

Front Page

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Charlotte Hosts First Black Pride

City's Organization receives National Black Justice Coalition Community Award

CHARLOTTE - Charlotte celebrated its first black gay pride in July where over 7,000 people attended a weekend full of events.

Because of the awareness that this organization brought to the south, the National Black Justice Coalition has chosen Charlotte NC Black Gay Pride to receive the Bayard Rustin/Wanda Austin Community Mobilization Award that will be awarded at the 2005 Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Leaders Summit held in Washington DC September 21-23.

The NBJC is a civil rights organization of Black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and allies dedicated to fostering equality by fighting racism and homophobia. The Coalition advocates for social justice by educating and mobilizing opinion leaders, including elected officials, clergy, and media, with a focus on Black communities.

CNCBGP is also preparing for Pride 2006 to be held the weekend of July 20-23 and every third weekend in July each year. This year the organization has a new vice chair as well as a larger board.

Monica Simpson, who was secretary last year, has signed on as vice chair of CNCBGP. Damon Blackman will remain as Chair and Lynkoya Handy will remain as Treasurer. Other new board members include: Nicole Hoagland, Secretary;

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"Equal Rights...No More, No Less"

NC Pride Parade Organizers Expect Big Turnout for September 24 Festival at Duke's East Campus in Durham

DURHAM - The 21st annual North Carolina Pride Parade will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Sept. 24, 2005, launching from Duke University East Campus.

Pointing to years of increasing success and popularity, organizers expect thousands of participants and attendees from across North Carolina and from well beyond state borders, including large and growing numbers of non-gay participants and spectators.

"This parade is about celebrating how far the LGBT community has come and showing that, collectively and individually, we feel good about ourselves, that we continue to push American towards 'justice for all' and that we have many allies and supporters on our side," says Keith Hayes, spokesperson for the Pride Committee of North Carolina.

"Anyone who spends 30 minutes at our PrideFest will never question the joy and excitement that come from being inclusive, building bridges and being open, honest, self-affirming and diverse."

"Equal Rights: No More ... No Less" is the international theme of LGBT Pride organizations and events for 2005.

It highlights the fact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people still face significant discrimination - although today that discrimination comes more consistently from state law, federal laws and many religious organizations than from individuals, neighbors, employers, family or friends.



The theme also underscores the LGBT community's insistence on securing the basic rights and protections that virtually all other minority groups in America enjoy - the right to non-discrimination in the workplace, the right to protection under law against violence and the right to marriage - or civil unions that confer all the benefits and responsibilities of marriage.

In 2004, an estimated 5,000 people from across North Carolina, across the Southeast and as far away of Ohio, New York and California attended the Pride Parade in Durham.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the parade has taken place in Durham - largely a reflection on the welcoming attitude of Duke University, the City of Durham and the dozens of merchants along the Ninth, Broad and Markham Street parade route.

Signature Pride Parade activities include:

Pride Parade Rally and Vendor Fair - 10:00 a.m. - 5 pm, Sept. 24, Duke University East Campus

Pride Parade - 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m., Main St. and Campus Drive

through Ninth, Markham and Broad Streets, Durham

Many PrideFest activities with particular appeal to the LGBT community are listed at www.ncpride.org.

Sponsorships of the NC PrideFest continues to grow, mostly beyond the LGBT community.

Sponsors and partners of the event include the following:

National Sponsors: Whole Foods, Mitchell Gold, USAirways, AdamMale, Adam and Eve, ID Lubricants and Budwieser/BudLite
Partners: Legends Club, Capital Corral Club, Warehouse and Flex Club

Community Sponsors: Madhatter Café, Travel Network, JoEllenMason Realtor, Jewelsmith, Sharon Thompson Law, Charter Funding Mortgages, Imani MCC Church, St. John's MCC Church, Fowlers Food and Wine, Salon 135 of Chapel Hill, White Rabbit Books, Julie Parrish Realty, Cheri Patrick Attorney, Tim O'Brien Realtor of Raleigh, Bakus/9 Café, Gailor Wallis & Associates Law, Lorraine Johnson Financial Advisor, Lisa Logan Attorney, David McKinnon at AXA Financial Advisors, Jo and Joe's Café, Wells Fargo Mortgages, Hamilton Hill Jewelers.

Media Sponsors: Q-Notes, The Front Page, OutInAsheville and The Independent

The Pride Hotels: The Clarion State Capital in Raleigh, 919-832-0501 and Hilton Homewood Suites in Durham, 919-474-9900

The Pride Committee of North Carolina is a 501(C)3 organization and is committed to working with the diverse LGBT community to promote unity among gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and to promote a positive image of our community in North Carolina and beyond.

Get all the latest Pride info at www.ncpride.org