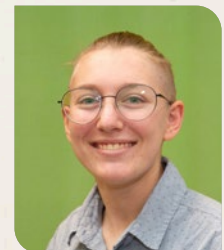
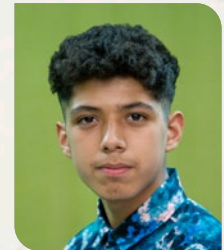
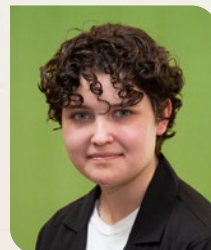
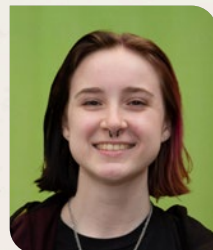
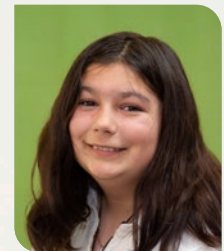
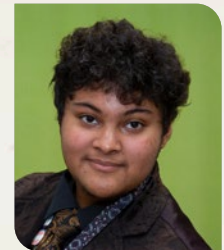
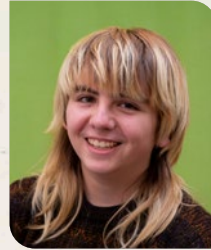


26TH ANNUAL QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Honoring Queer Youth Leaders & Allies in Santa Cruz County



*Saturday May 13, 2023
New Brighton Middle School, Capitola*



Celebrating 26 years...

of Queer Youth Leadership Award nominees and their allies, past and present!



Since 1997, the Diversity Partnership Fund at the Community Foundation has invested over \$1.6 million in local causes that promote inclusiveness and social justice to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people in our community, now and for future generations.



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**QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Stuart Rosenstein — Chair
Cassie Blume
Dean Maynard
Phillip Gomez
Stella Moreno

QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE

P. O. Box 3143
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
(831) 427-4004
www.QYTF.org
info@QYTF.org

26TH ANNUAL QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

May 13, 2023

WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the 26th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards. Tonight the Santa Cruz County community comes together to celebrate and recognize some of today's young Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) leaders and their individual and organizational allies. The Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County (QYTF) is proud to welcome you to this year's awards ceremony. Please join us in recognizing all the nominees for the following award categories: the Queer Youth Leadership Award, the Ally to Queer Youth Award, and the Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award.

QYLA has been many things to many people. QYLA is about gathering as a community, bearing witness, visibility, celebration, raucous applause, and, above all, an outpouring of love. We thank our trailblazers for helping us get as far as we are today, and as we look to the future, we know there is still so much more to be done. We will work to continue inspiring youth leaders, allies, and organizations to create positive change for the LGBTQIA+ community for the next 25 years and beyond.

Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors of QYLA!

Core Production Team of the 2023 Queer Youth Leadership Awards



BIENVENIDOS!

Gracias por asistir a la 26^a edición de los Premios Anuales de Liderazgo Juvenil Queer. Esta noche, la comunidad del condado de Santa Cruz se reúne para celebrar y reconocer a algunos de los líderes jóvenes lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, queer, intersexuales y asexuales (LGBTQIA+) y sus aliados individuales y organizacionales. El Grupo de Trabajo de Jóvenes Queer del Condado de Santa Cruz (QYTF) se enorgullece en darle la bienvenida a la ceremonia de premiación de este año. Únase a nosotros al reconocer a todos los nominados para las siguientes categorías de premios: el Premio al Liderazgo de la Juventud Queer, el Premio Aliado a la Juventud Queer y el Premio Aliado Organizacional a la Juventud Queer.

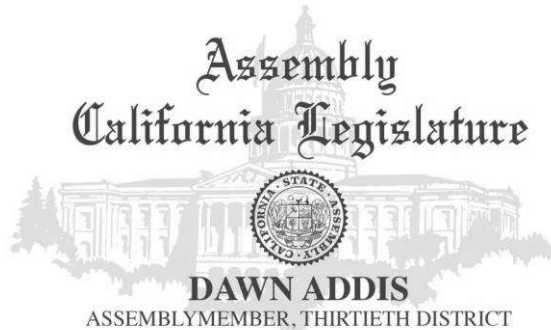
QYLA ha sido muchas cosas para muchas personas. QYLA se trata de reunirnos en comunidad, dar testimonio, visibilidad, celebración, estruendosos aplausos y, sobre todo, una efusión de amor. Agradecemos a nuestros pioneros por ayudarnos a llegar tan lejos como estamos hoy y, al mirar hacia el futuro, sabemos que aún queda mucho por hacer. Trabajaremos para continuar inspirando a líderes juveniles, aliados y organizaciones para crear un cambio positivo para la comunidad LGBTQIA+ durante los próximos 25 años y más.

¡Gracias a los muchos voluntarios y patrocinadores de QYLA!

Equipo de Producción Central de los Premios al Liderazgo Juvenil Queer 2023

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0030
(916) 319-2030

DISTRICT OFFICES
857 SANTA ROSA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 549-3001
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MONTEREY, CA 93940
(831) 649-2832



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CALIFORNIA
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DISABILITIES

VICE CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

May 13, 2023

Dear Friends,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 26th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards! I deeply appreciate the leadership and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual and questioning youth and allies. Gathering together to recognize and celebrate you is a joyful reminder of the many ways you make this community better.

The theme for this year's event, selected by the New Brighton Middle School Queer-Straight Alliance, is Peace and Positivity in the Queer Community. In a world where hostility and violence often leave us in despair, choosing peace and positivity is not only a bold statement, but a road map to a future as it should be – welcoming, warm and all-embracing. Your courageous leadership is taking us from a world once imagined to a reality of affirmative and equitable support, access and opportunities. A world in which we can live our most authentic lives without fear or hesitation. Your voices, your efforts and your perseverance in making a positive impact in your home, school, athletic and academic teams, religious institutions and other social groups shine brightly today, and every day.

Thank you to the Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County for inspiring youth leaders, allies and organizations to create positive change for the LGBTQIA+ community for 26 years and counting. A special thank you to New Brighton Middle School and Soquel Union Elementary School District for hosting this year's QYLA!

I join with our queer youth and allies, their families, their teachers and their mentors in celebrating your leadership and look forward to all that is next!

With peace and positivity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Addis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dawn Addis
Assemblymember, 30th District

PRONOUNS GUIDE

Gender affirmative pronouns are the set of pronouns that a person identifies with and would like to be called when their proper name is not being used. Some individuals may use more than one set of pronouns, and pronouns may change over time. With the inclusion of new pronouns or neopronouns, there are many pronouns in addition to the familiar she, he and they.

A person's pronouns are not "preferred", as this implies it is not necessary to use their designated pronouns. Not using the requested pronoun, or misgendering, is disrespectful, and can cause emotional harm. Similarly, one should never tell another person that their pronouns are "incorrect." Research shows that using a person's accurate pronouns is one of the most powerful ways to support a person and promote their wellbeing.

If you make a mistake, don't panic! Apologize, correct yourself, and continue the conversation. It helps to slow down so as to be able to use the correct pronoun. If you are unsure about how to use someone's pronoun, it is always better to ask than to make an assumption.

Here are some suggestions for ways to share and ask about someone's pronouns:

- Offer your name and pronouns in your introduction before asking for theirs: "What pronouns do you use?"

- Add your pronoun to name tags or badges; wear a pronoun button
- Include your pronouns with your name on virtual platforms, like Zoom

We celebrate that the singular pronoun "they" is officially grammatically correct. The *Washington Post's* style guide ratified the usage of "they" in 2015. *Post* copy editor Bill Walsh explained that the singular they is "the only sensible solution to English's lack of a gender-neutral third person singular personal pronoun." In 2019, "they" was designated Word of the Year by Merriam-Webster, "marking the rise of the use of the venerable plural pronoun to refer to a single person whose gender is nonbinary." (*New York Times*, Dec 10, 2019).

While "he" has been considered a masculine pronoun and "she" a feminine pronoun, both pronouns can be used by all genders. They are not restricted in any way to the gender binary, and many nonbinary individuals will use one or both, often in addition to "they". Some people do not use pronouns, and just use their first or last name in place of a pronoun.

An explosion of new pronouns or neopronouns are being created as individuals develop language to describe their authentic identity and/or gender experience. Some examples of common neopronouns are: **ae/aer, ey/em, shi/hir, hi/hem, vey/ver, fae/faer, kye/kyr, ze/zir, xe/xem.**

PRONOUN CONJUGATION CHART

from The University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee's LGBTQ+ Resource Center

Note: the first column is meant to indicate two separate – but similarly spelled – sets of pronouns. They are ae/aer/aers and fae/faer/faers.

(f)ae	e/ey	he	per	she	they	ve	xe	ze/zie
(f)aer	em	him	per	her	them	ver	xem	hir
(f)aer	eir	his	pers	her	their	vis	xyr	hir
(f)aers	eirs	his	pers	hers	theirs	vis	xyr	hirs
(f)aerself	eirself	himself	perself	herself	themself	verself	xemself	hirself

If you would like more information on pronouns, the University of Wisconsin's website uwm.edu/lgbtrc/support/gender-pronouns is excellent, and pronouns.org is another helpful reference. For additional practice, go to practicewithpronouns.com or minus18.org.au/pronouns



PROGRAM

OPENING

New Brighton Middle School After School Performing Arts Club

WELCOME

QYLA 2023 THEME

New Brighton Middle School Queer Straight Alliance (QSA)

HONORING QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominees

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awardee Victor Ersunay

STATE ASSEMBLYMEMBER DAWN ADDIS

State of California, Assembly District 30

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awardee Laetitia Vivian Chen Gladney

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awardee Aiden Parten

QUEER AND TRANS YOUTH COUNCIL

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Awardee Luka Chavez

TRIBUTE TO UNSUNG HEROES

HONORING ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD

Nominees

ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD

Awardee Morielle Mamaril

HONORING ORGANIZATIONAL ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH

Nominees

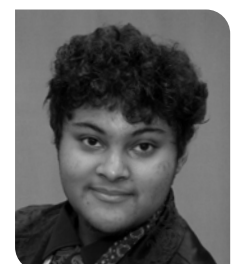
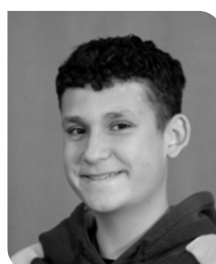
ORGANIZATIONAL ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH

Awardee Watsonville Film Festival

PERFORMANCE

Community Music School's Teen Band

FINALE



EMCEES



DELMI MCWILLIAMS

she/her/hers

Student, Mount Madonna School

My name is Leith Delmi McWilliams, and I attend Mount Madonna School, which, might I add, I love. I am passionate about the arts and enjoy theater, drawing, and music about as much as I love the stars. I am happiest with my friends, the people I love, and when I'm creating things that I love. I am a cisgender female, and I identify as a lesbian. I like to think I have a future in politics (if I didn't hate paperwork), but I do love debate and fiercely defend what I believe in. If you wanted to find me in the wild, I'd suggest checking libraries and cafes that let you order chai tea lattes every hour while you write in the corner.



KIARA BRINTON

she/her/hers

Student, Mount Madonna School

Kiara Brinton is one of the emcees for the Queer Youth Leadership Awards. She currently lives in Gilroy and goes to Mount Madonna School. She is autistic and loves Epic Rap Battles of History, slime, and all reality shows. She has started to dabble in drag and hopes to host in drag. She goes by the name Dior Dionne. Kiara is excited to host and can't wait to see you there.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2023 QYLA Nominees and Awardees!

My deepest gratitude to all
LGBTQIA+ trailblazers and allies
for your unwavering dedication
to creating a welcoming and safe
community for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Addis".



Dawn ADDIS
STATE ASSEMBLY

PERFORMERS



Photo by Araya Dyakov, Student, New Brighton Middle School

NEW BRIGHTON MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CLUB

The young New Brighton Middle School students performing “Seasons Of Love” from the musical Rent are a collaboration of 6th-8th grade students who have been rehearsing after school under the guidance of their Choreographer and Vocal Director, Shannon Kerr-McDonough and Acting Coach, Will C. Guilford. Their performance of “Seasons of Love” is just one of several songs, monologues, and scenes they have been working on since November for their school’s Showcase which took place in early May 2023.



COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL’S TEEN BAND

Most members of Community Music School’s Teen Band met at Redwood Music Teen Camp – a weeklong sleepover camp for musicians ages 12-18 that takes place each June in Aptos. Teen Band members meet twice a month at the London Nelson Center to practice with teacher/mentor John Weed (a classically-trained violinist who switched to playing Irish fiddle about 20 years ago). Teen Band members include Conall Barber, Abby and Amiel Goodman, Griffin Steely, Evan and Tyler Weed, and Sean Williams. This year’s Teen Camp takes place June 12-17; details at CommunityMusicSchool.org

QYLA 2023 THEME: PEACE & POSITIVITY IN THE QUEER COMMUNITY

The theme of this year's QYLA is "Peace and Positivity in the Queer Community" and was written by students from the New Brighton Middle School QSA (Queer-Straight Alliance).

The QSA has chosen a theme of cottagecore mixed with the queer fictional universe of the webcomic, graphic novel, and television show Heartstopper, created by Alice Oseman.

The title the QSA club decided on is Peace and Positivity in the Queer Community.

Cottagecore is a calm, earthy, and forestry type of aesthetic that celebrates the beauty of nature. Although there are many aesthetics that queer people identify with, cottagecore presents a way of living out of the binary, like many queer individuals. It is an aesthetic that many people feel comfortable expressing themselves with.

Heartstopper is a positive story showing some truly happy queer couples and their experiences. Heartstopper covers many topics, such as coming out, bullying, and mental health. The show normalizes these topics by portraying them not as the main theme, but as everyday circumstances that many people deal with.

Heartstopper also spreads awareness to the audience to reach out to someone if they are going through a difficult time.

Overall, the theme picked for the QYLA portrays the essence of the queer community.



OFFER SUPPORT, CHECK IT OUT & GET INVOLVED!



Community Foundation
of Santa Cruz County's
Disaster Fund



Become a Big Brother
Big Sister



Queer Santa Cruz
at MAH



**JIMMY
PANETTA**
for CONGRESS



**Congratulations to all the
QYLA Nominees & Awardees!**

Authorized and paid for by Jimmy Panetta for Congress PO Box 103, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 FEC ID# C00592154



CONGRATULATIONS
to the 2023 QYLA Nominees & Awardees!

I'm thankful to you, as well as all LGBTQIA+ leaders
and their allies, for your commitment to making
our community safer for all.

John Laird



Paid for by John Laird for Senate 2024, FPPC ID: 1434540, 343 Soquel Avenue #426, Santa Cruz, CA 95062, info@LairdforCASenate.com

CONGRATULATIONS

Cabrillo College Congratulates the Queer Youth Leadership Honorees of 2023

Equity at Cabrillo College is the commitment to cultivate an inclusive teaching and learning environment by providing equitable support, access, and opportunities for success that emphasizes historically underrepresented and emerging student populations.



THE OFFICE OF
STUDENT EQUITY

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ZOE

LOFGREN FOR CONGRESS

"IN TOO MANY PLACES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, WE ARE SEEING LGBTQ YOUTH UNDER ATTACK. THESE YOUNG PEOPLE DESERVE SAFE SPACES WHERE THEY CAN HAVE A CHANCE TO THRIVE, BE THEIR AUTHENTIC SELF, AND BECOME THE LEADERS OUR COMMUNITIES AND OUR NATION NEEDS.

THERE IS INCREDIBLE STRENGTH IN OUR DIVERSITY - AND LGBTQ YOUTH BRING A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AND LIVED EXPERIENCES THAT HELP US TO BUILD A BETTER, MORE UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHETIC, AND VIBRANT SOCIETY.

I AM SO PROUD OF THE WORK BEING DONE BY THE QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY - AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE QYLA AWARDEES! KEEP DOING YOUR GREAT WORK AND BEING LEADERS IN YOUR COMMUNITIES."

-- CONGRESSWOMAN ZOE LOFGREN

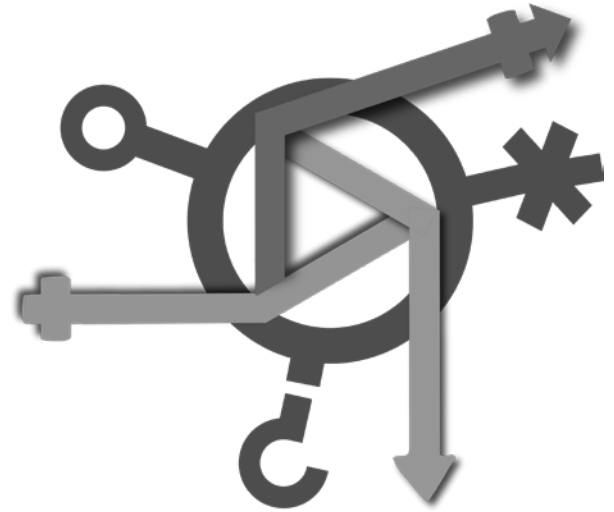


**BE STRONG.
BE RESILIENT.
BE OUTSPOKEN.
BE LEADERS.
BE YOU.**

ZOELOFGREN.COM



**FROM ALL THE PROUD
PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**
CONGRATULATIONS



Trans Teen Project of Santa Cruz County

Resources

TransMentoring Program partnership
with Big Brothers Big Sisters

Visibility Campaign

TransTeenProject.org



**Congratulations
to all the
nominees!**



RebeccaStarkPhotography.com

rebstark@me.com

831.325.4183



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Parents, **F**amilies, **LGBTQ**, and **A**llies
Group of Santa Cruz County

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831-427- 4016

pflagsc@gmail.com

PVUSD



WE ARE PROUD

to be an inclusive and caring community with meaningful supports for LGBTQ+ students!!



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- Radcliff
- WCSA
- H.A. Hyde
- Ceiba
- Starlight
- Alianza
- Duncan Holbert
- Valencia
- Ohlone
- Amesti
- Ann Soldo
- Aptos Jr
- Calabasas
- Freedom
- Diamond Technology Institute
- Aptos High
- Lakeview
- Mintie White
- Rolling Hills
- Hall District
- Bradley
- Rio Del Mar
- New School
- Watsonville High
- Cesar Chavez
- Virtual Academy
- Adult Education
- Renaissance High
- MacQuiddy
- E.A. Hall
- Landmark
- Pacific Coast Charter
- Pajaro Valley HS

Join the community! @PajaroValleyUSD



2023 QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Designed to honor the leadership of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) young people throughout Santa Cruz County.

Four awardees will receive a cash award of \$250, as well as the opportunity to designate a queer youth friendly project or nonprofit organization in their community to receive a \$500 donation.

Given annually to queer youth who are 12 to 18 years of age to acknowledge their accomplishments and the contributions they have made to their communities, whether this be in their homes, schools, religious institutions, athletic or academic teams, or other social groups.




PREMIO AL LIDERAZGO JUVENIL QUEER

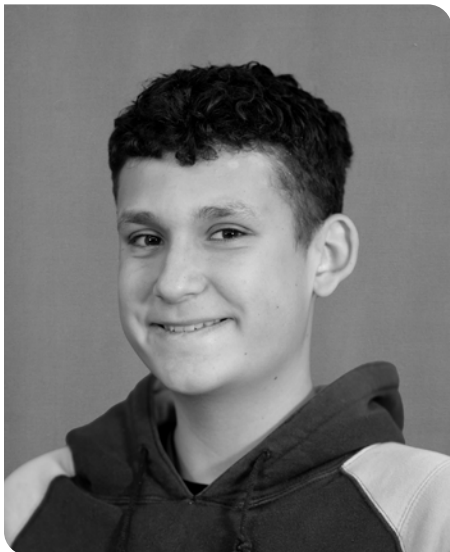
Diseñado para honrar el liderazgo de los jóvenes lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, queer y en duda, intersexuales y asexuales (LGBTQIA+) en todo el condado de Santa Cruz.

Cuatro premiados recibirán un premio en efectivo de \$250, así como la oportunidad de designar un proyecto amigable para jóvenes queer u organización sin fines de lucro en su comunidad para recibir una donación de \$500.

Otorgado anualmente a jóvenes queer de 12 a 18 años de edad para reconocer sus logros y las contribuciones que han hecho a sus comunidades, ya sea en sus hogares, escuelas, instituciones religiosas, equipos atléticos, académicos u otros grupos sociales.



QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



AIDEN PARTEN | AWARDEE

he/him/his — all accepted

Student Body President, Branciforte Middle School | President, Muskequeers

Aiden Parten holds multiple leadership roles at Branciforte Middle School. He is currently the president of the school's Muskequeers club, where he creates weekly agendas and leads club activities, in addition to his role as Student Body President, where he leads thirty student representatives in leadership programming. Aiden has highlighted the importance of GSA clubs to the Santa Cruz City Schools board, and spoke at the unveiling of LGBTQ History Posters about the impact of connecting history with future generations. Aiden also participates in the Diversity Center Youth Program, is a member of his school's Garden Club, and is a gracious competitor in wrestling, cross-country, and volleyball. Aiden is described as an empathetic model student who does not back down from doing the work to make positive changes.



LAETITIA VIVIAN CHEN GLADNEY | AWARDEE

they/them/theirs

Student, Santa Cruz High School

Laetitia Vivian Chen Gladney has been an activist since middle school who has had a big impact on their schools and community. As a student at Mission Hill Middle School, Laetitia helped write a grant to financially support the opening of all-gender bathrooms at the school and was also instrumental in advocating for Santa Cruz City School District to purchase and fly the Pride Flag at all district schools. Now at Santa Cruz High School, Laetitia continues their activism by working with school administration to keep all-gender bathrooms open during the entire school day and has helped secure free menstrual products for school bathrooms. In addition to their activism for the LGBTQIA+ community, Laetitia is also a member of the theater department where they advocate for diversity in casting.



LUKA CHAVEZ | AWARDEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, Watsonville Charter School of the Arts

Luka Chavez has been a passionate leader and advocate in their school's GSA since third grade, when they were a founding member of Watsonville Charter School of the Arts (WCSA) GSA Junior club. That year Luka wrote and directed a skit about supporting queer classmates, called "Be Yourself," which was performed for second through sixth grade classes. In fifth grade Luka made and presented a video to the PVUSD board of trustees attesting to the importance of supporting LGBTQIA+ elementary school students and helped lead a school-wide Harvey Milk assembly. In sixth grade Luka was a red carpet emcee for the Queer Youth Leadership awards. Now in seventh grade, Luka volunteers with the Queer Youth Task Force and was a youth panelist for the 2022 Understanding Gender Summit.

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



VICTOR ERSUNAY | AWARDEE

he/him/his

Student, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School | Co-president, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School GSA Club

Victor Ersunay is the co-president of San Lorenzo Valley Middle School's GSA club, where he works closely with the school's principal to share meeting notes and facilitate positive changes to the school to support LGBTQIA+ students, such as adding a new all-gender bathroom and planning activities during LGBTQIA+ history month. Victor has also worked with the school librarian to include a list of books curated by the GSA to increase students' exposure to the diverse experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community through literature. Victor bravely came out as transgender after returning from distance learning and has since grown in confidence, strengthening the school's GSA club and joining the volleyball team. Victor is described as instrumental to positive change on the San Lorenzo Middle School campus.



AARON GONZALES | NOMINEE

any pronouns

Student, Watsonville High School

Aaron Gonzales has been an activist in the LGBTQIA+ community for years. Aaron's activism journey began in fifth grade when they became a founding member and the treasurer of the Watsonville Charter School of the Arts (WCSA) GSA Junior Club. Since then, Aaron has spoken at a PVUSD board meeting to thank trustees for their support of LGBTQIA+ students, came out as transgender in front of the whole school at WCSA's Harvey Milk Day event, and been a panelist for the Understanding Gender Summit. This school year Aaron was an active participant in the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit of the Central Coast and is described as a strong leader for the LGBTQIA+ community at Watsonville High School. Aaron was a 2022 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee.



ASHER SUNRISE TRAGESER | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Asher Sunrise Trageser has been described as an overachiever since kindergarten. Now a senior at San Lorenzo Valley High School (SLVHS), Asher has taken on several leadership roles while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. An out and proud student, Asher has helped many underclassmen through their coming out processes, and is referred to as a "gay father" to younger students. Asher has been dedicated to the performing arts through all four years of high school, and this fall directed their senior show *The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered*. In addition to theater, Asher has also played three years of high school basketball, founded and led the Pop Culture Club at SLVHS, and wrote their own fantasy column in the school newspaper.



CESAR REYES | NOMINEE

he/him/his

Student, Watsonville High School | President, Watsonville High School Karaoke Club

Cesar Reyes is a student at Watsonville High School who is described as a “true icon” and a “celebrity” both on and off campus. Cesar is known for his sense of humor and for his many talents; he is a writer, plays the alto saxophone and violin, and has exceptional public speaking skills. Cesar has demonstrated strong leadership skills through his position as president of the school’s Karaoke Club and by hosting an interfaith religious club that welcomes individuals of all faiths and backgrounds to discuss philosophy and deep issues related to life and death. Cesar has been described as an insightful advocate for all people who has overcome many obstacles in his life, including displacement by the recent floods, to become a loud, proud, and confident person.



CHAI ROCAMORA | NOMINEE

it/its & they/them/theirs

Leader, Diverse Youth Meetups | Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Chai Rocamora is described as an excellent person to have in your corner. Chai is a leader in the CA Film & Cultural Center’s (CAFCC) Diverse Youth Meetups where they have helped design online spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth as well as CAFCC’s new physical location. Chai volunteers as stage manager for San Lorenzo Valley High School theater department, where they are a good example for LGBTQIA+ and questioning students. At school Chai is known as an advocate for other queer and trans students who helps make sure students know their legal rights and has assisted in the school’s Gender and Sexualities Awareness club activities. When faced with discrimination from adults or peers, Chai responds with calm and direct conversations that help change hearts and minds.



CHRISTIANA HERZOG | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Student, Branciforte Middle School | President, Muskequeers Club

Christiana Herzog is Branciforte Middle School Muskequeer Club’s “tiny but mighty” president where she recognizes the gifts of her fellow students and helps them find their own confidence with her collaborative leadership style. As club president, Christiana creates weekly agendas, leads the twenty-plus student club meetings, and has provided feedback to administrators about queer student experiences in a focus group for the School Climate Survey. Christiana’s leadership is also showcased in team settings; she has been active in drumline, volleyball, and cross-country. Christiana has been a youth volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club and is also the interim president of her school’s Anime Club. Christiana has overcome bullying to become a straight-A student who is described as a hard worker, responsible, and consistently positive.

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



CORVINROOK CHAMPION | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, Scotts Valley High School

Corvinrook Champion makes a difference in their community by being a role model to younger students, representing the LGBTQIA+ community in theater, and contributing to activist movements on campus. As an openly queer, transgender, and asexual student, Corvinrook inspires younger students on campus to be themselves, and motivates their peers to stand up against prejudice. Corvinrook is active in Scotts Valley high School's theater, where they increase LGBTQIA+ visibility in their lead acting roles. Corvinrook is a leader in the school's Sexuality and Gender Acceptance club, assisting in events for Aromantic Awareness Week, Transgender Day of Visibility, LGBTQIA+ history trivia games, and more. Corvinrook works to overcome racism and transphobia to continue their work to make Scotts Valley High School a more inclusive place.



JAMIE MCLEAN | NOMINEE

they/them/theirs

Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Jamie McLean is described by their teachers as hard-working, self-disciplined, respectful, professional and considerate. Jamie was co-president of the Pop Culture Club, co-directed the play *The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered*, and has received two Visual and Performing Arts Awards for their work. As a co-director, Jamie was intentional about respecting and including LGBTQIA+ student performers, making sure everyone introduced themselves with pronouns and respected each other's identities. During the course of the show, Jamie's inclusive leadership inspired one of the actors to come out as transgender. As an out nonbinary person, Jamie often deals with being misgendered and not having their pronouns respected, but continues to live authentically, showing those around them that there's no one right way to be nonbinary.



JUNIPER BROWN | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Leader, Diverse Youth Meetups

Juniper Brown is a leader both at the CA Film & Cultural Center's (CAFCC) Diverse Youth Meetups, where they have helped design LGBTQIA+ discord spaces as well as CAFCC's physical location, and is a leader in their community. Juniper runs money-free art swapping and money-free goods swapping communities and has showcased their talents through graphic design, art, and social media work for several local businesses and organizations. Juniper has overcome their shyness attributed to ASD to speak about their experience as a young trans person for a panel for Encompass Community Services and panels for EDI Educators for county health and education staff members. This past fall, Juniper presented the workshop "Guinea Pig Care: The Queerest Pet" at the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit of the Central Coast.



NICO OLMSTEAD | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, Delta Charter High School | Councilmember, Queer and Trans Youth Council

Nico Olmstead is a leader at his school, work, and in the community. Nico is an active member of Delta's leadership team and helps plan events and activities for the school. Nico works at Mar Vista Elementary's after-school program where he helps create safe and engaging experiences for young children. Nico is also a gifted artist. He designed the 2021 Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit t-shirt and is in charge of artistic design of the Queer and Trans Youth Council's zine Queer Agenda. Nico takes on all of these opportunities while also excelling academically at both Delta and Cabrillo College. Nico is described as having a quiet and calm leadership style and as someone who collaborates with his peers to create positive learning environments for everyone.



Q LICHT | NOMINEE

he/him/his

Student, Scotts Valley High School

Q Licht has been an exceptional advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth for several years. In 2020 he created the Purple Sticker Project to make books with positive LGBTQIA+ representation more accessible in school libraries, a project that is now being used across the county. In 2022 he was a member of the Queer and Trans Youth Council who helped create a survey to gather data on how to support Santa Cruz County high school students' access to all-gender bathrooms. Now a senior in high school, he has been a youth representative for the Safe Schools Project's Top 40 LGBTQIA+ Book List and advocated at the Scotts Valley City Council for LGBTQIA+ inclusive policies. Q is the Scotts Valley Youth of the Year, and was a 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee.



RAYMOND CALVAN | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, New Brighton Middle School | Secretary, New Brighton Middle School QSA

Raymond Calvin is the secretary of New Brighton Middle School's QSA who is described as a natural leader whose commanding and authoritative voice engages everyone in listening when he speaks. Raymond also leads with kindness and compassion and is known as a mediator for students who are having a conflict. When a volunteer is needed for a task, Raymond is the first one to speak up and step up, making sure all of the QSA's needs are met and club members are supported. In addition to his leadership role, Raymond is also an amazing musician who plays the trumpet. Raymond is described as mature beyond his years and as someone who is a role model for young people both in and outside of the LGBTQIA+ community.

QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD



REESE ROSENQUIST | NOMINEE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Student, San Lorenzo Valley High School

Reese Rosenquist's greatest strengths have been described as their kindness and open-mindedness. As an out queer and trans student, Reese supports their peers who are struggling with their identity and who are coming out for the first time to their parents. Reese is also an inspiration for middle school students through their role as sound tech for San Lorenzo Valley Middle School theater, where they do an amazing job orchestrating conversations and facilitating collaborative projects. Reese has been an active member in their school's GSA, and works to spread information about anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation and ways to be a better activist and ally for the community. Reese is pursuing their goal of becoming a firefighter through an internship with the Boulder Creek Volunteer Station.



SION ERKILETIAN | NOMINEE

they/them/theirs

Student, Delta Charter High School | Councilmember, Queer and Trans Youth Council

Sion Erkiletian is described as wise beyond their years and an asset to Delta High School's QSA and overall school community. Sion excels academically both in their high school and college classes and often takes on leadership roles in QSA club meetings. Sion is a member of the 2023 Queer and Trans Youth Council, where they researched and wrote several articles for the zine Queer Agenda including articles about safer sex and how to bind safely. Sion also took on several administrative tasks to get the zine printed. Sion has described themselves as a shy person but has proven they are adept at working through shyness and anxiety to lead with compassion and an open mind to make everyone feel comfortable and supported.



TIM SCOTT | NOMINEE

he/him/his

Student, Aptos High School

Tim Scott is described as someone who has empathy for others and brings joy and humor to the lives of those he connects with. Tim is an athlete who has his second dan black belt in Tae Kwon Do, runs track and cross-country for Aptos High School, and he teaches friends and family how to improve their running skills. Tim also has a 3.8 GPA, takes AP classes, is in the Aptos High Drama Club, and is a Youth Aid at Santa Cruz Junior Lifeguards. In his free time Tim plays Magic the Gathering and Dungeons and Dragons. Tim is described as a loving and dedicated family member and someone who can build a strong community of friends in any setting.

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2023 ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD

Designed to honor an ally of any age who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth and youth who have LGBTQIA+ family members.

One non-monetary award is given.

These awards are for allies who actively work to create safe spaces for Queer Youth. Examples include, creating support groups, increasing visibility of Queer Youth, inviting Queer speakers, or countering Queer oppression by stopping anti-queer slurs.




PREMIO PARA ALIADO DE LA JUVENTUD QUEER

Diseñado para honrar a un aliado de cualquier edad que haya realizado contribuciones significativas para mejorar las vidas de jóvenes lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, queer y en duda, intersexuales y asexuales (LGBTQIA+) y jóvenes que tienen familiares LGBTQIA+.

Se otorga un premio no monetario.

Estos premios son para aliados que trabajan activamente para crear espacios seguros para la Juventud Queer. Los ejemplos incluyen, crear grupos de apoyo, aumentar la visibilidad de la juventud queer, invitar a oradores queer o contrarrestar la opresión queer al detener los insultos anti-queer.



ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD



MORIELLE MAMARIL | AWARDEE

she/her/hers

*Student, Co-ASB President & SAGA Club Vice President, Watsonville High School
| Student Trustee, Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees*

Morielle Mamaril has been an ally to the LGBTQIA+ community since middle school. Now a senior, Morielle is the vice president of Watsonville High School's (WHS) Sexuality And Gender Alliance (SAGA) club, ASB co-president, and the student trustee for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. Morielle has used her positions of leadership to advocate for her LGBTQIA+ peers and support events that uplift LGBTQIA+ students, like National Coming Out Day at WHS, the Student Ally Caucus at the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit, and volunteering at QYLA. Morielle has spoken at district board meetings in support of recognizing both LGBTQ+ History Month and Filipino American History Month, and she sets an example for her fellow students on how to be a true ally.



ANDREA GIVENS | NOMINEE

she/her/ella

Teacher & Elementary Rainbow Club Co-advisor, Alianza Charter School

Andrea Givens is a bilingual fourth grade teacher and co-advisor for the Elementary Rainbow Club at Alianza Charter School. Andrea is an outspoken ally to LGBTQ+ youth, frequently wearing shirts with rainbows and pro-LGBTQIA+ statements, and disrupting and addressing instances of anti-LGBTQIA+ speech or behavior. Andrea models for all school staff that it is important and appropriate to show support for queer and trans students and their families at the elementary school level. She is described as someone who brings positivity and joy to her 4th grade classroom and makes sure to take opportunities to talk with her students about being an ally. Andrea makes Alianza safer and more welcoming for young LGBTQIA+ students by helping them feel seen, supported, and celebrated.



GREG O'MEARA | NOMINEE

he/him/his

Principal, Soquel High School

Greg O'Meara is the principal of Soquel High School and an exceptional advocate for LGBTQIA+ students. Before moving to Santa Cruz, Greg worked closely with families in Placer County to support transgender students at school and in the community. This year Greg was the first principal to sign up their school for the Safe Schools Project's LGBTQ+ Model School Pilot Program, and he has worked closely with the school's Gender and Sexuality Diversity Club to ensure their voices are heard during the Pilot Program. Greg is an active member of both the Santa Cruz City Schools LGBTQ+ Task Force and the County Office of Education LGBTQ+ Task Force and his years of support has made Soquel High School a more affirming place for LGBTQIA+ students.

ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD



JESSA KIRK | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Academic Dean & GSA Club Advisor, Kirby School

Jessa Kirk is the Academic Dean and GSA advisor at Kirby School who works tirelessly to support LGBTQIA+ students on campus. As GSA advisor, Jessa wrote and received a grant to purchase books by LGBTQIA+ authors for the school library, increasing student access to diverse literary voices. As an English teacher (2012-2022), Jessa included an LGBTQIA+ author as part of her text list for every class she taught, and created an elective course titled Queer Voices in Literature that focused solely on literature about LGBTQIA+ experiences; the course included a field trip to the Queer in Santa Cruz exhibit at the Museum of Art and History. Jessa is described as someone who consistently pushes Kirby school to do better and dream bigger for their LGBTQIA+ students.



KENDRA KANNEGAARD | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Drama and English Teacher & Drama Department Director, Scotts Valley High School

Kendra Kannegaard is a teacher and the drama department director at Scotts Valley High school who has created safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ students to learn and express themselves. As drama department director, "Mrs. K", as she's known to her students, ensures that transgender and gender non-conforming students are welcomed and supported through gender neutral auditions, casting, vocal sections, and greenroom spaces. As a teacher, Kendra created new lessons for LGBTQ+ History Month for her English classes. Outside the classroom, Kendra helps educate staff on how to include and support marginalized students and advocates for accessible spaces and all-gender bathrooms at both on and off-campus events. Kendra is described as someone who is an unwavering advocate for LGBTQIA+ students and an exemplary ally for queer youth.



KRIS KIFER | NOMINEE

they/them/theirs

Tutor, Birds of a Feather

Kris Kifer is a tutor for Birds of a Feather, a project of The Children Are Our Future, which provides homework support for queer third through ninth grade students. Kris offers tutoring support that engages and motivates students while allowing them to be their authentic selves. Drawing on their fifteen years of teaching experience, Kris uses their soft directing and true interest in their students as individuals to design sessions that celebrate students' strengths and passions while addressing their individual needs in reading, writing, math, and science. Kris helps students improve their grades while gaining confidence in themselves. Kris is described as a patient person who deeply respects their students and takes the time to listen and get to know the unique and complex experiences of each student.



LAUREN BURKE | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Student, Pajaro Valley High School

Lauren Burke is a student at Pajaro Valley High School (PHVS) who is described as a go-getter who loves a challenge and “makes magic happen.” Lauren helped lead the planning of PVHS’s National Coming Out Day Event which was well attended by a wide-range of students. Lauren cheered students on and walked through the rainbow door with her fellow students when they were too nervous to go through alone. Lauren works to make everyone feel included in all activities and events on campus. In addition to her work for the LGBTQIA+ community, Lauren is also on PVHS’s volleyball team, helped plan the school’s first haunted house, started a Black Student Union at PVHS, and is single-handedly planning the school prom. Lauren is what a true ally looks like.



MARILE ROBINSON | NOMINEE

she/her/ hers

Board Member, The Diversity Center

Marile Robinson is a board member at The Diversity Center (TDC), and was instrumental in creating a physical space for youth at TDC. Marile was the co-chair of the capital campaign to buy the building TDC resides in, managed the changes in the facade to create a welcoming appearance, managed the new roof project, and donated furniture to create a comfortable space for LGBTQIA+ youth to gather at TDC. Marile also volunteered to take the forty hour training “Training and Coaching Intensive: Working with LGBTQ+ Youth in Systems of Care” to update her knowledge on LGBTQIA+ issues in order to facilitate trainings on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Marile is working to increase understanding, awareness, and acceptance within our community.



MATT SALISBURY | NOMINEE

he/him/his

Owner and Instructor, Lightspeed Martial Arts Academy

Matt Salisbury is the owner of Lightspeed Martial Arts Academy who creates safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth wherever he is teaching. At Lightspeed Martial Arts, Matt maintains safe restrooms and changing rooms for all genders, and he makes sure the names and pronouns of his students and employees are respected, gracefully correcting others when needed. Lightspeed Martial Arts’ Tae Kwon Do tournaments and martial arts belt testing are non-binary and trans inclusive, creating a rare and much needed safe space for trans and nonbinary athletes. Matt teaches both at his studio and at several local schools, and always teaches every student respect, honor, and open-mindedness. Matt is described as someone who leads by example and is a hero for his students every day.

ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD



NADINE SAID | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Librarian, Mission Hill Middle School

Nadine Said is the librarian at Mission Hill Middle School where she has been intentional about increasing LGBTQIA+ visibility and support since her first day on the job. Nadine created a robust collection of books by and about LGBTQIA+ people, and implemented pink stickers on book spines to support students in discreetly finding these books. Nadine updated the library webpage to include links and resources on LGBTQIA+ issues for students and families, and each year she creates LGBTQ+ History Month shelving and wall displays. To increase student readership of LGBTQIA+ literature, Nadine created a reading incentive program where students receive a pride pin or bracelet for every LGBTQIA+ book they read. Nadine's love and kindness makes Mission Hill's library a warm and welcoming environment for all.



RHIANNON SOTO | NOMINEE

she/her/hers

Social-Emotional Counselor | Muskequeer Club Advisor, Branciforte Middle School

Rhiannon Soto is the social-emotional counselor and Muskequeer Club Advisor at Branciforte Middle School, where the club has flourished under her leadership. Beyond hosting the weekly club meetings, Rhiannon has coordinated with BTV, the student TV show, to show video promotions for events like Coming Out Day and Day of Silence; supported the library with adopting the Purple Sticker Project to support students in finding LGBTQIA+ themed books; hosted The Diversity Center on campus to make community connections; is supporting the school with their participation in the Safe Schools Project's LGBTQ+ Model Schools Pilot Program; and supports the Muskequeers with many more events and activities. Rhiannon is described as a selfless and invaluable ally whose leadership is an asset to the entire school.



WREN REEVE | NOMINEE

they/them/theirs & he/him/his

Accessibility Trainer, EDI Educators | Coordinator, Diverse Youth Meetups

Wren Reeve is the accessibility trainer for EDI Educators and the program coordinator for Diverse Youth Meetups, and has been a fierce advocate for the LGBTQIA+, Disabled, and Neurodiverse communities for many years. Wren brings an intersectional lens to all of their work, and as coordinator for Diverse Youth meetups provides invaluable mentorship for youth across the county. Wren provides workshops to local businesses, organizations, and educators on accessibility, gender and sexuality, and more, with the help of their fellow trainers, and is helping EDI Educators launch meetups for youth who identify as LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and/or neurodiverse. They have helped plan a series of safe space dances, and are actively bringing youth-requested educational opportunities to life. Wren's activism is an asset to our community.

★ ★

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TO ALL 2023 QUEER YOUTH LEADERSHIP NOMINEES & AWARDEES

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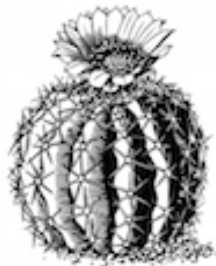
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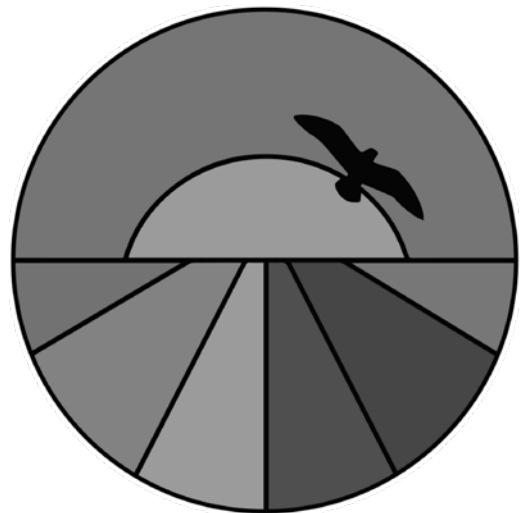
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Congratulations to all the QYLA
Nominees & Awardees — and
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Thank you for your work and
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Congratulations

to all the SCCS Nominees & Awardees

*and to all the those working on behalf of LGBTQIA+ youth
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Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS)



2023 ORGANIZATIONAL ALLIANCE TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD

Designed to honor an organizational ally who has made significant contributions to improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth and youth in Santa Cruz County.

One non-monetary award is given.

This organization has shown leadership in serving Queer youth.



PREMIO ALIANZA ORGANIZACIONAL A LA JUVENTUD QUEER

Diseñado para honrar a un aliado organizacional que haya hecho contribuciones significativas a mejorar las vidas de jóvenes lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, queer y en duda, intersexuales y asexuales (LGBTQIA+) en el condado de Santa Cruz.

Se otorga un premio no monetario.

Esta organización ha demostrado liderazgo al servir a la juventud Queer.



ORGANIZATIONAL ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD

WATSONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL | AWARDEE

The Watsonville Film Festival (WFF) has worked since 2012 to highlight Latine filmmakers and stories that illuminate our shared humanity and inspire positive change, and has made it a priority to feature films with LGBTQIA+ stories, characters, and themes. WFF director Consuelo Alba and her staff are strong allies to the LGBTQIA+ community who work with local youth filmmakers to present their work in the festival. WFF is described as an organization that has and continues to make a profound impact on the Watsonville community by uplifting the voices of youth, LGBTQIA+ people, and other marginalized groups. WFF supports the LGBTQIA+ Latine community and inspires local LGBTQIA+ youth with positive representation on screen and showing them that their stories and their culture matter.



LIGHTSPEED MARTIAL ARTS | NOMINEE



Lightspeed Martial Arts is a martial arts studio in Scotts Valley that consistently creates and maintains safe and supportive athletic opportunities for its students. Under the leadership of owner and Master Matt Salisbury, Lightspeed Martial Arts ensures that spaces and events that are typically aligned to a gender binary are safe and open for people of all genders. In a time when states are enacting legislation to ban transgender and nonbinary athletes from competition, Lightspeed Martial Arts celebrates them by ensuring restrooms and changing rooms are safe for all genders, that tournaments and martial arts belt testing are non-binary and trans inclusive, and that all staff and participants respect names and pronouns. Lightspeed Martial Arts is a place where LGBTQIA+ athletes can be their authentic selves.

ORGANIZATIONAL ALLY TO QUEER YOUTH AWARD



NIJI DOJO | NOMINEE

Niji Dojo is a martial arts studio in Santa Cruz that offers Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, boxing, Muay Thai kickboxing, self defense, yoga, circuit, and recovery classes in a welcoming and affirming place for LGBTQIA+ people. Niji Dojo is described as a special place without the “macho attitude” often associated with martial arts. Niji Dojo is upfront about their inclusion policies and maintains a safe space for trans and nonbinary people to train, and is intentional about being inclusive of all bodies. Niji Dojo provides scholarships to support LGBTQIA+ youth who may be struggling with body image, lacking a feeling of belonging, or just lacking the funds to participate, which has allowed several LGBTQIA+ youth to feel more at home in their bodies and experience the fun and joy of movement.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL (SLVMS) GSA | NOMINEE

San Lorenzo Valley Middle School (SLVMS) GSA club is described as a “safe haven” for LGBTQIA+ and allied students. Under the leadership of Co-Presidents Kel Dennis and Victor Ersunay, and Advisor Rex Olivieri, SLVMS GSA has fostered important conversations among school staff regarding the importance of consistently using accurate pronouns and supporting LGBTQIA+ students at school. This school year the club attended the Queer, Trans, and Allied Student Summit of the Central Coast and provided opportunities for adults on campus to show support for LGBTQIA+ students. SLVMS GSA members are described as determined and self-reliant and as some of the kindest students you’ll ever meet. SLVMS GSA provides a much needed queer space in a more rural part of our county.



TEMPLE BETH EL | NOMINEE

Temple Beth El has celebrated its queer and transgender members for over thirty years, and its member congregants have long believed that in order for LGBTQIA+ people to feel whole, their spiritual communities must support them wholly. As a founding member of Out in Our Faith, Temple Beth El provides faith services that are inclusive of LGBTQIA+ individuals. Temple Beth El celebrates an annual Pride Shabbat, supports temple youth in their exploration of their sexualities and gender identities, and celebrates LGBTQIA+ youth in their confirmation classes, Sunday school, and Beyt Mitzvah classes. Temple Beth El serves as a model for welcoming and inclusivity of LGBTQIA+ individuals for its congregation members and for all faith organizations in Santa Cruz County. Temple Beth El was a QYLA awardee in 2007.



Congratulations to all of the nominees and awardees of the 2023 Queer Youth Leadership Awards.

Thank you for being the change and inspiring our community!

Your words, your support and your actions matter!

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831-688-ACES (2237)

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Tues - Sat 11:00 - 4:00
www.aceflowers.com

Congratulations!

to such deserving nominees,
thank you for your contributions
to our community

*Proudly supporting our
LGBTQ+ Community*

Teresa Marlow

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831.818.3430

Monterey Bay Properties
tm@teresamarlow.com



CREATING CHANGE THROUGH CELEBRATION



QYLA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of QYLA is to improve the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth by increasing the positive awareness of Queer Youth Leadership, and increasing safe and welcoming environments in the home, school, and community. QYLA honors today's Queer youth leaders and their allies in three award categories: The Queer Youth Leadership Award; The Ally to Queer Youth Award; and The Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award.

QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE

The Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County (QYTF), meeting for nearly 26 years, is comprised of individuals and organizations that work with, or support, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBTQIA+) youth. We strive to improve the quality of life for all LGBTQIA+ youth in our community, as well as children raised in homes where LGBTQIA+ people live.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE UNACKNOWLEDGED

As we celebrate and recognize tonight's young LGBTQIA+ leaders, we must pause to recognize that they are only a fraction of the LGBTQIA+ youth within Santa Cruz County. Due to fear, intolerance, and bullying, many LGBTQIA+ youth are closeted and invisible to the LGBTQIA+ community. These "unsung heroes" are working to end homophobia and transphobia, and they are struggling daily to live a life free from bullying. Although they are not able to be here tonight, we must acknowledge their presence within our community and we must learn from their stories and the stories of today's awardees and nominees that there is more work to do. On behalf of the Queer Youth Leadership Awards, we wish to recognize all of the unsung heroes across Santa Cruz County who, despite all obstacles, are continuing to live true to themselves.

QYLA LEGACY PROJECT

The intention of the QYLA Legacy Project is to document a unique organization that has continued for 26 years—an organization that honors, inspires and provides a platform for queer youth and their allies. We hope to include former awardees and nominees in the project, highlighting their experience with the QYLAs and where they are now. We also hope that this project can be used to educate the general public about the resiliency, heart, and activism of the queer youth of Santa Cruz County and their allies.

BE PART OF IT!

So much has changed in 26 years, but there is still so much work to be done. The Project will honor the progress QYLA awardees and nominees have made, while at the same time bringing attention to what's next.

QYLA has preserved all of the original bios and video footage previous awards, including news articles, video interviews with awardees and nominees, photographs and QYLA programs — documenting the over 500 nominees in the history of QYLA.

If you would like to be part of the QYLA Legacy Project, please contact us!

QYLA Legacy Project

QYLA.org/legacy
legacy@QYLA.org
(831) 427-4004

Facebook.com/QYLALegacyProject

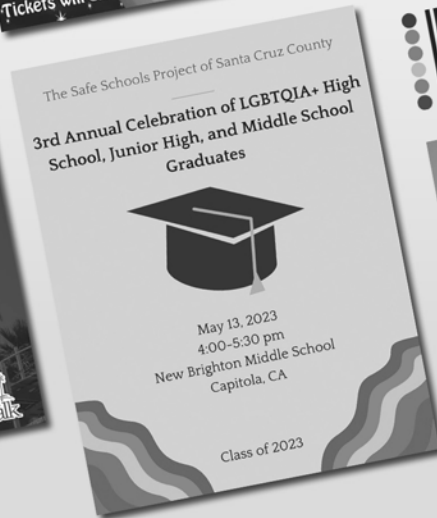
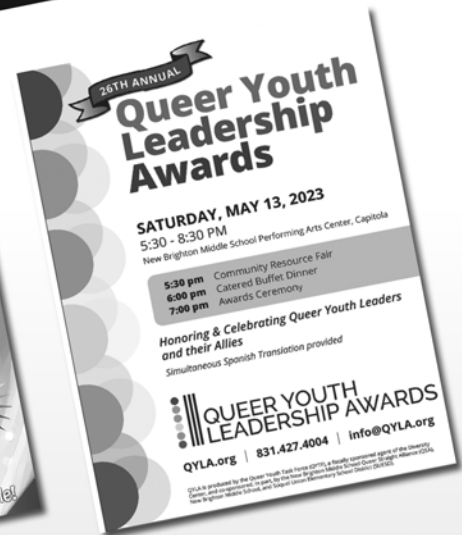


CELEBRATING QUEER YOUTH & ALLIES SINCE 1998

In April of 1998, Santa Cruz County enjoyed the first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth Award Ceremony and Banquet at Hobe’s restaurant, recognizing Queer youth across the county for being leaders within their communities. The event was primarily produced by the grass-roots leadership of a core team of volunteers solicited from the local GLBT Youth Task Force and the wider community. The Youth Awards idea was born out of the Task Force’s subcommittee to raise the visibility of Queer youth in our county. This annual gala event has been hosted in communities across the county and brings many intersecting identities together in celebration of queer youth, their allies, and all of their achievements.

- **1998**
Hobe’s Restaurant, Santa Cruz
- **1999**
YWCA Watsonville, Watsonville
- **2000**
Coconut Grove, Santa Cruz
- **2001**
Coconut Grove, Santa Cruz
- **2002**
Louden Nelson Community Center, Santa Cruz
- **2003**
Henry J. Mello Center, Watsonville
- **2004**
Harbor High School, Santa Cruz
- **2005**
Santa Cruz High School, Santa Cruz
- **2006**
Henry J. Mello Center, Watsonville
- **2007**
Harbor High School, Santa Cruz
- **2008**
New Brighton Middle School, Santa Cruz
- **2009**
Scotts Valley High School, Scotts Valley
- **2010**
New Brighton Middle School, Santa Cruz
- **2011**
San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton
- **2012**
Shoreline Middle School, Santa Cruz
- **2013**
Pajaro Valley High School, Watsonville
- **2014**
New Brighton Middle School, Santa Cruz
- **2015**
San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton
- **2016**
Aptos High School, Aptos
- **2017**
Pajaro Valley High School, Watsonville
- **2018**
Soquel High School, Soquel
- **2019**
San Lorenzo Valley High School, Felton
- **2020**
Live Stream
- **2021**
Live Stream
- **2022**
Watsonville High School, Watsonville
- **2023**
New Brighton Middle School, Capitola

Queer & Trans Youth Springs 2023



MAY 6

Boardwalk Pride.
Santa Cruz Beach
Boardwalk,
12-7pm, Santa Cruz,
Sponsored by Santa
Cruz Beach
Boardwalk & Santa
Cruz Pride

MAY 13

3rd Annual Celebration of LGBTQIA+ High School, Junior High, and Middle School Graduates,
New Brighton Middle
School, 4-5:30pm,
Capitola, Sponsored
by Safe Schools
Project

MAY 13

26th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards (QYLA). New Brighton Middle School, 5:30-8:30 pm, Capitola, Sponsored by QYLA

MAY 19

Queer Prom "Out of this World". First Christian Church, (Ages 14 - 18), 6-10 pm, Watsonville, Sponsored by The Diversity Center

JUNE 4

48th Annual Santa Cruz Pride Parade & Festival. Downtown Santa Cruz, 11-4, Santa Cruz, Sponsored by Santa Cruz Pride

JUNE 4

Youth Pride. @ Downtown Boys and Girls Club, 2-4 pm, Santa Cruz, Sponsored by Boys and Girls Club & Santa Cruz Pride



And more for Summer 2023...

AUG 4-6

Camp Out! The Diversity Center Youth Camp OUT!, Watsonville. Sponsored by The Diversity Center

AUG 20

Pajaro Valley Pride. Downtown Watsonville, Sponsored by Pajaro Valley Pride

QYLA 2023 JUDGING FACILITATORS



JEN HASTINGS, MD

Jen

Assistant Clinical Professor, UCSF Department of Family & Community Medicine | Physician Consultant SafeRx, Health Improvement Partnership | Physician Consultant Transgender Healthcare

Jen Hastings, MD is an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCSF Department of Family and Community Medicine and was the founder and Director of Transgender Healthcare Services for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte from 2003-2018. Jen supported the initial development for the national protocol and guidelines for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. As a queer/genderqueer physician, Jen is involved in research on the reproductive needs and experiences of transgender and gender expansive people in the US, and a national consultant and educator on transgender healthcare, increasing access and understanding. In Santa Cruz, Jen is the physician consultant with SafeRx and the Health Improvement Partnership, working with opioid safety, behavioral health integration, trauma informed care, and mindfulness in medicine.



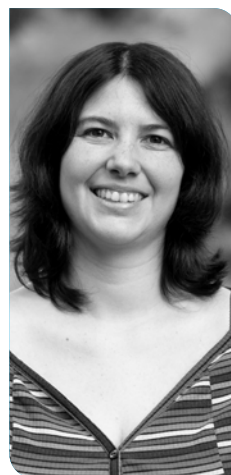
KATHY CYTRON, LCSW

she/her/hers

Retired Program Manager, Children's Behavioral Health of Santa Cruz County

Kathy is a fierce advocate for equality for all, especially those in the LGBTQ community. She was at Santa Cruz County Children's Behavioral Health for 27 years and has been recognized by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for her leadership in welcoming diversity. Kathy continues to empower and celebrate LGBTQ youth and their families. She goes about her work with a smile on her face, love in her heart, and a deep commitment to social justice.

THANK YOU TO OUR PRESTIGIOUS JUDGES



QYLA 2023 JUDGES



ADAM SPICKLER

they/them/theirs & he/him/his

Trustee, Cabrillo College | Elected Member, Santa Cruz County Democratic Party

Adam Spickler was elected as a Cabrillo College Trustee in 2018 and re-elected by a wide margin in 2022, and currently serves on the board's Legislative Advocacy and Name Exploration committees. Adam is also the first openly transgender man elected to public office in California. Professionally, Adam is a Senior Analyst and Public Information Officer for the County of Santa Cruz's Human Services Department. Adam is also an elected member of Santa Cruz County's Democratic Party and is on the governing board of Housing Santa Cruz County. He is a former board member of the GLBT Alliance and served 3 terms as Board President of the Diversity Center. Adam and his husband Scottie live near the harbor in Santa Cruz with their dogs, Penny and Juno.



ELLIS OLIVAS

they/them/theirs

Office Assistant, Olivas Family Properties | 2015 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee | Graduate, UC Riverside

While a senior at Scotts Valley High School, Ellis helped create a petition for gender-neutral bathrooms at SVHS for the safety of trans and gender-nonconforming students, and obtained over 200 supporting signatures. Despite the administration's reluctance, they encouraged students not to give up and were excited to hear that the project was recently finally completed. They studied sociology from 2018 to 2020 at UC Riverside and were an active participant in the LGBT Resource Center's programs where they shared their experience with UCR's housing administration as they attempted to make campus housing more accessible and welcoming for trans students. Now back in the Santa Cruz area, they hope to use their knowledge and additional perspectives gained in college to better understand diverse identities and promote understanding in others. Ellis was a Queer Youth Leadership Awardee in 2015.



JOY FLYNN

she/her/hers

National Jefferson Award Honoree | Board Member, Pacific Collegiate School | Advisor, Black Health Matters Initiative | Board Emeritus, Second Harvest Food Bank

Joy has worked on many initiatives such as police reform and health inequalities, and worked with members of the Black community and former Supervisor John Leopold to have racism declared a public health crisis in Santa Cruz County. Joy has been recognized both locally and Nationally for her work. Joy currently serves as an advisor for Black Health Matters Initiative and is a member of the board of directors for Pacific Collegiate School. As a single mother Joy loves raising her two teen-aged children and is honored to build and serve her community to help make it an equitable, safe, and thriving place to live, work, and play. Joy's equity work is based on the social determinants of health and aimed towards amplifying the voices and experiences of all underrepresented people, including those who live at an intersectional experience of being both people of color and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.



KASSANDRA FLORES

she/her/hers

211 Santa Cruz Program Manager, United Way of Santa Cruz County

Kassandra Flores was born in Silverton, Oregon and raised in Mexico for fifteen years. She then moved to Salinas, California. She has a degree in business management economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and started working at United Way of Santa Cruz County as a community coordinator after graduating in 2018. Kassandra now holds the position of 211 Senior Manager at the same organization. In her free time Kassandra loves to go to the beach, go bowling, or play rugby. At the age of 10 years old Kassandra discovered that she liked girls and boys, and can now proudly say that she is bisexual. Kassandra always tells people to go with the flow and be your authentic self.



REYES MORALES WARNE

he/him/his & they/them/theirs

Undergraduate, University of Oregon | 2021 Queer Youth Leadership Awardee

Reyes Morales Warne is a student and activist at the University of Oregon and a 2022 graduate of San Lorenzo Valley High School. In high school Reyes worked locally with the Queer and Trans Youth Council and the Queer Youth Task Force to help with summits and participate in student panels and projects to speak about the intersections of disability, race, and gender identity. Reyes also worked with The GSA Network at both the state and national levels. Reyes is currently a Marine Biology student at the University of Oregon, where he conducts research on the human microbiome with the hope to conduct research on the genetic effects of long term exposure to pesticides and other toxic chemicals. Reyes is always willing to take on opportunities to raise the visibility of queer youth, people of color, and neurodivergent individuals. Reyes was a Queer Youth Leadership Awardee in 2021.



DR. SHANE HILL

he/him/his

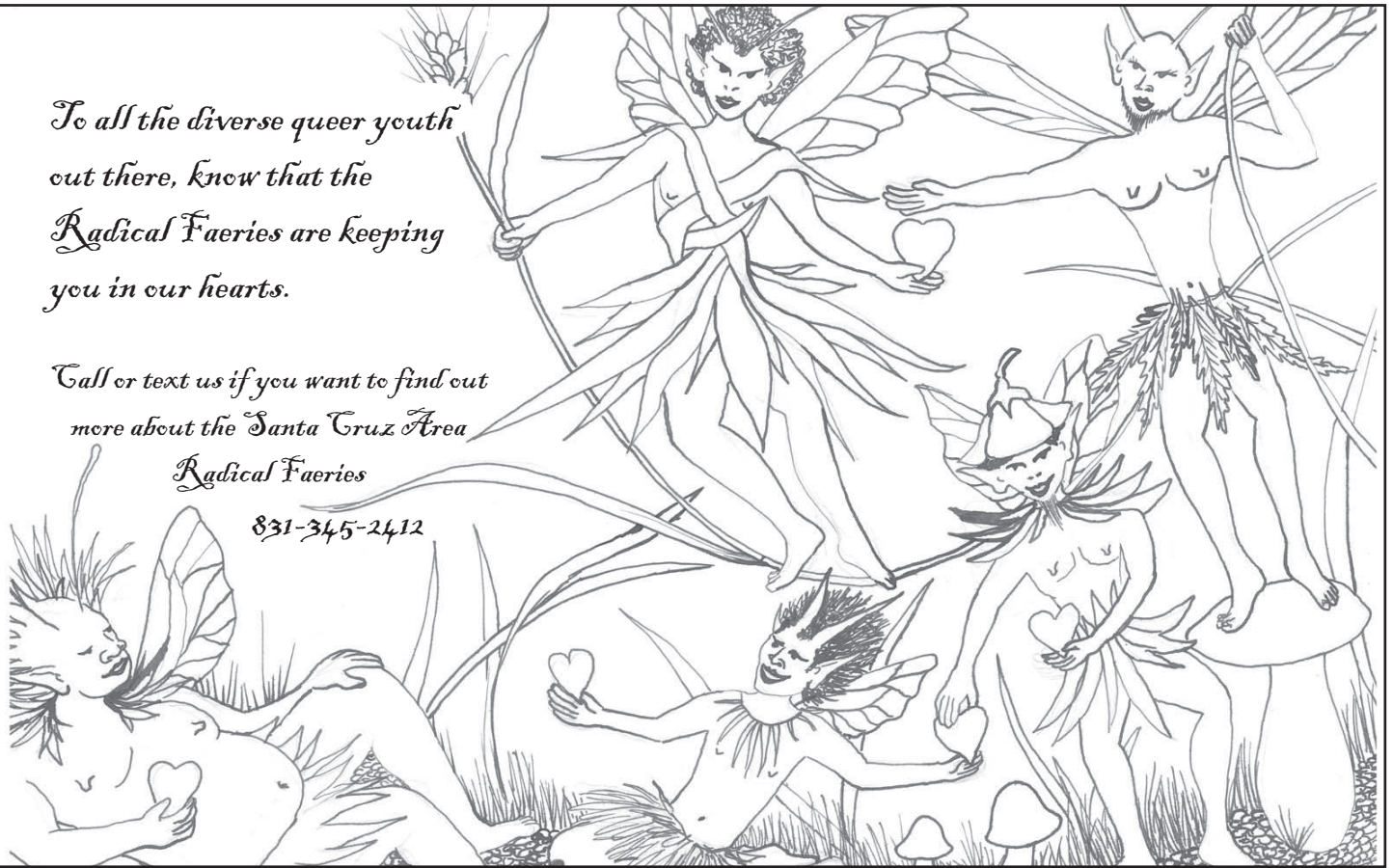
Clinical Psychologist & Community Volunteer

As a clinical psychologist and community volunteer, Dr. Shane Hill has worked to support the queer/trans community and their families for over 23 years in Santa Cruz County. He has worked as a queer youth group facilitator, mental health consultant for the Diversity Center, founder of Queer Camp, co-founder/facilitator for 10 years of the Gender Diversity Consult Group, cofounder of the SC Transfamily Support Group, and has provided numerous Trans/Non-binary Cultural Awareness trainings and Gender Identity Clinical Trainings to hundreds of therapists, school employees, and organizations in Santa Cruz and throughout California.

*To all the diverse queer youth
out there, know that the
Radical Faeries are keeping
you in our hearts.*

*Call or text us if you want to find out
more about the Santa Cruz Area
Radical Faeries*

831-345-2412



QYLA 2024

Volunteer! Be part of the team!



Help plan the 2024 awards

Suicide Prevention Service of the Central Coast

24/7 Suicide Crisis Line
1-877-663-5433 (toll free)
831-458-5300 (local)
Multilingual Free Confidential

Congrats QYLA
Nominees & Awardees!

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iversendesign.com

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & LEADERSHIP HONORARIUMS TO LGBTQIA+ CLUBS

In addition to honoring leadership during the 26th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards, we honor and celebrate LGBTQIA+ student campus clubs and individuals who are making Santa Cruz County a safer place. And to those contributing to enriching our communities but who are not listed here, we salute you!

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SANTA CRUZ COUNTY DIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP FUND LGBTQIA+ CLUB GRANTS

Community Foundation Santa Cruz County's "Diversity Partnership Fund" is proud to announce the 2023-2024 LGBTQIA+ club grants! Representatives from 25 clubs applied for and were awarded, grants to support activities in the upcoming year. These grants, awarded to Gender and Sexuality Alliances (GSAs), Queer-Straight Alliances (QSAs), Sexuality and Gender Alliances (SAGAs), Rainbow Alliances, and other student pride clubs, are opportunities for LGBTQIA+ clubs to request funding for special projects they proposed. A total of \$7,500 was awarded to 25 clubs in May.

The program, now in its eighth year, has inspired many LGBTQIA+ student clubs throughout Santa Cruz County. Below are the clubs who received the grants to fund projects and activities. Examples include:

- Hosting inclusive community building events like a rainbow school dance and other diversity celebrations, hosting LGBTQIA+ speakers, and making pride and pronoun buttons.
- Awareness raising projects like Transgender Awareness Week, Coming Out Day, Harvey Milk Day, LGBTQIA+ History Month, Allies Day, and Day of Silence.
- Attending educational forums like the LGBTQIA+ Student Summit, Queer studies field trips, and hosting film festivals that create dialogue for queer students and allies.
- Building LGBTQIA+ book and film libraries on campus
- Social events like Pride Day at the Boardwalk, queer prom, movie nights, & roller-skating night.

High Schools

- Alternative Family Education Umbrella Club
- Costanoa High QSA
- Ceiba College Prep Academy GSA
- Delta High School QSA
- Kirby School GSA
- Pacific Collegiate School Queer Intersectional Alliance
- Pajaro Valley High School GSA
- Santa Cruz High Rainbow Alliance
- Scotts Valley High SAGA Club
- Soquel High School QSA
- Watsonville High SAGA

Middle Schools

- Alianza Charter Middle School QSA
- Aptos Junior High Pride Club
- Branciforte Middle Muskequeers
- C.T. English Middle School GSA
- Lakeview Middle School QSA
- Mission Hill Middle Pride Club
- New Brighton Middle School QSA
- Pajaro Middle Rainbow Alliance
- Rolling Hills Middle School QSA
- Watsonville Charter School of the Arts GSA

Elementary Schools

- Alianza Charter Elementary Rainbow Club
- Gault Elementary Rainbow Dolphin Club
- Soquel Elementary School GSA
- Vine Hill Elementary School Rainbow Club



The Diversity Partnership Fund at

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
For Good. For Ever. For All.

RECOGNIZING OUR VOLUNTEERS & CORE PRODUCTION TEAM

We thank the community members who donated their time and who supported the project to help make the 2023 Queer Youth Leadership Awards possible:

EMCEES	Delmi McWilliams Kiara L. Brinton
ADVISOR	Charlie Singer
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Jeff Fiorito
CATERING	D'La Colmena Market & Catering
DECORATIONS	New Brighton Middle School QSA Fiorito Interior Design
EMCEE COACHES	Chelsea Otterness Jeff Fiorito
EVENT FILMING	Watsonville High School Video Academy
EVENT PHOTOS	New Brighton Middle School Yearbook Club Watsonville High School Yearbook Club
EVENT SPANISH TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER	Kim Guadrón
FLOWERS	Amy Scott, Ace's Flowers
FUNDRAISING	Charlie Singer Shawna Spaulding Stuart Rosenstein
JUDGING FACILITATORS	Jen Hastings, MD Kathy Cytron, LCSW
MUSICAL & ACTING COACH	Will C. Guilford
MUSICAL CHOREOGRAPHER & VOCAL DIRECTOR	Shannon Kerr-McDonough
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR	Andy Botsford
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Lyndsey Gould
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Brian Hanaway
PHOTOGRAPHY	Rebecca Stark Photography
PROGRAM BOOKLET PRODUCTION	Maddie Hitzeman
RED CARPET	Dean Maynard
RESOURCE FAIR	Aaron Gonzales Dean Maynard
VIDEO PRODUCTION	Val Mendoza Students from the Watsonville High School Video Academy
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Joe Cosentino
WEBSITE	Jordan Iversen, Iversen Design

Thank you to the New Brighton Middle School Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) for the QYLA 2023 Theme
Special thank you to The Diversity Center for partnering with QYLA, particularly with QYLA Volunteer Recruitment and Coordination. We appreciate their strong support!

QYLA is produced by the Queer Youth Task Force of Santa Cruz County.

RECOGNIZING OUR CO-SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU TO OUR CO-SPONSORS

Ace's Flowers
Bay Area Municipal Elections Committee (BAYMEC)
Bay Federal Credit Union
California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)
Cabrillo College Office of Student Equity
Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club
Charlie Singer RN, L.Ac.,M.Ac.
City of Watsonville
Chris Weir and Sally Arnold
Coffeetopia
Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
Cruzio
Cynthia Druley
Edith Frederick
Emerging Jedi Award
Fiorito Interior Design
First 5 Santa Cruz County
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Watsonville
Friends of Jimmy Panetta
Friends of Kathy Ruiz Goldenkranz
Friends of Mark Stone
G. Schulz
Gail D. Levine
Gail Pellerin for Assembly
In Memory of Connor Cockerham
In Memory of Richard Watson-Riley
Iversen Design
Jardines de San Juan
Jeremy Ray, Live Oak School Board & Dr. Jessica Ray
Karen Moore

Kaiser Permanente
La Selva Beach Community Church
Life Lab
Mark Lippert
Monterey Peninsula Pride
Mount Madonna School
New Brighton Middle School Performing Arts Center
Out In Our Faith
Pat LeCuyer and Dan Gold
Pajaro Valley Pride
Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD)
Peter di Grazia
Phillip Gomez & Van Boughner
Rebecca Stark Photography
Richard R. Gamboa, CRPS
Safe Schools Project
Salud Para la Gente
Santa Cruz Area Radical Faeries
Santa Cruz City Schools (SCCS)
Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE)
Santa Cruz Community Health Centers
Santa Cruz Sentinel
Sheri & Richard Watson-Riley
Soquel Union Elementary School District (SUESD)
Temple Beth El
The Diversity Center
The Trevor Project
TransFamilies of Santa Cruz County
Woody Beville
Zoe Lofgren for Congress

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Adam Spickler, Trustee, Cabrillo College
American Civil Liberties Union Santa Cruz County Chapter
(ACLU)
Charlea Massion MD
Arts Council Santa Cruz County
Assemblymember Dawn Addis, CA State Assembly, 30th District
Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, CA State Assembly, 28th District
Bea Rosenstein
Big Brothers Big Sisters Santa Cruz County
Black China Bakery
Bookshop Santa Cruz
Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz County
Cantú Queer Center at UCSC
Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club
Chadeish Yameinu Jewish Renewal
Charlea Massion MD
Clare Sheils & Margaret A. Leonard
Closet Free Radio Show, KZSC
Dan Gold and Pat LeCuyer
Community Printers
David Lompa, US Bank, Business Specialist
Dharma's Restaurant, Bernie Shapiro
Gary Cooper & Bill Fanning

Gary Martin
GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County
Greg SeaLion Cotten
James Olivas
Larry Almonte
Nancy Krueger and Doug Ardley
New Brighton Middle School Queer Straight Alliance (QSA)
Nonprofit Connection (NPC) Santa Cruz County
PFLAG Santa Cruz County
Rob Adkisson
Ron Indra
Senator John Laird, California State Senate, 17th District
Suicide Prevention Service of the Central Coast
Talk of the Bay, KSQD
Teresa Marlow
The Bagelry, John Hamstra
The Ugly Mug
Trans Teen Project
United Way of Santa Cruz County
Westside Video
Your Future Is Our Business (YFIOB)
Yoli Gallardo

What everyone should know about

Bullying

It is against the law!

Bullying violates the following California laws: Ed Code 200, Ed Code 220, AB 9 Seth Law, AB 537, AB 394, AB 777.

BULLYING DEFINED:

Bullying is defined as a systematic, deliberate, on-going, power based, targeted, hostile and illegal act.

Bullying includes but is not limited to: being made fun of, rumor spreading (whether true or false), being pushed, shoved, tripped, spat on, excluded from a group, being physically or sexually abused. Cyber bullying is the fastest growing type of bullying.

TARGETS:

Bullies select vulnerable targets, systematically train their targets to submit, and seek bystanders who passively accept or actively encourage or join in the act.

Bullying is the second most unreported crime. Fully a third of all students in American schools report being bullied on a daily basis. 160 million students stay home from school each day because they are afraid of being bullied. Bullying hurts everyone: the victim, bystanders and the bullies themselves.

Schools can prevent bullying by teaching anti-bullying through role modeling, early education and prevention programs, staff training, direct intervention and consistent discipline policies that are published and broadcasted to all. Bullying can be stopped by assertive targets, bystanders who speak up and adults who intervene effectively.



For sources and more information, visit:
SafeSchoolsProject.org

RESOURCES:

safeschoolsproject.org
qytf.org
diversitycenter.org
transteenproject.org
genderspectrum.org
pflagscc.org
transfamiliesca.org
stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov
parentsagainstbullying.com
stopcyberbullying.org

DOCUMENTARY:

Kids in Crisis: You're Not Alone
(PBS Milwaukee)

PHONE NUMBERS:

National Suicide Hotline
1-800-273-8255

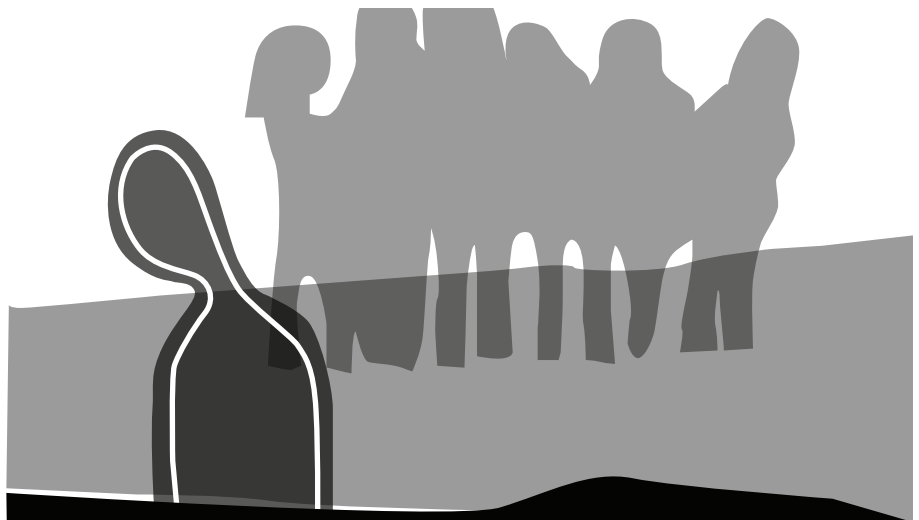
The Trevor Project
(Helpline for LGBTQ youth and families)
1-866-488-7386

Crisis Text Line
Text 741741
for any crisis support

Transgender Lifeline
1-877-565-8860

Medical or other emergencies
call 911

Each of us has a role to play to stop bullying



TARGETED STUDENT

1. write down in a journal what happened, the time, the date, who was there and witnessed what took place.
2. tell your parents/ guardians what is going on and how you feel about it.
3. tell your friends what is going on and ask for support, seek out a trusted teacher, coach, spiritual leader or adult.
4. do not act without thinking things through.
5. understand that this is not your fault.

TEACHER

1. ask the student to tell you how they have been bullied, by whom and what exactly took place.
2. ask the student who and what gives them the best support at this time.
3. tell the student that you heard them and that you will help them make a plan.

BYSTANDER

1. gather friends around the bullied friend and stand together in between the target and the bully.
2. with physical violence, film it on your phone and call the police.
3. get the target to safety and tell someone.
4. if you can't take some action yourself, tell someone you trust who has the power to help.

PARENTS

Recognize your child is being victimized and may feel helpless.

1. ask your kid to tell you everything that took place and how they are feeling. Tell them you are there for them and that bullying is wrong.
2. talk with supportive confidants about what went on, devise plans to cope with and support yourself and your kid.
3. speak to the teachers, administrators and or police for remedies.

ADMINISTRATORS

1. arrange to meet with each of the families separately.
2. set a designated time to make sure the bullying has stopped.

For sources and more information, visit:

SafeSchoolsProject.org

RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LGBTQIA+ YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

THE TREVOR PROJECT

Crisis support for LGBTQIA+ youth 24/7 and 365 days a year. Free and confidential. Call 1-866-488-7386 or Text "start" to 678-678. You can also chat online and access more mental health resources at thetrevorproject.org

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

Free and confidential access to crisis counselors 24/7 and 365 days a year. Call 1-800-273-8255.

MOBILE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM FOR YOUTH (MERTY)

MERTY provides crisis support services to youth 21 and under in South County (North County coming this summer). The clinical team will come to you and can provide services at safe sites including schools and other community settings, including after-school programs and faith based organizations. To request MERTY services, call 1-800-952-2335 Monday-Friday between 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

NAMI SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HELP LINE

Receive support and access to local resources. Leave a message and receive a call back within 24 hours from a trained volunteer. Call (831) 427-8020.



Visit QYLA.org/resources for additional information



TheTrevorProject.org



TrevorLifeline

24/7/365

866.488.7386

If you're thinking about suicide, you deserve immediate help. Call us anytime.



TrevorText

Mon–Fri | 3–10pm EST

**Text "Trevor" to
202.304.1200**

Talk to a Trevor counselor via text message.



TrevorChat

Every Day | 3pm–10pm EST

TrevorChat.org

Online instant messaging with a TrevorChat counselor.

The Trevor Project is the leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention efforts among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning youth.

Congratulations to the Nominees and Awardees of the 2023 Queer Youth Leadership Awards!

Our Vision

Healthy, Happy and Well-Prepared Children. Thriving Families. Connected Communities. Equitable Systems

Our Mission

To ensure early childhood systems and supports foster equitable health, development and well-being for all young children and their families in Santa Cruz County.

Learn more: www.first5scc.org



Bay Federal Credit Union would like to celebrate the **Queer Youth Leadership Awards** and their service to our community.

Congratulations to all of the award honorees, past, present, and future!

Thank you for making a real difference.



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diversity center santa cruz county

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May 19, 2023**



**Sign up!
CampOUT
August 4-6, 2023**



**Programs,
Speakers,
Mental Health
Services**



**Events
and Groups
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Newsletters



Volunteer



Our Mission

To inspire and support every member of the LGBTQ+ community by creating a culture of well-being.