



CAPITAL
PRIDE
— SALEM, OR —

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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HELLO!

This has been a wonderful year for Capital Pride and our community!

In my four years as president this has been by far the biggest, with so much growth and excitement.

We've taken our impact from a single event, in just one section of the park with about 2,000 visitors, to FIVE events and four ongoing community programs.

We saw over 8,000 visitors at Pride in the Park, hosted our first ever Queer Prom, celebrated the 45th anniversary of the first Pride March in Salem, and hosted a plethora of other events and programs.

I'm so proud of everything we have done together, for and with our community.

With all of the growth we've gone through, and all of the support we've received, we thought it would be great to reflect on all that we've done this year and share it with you, our supporters.

Thanks for a wonderful 2023 and here's to an even better 2024!

With love and gratitude,

Zachery Cardoso

President of
Salem Capital
Pride

THANK YOU

THIS WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR

PRIDE MARCH



CAMPING TRIP



QUEER PROM



PRIDE IN THE PARK



NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



OF FORGING NEW FRIENDSHIPS & COMMUNITY

QUEER PROM

In April, we hosted our first ever Queer Prom! Many older members of the community were never able to attend prom with who they wanted to go with, and many didn't go at all because of that. This was an opportunity for them to have that experience as their authentic selves. For youth, it provided a safe and fun environment to come together outside of school and celebrate who they are.

PRIDE MARCH

This year was the 45th anniversary of the first ever Pride March in Salem. In 1978, nine activists marched from the Capitol to the new Civic Center. Almost **500** people joined us to recreate that same route!

We were honored to have Chuck Simpson, one of the original marchers, say a few words to the crowd right before the step-off. I had the privilege of pushing his wheelchair later in the day for some of the downtown festivities. He sadly passed away later in the year, just after his 79th birthday.

After our march, we helped organize the Pride Bloc Party, closing down a portion of State street for vendors, live entertainment, and activities. About **3000** people attended to enjoy the summer fun.

PRIDE IN THE PARK

This was our largest year ever for Pride in the Park. With over **170** booths, 8 hours of local entertainment, and **8000** guests, we really went all out.

Our theme was "Enchantment Under the Rainbow" and we decorated the Willamette Heritage Center with jewel tones and florals. Our **237** guests danced, ate food, enjoyed the bar, took photos, and closed out the six-hour night dressed to the nines.

CAMPING TRIP

We hosted a 3-day camping trip this fall at Willamette Mission State Park. Our **33** participants set up tents around our site, and enjoyed some quiet days filled with hikes, hobbies, and food. Members of our community really stepped up to make this a homey experience for everyone involved, sharing extra supplies and food, and having great fireside chats. Everyone walked away having met someone new. Even with some slight rain on our final night, we had a great time out in nature, and look forward to our next trip.

COMING OUT DAY

We hosted a National Coming Out day for the third year in a row, recording stories and experiences from the community. This year, **10** people shared their stories and joined the 27 others from previous years. Sharing each other's triumphs and journeys has been a great way to give hope and spread joy in our community.

WHETHER WE WERE OUT EXPLORING NATURE

HIKING



KICKBALL



OR BUNDLED UP
TOGETHER
INDOORS



DND &
TTRPG



POTLUCKS



WE PAINTED THE WHOLE TOWN RAINBOW

We started four new community programs this year, designed to bring people together. Our goal was to cover a wide variety of interests and we were thrilled with the community's enthusiasm.

DND & TTRPG

Our first program to get started was a Tabletop Roleplaying community. In January, we brought together 14 individuals with 3 very talented game masters to meet regularly and craft engaging stories together. Later on in the year we were able to add another table. We ended the year with **4** tables and **23** participants meeting about twice a month, with many calling for more.

HIKING

Our next program was our monthly hiking group. Every month, groups would come together to explore the great outdoors. Our very first hike was in the winter, at freezing temperatures, but we still had 24 people come out for the hike! Even with sleet and snow in the early months, and scorching temperatures in the summer, we trekked on. From 2-mile jaunts on paved paths, to climbing 700 feet in elevation for as far as 8 miles, we hosted a wide range of hikes and nature walks. In total we hosted **12** hikes this year for **223** participants.

POTLUCKS

Our third program started in the spring. In April, we hosted our first potluck of the year, inviting members of the queer community to come together to share a free meal. Each month, Pride provided a main dish and invited others to bring something to share. During the sunny months, we hosted our first 5 potlucks in various parks throughout the city. In December we came together one final time for a winter holiday celebration indoors. In total, we hosted **6** potlucks with **136** members of the community.

KICKBALL

Our final program was a summer Kickball League. We hosted **9** weeks of pickup kickball games in Bush Pasture Park. Each week, it was exciting to see new and returning faces come out for some recreational fun. We'd like to give a big shout out to the Salem Lavendar Queer Womynxn for coming out each and every week, and lending us their players when other teams were short.

AND WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT HELP

Putting on all these events
and programs takes a lot of funding.
We worked hard to make an impact this
year, both with grants and donor support,
and we hope to keep this community
growing year after year.



willamette
health council

We were honored to receive a
\$9,000 grant from the
Willamette Health Council to
start our new community
programs. Through their
financial support, we were able
to purchase supplies for these

programs and remove cost barriers, in order to provide enriching experiences to members of the queer community. These programs were designed to bring people together and foster new connections. A big THANK YOU to Willamette Health Council for their support!

We were also the lucky recipient of the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax grant through the Salem Cultural and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board. This grant funds cultural events throughout the city, including

Pride in the Park. The \$10,000 allowed us to expand our event footprint, keep costs low for vendors, and increase our entertainment budget. With their support, Pride in the Park can continue to grow, so we can uplift and reach more of our community.



AND
YOU

We began a new donation program this year and generous donors like you rallied to give us \$2672 in donations. Some donations were as little as \$2 and some people gave over \$20 each month. Every little bit adds up and helps us do what we do.

LET'S FILL 2024 WITH EVEN MORE PRIDE

QUEER MIXER



QUEER CLIMB NIGHT



QUEER ART SHOW



QUEER YOGA



As we continue to grow together, we look forward to providing new and exciting opportunities, with your support!

SUMMER OF SPORTS



PRIDE PARADE



CLOTHING SWAPS

