

**THE
CENTER**

THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER

THE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

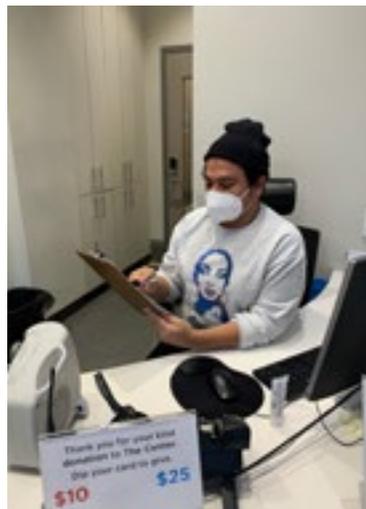
Photography by William Isaac Lockhart,
from The Center's "Visions of Pride"



2021

A RESILIENT RETURN

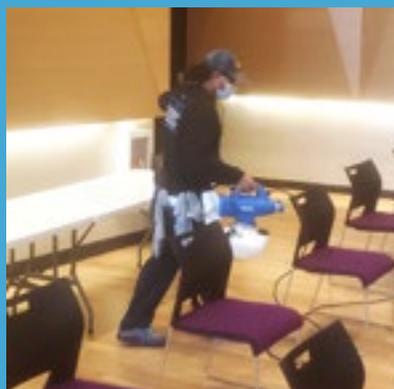
In 2021 facing continued uncertainty and increased need, The Center relied on the tenacity of its staff and the generosity of its donors to help us provide **innovative, accessible, and reliable services to LGBTQ New Yorkers** facing the challenges brought on by year two of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although several concerns needed to be addressed, The Center maintained its commitment to empowering community members to lead healthy, successful lives. We expanded our virtual and phone-based services by prioritizing connection—to COVID information and vaccines, recovery and mental health care, and art & enrichment programs.



Our building remained closed for the first half of 2021, with all services operating virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But even amid uncertainty, we knew The Center would eventually reopen its doors. We didn't know when it would be safe to welcome folks back into the space; **we just knew we needed to be ready.** While much of our staff worked remotely, our operations team spent the winter taking meticulous care of our historic building and evolving our services to meet new needs.

The Building Services Team, an intrepid group, takes care of our historic space.

During The Center's closure, their efforts were critical to ensuring that we could reopen our doors when the time came. They were often the only ones in the building—protecting The Center from severe damage, including bailing out floodwaters bucket by bucket and mitigating damage during some of the most brutal storms. The team ensured all parts of the building, the seen and the unseen, remained secured and in working order. Although there were no visitors in the building, this team took on approximately **6,000 extra hours of cleaning and sanitizing** to comply with local COVID-19 protocols. Their impact extends to spaces outside our building, monitoring activity and maintaining cleanliness on our entire block.



While the Building Services team prepared the space for our return, the Information & Referral (I&R) team focused on keeping the community engaged and connected to needed resources. The I&R team is the first connection point for anyone who visits The Center. Pre-pandemic that meant engaging with 6,000 visitors each week. When COVID forced the building to close, programming went virtual, and those in-person visits turned to answering emails, being online for webchats, and answering the community's call via hundreds of phone conversations each week. The I&R team helped community members navigate The Center's virtual services and connected them to comprehensive services across and beyond New York City. In the months leading up to our reopening, they fielded more than **3,000 virtual requests** for support from community members.



As spring gave way to summer, we welcomed the community back into the building, slowly and safely resuming in-person programs and services in July. The city had changed, the pandemic had harmed our community, but thanks to our teams who had been steadfast, we were able to make a resilient return. We were ready to take on a wave of new challenges and bring our community into a safe, welcoming environment.

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Information & Referral team members remained the first point of contact for a diverse cross-section of our community: parents whose children came out during lockdown; people on the edge of sobriety urgently seeking in-person substance use counseling and 12-step meetings; folks navigating housing instability, intimate partner violence, or other challenges exacerbated by forced quarantine and isolation; and more. The team held space for the complicated emotions that many folks brought with them upon stepping back into The Center for the first time in a year and a half.



I&R ensured all guests followed our COVID protocols to keep everyone safe and personally guided them through our new hybrid format of combined in-person and virtual services.

Similarly, Building Services made it possible for our community to interact safely within our walls. Their careful management of our event spaces ensured that everything from film screenings such as NewFest, to community-run 12-step meetings, to activist gatherings and events such as the Peter Staley book reading retained their vibrancy despite necessary social distancing. Building Services' rigorous implementation of our COVID protocols intensified to accommodate the influx of people into the building.



By the end of 2021...

it was clear that more change was on our horizon. The emergence of COVID-19 variants forced us to adapt as we showed up to meet the community's evolving needs and navigate the circumstances of a changing city. As we engaged hundreds of supporters in our fight to end AIDS via The 275 Challenge and as we celebrated the women who make our community great during Women's Event, our first in-person fundraising gala since the start of the pandemic, teams like Building Services and Information & Referral were an example of the effort and care required to support the thousands of LGBTQ people who rely on us. With the dedication of our staff, strength of our community, and generosity of our donors The Center remains ready and able to serve LGBTQ New Yorkers every day.



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2021

CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS OF RISEOUT

In 2018 The Center launched RiseOut, its statewide advocacy initiative, to advance a shared vision of justice and equity for the future of the LGBTQ community in New York State.

Alongside a broad coalition of partners RiseOut advocates for and amplifies the voices of LGBTQ New Yorkers and centers the needs of those most impacted by oppression and discrimination, particularly Black Americans, Indigenous people, people of color including latine and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as well as Transgender, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary people. RiseOut works to dismantle barriers to social justice, economic opportunity, affirming healthcare, and more.

Noteworthy Accomplishments



Passing **more than 10 bills that secure equal rights and protections** for LGBTQ New Yorkers, including the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA), banning the use of conversion therapy on minors, and ending the use of the gay/trans “panic” defense in court, which were signed into law at The Center.



Galvanizing **55 LGBTQ and allied organizations** across New York State to advocate for affirming, progressive laws and policies.



Launching the **RiseOut Activist-in-Residence Fellowship Program** to support emerging activists and their bold, cutting-edge ideas for advancing LGBTQ equity and opportunity.



Creating the **RiseOut Advocacy Council**, a cohort of diverse thought leaders who amplify the reach of our efforts and advise on emerging advocacy strategies, trends, and challenges.

As we closed 2021 with a new governor and New York City mayor, maintaining the momentum that's been built over the past 5 years is vital to ensure that the needs of the LGBTQ community are still a priority in our state.

RiseOut will continue to build and cultivate a network of community activists and organizational leaders to generate activities, ideas, and strategies that protect and proactively advance LGBTQ rights, serving as an information and resource hub for statewide LGBTQ advocacy, and establishing a unified statewide legislative agenda to ensure that LGBTQ policies are represented at the state level. The initiative will also work to bolster local mobilizing and organizing efforts to push for strong policy outcomes, while also developing new pathways for community leadership and impact. We invite you to join us in this critical work. Sign up at gaycenter.org/advocacy/volunteer to stay up-to-date on our progress and be alerted when you can take action.

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2021

COMMITTING TO RACE EQUITY

The Center was born of community activism in response to the AIDS epidemic, ensuring a place for LGBTQ people to access information, care, and support that they were not receiving elsewhere. We opened in 1983 to help people who had doors constantly closed in their faces, ostracized by family, friends, and shunned by the general society. Since that time, we have continually provided a wide array of services and programs to serve our community, with an intentional focus on providing support to those who are most marginalized.



Photography by William Isaac Lockhart, from The Center's "Visions of Pride"

In a space that serves a multitude of identities, we recognize that there are many oppressed identities who experience similar inequities, ones that warrant comparable efforts to examine, review, and respond to. However, race and racism—**institutional and structural**—is a necessary, primary lens by which other inequities and disparities should be examined and addressed. We are committed to using an explicit race equity lens in our decision making processes around our programs and services, and are in the early stages of a transformational journey to make The Center truly equitable and inclusive. Ultimately, this work is inherent to the ongoing fulfillment of our mission.

Our initial steps (2019-2021)



Beginning to Deconstruct

We established partnerships with [Change Elemental](#) and [Movement Tapestries](#), and formed the Racial Equity Steering Committee (RESC), to lead an organizational assessment through interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Based on these findings, we are now partnering with various disciplinary experts to guide each strand of work.



Moving Forward

We have a shared, baseline understanding of the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and structural/systemic dimensions of equity at The Center, as a result of the organizational assessment completed in November 2020. We also have identified 7 pathways forward as well as strategies for implementing those pathways, as a result of this baseline assessment.



Understanding What it Takes

We have increased capacity and alignment around equity in our leadership structures, as a result of coaching sessions, trainings, and alignment sessions for members of the Senior Leadership Team and the RESC; the formation of a Board Racial Equity Working Group; and training sessions for the full Board.



Implementing Ongoing Learning

We increased support and equity knowledge across all staff, as a result of implementing racial equity caucus groups, which have met monthly since June 2020.



Structural Changes

We have made a few additional structural changes, including the formation of four inter-disciplinary implementation teams delineated to advance key strands of work within our organization transformation process (Identity, Communications, Education, and Reflection). We also created two equity-focused staff roles at the leadership level: Chief People & Equity Officer and Senior Director of Equity & Learning.

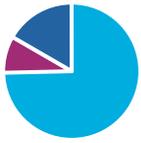
Our next steps in racial equity work

In 2022, key areas of work will include continued efforts to **(re)build trust** internally and externally, including **acknowledging** and making amends for recent and historical organizational mis-steps. We will be working to clarify our organizational identity, including defining the organizational values that drive our work, and updating our vision and mission to **reflect** our commitment to race equity. Internally, we will be looking at our processes for supporting and developing staff, through performance management, growth pathways, and other support structures. We will enhance training and education efforts around race equity, including at all staff, leadership, and board levels. Finally, we will establish structures to assess the impact of our race equity work, and increase collaboration with and **accountability** to community members around this work.



We still have a significant amount of work ahead, and will be communicating publicly about our next steps. Visit gaycenter.org/about/#racial-equity for ongoing updates.

Financials



Program Services
Management & General
Fundraising
Total Expenses

\$9,956,484 74.8%
\$1,131,881 8.5%
\$2,225,694 16.7%
\$13,314,059

Statements of Financial Position as of June 30, 2021 and 2020

Assets	2021	2020
Cash and cash equivalents	7,466,464	3,431,441
Investments	5,414,533	4,518,105
Government grants receivable, net	2,667,560	2,131,816
Unconditional promises to give, net	2,045,936	1,361,320
Other receivables, net	197,189	29,222
Prepaid expenses and other assets	563,245	528,361
Property, plant and equipment, net	15,286,278	16,140,088
Beneficial Interest in Charitable Remainder Trust	1,153,727	1,029,404
	\$34,794,932	\$29,169,757
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,234,384	941,819
Mortgage payable	1,789,201	1,868,725
Other liabilities	285,128	170,076
PPP Loan	1,596,969	1,596,969
Total Liabilities	\$4,905,682	\$4,577,589
Net Assets	29,889,250	23,080,688
	\$34,794,932	\$29,169,757

Statement of Activities and changes in net assets for years ending June 30, 2021 and 2020

Revenue and Support	2021	2020
Government grants	4,810,827	4,432,705
Contributions	5,115,401	5,367,673
Special events	1,588,411	3,285,569
Legacies and bequests	397,460	2,597,876
Other revenue	1,448,521	1,619,872
Total Revenue and Support	\$13,360,620	\$17,303,695
Nonoperating Activities		
PPP Loan Forgiveness	1,596,969	-
Other Income (One Time Unrestricted Gift)	3,653,552	-
Total Nonoperating Activities	\$5,250,521	-
Expenses		
Program Services	9,956,484	\$12,110,777
Management and general	1,131,881	2,160,023
Fundraising	2,225,694	2,398,168
Total Expenses	13,314,059	16,668,968
Change in Net Assets	\$5,297,082	\$634,727
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$24,592,168	\$23,957,441
Net Assets, end of year	\$29,889,250	\$24,592,168

Donors

Gifts July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021

Major Donors

The Center gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our Leadership Society members, a dedicated group of philanthropists whose important investment through gifts of \$1,500 or more provide the foundation for The Center's vital programs and services, and make our life-saving and life-changing programs possible. Please visit gaycenter.org/leaders to learn more.

Powsner Cooperberg Legacy Society (PCLS)

The Center gratefully recognizes our PCLS members whose inclusion of The Center in their estate plans ensures The Center's long-term future. Please visit gaycenter.org/legacy for the current roster of Legacy Society members. We also extend our gratitude to the following estates which actualized their beneficiary gifts to The Center this fiscal year.

Allen Greenstein Revocable Trust
Estate of Vicki Lynn Gruber
Estate of Josef P. McAvoy
Estate of Robert T. Russell

Estate of John Pope Parker Hart Switzer
Estate of Henry P. van Ameringen
Herbert I. Cohen Revocable Trust

Corporate Supporters

We are grateful to the corporations and organizations that support The Center's mission and services. Please visit gaycenter.org/corporate-partnerships for the current list of our Annual Corporate Partners.

Foundation Supporters

We are proud to recognize the following foundations that supported The Center's diverse range of programs and services with grants of \$5,000 or above.

The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Booth Ferris Foundation
Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS
Calamus Foundation
Charles Hayden Foundation
Cigna Foundation
David Bohnett Foundation
Frances L. & Edwin L. Cummings Memorial Fund
Google.org
Hearst Foundations
Herman Liebmann Foundation
Henry van Ameringen Foundation
Hyde and Watson Foundation
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
Joseph LeRoy and Ann C. Warner Fund
Keith Haring Foundation
Kirkland & Ellis Foundation
Kors Le Pere Foundation

Leonard-Litz Foundation
M•A•C AIDS Fund
MAXIMUS Foundation
The New York Community Trust
The New York Community Trust's CFDA-Vogue Initiative/New York City AIDS Fund
Nike Community Impact Fund
NoVo Foundation
Palette Fund
Redlich Horwitz Foundation
Rocking Moon Foundation
Runnymede Foundation
S&P Global Foundation
Stonewall Community Foundation
Ted Snowdon Foundation
ViiV Healthcare
van Ameringen Foundation
Venable Foundation
Wells Fargo
William T. Grant Foundation

Board Members

The Center's Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of the organization's operations and guiding The Center's long-term vision and planning. The Board also focuses on the continued financial stability of the organization and participates significantly in fundraising efforts.

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The Center is here for you.



gaycenter.org

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