

# THE CENTER

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## **NYC's LGBT Community Center to Honor Roxane Gay, Kim Petras, and Morgan Stanley**

*Annual Women's Event fundraiser recognizes individuals and organizations that empower LGBTQ women.*

**NEW YORK** — On Saturday, November 6, NYC's LGBT Community Center (The Center) will honor renowned author Roxane Gay with the Community Impact Award, international pop sensation Kim Petras with the Trailblazer Award, and global financial leader Morgan Stanley with the Corporate Impact Award during its annual Women's Event, New York City's premier event highlighting the contributions of LGBTQ women and organizations that support the community. Taking place at 6 p.m. at 583 Park Avenue, Women's Event raises funds to sustain The Center's programs and advocacy work; keep its doors open year-round; and provide a home, a family, and a place of safety for the LGBTQ community.

"Women's Event is a perfect moment to recognize leaders who reflect The Center's own commitment to helping our community dismantle barriers they encounter and challenge systems that perpetuate inequity," said Glenda Testone, The Center's Executive Director. "The funds we raise this evening make it possible for The Center to realize that commitment—to continue breaking barriers so that women, and all LGBTQ people, can thrive."

Roxane Gay will be honored for her commitment to honest and bold storytelling that pushes the boundaries of whose voices are heard, elevated, and celebrated; and challenges the status quo. Gay is a *New York Times* bestselling author and contributing writer.

"One thing I have known to be true, throughout my life, is that words, when used fiercely, can be incredibly powerful. And for those of us who are marginalized, fierce words are, all too often, all we have to make our voices heard, to demand change. As a writer, I have done what I can to use my voice to create change within the communities I am a part of. It has been the greatest blessing that so many people have found resonance in what I have to say. It is also incredibly gratifying when my work is recognized. I am honored to be receiving the Community Impact Award. I see it as a call to action, and I will answer that call," said Roxane Gay, recipient of the Community Impact Award.

The Center is honoring Kim Petras in recognition of the impact her career and life have had on LGBTQ and transgender youth and young adults. Petras made history in September of 2021 as the first out transgender woman to perform at the MTV Video Music Awards.

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &  
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"I am thrilled to be recognized by The Center, because I feel a strong similarity in what we bring to our audiences. We both provide something people can connect with—I try to create connection through my music, and The Center is a source of connection for fellow LGBTQ community members through its physical space and the services it provides," said Kim Petras, recipient of the Trailblazer Award.

With advocacy and support from senior leaders, Morgan Stanley has championed equality and developed a variety of resources over the years to support the LGBTQ community and women. The Center is honoring Morgan Stanley for its commitment to creating opportunities for all women in their careers, their wealth creation, and their communities.

"At Morgan Stanley, we're continually working to expand the ways in which we empower LGBTQ women, whether it's through the financial guidance and education we provide; advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within our staff; or creating policies to make our workplace more affirming. It's an honor to see these efforts celebrated by such a close partner and community leader," said Susan Reid, Morgan Stanley's Global Head of Diversity and Inclusion, accepting the Corporate Impact Award on behalf of the firm.

Susan Reid will provide in-person remarks, and remarks by Roxane Gay and Kim Petras will be delivered via video. The evening will also include a speech from Tatiana B. Martin, a Center community member who will speak firsthand about the importance of Center services as well as her own work to break barriers in her community as a Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor Trainee.

To request interviews prior to the event, or to request a press pass to attend the event, please contact Helen Buse at [hbuse@gaycenter.org](mailto:hbuse@gaycenter.org). Please note that all guests will be required to show proof of vaccination. More details are available at [gaycenter.org/womensevent](https://gaycenter.org/womensevent).

## **About The Center**

Established in 1983 as a result of the AIDS crisis, New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has grown and evolved over the last four decades, creating and delivering services that empower people to lead healthy, successful lives. We currently operate in-person and virtually, providing recovery and wellness programs, economic advancement initiatives, family and youth support, advocacy, arts and cultural events, and space for community organizing and connection. For more information, please visit [gaycenter.org](https://gaycenter.org).

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