

Akron PRIDE 2025 Guide



AKRONPRIDEFESTIVAL.ORG

STEERING COMMITTEE



EVENT COORDINATORS	BRIAN LAMODA-GENET (CHAIR) & JULIE BECKERT (CO-CHAIR)
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5K RUN	MICHAEL DAVIDS ROBBIE FOX
EMERITUS	CINDY CHRISTMAN

ABOUT AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL IS AN OPEN CELEBRATION OF MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, AND INFORMATION FOCUSED ON PROMOTING EQUALITY AND INCLUSION OF ALL PEOPLE. THE MISSION OF AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL IS TO UNIFY AND AFFIRM THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND ALLIES IN CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY AND PROMOTING OUR LIKENESS. WE PROMOTE ACCEPTANCE OF ALL INDIVIDUALS BY DEFENDING HUMAN EQUITY.

OUR FISCAL SPONSOR

THE MISSION OF THE COMMUNITY AIDS NETWORK AKRON PRIDE INITIATIVE (CANAPI), A 501(c)3 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, IS TO SERVE AND PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUESTIONING (LGBTQ) COMMUNITY AND PERSONS AT RISK AND/OR AFFECTED BY HIV THROUGH EDUCATION, SUPPORT SERVICES, QUALITY HOUSING, AND ADVOCACY. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CANAPI, VISIT WWW.CANAPI.ORG.

AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL PRESENTS

AUGUST 23RD



Akron

PRIDE *2025*
Festival

PERFORMANCES BY

DAVID ARCHULETA
. ONYA NURVE . SUZIE TOOT .



LOCK3 + MAIN STREET | DOWNTOWN

AKRONPRIDEFESTIVAL.ORG



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AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

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2025 AKRON EQUITY
MARCH**



EXECUTIVE
ILENE SHAPIRO



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Kristen M.
Scalise CPA, CFE
Summit County Fiscal Officer

Celebrating those who make Akron brilliant.

At PNC, we're proud to live and work
among the people and organizations
that dedicate themselves to making
our communities brilliant.



BRILLIANTLY
BORING
SINCE 1865SM



THANK YOU, AKRON PRIDE!



take
pride





PHOTOS BY KAREN SCHIELY

2025 APF DRAG BATTLE



Hope starts here.

www.admboard.org



Phil
Montgomery

— for AKRON SCHOOL BOARD —

“My finance background and deep community relationships will help our APS Board better serve our children, their families, and their educators.”

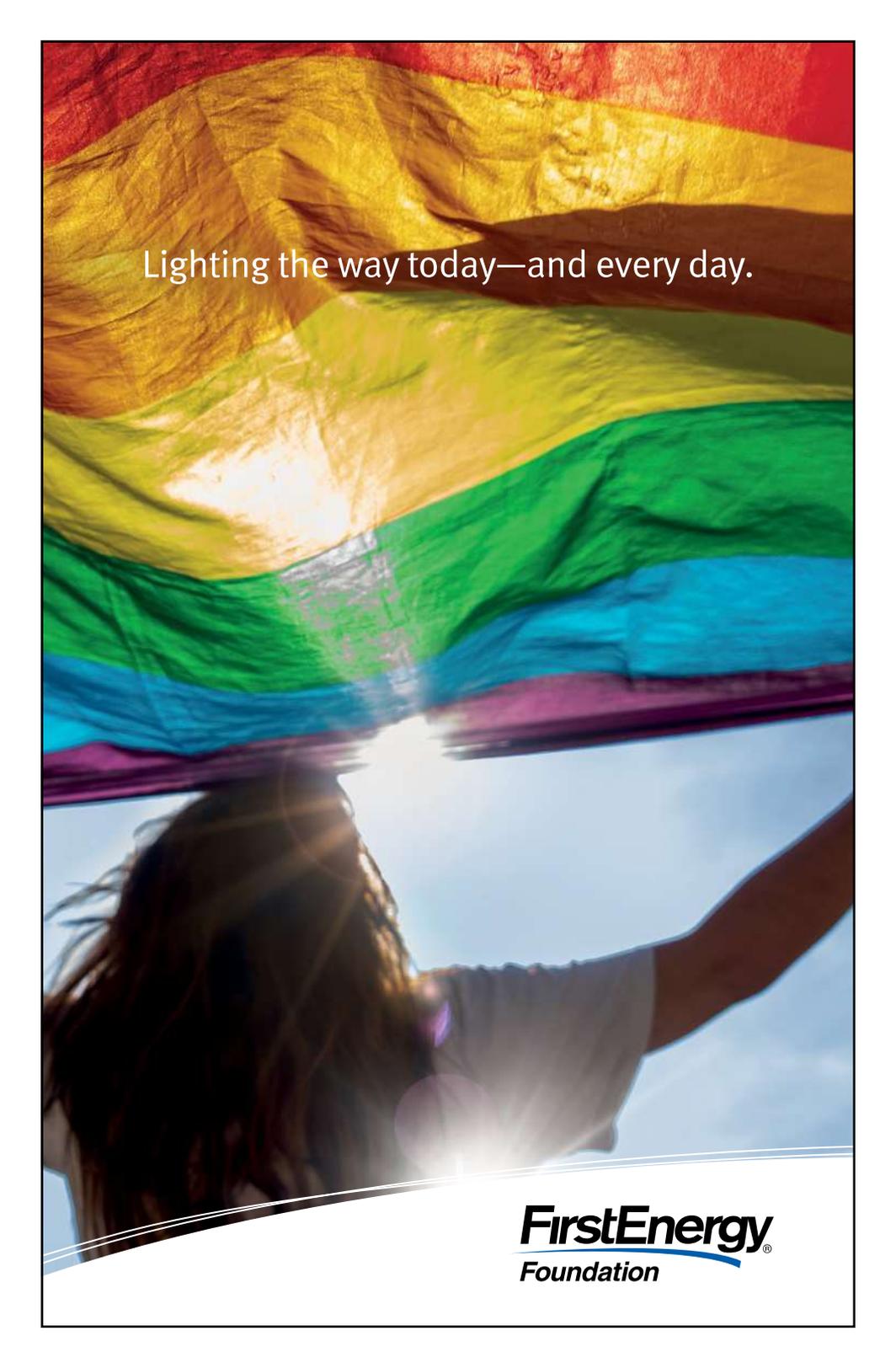
ElectPhilMontgomery.com

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Ready to let
our pride
shine.

Citizens is proud to support the Akron
Pride Festival.

A photograph of a person from behind, holding a large rainbow flag high against a bright sun. The sun is positioned behind the flag, creating a lens flare and illuminating the fabric. The person's hair is long and dark, and they are wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The background is a clear blue sky.

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(behind Acme #1)



GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

An Akron Community Foundation LGBTQ+ Fund 

Since 2001, the Gay Community Endowment Fund has reinvested nearly \$920,000 in the Greater Akron LGBTQ+ community. Thank you for empowering our mission for nearly 25 years.

2025 GRANT RECIPIENTS

AKRON AIDS COLLABORATIVE	KENT STATE UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
AKRON CHILDREN'S	PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER OHIO
AKRON CIVIC THEATRE	SUMMIT COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
AKRON MARATHON	TRANS JOY AKRON
THE BUCKEYE FLAME	UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FOUNDATION
CANAPI	VANTAGE AGING
CLAPP FOR ART	WHOLE HUMAN PROJECT
GLSEN	
NORTHEAST OHIO	

Learn more at akroncf.org/GCEFgrants

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24TH ANNUAL

SUGAR PLUM TOUR

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LIVE TOUR:
Sun. Dec. 7, 2025

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**LIVE OR
VIRTUAL TOUR:**
\$40*

BOTH TOURS:
\$65*

**PATRON PARTY
BUNDLE:**
\$250*

INCLUDES THE LIVE
AND VIRTUAL TOUR
AND PATRON PARTY

*Plus online processing fees. All sales are final. Early bird pricing ends Oct. 31.



Proceeds support the Gay Community
Endowment Fund's grantmaking.

**GAY COMMUNITY
ENDOWMENT FUND**
An Akron Community Foundation LGBTQ+ Fund 



Tickets and sponsorships can be
purchased online starting Aug. 23.

sugarplumtour.org | 330-376-8522

exhale

ADVANCING LIVED EQUALITY



PHOTOS BY SHANE WYNN





*Proud Sponsors
of
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2025*

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&
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Elliot Kolkovich
Summit County Prosecutor

We are proud to sponsor Akron Pride as they strive to unify and affirm the LGBTQ+ community and promote acceptance of all individuals by defending equality.

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The Azalea Institute offers mental health and wellness services, with clinicians specializing in complex trauma, PTSD, relationship stress, depression, and anxiety. All clinicians are trained in EMDR and adopt a trauma-informed, multicultural approach. Services include individual, family, relationship, and group counseling, as well as CEU training, supervision, and consulting for professionals. Telehealth and in-office sessions are available.

Contact Us

SCAN



info@azaleainstitute.com



330-510-4900

HAPPY PRIDE AKRON!

FROM MAYOR SHAMMAS MALIK &
THE CITY OF AKRON



AUGUST 23RD

THE 2025 EQUITY MARCH ON MAIN ST.



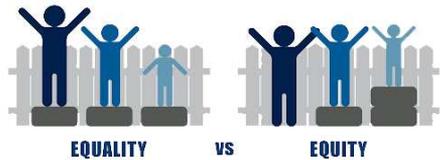
Akron Pride Festival's Annual March ("The Akron Equity March") is a celebration of our lives and our community. Join us as we march to show that Akron as a whole, supports equality and equity for all people! The March will kick off the 2025 Akron Pride Festival with step off Downtown on Main Street (from Spaghetti Warehouse) at 10 a.m. and head towards LOCK3 and Cascade Plaza.



EQUALITY VS EQUITY

The Akron Equity March emphasizes the difference between equality and equity.

In short, "equality" refers to the equal distribution of (the same) resources to everyone, whereas "equity" refers to the distribution of resources based on an individual person's needs.



"UNITED AS ONE"

Our main theme for this year's Equity March is "United As One". We want to continue to bring focus to all members of our community and intersectionality with the understanding that any oppression or discrimination experienced by one community impacts other communities too.

Standing together as a community and becoming active in other marginalized community issues is how we achieve change.

We march for our ninth year to demonstrate that Akron - OUR city, OUR home - is a safe and equitable community for all! There is strength in numbers when we are United As One!





THE J.M. SMUCKER

BE BOLD, BE KIND

PR

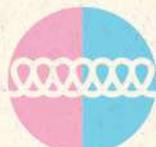
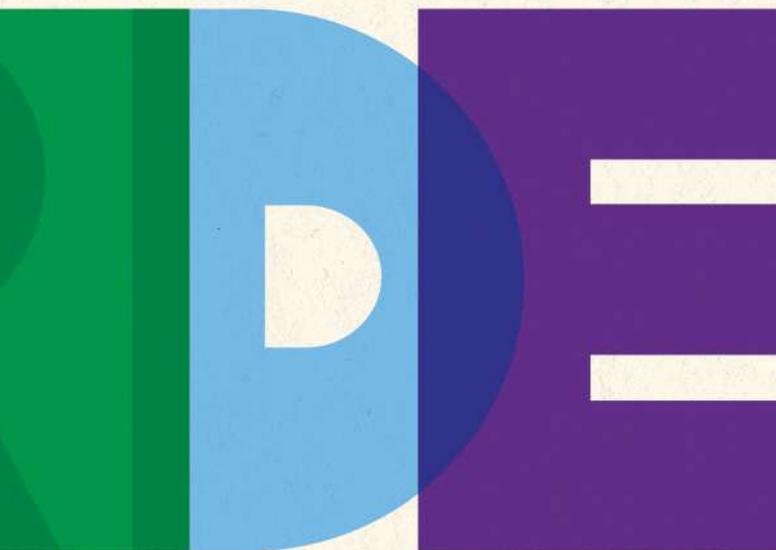


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AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

LOCK3 STAGE

- 10:00 AM DJ HONK
11:00 AM SINGOUT
12:00 PM DREAMSTATES
1:00 PM D.AIRY
2:00 PM ANTHONY COVATTA
2:30 PM DJ NIKOLINA
3:00 PM DRAG SHOW FT.
SUZIE TOOT
5:30 PM MTP: THE CAST OF
HAIRSPRAY
6:30 PM DAVID ARCHULETA
7:30 PM DRAG SHOW FT.
ONYA NURVE
10:00 PM FIREWORKS
SPONSORED BY



KNIGHT
FOUNDATION



EQUITY STAGE

- 11:30 AM TIMI FUNK
12:30 PM MIA HERRERA
1:30 PM ELEK: TRIK DANCE CREW
2:30 PM WEDNESDAY
DEMONSTRATION
3:30 PM GIRL COLOGNE
4:30 PM KROWN BAY
5:30 PM THE LAST GO ROUND
BAND
6:30 PM EDWEN

EQUITY MARCH

- 10:00 AM STEP-OFF FROM
SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE

AUGUST 23RD

THE 2025 AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL



The Akron Pride Festival is a day of fun and celebration in the name of equity. The festival is gearing up to bring a wide range of entertainment and experiences for all ages.

Attracting over 45,000 attendees in 2024, festival goers will again be connected to a vast array of local and out-of-state exhibitors (comprised of corporate groups, community organizations, craft merchants, and more) as well as a diverse lineup of food purveyors offering tasty treats for festival patrons to enjoy throughout the day.

The 2025 Akron Pride Festival will conclude with a fireworks show sponsored by Downtown Akron Partnership and The Johns S. and James L. Knight Foundation.



WHEN & WHERE

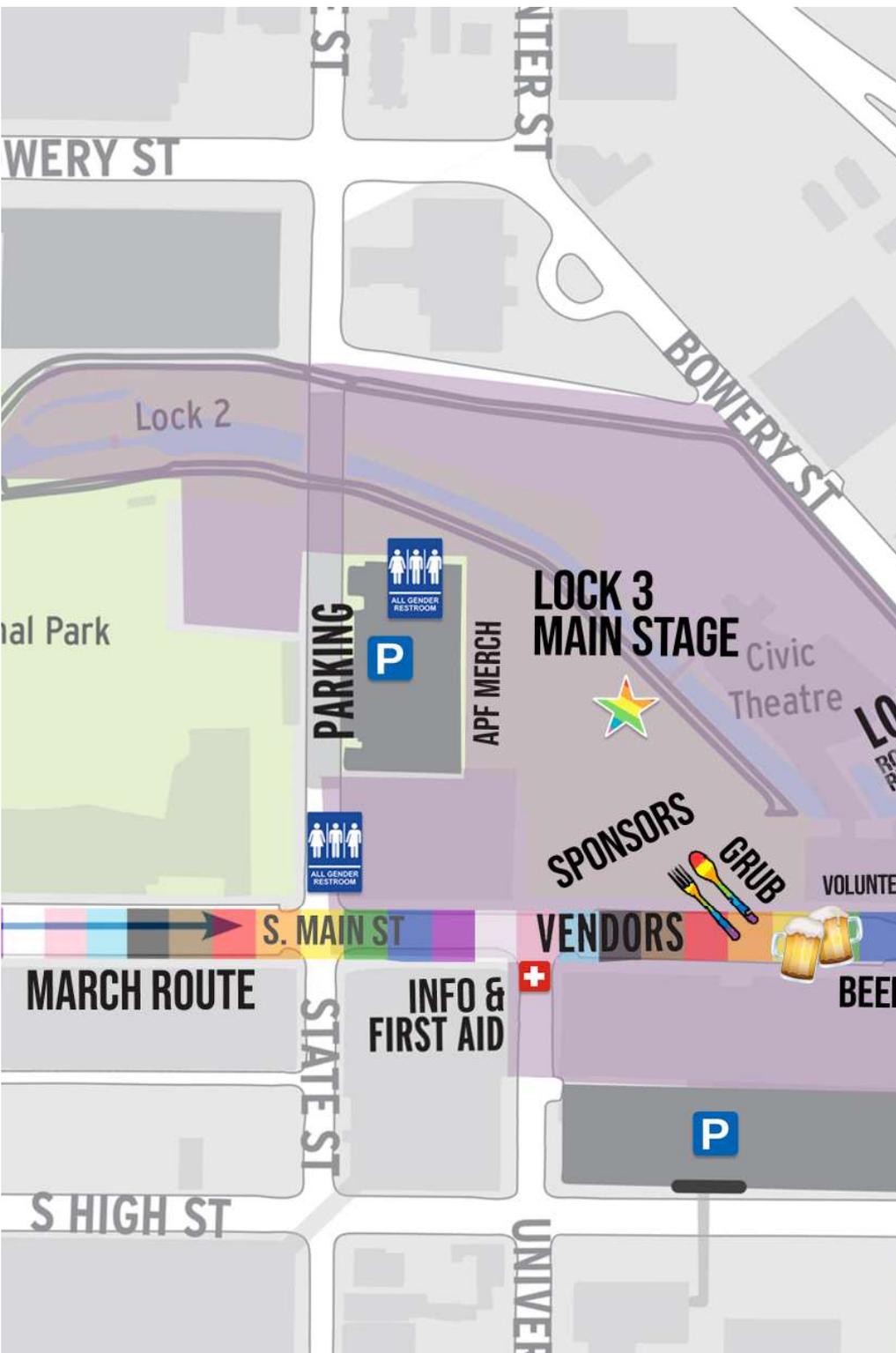
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD | 10 AM - 10 PM
DOWNTOWN AKRON | MAIN STREET
LOCK 3 & CASCADE PLAZA

The day's events are free and open to all. Free parking at City and County decks surrounding the festival and Metro RTA will be providing free rides to festival goers throughout the day.

PRIDE HEROES (KIDS') ZONE

Visit the Pride Kids' Zone at Cascade Plaza from 11:00am to 3:00 pm. Families and children of all ages can enjoy free activities, including a rock climbing wall, trampoline bungee jumping, photobooth, and inflatable slides and games! Kids can also enjoy activities and giveaways provided by the Akron Summit County Public Library and Akron Public Schools.





WERY ST

ST

INTER ST

BOWERY ST

Lock 2

al Park

PARKING



APF MERCH

LOCK 3
MAIN STAGE



Civic Theatre



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STATE ST



S HIGH ST

UNIVER



(LEEWAY)

ASH ST

QUAKER ST



BUCK 4
RECOVERY

4



SMUCKERS PLAZA
AT CASCADE

MILL ST



ALL GENDER
RESTROOM



GRUB

S. MAIN ST

VENDORS



BEER



EQUITY STAGE



ALL GENDER
RESTROOM

Akron-Sun
Publi

City Hall



BOWERY ST

J.S. V

DAVID ARCHULETA

Since first stepping into the pop spotlight at age 17, David Archuleta has embodied the kind of genuine star power that can't be manufactured. After years of dazzling audiences with his radiant personality and phenomenal voice—a journey that's included turning out multiple platinum-selling hits, achieving global acclaim as a captivating live performer, and emerging as an undeniable fixture on the pop-culture scene—the Miami-born singer/songwriter experienced a major personal transformation that radically altered his identity as an artist.

With his latest triumphs including winning the 2024 GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Breakthrough Music Artist and landing a book deal for his forthcoming memoir, Archuleta first moved toward the unfiltered truth of his new material with a revelatory writing trip to Toronto in late 2022. "It was a really magical week where I started exploring topics I'd never discussed before in my music, like falling in love with a man and leaving my faith," says the L.A.-based artist, who came out in 2021. "In a way it was scary, but mostly it was thrilling to do what would have seemed impossible to the person I used to be. I realized I don't have to hide who I am anymore."

Naming such eclectic artists as Tracy Chapman, indie-pop singer/songwriter Maddie Zahm, and Nigerian musician Tems among his current inspirations, Archuleta is continuing to unveil more of his inner life in his songwriting. With his latest single, "Crème Brûlée," David continues to share new sides of himself and has hit a new chord with pop music lovers. Over the next several months David will reveal more new music, he notes that uncovering his most authentic voice has involved finding self-assurance in unexpected places.



ONYA NURVE

Onya Nurve is a Cleveland-based drag queen, theater actor, and visual artist who rose to national fame as the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race, Season 17. Known for her theatrical flair, stunning artistry, and unapologetic black excellence, Onya captivated audiences with four maxi-challenge wins and a show-stopping Snatch Game appearance as Eddie Murphy. Before drag, Onya earned a BFA in Painting and starred in musicals such as *Shrek* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Onya now champions queer and POC artists through community work with Haus of Transcendent, using her platform to uplift others with authenticity, compassion, and powerhouse performance skills.



SUZIE TOOT

Suzie Toot is a genderfluid drag performer and musical theater artist who rose to fame on RuPaul's Drag Race, Season 17. Born in Wellington, Florida, Suzie grew up Jewish and began performing at the age of eight, eventually earning a BFA in Musical Theater. Known for her vintage flair and tap-dancing skills, she describes her style as "the cross section between Betty Boop and Lucille Ball." Through eliminated in episode 14, she later won the "She Done Already Done Had Herses" crown. Suzie continues her career in cabaret, musical comedy, and film, including a role in *Big Easy Queens*.



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PRIDE 2024

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Our Mission
To create a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

Supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Greater Akron since 1982.

 www.pflagakron.com

 pflagakron@gmail.com

 [@pflagakron](https://www.facebook.com/pflagakron)



Monthly Support Group meetings on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Meeting location:
292 E. Market St., Akron OH 44308
inside First Congregational Church of Akron



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Community Akron
AIDS Pride
Network Initiative

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Great Trail Council



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open for pride



12:00PM - 6:00PM
PRIDE DRINK SPECIALS



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SUNDAY FUN DAY

**TRANS JOY AKRON
BENEFIT BRUNCH**



11AM-2PM DRAG & MUSICAL
PERFORMANCES

NORTHSIDE MARKETPLACE



BRUNCH & LIVE MUSIC

11AM-3PM BRUNCH 12-2PM LIVE MUSIC
JILLY'S MUSIC ROOM



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RIDE WITH PRIDE

METRO buses are **FREE** on Saturday, August **23** in celebration of the Akron Pride Festival!

For more information on Akron Pride Festival, visit akronpridefestival.org.



330.762.0341 | yourmetrobus.org

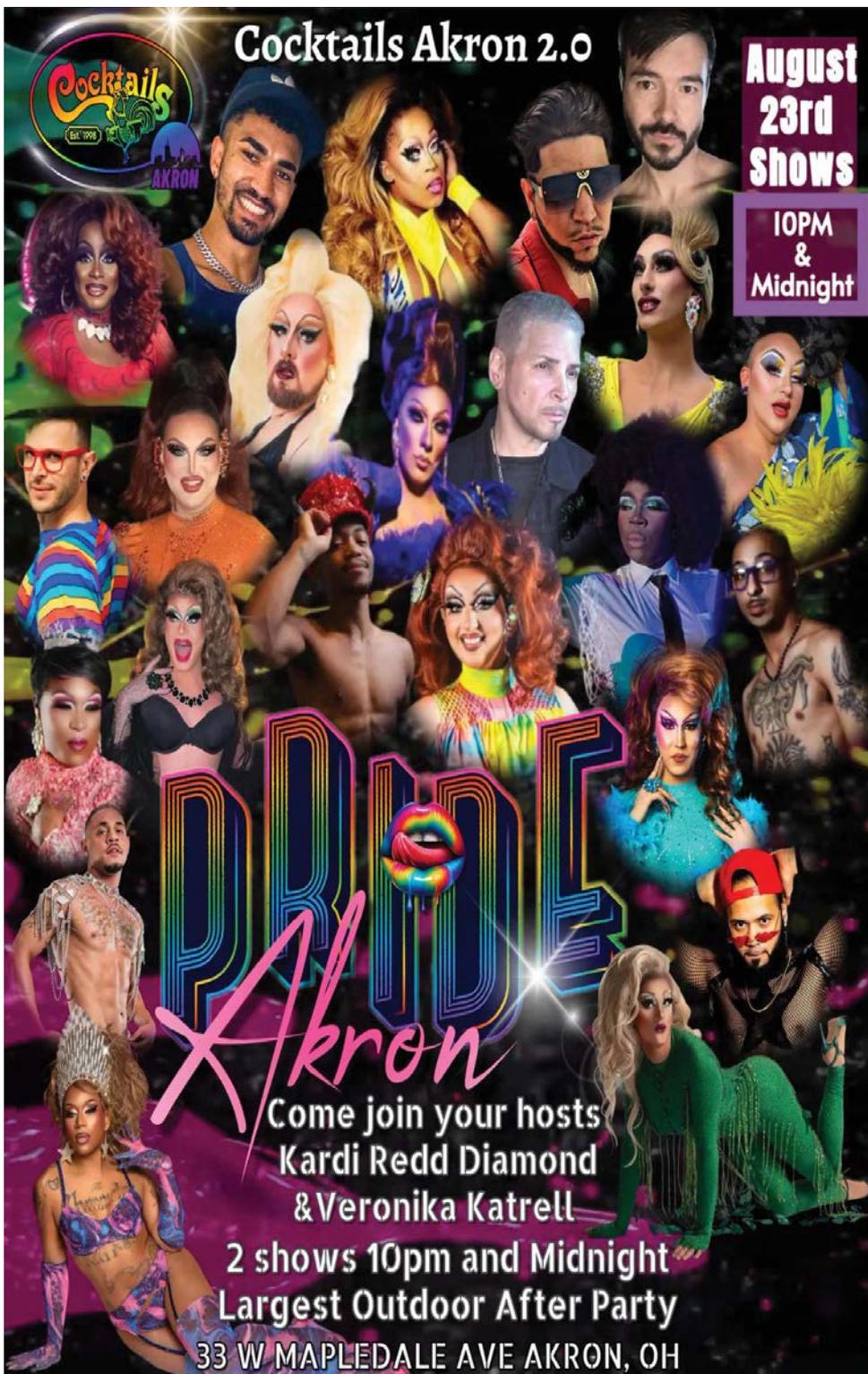




Cocktails Akron 2.0

August
23rd
Shows

10PM
&
Midnight



PRIDE Akron

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& Veronika Katrell

2 shows 10pm and Midnight
Largest Outdoor After Party

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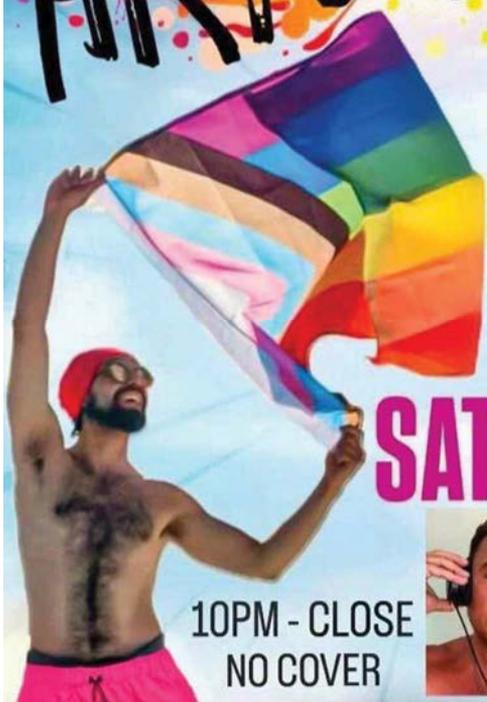
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AKRON PRIDE



after pride
DANCE
Party

SATURDAY 08.23

10PM - CLOSE
NO COVER



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Community Akron
AIDS Pride
Network Initiative



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