3237 E. Colfax Ave Denver, CO



You're invited to walk in the 2024 Coors Light Denver Pride Parade!

Date: Sunday, June 23

Help us show off the strength and pride of The Center on Colfax's community.

Time: Line up at 7:30 AM. Our contingent marches 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Location: Line up at Cheesman Park. Route ends at Civic Center Park.

Register by June 16 to secure your spot!

Scan to Register



Celebrate

DENVER PRIDE



with a new book that showcases how the city evolved from its pre-1970s history of rebuking gay people to a magnet for LGBTQ residents and the capital of the first state to elect and reelect the nation's first openly gay governor.



A ARCADIA PUBLISHING

DENVER PRIDE



We Need YOU!

West of 50's Pride Activation is

BIGGER and **BETTER!**

We need your assistance with games, collecting donations, and managing the crowds. Please sign up today to **Volunteer**.



Pride Accessibility Town Hall

Accessibility at Pride has been growing and improving with each passing year. Between sign language interpreters, the ADA Center Stage seating, and accessible space at the Pride Parade, this year we are hoping to make Pride as accessible to as many people as we can. In an effort to make sure this information is available for all to access, The Disability Program is going to host a Pride Accessibility Town Hall. This will be an online meeting hosted by DenverPride's ADA Coordinator, Doug Wooley, with opportunities to learn and ask questions. To sign up, register on the website to receive the Zoom link.

When: Wednesday, June 12th, 6-7pm **Where:** On Zoom, register for the link



ReCreative Denver: Pride Sign Workshop

Join us for a vibrant celebration of love, diversity, and creativity at our Pride Festival Poster Making event, presented by The Center on Colfax in partnership with ReCreative Denver. Led by Denver local and ceramic artist, Kelly Eigenberger, who also serves as the Program Director of ReCreative, this exciting workshop invites participants of all backgrounds and identities to come together and express their pride loud and proud!

Snacks and Sodas provided


Time: June 10th 6:15-7:45pm **Where:** Center on Colfax

West of 50's Pride Neighborhood

Art Activation:

Where R U from—Stop by the West of 50 neighborhood and drop a pin in your hometown. Following pride the map(s) will be displayed in the Center's lobby.

Community Engagement:

Pup Pit—Need a place to let your pup play? Maybe get a belly rub? Or a scratch behind its ear? West of 50 is happy to host well-behaved pups and provide them with a shaded place to romp and meet others. All rules of pride apply in this space. This space is produced in collaboration with Unleashed. 

Game bios:

Magic Wand Toss—Join West of 50 as we introduce you to new ways to use your weapons of ass destruction. A donation will get you 5 tosses of the old dildoosie.

Dicks & Tits—Join West of 50 as we introduce you to a new way of using your suction drilldo. A donation will get you 5 tosses at the titties.

Cock Ring—Don't let a limp dick get you down. For a donation, you can toss a ring at the old slob knob... if you are lucky, you will get a "juicy prize".

Pin the Cock on the Top—Nothing is worse than a top without a lollipop. Let's help him out by reattaching his king cobra. A donation will get you two shots of reattaching the beef whistle.

Clits & Tits—In the mood to handle some funbags? A donation will get you 3 tosses of the honkers at the love lips. If you can find the right spot you will win a "tasty prize".

HomoSEXual BINGO with Steve Anne and CowPoke Avi—CowPoke Avi & Steve Anne are returning to West of 50's Main Tent to host HomoSEXual BINGO. The comedy, prizes, zingers, and nonstop number calling make this event a pride favorite.

Main Tent:

Drag makeup with Steve Anne & Bryant—Join Steve Anne as she & Bryant go over what it takes to get ready for an insane day at Denver PrideFest. This beginner drag makeup tutorial will inspire you to play with makeup and try something new.



Kink & Leather in Colorado—Join the Michael Hobbs, from the **Leather Colorado Foundation** as he unpacks the history of the hanky code, leather, local leather organizations, and the Foundation's contest.

Legacy & Literature of Pride BINGO with Denver Public Library—Join Denver Public Library's Older Adult Services team for a fun hour of BINGO highlighting LGBTQ+ figures throughout history.



Boosting Confidence & Igniting Creativity presented by Broken Babes—Find out how burlesque changed the perspective of performer Allie Soreass (Zie/Zir) and how zie created a safe space for other performers with accessibility needs.

WEST OF 50'S EVENT LINE UP

<i>Saturday 22nd; 11am-7pm</i>		<i>Sunday, 23rd; 10am-6pm</i>	
11a	Drag makeup with Steve Anne & Bryant – Join Steve Anne as she & Bryant go over what it takes to get ready for an insane day at Denver PrideFest. This beginner drag makeup tutorial will inspire you to play with makeup and try something new.	10a	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team
11:30	Drag makeup with Steve Anne & Bryant	10:30	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team
12:00 p	HomoSEXual BINGO with Steve Anne and Cowpoke Avi – CowPoke Avi & Steve Anne are returning to West of 50's Main Tent to host HomoSEXual BINGO. The comedy, prizes, zingers, and nonstop number calling make this event a pride favorite.	11	<u>Legacy & Literature of Pride BINGO with Denver Public Library</u> - Join Denver Public Library's Older Adult Services team for a fun hour of BINGO highlighting LGBTQ+ figures throughout history.
12:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & Cowpoke Avi	11:30	<u>Legacy & Literature of Pride BINGO with Denver Public Library</u>
1	Leather Colorado Foundation (Kink & Leather in Colorado) - The history of the hanky code, leather, local leather organizations, and the Foundation's contest.	12p	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi
1:30	Leather Colorado Foundation (Kink & Leather in Colorado)	12:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi
2	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	1	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team
2:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	1:30	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team
3	<u>The Legacy You Live A look at Denver's LGBTQ History—Phil Nash</u> , author of the recently released <i>LGBTQ Denver</i> , will ask participants a series of questions about historical facts that are covered in this recently released text.	2	Boosting Confidence & Igniting Creativity presented by Broken Babes Burlesque - Find out how burlesque changed the perspective of performer Allie Soreass (Zie/ Zir) and how zie created a safe space for other performers with accessibility needs.
3:30	<u>The Legacy You Live A look at Denver's LGBTQ History—Phil Nash</u>	2:30	Broken Babes Burlesque - Boosting Confidence & Igniting Creativity
4	BINGO with Steve Ann & CowPoke Avi	3	BINGO with Steve Anne and CowPoke Avi
4:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	3:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi
5	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	4	<u>The Legacy You Live A look at Denver's LGBTQ History—Phil Nash</u> , author of the recently released <i>LGBTQ Denver</i> , will ask participants a series of questions about historical facts that are covered in this recently released text.
5:30	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team	4:30	<u>The Legacy You Live A look at Denver's LGBTQ History—Phil Nash</u>
6	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team	5	Crazy Ass BINGO with the West of 50 team
6:30	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	5:30	BINGO with Steve Anne and CowPoke Avi
7	BINGO with Steve Anne & CowPoke Avi	6	BINGO with Steve Anne and CowPoke Avi

DENVER PRIDE Center Stage ^{50th} Anniversary 1974 - 2024



Shea Couleé— A non-binary, internationally-renowned drag superstar, recording artist, model, actor, known for their fashion forward editorial looks, expanding their artistry and brand into many different spaces, and their consistent use of the art of drag and costuming as a medium for larger storytelling.

Alyssa Edwards— An American entertainer, choreographer, drag performer and television personality. Prior to his television debut, Justin Dwayne Lee Johnson, was a gifted dance instructor and accomplished performer in the drag pageantry scene before rising to international prominence on the fifth season of RuPaul’s Drag Race, where he quickly became a fan favorite.



Mirage— is a fierce and unapologetic drag queen whose name was on the most recent season of RuPaul’s Drag Race. Her sharp tongue, sassy quotes, and lip-sync performances have made her a fan favorite.

Pattie Gonia— is a critically acclaimed drag queen, environmentalist and advocate for inclusivity and diversity in the outdoors. Pattie is known for their environmental activism, community building, public speaking and performing outdoor feats like climbing, skiing, surfing and hiking all in drag.



PRIDEFest Word Search

ZLDHONGUCWYRY I I L T T Z T E L Z Q D T S X T D
VBVPRUCRKOEKWF JBD J J CDOQPFFUKKD
REAVSHHA INMKKLCGN I FRCQNUHZMAXK
YIWYRWWBVHHDBXUF EYXPEXFHQQCKXV
HETJPMNEXTSTOPHLHJYDTABAWXYWP
EQIKEIHJKDXTQUFTPVULSDGDBVDXGN
GCDFYXNKVXYVARQAUIYFULCXHXTANO
JVFBXOGPWILQJXWXJNYSHOOUTJWACAS
ODBZPRIDESIGNWORKSHOPKARLXXLQF
YUUYAWGPPJEOYNFCCKJBPBZAQLNBMFY
VKLTIJDOKWZNOQXSXACEFBTURS RBGZ
GCRCMUOOQOGAWJPDUTCYSLTTURPCSD
PRIDEACCESSIBILITYTOWNHALLOJWN
DSCIYSCFZMJMUKQIFBXEROAKYSSDJQ
DMIXZCKTQIDFRPFZQMWEDSRTYDAXGN
TDRMEUIATUOLMIRAGEMQOCHCXMUCWR
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DSFMJEQUXVWDALYSSAEDWARDSIAJFM
KHMMHDSZHLRVV LAMMZHFTLIPCRWFPP
IEYFKVRCWHQOPCDYSBJXQXXZJOQURP
MCZOJWTKKWLHSHHFSAMJAKKYHRDYB
COBMLEGACYOFPRIDEROOF TOPPARTYS
AUTYJTJOALJSUKLIITUTLBKWNRWKDD
ILXFKCRZEMONVNYNFHGCXNZQMEGHDS
HEHLYXHBXPD PANCAKEPARTYGXWIZTY
KEYFOSANLRDQZPZLVTTUAJOVWBXMXJ
EZZUZLDMGHKZNSDLUEDECWLUFPGYHD
SVDZDGLVPATTIEGONIAXEVGBLVBTXJ
FEQTHEL LUNCHBUNCHWVMKMSZDGSWWZN

Pride Accessibility Town Hall

Alyssa Edwards

Legacy of Pride Rooftop Party

The Lunch Bunch

Pride Sign Workshop

Pancake Party

Pattie Gonia

She Coulee

NextStop

Mirage

SHOUT

June 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Key Lesbian: Lesbian Lounge Story: Telling Your Story		Stitch: Stitch & Bitch Sex: Older Wiser Sexually Smarter AARP: Community Group		Art: Open Art Move: Movement DPSG: Disability Peer Support Group		1
2	3 10:30 Lesbian 12 NextStop 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	4 10 Kadie's Pancake Party 2p Sex	5 10:30 SS Yoga 1 NextStop	6 10 Art 4p Pride Party	7 10:30 Move 1:30 DPSG	8
9	10 10:30 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Pride Sign	11 10 Men's Coffee 2p Sex 7:15 SHOUT!	12 10:30 SS Yoga 1:30 AARP 6 Pride Accessibility	13 10 Art 2p AARP Presentation	14 10:30 Move 1:30 DPSG	15
16	17 10:30 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	18 10 Men's Coffee 12:15 Lunch Bunch 2p Sex	19 10:30 SS Yoga 1:30 AARP	20 <u>NO WOF</u> <u>Programming</u>	21 <u>NO WOF</u> <u>Programming</u>	22 Pride 10-6pm
23 Pride 11-7pm	24 <u>NO WOF</u> <u>Programming</u>	25 <u>NO WOF</u> <u>Programming</u>	26 10:30 SS Yoga 1:30 AARP	27 10 Art	28 10:30 Move 1:30 DPSG	29
30						