



CAPITAL  
**PRIDE**  
SALEM, OR



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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# HELLO!

Thank you everyone for a wonderful 2025!  
(at least for Capital Pride)

As my sixth year as President of Capital Pride comes

to a close, I am excited to reflect on everything we have done. Especially as this was my final year as the president.

I love everything about the work I have done to grow opportunities and community here in Salem. I'm not done, but I think it is time to walk another path, knowing I have left Capital Pride in loving and capable hands.

In this annual report you will find out more about all of the impacts we have had together on the community, as a community.

I want to thank everyone who has been a part of this journey with me for the last six years. Each of you has played a part in making this community great, whether you know it or not.

I hope to see more people step up and take the reigns to make Salem and the surrounding areas the best place to be queer! Remember, I'm just stepping down, not stepping away, so I'll be right there with you.

With love and gratitude,

*Zachery Cardosa*

Former President of Salem Capital Pride

I am excited to serve in the role of President for the 2026 year!

We have such an amazing and talented executive board team that I am confident we can overcome any challenge we may encounter.

Although Zach is stepping back, I am glad he will still be around in a volunteer and mentor capacity to ensure that Salem Capital Pride continues to serve the community in the best possible way.

As we look to the coming year, I look forward to continuing our programs and events that provide safe social activities for all those that wish to be involved. We hope to see you there and hope to see you get involved in the coming year. Thank you for this tremendous opportunity.

**THANK  
YOU ZACH  
& WELCOME  
MATHEW!**

*Mathew Oldfield*  
President of Salem Capital Pride

# WHAT AN EVENTFUL YEAR!



# WE GREW SO MUCH

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP & YOUTH DRAG WORKSHOP

We were honored this last year, through grant funding, to be able to hire an intern.

Our intern, Isabela Guapo, not only had the opportunity to learn about budgeting, planning, and marketing, but also designed and facilitated a Youth Drag Workshop. At this event, local drag performers coached participants through multiple stations focused on creating a drag character, and ending in a performance showcase!

This was an exciting and well attended event! We are so thankful that we had the opportunity to have an intern and that our intern was able to put on such an amazing event.

## VIDEO GAME NIGHTS

On the first and third Sunday of every month we host a Video Game Night on our Gaming Discord channel. Throughout the year, **56** attendees got together to stream their games, play together, and socialize.

## QUEER MIXERS

Quarterly mixers have been our most popular meet and greet program this year!

**122** members of the community have been meeting quarterly to hang out, meet friends, get to know new people, and potentially meet their soul mate.

Queer mixers are a great place to make any sort of connection, whether it be friendship, casual, romantic, and/or platonic. Everyone is welcome!

## SILENT BOOK CLUB

On the first Sunday of every month a group of reading enthusiasts gets together at Prismatic Coffee to read together in silence. All book types are welcome and range from ebooks, to audiobooks, to graphic novels, and comic books. This year, **143** people joined in silently reading their favorite novels and short stories and then stuck around after for fun socializing with likeminded readers.

## QUEER COMMUNITY DISCOUNTS

Salem Capital Pride is proud to work with community partners to offer ongoing discounts for fitness programs! Common People Yoga's monthly Rainbow Yoga is a great way to relax, while The Rock Boxx's monthly Queer Climb Night lets climbers challenge themselves to new heights.

# IN SCALE, IN SCOPE IN IMPACT

## PRIDE PARADE & BLOCK PARTY

This year was the 47th anniversary of the first ever Pride March in Salem. In 1978, nine activists marched from the Capitol to the new Civic Center. This year hundreds of community members joined us in our annual parade to commemorate that march.

Our parade is a celebration of who we are and stands as a testament of our triumph over the historic struggles our community has faced. What better way to end a parade than with a party - our Block Party! Our yearly Block Party closes down a portion of State street for vendors, live entertainment, and activities. Thousands of people came out to enjoy the weather, entertainers, food, and for the chance to dunk our president Zach in a dunk tank.

## PRIDE IN THE PARK

This was our largest year ever for Pride in the Park. With over **200** booths, 8 hours of local entertainment, and thousands of guests, we really went all out! This is our single largest event during the year and we could not have done it without a dedicated group of volunteers.

## CAMPING TRIP

We hosted a 2-day camping trip this fall at Devil's Lake in Lincoln City. Our **29** participants set up tents around our site, and enjoyed some quiet days filled with fellowship 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. This has continued to be a much anticipated event and we look forward to continuing to grow this event and getting more people involved. We hope to see you this year.

## COMING OUT DAY

We hosted a National Coming Out day for the fifth year in a row, recording stories and experiences from the community. This year, **6** people shared their stories and joined the 81 others from previous years. Sharing these stories has been a great way to give hope, spread joy, and show stunning examples of bravery and honesty in our community.

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK

This year we combined our annual holiday potluck with a moment of recognition for our talented and dedicated volunteers, who help with our ongoing programs and large events.

We are completely volunteer-run and organized and need all the help we can get.

We hope that next year we can recognize even more amazing volunteers.

# EXPANDING OUR INTERESTS



# AND CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER



# WE MADE SPREADING QUEER JOY OUR MAIN MISSION

## DND & TTRPG

In early 2023 we brought together 14 individuals with 3 very talented game masters to meet regularly and craft engaging stories together. Now after two years, we have 20 game masters each with their own group of intrepid adventurers meeting regularly to plot the downfall of nasty necromancers, sinister cults, and dastardly rulers.

## HIKING

Every month, groups come together to explore the great outdoors. Even with sleet and snow in the early months, and scorching temperatures in the summer, we trekked on. From paved paths, to steep elevation changes we hosted a wide range of hikes and nature walks. In total we hosted 12 hikes this year for 193 participants totaling over 45 miles!

## BOARD GAMES

Board game enthusiasts have been meeting twice monthly since 2024 to kill zombies, battle eldritch horrors, and fight for epic bragging rights over their peers. In 2025, 248 participants have attended these ongoing meetups.

We started multiple programs over the past couple years designed to bring people together. Our goal was to cover a wide variety of interests and we are thrilled with the community's enthusiasm and support for each of them.

## POTLUCKS

Starting in 2023 we began inviting members of the queer community to come together to share a free meal at our potlucks. Each month, Pride provided a main dish and invited others to bring something to share.

During the sunny months, we hosted potlucks in various parks throughout the city. In December we came together for our winter holiday celebration. In total, we hosted 6 potlucks with 139 members of the community.

## CRAFTING

In 2024 we began holding monthly meetups for crafters, makers, creators, doodlers, and other creative souls. Along with being quite popular the program provides a safe communal place for members of our community to come hang out with other makers and just create. We are so excited to have welcomed 148 participants this year!

# AND WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT ALONE

Putting on  
all these events and  
programs takes not only  
funding, but community partners.  
Thank you to all that made  
this year amazing!



Capital Pride was the proud recipient of a \$7,500 grant this year that was used to hire an intern and put on a drag workshop event. This SYCE (Sogie Youth Community Engagement) Grant, through the Oregon Department of Education's LGBTQIA+ Student Success Plan is a small portion of a four-year grant involving 6 organizations, spearheaded by Rainbow Youth.

We were also the lucky recipient of two of the City of Salem's Transient Occupancy Tax grants through the Salem Cultural and Tourism Promotion Advisory Board. These grants fund cultural events throughout the city, including Pride in the Park and our Pride Parade/Block Party. The \$8,000 grants allowed us to expand our event and community impact.



## Sunflower Grant

We received the \$4,000 Sunflower Grant through the Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation to use for ongoing regular expenses. This has helped us continue our regular programs.

We received the Oregon Cultural Trust's MCDC Grant for \$3,000, which we used to pay the additional expenses of our Pride Parade and Block Party, as well as the Oregon Cultural Trust's Professional Development Grant which we used for the organization to gain valuable skills and resources for marketing and graphic design.



Special thanks to The Rock Boxx Climbing Gym, Common People Yoga, Ticket to Play Board Game Cafe, Community Health & Education Center, For Tomorrow We Die Brewing Company, Prismatic Coffee, and West Salem Shao-Lin Kempo for being great community partners!

AND  
YOU

This year we received more in donations than ever before! Generous donors like you rallied to give \$17,991.94 in donations. Donations ranged from \$2 to over \$20 each month. Every little bit adds up and helps us continue to provide programs and events throughout the year.

# LET'S SPREAD EVEN MORE JOY IN 2026!

## CRAFT EVENTS



## WRITING GROUP



## QUEER PROM '26

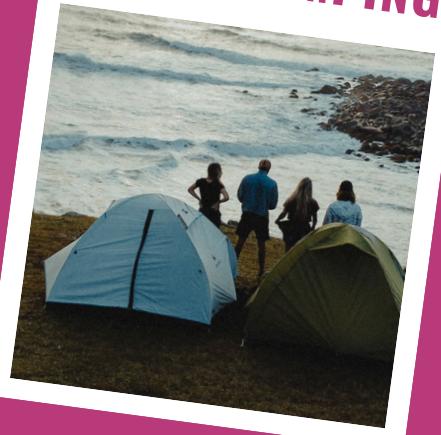


These are just a few ideas we'd love to pursue this year, with **YOUR** support!

## DISCORD EVENTS



## BEACH CAMPING



## MOVIE NIGHT

