

Rainbow Key Awards Guidelines

Adopted October 3, 2022

1. Each year, the LGBTQ+ Advisory Board (the “Board”) may bestow Rainbow Key Awards (the “Award”) in accordance with the following rules and procedures.
2. Up to five awards will be given each year, with attention to achieving and maintaining gender parity over time.
3. Award recipients need not be present in person to receive the award, although in most cases the recipient will be present either in person or by electronic communication.
4. The nomination period will be open from December 1 through January 31, and the nomination form will be posted online during this time period.
5. A nomination received after the deadline date may not be considered by the Board.
6. Outreach for nominations and participation in the awards will be shared through social media and other means of communication.
7. Nomination forms will seek specific information about the impact, nature, and scale of each nominee’s contribution to the West Hollywood LGBTQ+ community specifically, as well as, if applicable, the global LGBTQ+ community.
8. Nomination forms will mention attributes for which nominees are sought, including local community action, arts, literature, humanitarian efforts, sports, medicine, armed services, potential for leadership, benefit to the global LGBTQ+ community, outstanding organizations, and other fields of contributions, with the understanding that these categories are meant to be illustrative, rather than binding.

9. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will receive and review all nominations for the awards, and will decide together as a Board, at a publicly-noticed Board meeting in February, which nominees to recommend to City Council.
10. Voting of the Board shall be by either a show of hands or a roll call vote, at the discretion of the Board.
11. The winner of the Awards shall be the nominees receiving the most votes cast, with up to five selected total. In the event of a tie, there shall be an immediate re-vote conducted that includes only the nominees that tied for the most votes.
12. The Board may only select as a recipient of an Award, individual(s), a nonprofit organization, a for-profit business, or a media company for whom or for which it has received an official nomination.
13. A nomination of an individual employed by the City of West Hollywood, or an appointed official currently serving or having served within the prior year on a City Advisory Board, Commission, or Task Force, shall not be considered by the Board.
14. The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board will provide recommendations on honorees to the City Council in March of each year, providing time for the City Council to consider and select the final recipients before the awards.
15. Amendments or exceptions to these guidelines cannot be made once public solicitation of nominees has commenced.

Rainbow Key Awards 2023

List of Nominees

(In order of application)

1. Congregation Kol Ami
2. Ken Howard
3. Nahshon Dion
4. Mark Morales
5. Jordan David
6. Steven Reigns
7. Brody Hudson Schaffer
8. Steve Machuca
9. Brian Holt
10. Bobby Heller
11. John D'Amico (ineligible)
12. Paul Morillo
13. Uriel Malak Brewer
14. Bert Champagne
15. Robert Harrell
16. Steve Pieters



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Dec 4, 2022, 02:40PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Congregation Kol Ami
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	1200 N. La Brea Ave West Hollywood, CA 90038
Nominee's Phone Number	32360600996
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	@kolamiweho on FB and Twitter and instagram https://www.linkedin.com/company/kolamiweho . linked in
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	Adam Rotenberg. Membership Engagement associate. [REDACTED]
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>Congregation Kol Ami is celebrating its 30th anniversary year. We are West Hollywood's Reform Synagogue. For all of 30 years we have been located in WeHo and have been the beating heart of the Jewish queer community. Kol Ami has been the incubator for Jewish queer liturgy, been an active leader in the battle for marriage equality both within Judaism and in the state of California and nationally. Kol Ami has been a safe place for people with AIDS/HIV and continues to have a monthly support group led by Rabbi Eger for people with HIV. 7 years ago Kol Ami co-founded with the City the West Hollywood-Israel HIV Task Force .Kol Ami hosts the annual World AIDS day interfaith observance, Pride Shabbat in June, Transgender Day of Remembrance service and National Coming Out day celebrations. Kol Ami has been a leader in transforming Reform Judaism on theology and ritual practice to be more than tolerant but celebratory of LGBTQ Jews and Jewish life. For many years Kol Ami cohosted with the City and the Russian community, the annual Yom Hashoa holocaust memorial program in Plummer Park that was dedicated to lifting up the stories of not only local survivors and liberators but the stories of LGBTQ victims of the Holocaust and educating the community about this. As a congregation we have dedicated resources to caring for our LGBTQ seniors and provides all of the Jewish cultural programming for the LA Gay Lesbian Seniors Programs. And through our 20/30's young professional group-called the Open YAD Project-celebrates young queer people and provides a safe and connected community for those in this age bracket. We have educated a generation of children who have grown up in LGBTQ headed households, educating the larger community about</p>

	<p>surrogacy, adoption, and insemination to build our queer families. We have offered at different times grief support groups for the LGBTQ community, LGBTQ parents support groups, as the needs have arisen in these last 30 years. We created the first gay men's prostate cancer support groups and started Wendy's Hope a program for Lesbians with Breast cancer that was eventually taken over by the City of Hope. We recently sponsored the Combatting Anti-Semitism summit for West Hollywood and we have for the last two election cycles sponsored the West Hollywood Jewish community candidate forum.</p>
<p>Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.</p>	<p>Congregation Kol Ami and its members have served on many city commissions. Kol Ami has made a material difference in the life of the city, serving as a safe gathering place for LGBTQ. Jews and the interfaith community. Kol Ami and its leaders and members have served the community through their volunteerism. Most recently Kol Ami is monthly providing lunches for the Hollywood Food Coalition on the weekends. We provide more than 500 lunches monthly that often feed homeless in West Hollywood as part of the outreach.</p>
<p>Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important</p>	<p>Here is Kol Ami's website - https://kol-ami.org</p>
<p>Your Name (Nominator)</p>	<p>Rabbi Denise Eger</p>
<p>Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)</p>	<p>1200 N. La Brea Ave West Hollywood, CA 90038</p>
<p>Your Phone Number</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Email</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Social Media Handles</p>	<p>Insta @RabbiDeniseEger FB @Denise.Eger @RabbiDeniseEger linked in @RabbiofWeho</p>
<p>Any Other Contact Information for You</p>	<p>323-606-0996</p>



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:
Dec 4, 2022, 05:27PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Ken Howard, LCSW, CST
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/ken-howard-msw-lcsw-cst-73aaab4/</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/gaytherapyla</p> <p>https://www.instagram.com/gaytherapyla/?hl=en</p>
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>For over 30 years, Ken Howard, LCSW, CST has been a specialist in LGBT+ mental health as a licensed psychotherapist (LCSW) and nationally Certified Sex Therapist (AASECT), working for over 10 years in non-profit AIDS service organizations such as the LA LGBT Center, APLA, LA County Department of Mental Health, SPECTRUM HIV Services at Charles R. Drew University, and LA Family AIDS Network. He is also the founder of GayTherapyLA.com, a private practice in psychotherapy and coaching dedicated to supporting the mental health and well-being of gay male individuals, couples, and others in the LGBT+ community. He is the most experienced gay men's specialist psychotherapist in the United States today. He was the Chair of the LA County HIV Mental Health Task Force for 9 years, and is the current host of the "Gay Therapy LA" podcast, heard in over 40 countries of the world. His volunteerism includes work for LA Shanti, Life Group LA, APLA Health, Being Alive, and the AIDS Service Center of Pasadena. He taught courses on HIV 101, LGBT Psycho-Social-Political Issues, Psychotherapy Models, and Couples Therapy as an Adjunct Associate Professor at the USC School of Social Wrk. He and his husband were one of the first 18,000 same-sex couples to get married in California in 2008. He has been an activist and advocate for ACT-UP, Equality California, and led the Boycott Hollywood Chick-Fil-A Campaign. He provides a free library of hundreds of blog</p>

	<p>articles on LGBT mental health and well-being at his website, GayTherapyLA.com. He has been a resident of West Hollywood since 2001.</p>
<p>Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.</p>	<p>Ken began as a volunteer for AIDS Walk Los Angeles in 1988, then as a Phone Buddy volunteer for APLA in 1990 and peer counselor the LA LGBT Center by 1992. He then began a career as a specialist in HIV mental health at the LA LGBT Center, Pacific Clinics Pasadena, HIV Mental Health Program Director at West Hollywood Homeless Organization (now PATH), Clinical Director of SPECTRUM HIV Services at Charles R. Drew University, Associate Director for LA Family AIDS Network, and then as founder of GayTherapyLA, a group private practice for psychotherapy services specializing in gay male individuals, couples, and others in the LGBT+ community. He is also one of the few sex therapists nationally who are certified by AASECT, the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, and Therapists, providing therapy and education on consensual, affirmative sexual health for LGBT+ people and their allies. He has provided counseling, psychotherapy, case management, and coaching to thousands of LGBT+ community members in Los Angeles/West Hollywood, as well as other states and countries of the world, through his extensive speaking and writing over the past 30 years as a mental health professional and activist/advocate. He has been a living example of coping and thriving with life as an HIV-positive person since 1990.</p>
<p>Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important</p>	<p>Despite his long tenure contributing to the LGBT+ community in West Hollywood, as a professional and as a resident, he has not yet received any formal recognition from the City of West Hollywood, where he makes his home, because he keeps a low profile and is so busy helping clients each day in his practice and work. I'd like to see our community recognize his long tenure of contributions at last.</p>
<p>Your Name (Nominator)</p>	<p>Michael Ryan</p>
<p>Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Phone Number</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Email</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Social Media Handles</p>	<p>https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-ryan-b607b45/ https://www.facebook.com/michael.c.ryan.54</p>
<p>Any Other Contact Information for You</p>	<p></p>



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:
Dec 11, 2022, 11:12PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Nahshon Dion
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.instagram.com/nashondion/ / https://www.facebook.com/Nashondion/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	www.nashondionanderson.com
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>Nahshon Dion is a proud African American/Latinx multitalented, award winning creative nonfiction writer, an aspiring/ emerging filmmaker, creative director, producer ..,and a patron from Pasadena California.</p> <p>Nahshon's literature and film production speaks to discrimination and violence many Black & brown youth are subjected to.</p> <p>Being a resident in WEHO (2005-2009) she started her transition while living there, helping the homeless with the food Coalition, and participated in the Transgender day of remembrance events.</p>
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	<p>In December 2019, Nahshon was awarded a West Hollywood Transgender artist initiative grant to host ; Honoring our Transcestors. The event hosted in March 2021 Affirmed the lives and celebrated artist former residents as well</p>
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	<p>In 2020, Nahshon was awarded a West Hollywood Transgender artist initiative grant to produce and host Transbrations March 31, 2022, the 13th annual Transgender day of visibility The event allowed them to express their vibrant colors and gave hope to victims of violence and discrimination. A counter-narrative that honors the human spirit, celebrating victories of winning, in the face of adversity, and the oppressors</p>
Your Name (Nominator)	Nahshon Dion
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	IG/ PhilipLankford
Any Other Contact Information for You	

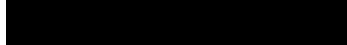


Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:
Dec 12, 2022, 06:20PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Mark Morales
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.linkedin.com/in/markmmorales/ https://www.facebook.com/viimmm
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	[REDACTED]
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	6 years on the board of the LA LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer, Vice President, President and President Emeritus. Membership increased by 300% during his board years. 7 years as the first LGBT representative to the CA Department of Insurance Diversity Task Force (Current Chair) which has helped increase spend by insurance companies with LGBT owned businesses in California from \$5 million in 2015 to \$10.2 million in 2021. First LGBT Business Advocate to the California Employment Development Department (EDD), First LGBT member of the Leadership Council of the Los Angeles Business Council, 2nd LGBT advocate to SCE's Community Advisory Panel, LGBT Business Enterprise Advocate to the City of Los Angeles procurement platform task force (RAMPLA)
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	the best way to describe Mark's impact is from his coming out statement which can be found on linkedin: "I didn't start bringing my full self to work until accidentally being outed at a conference in late 2014. Since then I have had many firsts (and seconds) for the LGBTQ community, all accomplished in the last 6 years. I encourage you to add your unique voice to make change! State of California First LGBT business advocate to the Diversity Task Force for the California Department of Insurance. 2015, reappointed 2017 and 2019, elected Vice Chair 2020, Chair 2021 First time I influenced legislation (SB 534) to add LGBT in California. 2019

	<p>First LGBT Insurance Diversity Trailblazer Award Recipient. 2018 First time I testified in front of the California Assembly on LGBT inclusion in the Insurance Industry. 2017 First LGBT Business Advocate to the California Employment Development Department (EDD). 2020 City of Los Angeles First LGBT member of the Leadership Council of the Los Angeles Business Council 2018 - Present First and second time I represented our business community on legislative issues with our Congressional representatives. ACCESS DC 2019, ACCESS DC 2021 First and second time I represented my community in front of the LA City Council. Compete4LA Project, LA Business Council, 2017, 2019 Second LGBT advocate to Southern California Edison (SCE) Consumer Advisory Panel. 2018 - Present First time I served on a board Los Angeles LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce (Treasurer, VP, President and now President Emeritus). 2015 - 2019 First time being interviewed for internal and external communication for City National Bank 2021 National First LGBT individual to win the U.S. Small Business Administration Financial Services Champion of the Year in the largest district office (Los Angeles) in the nation. 2016 First person to fund an LGBT SBA loan after the historic partnership between the SBA and National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). February 2015. First time I was on a cover of a national magazine. 2015 Multiple times I was the subject of an article in a magazine, blog or newspaper. 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022</p>
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	2022 RBC Global Citizen Award, 2022 SCMSDC Leadership Excellence Award, Recognized by State Senator Lena Gonzalez for contributions to the LGBTQ community
Your Name (Nominator)	Michael Mirch
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	https://www.facebook.com/michael.mirch https://www.linkedin.com/company/charlesjacobsen-inc/
Any Other Contact	





Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:
Dec 14, 2022, 03:40PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Jordan David
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	Unknown
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	Unknown
Nominee's Social Media Handles	Unknown
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	Twitter: West Hollywood Social Justice Coalition
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	Jordan started and sustained the West Hollywood Social Justice Coalition (WHSJC), the ONLY local grassroots organization advancing social justice issues without corporate or political allegiances.
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	Through his work with WHSJC, Jordan has advanced local police accountability, advocated for survivors of sexual assault, pressed for economic reforms uplifting working class people, uplifted anti-war and anti-corruption voices in WeHo, and built expansive coalitions for progressive causes and civil rights.
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	While a slew of hand picked commissioners and advisory board members tend to receive these awards, Jordan's activism exists outside of the bureaucracy of local government or political cliques. His efforts are sustained by deep personal sacrifice and conviction of universal principles. Accolades such as these are often tightly gatekept by a biased political clique who seek to co-opt popular movements for their own political careers. Meanwhile genuine grassroots activists' efforts to uplift disenfranchised voices and to hold elected official accountable to the people are often ignored, vilified, or attacked by those who are threatened by such transparency. This is an extreme disservice to our democracy, and Jordan has single handedly uplifted the local discourse around pressing issues of homelessness, economics, public safety, and civil rights. This is an enormous feat worthy of respect and honor; no matter one's position on various issues.
Your Name (Nominator)	West Seegmiller
Your Address (include City,	[REDACTED]

State and Zip Code)	
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	Instagram: FreeWeho
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Dec 28, 2022, 12:49AM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Steven Reigns
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	www.facebook.com/stevenreigns/ www.instagram.com/stevenreigns/ www.twitter.com/stevenreigns
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	www.stevenreigns.com , www.thegayrub.com , en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steven_Reigns
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>Steven Reigns has been a WEHO resident for over 17 years and is an openly gay man whose writings focus on the gay experience and people with HIV. He is the first Poet Laurette of West Hollywood. During the time of his appointment, he started projects still in effect, such as the annual lamppost project every April and an annual poetry writing workshop. For the past 5 years, his lines of poetry have been featured on the large electronic billboard at the West Hollywood Gateway.</p> <p>For the past 17 years he has taught My Life is Poetry, an autobiographical poetry writing workshop to LGBTQ seniors. This is vital workshop that helps LGBTQ elders write about their life in an encouraging and supportive environment. The workshop connects them with a greater community but also with the joys of writing autobiographically. The workshop also creates a document for the seniors to share the wisdom and experiences of their life. A book, My Life is Poetry, was published with writings by workshop participants. He has taught 3 writing workshops at Yale. Before the start of My Life is Poetry, he taught poetry workshops around the country to LGBTQ youth groups and people with HIV.</p> <p>While doing all of this he also worked for 10 years doing HIV testing, counseling, and outreach. More than half of that time was coordinating the Rapid HIV Testing Program at The Saban Community Clinic: a program that was partially supported by WEHO, served many WEHO residents, was under the executor directorship of Abbe Land, and where Reigns won the WEHO's Paul Starke Warrior Award.</p> <p>Just last year prestigious SF publisher City Lights published A Quilt for David, a book that Reigns devoted 10 years to research and</p>

write. Its focus is on a dentist in 1991 accused of transmitting HIV to his patients. The book details the life and struggle of a maligned gay man that Reigns ultimately clears in the book. It is a terrible tale of gay scapegoating and has received great praise.

For about four years, Reigns facilitated the Lambda Literary Book Club at the West Hollywood Library. The book club brought together LGBTQ people to discuss a diverse selection of books held in the WEHO Library. It has been on hiatus after the first year of the pandemic.

After leaving The Saban Community Clinic, Reigns became a licensed therapist with a history of WEHO involvement. He interned for free at Being Alive and Aids Project Los Angeles's WEHO location, started a first ever support group for HIV+ men that focused on cinema as a projective tool. About 14 years ago his image was used in WEHO's Gay Heroes campaign.

Reigns also has an art exhibition of rubbings of LGBT markers debuted in West Hollywood at the One Archives Gallery. This exhibition, titled The Gay Rub, has since toured the country and features numerous plaques from WEHO. In print interviews he has credited WEHO for inspiring the project after he read about the Transgender Hate Crime Plaque at La Cienega and Santa Monica. This ongoing project was the subject of an award winning short documentary in 2018.

Just this fall, a quote by Reigns was selected by artist Jenny Holzer and projected onto Rockefeller Center for a week. Just last month, he presented at The Broad Museum for World AIDS Day. He is also featured in photographer John Russo's brand new book 100 Making a Difference, alongside Oprah, Elton John, Serena Williams, Jennifer Lopez, and George Clooney.

Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.

Steven Reigns' life focus has been about literary arts, advocating for LGBTQ people and preventing and destigmatizing HIV. He has done exceptionally well at his projects and actions getting attention this is especially impressive given how little attention poetry and poets get. He has elevated LGBTQ literary arts through his curation of lamppost banners, electronic billboards, Lambda Literary Book Club facilitation, workshop teachings, and by his own writings. He is an important part of the Los Angeles literary scene and works hard for others to feel included, supported, and seen. At a time where fewer and fewer people understand the importance of the literary arts, Steven Reigns is reminding them without being an elitist. His workshops are supportive and the majority of them are free and designed for LGBTQ people.

I think with any artist, it's hard to determine the impact of the work.

	<p>His poetry has received rave reviews by some of our biggest literary talents. The back of A Quilt for David is blurbs from our most prominent writers. President Obama’s inaugural poet Richard Blanco has even written an essay about the importance of Reigns work. His workshops have been highly praised, and he has received grants from West Hollywood and the Los Angeles County Department of Cultural Affairs.</p> <p>There is a large scope of people interested and supportive of his writing, teaching, community involvement and artwork. His events are always packed, he has 5,000 Facebook friends, has three collections of poetry, edited three anthologies of queer writing. His reach is quite wide.</p>
<p>Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important</p>	<p>I think Steven Reigns' accomplishments and dedication to WEHO and the LGBT community is relevant and obvious. I would appreciate seeing someone like him receive the award. He is someone who has been focused and dedicated in quiet and important ways. He is a poet, artist, activist, and educator. His latest book, A Quilt for David, is reason enough to award him. With the research and writing of that book, he single handedly vindicated the life and legacy of an HIV+ gay man who was falsely accused of passing on infection. Steven is quite fearless and deserving of The Advisory Board’s recognition.</p>
<p>Your Name (Nominator)</p>	<p>Alexander Bazley</p>
<p>Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Phone Number</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Email</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Social Media Handles</p>	<p>www.instagram.com/grandolbaz www.facebook.com/AlexanderxBazley www.linkedin.com/in/alexanderbazley/</p>
<p>Any Other Contact Information for You</p>	<p>I was a Public Safety Commissioner for under 2 years, was Transportation Commissioner for 3.5 years, and CFO for West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce for 5.5</p>



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 9, 2023, 11:53PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Brody Hudson Schaffer
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	bossbabybrody Instagram
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	citygirlgonemom
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>At the young age of 7, Brody Schaffer has contributed hope and healing to so many in the West Hollywood LGBTQ community through his fierce dancing and bold personality. In a world that still sometimes fears and bullies kids like Brody, he is a reminder and an example to me and his 650k followers on social media of fierceness, boldness and courage. I am very grateful to be one of Brody's teacher and choreographers at Danceology LA, located in Beverly Hills, where I've seen his interactions with other children in class, which has been inspiring and challenging at times.</p>
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	<p>In many ways, our world is most afraid of feminine young boys. They are attacked and often bullied online and in person at school by children and by adults in politics and in the world. And this makes the scope of Brody's impact so meaningful, both psychologically and emotionally. As an influencer, he already has a local and global following, and without even knowing it, is an inspiration to young boys and girls who don't always feel safe to be themselves. Personally teaching Brody has been meaningful and healing for me. I was shamed and bullied for being like Brody when I was younger Feminine, Creative, Bold and Fierce. And I hear this echoed by a lot of gay men who had similar experiences. Despite that society is scared of young feminine boys, Brody shows his confidence and courage everyday by being completely himself and having a voice. He has danced on Nickelodeon, done projects with "The Old Gays" on social media, appeared in ads for Gap, received numerous scholarships and awards in dance competitions, and now has his own toy line. We are only just starting to see the scope of how he is helping and saving LGBTQ kids who see Brody and identify with him.</p>
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	<p>Along with Brody's influence in the LGBTQ community his family is a great support system. Knowing they also could be attacked for it, they do not back down. His fierce mother, loving father and</p>

supportive siblings. In the midst of “Don’t Say Gay” bills popping up everywhere, I believe it is the responsibility of West Hollywood and the LGBTQ community to award the Rainbow Award to a young child, to give them hope. The LGBTQ community knows what it feels like to be bullied as children, and we still deal with the effects of this. Kids like Brody need to be celebrated. Brody needs to be celebrated. This is our future. Brody is the future. Brody is the Present.

Your Name (Nominator)	John Corella
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	john_corella
Any Other Contact Information for You	[REDACTED]



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 13, 2023, 01:45PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Steve Machuca
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	@SteveMachuca on Instagram
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>Growing up halftime in Mexico and halftime in Los Angeles, Steve Machuca has been serving and supporting our fine community since he graduated from Loyola and moved to West Hollywood in the early 2000s. First as a club promoter whose motto was to be kind and take care of all our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. He would always find the lone boy or girl standing by themselves and bring them into his circle to make sure they knew they were welcome. He's also a staunch progressive activist taking to the streets to support No on Prop 8, stand up Black Lives Matter and often throwing fundraisers and events for LGBTQ+ causes and policies. Steve went on to open his own gym Plyo Fitness about 7 years ago to with the mission to give LGBTQ+ people of all shapes and sizes an encouraging and safe place to workout and get healthy. Steve is a true example of a kind, smart, authentic friend and citizen. I can think of nobody who more exemplifies the very best vision of a West Hollywood resident our city founders certainly had when creating this fair city.</p>
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	<p>Steve Machuca's impact is absolutely apparent when you spend a day or evening with him walking around West Hollywood. People of all generations and backgrounds stop to say "hello!" or "I love your classes at your gym!" or, and this happens a lot, "Steve you were my first friend when I moved here!" Steve is truly an angel of a human being and I know anyone who knows him would agree he is very deserving of this recognition and honor.</p>
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	
Your Name (Nominator)	Drew Pokorny
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	@DrewPokorny on Instagram
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 14, 2023, 11:11PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Brian Holt, Brand Manager, CHANNEL Q radio network
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	wearechannelq
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	
Your Name (Nominator)	
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	
Your Phone Number	
Your Email	
Your Social Media Handles	
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 24, 2023, 02:35PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Bobby Heller
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	unknown HOLLYWOOD CA
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	Bobby Heller
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.instagram.com/bobbyheller/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	Bobby founded the efforts to create the AIDS memorial https://aidsmonument.org/board and staff/bobby heller/
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	
Your Name (Nominator)	CATHERINE ENG
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	https://www.instagram.com/thedamecat/ https://www.instagram.com/catblcweho/
Any Other Contact Information for You	[REDACTED]



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 24, 2023, 02:40PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	John D'amico
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	unknown city of Weho
Nominee's Phone Number	see above
Nominee's Email	ditto
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.instagram.com/everything_already/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	D'amico served our City Council for 6 yrs (?!)
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	
Your Name (Nominator)	CATHERINE ENG
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	██████████
Your Phone Number	██████████
Your Email	████████████████████
Your Social Media Handles	IG: @ theamecat @catblcweho FB: Catherine Eng
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 24, 2023, 02:44PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Paulo Morillo/Weho Times
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	unknown
Nominee's Phone Number	unknown
Nominee's Email	Weho Times
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.instagram.com/weho_times/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	Paulo and Weho Times offers free news for the city, coverage we need WITHOUT the meanspiritedness of other Orgs
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	valuable info about the city is provided in a timely fashion
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	Paulo is dedicated to Weho
Your Name (Nominator)	Catherine Eng
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	@thedamecat @catblcweho
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:
Jan 24, 2023, 10:36PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Uriel Malak Brewer
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	https://www.facebook.com/UrielMalakBrewer https://www.instagram.com/uriel_malak/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	he orchestrated street outreach for the last few yrs distributing supplies to unhoused in weho
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	
Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important	he's a lovely guy
Your Name (Nominator)	CATHERINE ENG
Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Your Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Your Email	[REDACTED]
Your Social Media Handles	@thedamecat @catblcweho
Any Other Contact Information for You	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 30, 2023, 11:59PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Bert Champagne
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	www.facebook.com/bert.champagne
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>Bert worked for AIDS Walk Los Angeles, which is how this extraordinary man came into my life.</p> <p>Mr. Champagne has supported, helped, donated, and volunteered in many places in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York; it is hard to list all his contributions. I will focus on AIDS Walk LA; for over 20 years, he has led the Walk. The onsite guru for all AIDS Walk logistics. He helped to raise money for his own event. He helped to raise millions of dollars to fund services for AIDS organizations and non profits that serve our community.</p> <p>Mr. Champagne was a board member of the California Lesbian Project, which focused on lesbian health and raised over \$25,000 for them. When I asked him why do you want to support this CLP? His answer was they saved us when we were dying. I will never forget it, and I will always be thankful.</p> <p>Project Angel Food hand delivers meals to many who are homebound and lonely. Bert has been volunteering there for over a decade. I worked at Project Angel Food, and I share this to prove I was an eyewitness to his compassion and generosity. I saw him volunteer weekly, delivering meals, helping Vesna with Special Events, fundraising, and taking phone calls during Project Angel Food's two telethons on KTLA. Bert is the man who is the first person on the scene and the last to leave.</p> <p>During COVID 19, Bert Champagne spent his own money to purchase toothpaste, tissue, soap, gloves, masks, and toilet paper for Project Angel Food clients. He would add bags of necessities to the meal deliveries he made. To this day, the leadership and some staff still need to learn that he did tath for PAF clients.</p>

<p>Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.</p>	<p>He has help go raise money for many who live with HIV & AIDS in West Hollywood for nearly over 20 years.</p> <p>He has delivered Project Angel Food meals to clients in West Hollywood for ten years.</p> <p>He has volunteered at many small NPO's in West Hollywood from the Lesbian Project, the Jordon Rustine Coalition, No on Prop 8, and helped to organize many events in West Hollywood.</p>
<p>Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important</p>	<p>Throughout the 15+ years of knowing Bert, the most obvious trait that comes through is his care for others. Our professional and personal relationship started with our involvement with Project Angel Food and progressed to AIDS Walk and other endeavors throughout the community. Bert spreads his generosity, hard work and love in so many ways within the community. From the personal delivery of food to those in need (which always have goodies added to the delivery) to coordinating/managing major events that benefit many within West Hollywood and beyond. These and all the other projects, events, donations, etc., all come with no strings, hoopla or expectations, only the need and desire to help others. I feel privileged to know this generous, kind and down to earth human. His example should be brought to others so that it may expand even further. Vesna Fartek, former Project Angel Food Volunteer Manger and long time friend of Bert Champagne.</p>
<p>Your Name (Nominator)</p>	<p>Anne Marie Williams</p>
<p>Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Phone Number</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Email</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Social Media Handles</p>	<p>IG: @yepwilliams</p>
<p>Any Other Contact Information for You</p>	<p></p>



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Jan 31, 2023, 07:45PM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Robert Harrell
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	West Hollywood, CA
Nominee's Phone Number	TBA
Nominee's Email	TBA
Nominee's Social Media Handles	@RobertHarrell
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>In 2019 The LA Blade named Robert Harrell one of "3 young Angelenos making a difference Working for social justice and a fully inclusive city"</p> <p>Robert Harrell, a global diversity, equity, and inclusion strategist who has served as the Head of Talent/Talent Consultant at WORLDZ, and of leads diversity and inclusion efforts for LGBT Communities of Color at the Kenneth Roberts Agency. In 2015, he founded the I Love Me Foundation, a national organization that provides resources to LGBT survivors of sexual and domestic trauma. He currently serves as its president and chairman, and serves on several boards including the National Association of Black Journalists LA Chapter and Venice Pride.</p> <p>"My intention is to always be a liaison for the LGBT communities of color in both my professional and philanthropic efforts," he says. "To champion for the overlooked, undervalued, and the underserved. To act as a conduit for the voiceless and the forgotten in my community."</p> <p>Harrell advocates for what he says are the most pressing issues facing our LGBT communities of color hate crimes, homelessness, and mental health. He is vocal in the outcry over justice for the surging number of murders perpetrated against gay and transgender people of color, and he works to raise awareness about the devastating statistics around homelessness and LGBT youth, who are also disproportionately impacted by incarceration, sexual abuse, sex work and hate crimes.</p> <p>To address the mental health care needs of LGBT communities of</p>

	<p>color, he and a team have launched, the #YouGoodMan Initiative, a program through his foundation designed to promote “mental health focus, inner calm and a chance to soul search” for gay men of color. to include an empowerment brunch, wellness weekend summit, and mental health workshops.</p>
<p>Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.</p>	<p>Robert Harrell Diversity & Inclusion Marketing Expert & Content Creator:</p> <p>"Being labeled a Diversity & Inclusion Marketing Expert is a task that I do not take lightly. It is a role, I proudly step in because I wanted to see myself reflected in all aspects of business and entertainment. I don't mind being a culture disruptor and starting a conversation that will spark change for the greater good of humanity. I am where I am professional because of the support and love of great mentors and friends down through the years. It has not being easy at all. One of the greatest challenges I've had to overcome is just being included in the conversation of being invited to sit at the table. So I created my own table and invited others who looked like me to join so that “we” collective could create and change what we wanted to see."</p>
<p>Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important</p>	<p>"So many people deserve a shout out in my success. First to God. It sounds cliché but my faith has helped me navigate in times of uncertainty. Also, my mom, Vennice. Being raised by a single parent my mother definitely instilled in my siblings and I the value of education, being independent, and giving back as a community leader. As a marketing executive so many counselors and thought leaders known and unknown flood my mind. my college psych professor Professor Chante De'Loach who helped me to understand and articulate my learning disability.."</p>
<p>Your Name (Nominator)</p>	<p>Mj Godges</p>
<p>Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Phone Number</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Email</p>	<p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Your Social Media Handles</p>	
<p>Any Other Contact Information for You</p>	



Rainbow Key Awards Nomination Form

City of West Hollywood

Submitted On:

Feb 1, 2023, 12:02AM EST

Person or Organization Nominated	Rev. Dr. Steve Pieters
Nominee's Address (include City, State, and Zip Code)	
Nominee's Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Email	[REDACTED]
Nominee's Social Media Handles	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/steve.pieters1 IG: https://www.instagram.com/aspieters/
Any Other Contact Information for Nominee	
How Has This Nominee Contributed to the LGBTQ Community in West Hollywood?	<p>The Rev. Dr. Steve Pieters, a long time resident of West Hollywood, has been an AIDS activist for over 40 years. After being diagnosed with AIDS related complex (ARC) in 1982, and AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four Lymphoma in 1984, his remarkable story of recovery serves as an inspiring example of healing and hope.</p> <p>He brought national and international awareness to the AIDS epidemic when he was interviewed by Tammy Faye Bakker on The PTL Club during which they discussed his sexuality, coming out, diagnosis with AIDS, and the death of his partner.</p> <p>Steve's story was captured in the award winning film "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" (2021)</p>
Please Describe the Impact and Scope of This Nominee's Contributions.	<p>The Rev. Dr. A. Stephen Pieters is a long term survivor of AIDS. Diagnosed with AIDS related complex (ARC) in 1982, and AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four Lymphoma in 1984, his remarkable story of recovery serves as an inspiring example of healing and hope. He has been interviewed by the Los Angeles Sunday Times, Time magazine, Omni magazine, Life magazine, and numerous television talk and news shows including CNN, Headline News, Tammy's House Party with Tammy Faye Bakker, CBS This Morning, the Tom Snyder Show, America Talks Back, and Real Life with Jane Pauley. He is featured in the 2000 documentary, The Eyes of Tammy Faye, and he is portrayed in the 2021 feature film, The Eyes of Tammy Faye.</p> <p>In September 1985, he was a featured speaker at the first entertainment industry dinner AIDS benefit, given by Elizabeth Taylor and honoring former First Lady Betty Ford. In November 1987 he presented the Buddy of the Year Award to Whoopi Goldberg at APLA's</p>

third annual entertainment industry benefit. In the summer of 1990, he appeared as himself in the hit play, "AIDS US/II." His story also appears in the books, *Surviving AIDS* by Michael Callen, *Voices That Care* by Neal Hitchens, *Don't Be Afraid Anymore* by Rev. Troy D. Perry, and *I Love to Tell the Story*, by Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson.

Rev. Pieters was born and raised in Andover, Massachusetts, where his father chaired the Mathematics Department at Phillips Academy. Steve attended Phillips Andover in preparation for his theater studies at Northwestern University, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Speech in 1974.

In 1976, he joined Good Shepherd Parish Metropolitan Community Church in Chicago, where he decided to pursue a calling to the professional ministry. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1979, at which time he accepted a call as Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford, Connecticut.

In Hartford, he served on the Board of Directors of the Hill Center, Inc., and Center City Churches, and on the Executive Committee of the Sexual Minorities Task Force of the Capitol Region Conference of Churches. The Gay Switchboard for the region was kept in his home, and he was interviewed in the print media, as well as on many TV and radio shows as one of the few local gay activists.

In April 1982, Steve began experiencing the first symptoms of what we now know as HIV infection, but then was called GRID: Gay Related Immunodeficiency. Steve resigned his position in Hartford, and moved to Los Angeles, where he experienced a series of illnesses, including hepatitis, cytomegalovirus, mononucleosis, and pneumonia. That led to his diagnosed with ARC: AIDS related complex. In April 1984, he was diagnosed with AIDS/Kaposi's Sarcoma and stage four lymphoma, and he was told by one health professional that he would not live to see 1985.

There were no treatments available, and his doctor, Alexandra M. Levine, M.D., told him, "You in the church have more to offer at this point than we do in medicine." She also challenged him to "do everything you can to create the conditions for medication to work when we find something," adding, "If 0.001% end up surviving AIDS, than why not believe that you will be among that 0.001%, and act accordingly?"

In 1985, he became "patient number 1" on the first anti viral drug trial to treat HIV. He took suramin for a total of 39 weeks. Within six weeks of treatment with suramin, both cancers went into complete remission. Due to toxic side effects, the drug was discontinued for use against AIDS. However, Rev. Pieters continues to enjoy a

complete remission of his cancers, according to his physician, Alexandra M. Levine, M.D., Chief Medical Officer of City Of Hope.

Since his diagnosis, Rev. Pieters has served on the Boards of Directors of AIDS Project Los Angeles, the AIDS Interfaith Council of Southern California, the AIDS National Interfaith Network (USA), and the first Los Angeles City/County AIDS Task Force, and was Field Director for the AIDS Ministry of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches from 1987 to 1997. He has written a series of articles for Journey magazine about his experiences with AIDS, which have been collected with other writings of Rev. Pieters' in the book, I'm Still Dancing.

Rev. Pieters was one of twelve guests at the first AIDS Prayer Breakfast at the White House with U.S. President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, and National AIDS Policy Coordinator Kristine Gebbie on November 30, 1993. The President talked about Rev. Pieters in his World AIDS Day speech on December 1, 1993.

Rev. Pieters has received awards for his ministry in the AIDS crisis from the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches; Evangelicals Together, Inc.; the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles; The Lazarus Project of the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church; and the West Hollywood City Council. In 1989 he received an Honorary Doctor of Ministry Degree from Samaritan College, the seminary of the Metropolitan Community Churches. In 1990, he received the prestigious Sheldon Andelson Award from the Stonewall Democratic Club, and the Sandra L. Robinson Award from Community Unity in Dayton, Ohio.

Rev. Pieters received an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Antioch University in 2003, and subsequently worked as a psychotherapist for the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center; Alternatives, Inc.; Teen Line; and the Westminster Counseling Center.

Reverend Pieters has been a singing member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles since 1994. From 1994-99, he served on their Board of Directors, and as Chair of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles Board from 1997-99. With the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, he has performed in some of the great concert halls of the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York (in 1994 and 2019), Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

Reverend Pieters has served as Staff Clergy at Founders Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles. He has traveled the world, teaching, preaching, and sharing his belief in God's healing and sustaining power while living with HIV/AIDS. Everywhere he spoke, he carried a fairy wand to teach about the importance of

believing in fairies when so many good fairies were dying. It symbolized the importance of believing in ourselves enough to do the work of healing, whether that be healing into life, or healing into death.

In October 2019, examples of his work in AIDS Ministry and of his life as a person with HIV/AIDS were placed in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Included in that collection is his fairy wand.

Please Include Any Other Information You Feel is Important

I met Steve through the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and over the years, have become dear friends. His life has been filled with compassionate activism and to many in the recovery community, he continues to be a light for those in need. This past fall, Steve was diagnosed with a new stage 4 cancer. And now he's in for another fit of his life... again.

Your Name (Nominator)

Jason Frazier

Your Address (include City, State and Zip Code)

[REDACTED]

Your Phone Number

[REDACTED]

Your Email

[REDACTED]

Your Social Media Handles

@jasfraz

Any Other Contact Information for You

[REDACTED]