

JF

10 YEARS
OF
UNITY +
CELEBRATION

AKRON PRIDE GUIDE

(yes, it rhymes)



2026

AKRONPRIDEFESTIVAL.ORG



AP
10 

To Whom it may
Concern;
You are cordially
invited to
Celebrate Ten Years
of Xkron
Pride

Sincerely,
all
Magic
Xkronites
P.S. We Love You 

STEERING COMMITTEE

5K RUN	ROBBIE FOX & MICHAEL DAVIDS
BEVERAGE	STEPHANIE MARSH
CHILDREN'S AREA	BECKY ORAM
DEVELOPMENT	JULIE BECKERT & ROBBIE FOX
ENTERTAINMENT	JOSH PARKS & MARIA ESPINOSA
FINANCE	PHIL MONTGOMERY & JULIE BECKERT
MARCH	LUCAS BARSTOW & LILY DUSSEAU
MARKETING	CASSANDRA WARREN & JULIE BECKERT
MERCH	JILL MIGONE
SAFETY & SERVICES	ANGELA FALCONE & LAURI NATKO
VENDING	ROBBIE FOX & MORGAN HESKETT
VOLUNTEERS	MORGAN HESKETT
EVENT CHAIRS	BRIAN LAMODA-GENET & JULIE BECKERT
EMERITUS	CINDY CHRISTMAN
FEATURED ARTIST	JEFFREY FULVIMARI

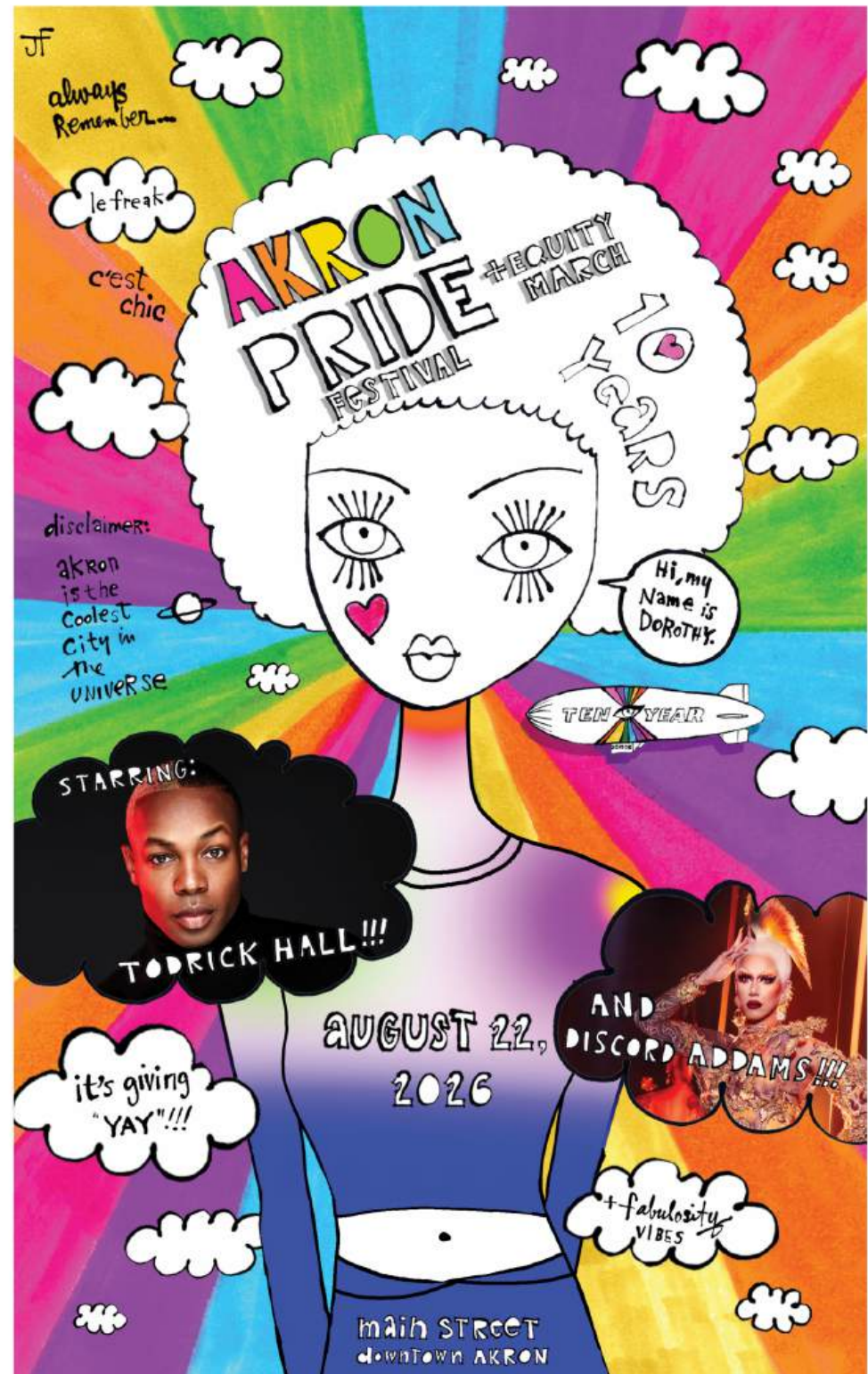
AKRON PRIDE
10 YEARS & PRIDE

ABOUT AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING ITS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY, THE 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 SERVICE 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.





THE J.M. SMUCKER Co

BE BOLD, BE KIND & THRIVE WITH

PRIDE



To learn more about our Company,
visit jmsmucker.com/about/a-workplace-for-all

Together With Pride.



Ready to let
our pride
shine.

Citizens is proud to support the Akron
Pride Festival.

10 REASONS TO BE EXTRA:

(by jeffrey fulvini)

- 1: You're from AKRON.
- 2: You're IN AKRON.
- 3: You've finally realized that AKRON is a magical place.
- 4: You're Alive.
- 5: It's a beautiful day.



- 6: Art exists.
- 7: Music exists
- 8: art and Music often Combine at Festivals
- 9: You're out and proud (or your friend is).
- 10: The AKRON PRIDE festival is celebrating its 10 year anniversary this year.





Your Pride
Needs You

Equitas Health & You. Better Together.

Primary Care • Pharmacy • Specialized HIV/AIDS Care • PrEP/DoxyPEP
Counseling • Gender Affirming Care • Support Groups

EquitasHealth.com | (833) 378-4827



THANK YOU, AKRON PRIDE!



AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

**CONGRATULATIONS!
2026 AKRON EQUITY
MARCH**

EXECUTIVE

ILENE SHAPIRO



**Akron Mayor Shammias Malik
and the City of Akron are
proud to celebrate 10 Years
of the Akron Pride Festival!**



CITY OF
Akron
ESTABLISHED 1825



**PROUDLY
SERVING
SUMMIT
COUNTY
RESIDENTS**



Scalise CPA, CFE
Summit County Fiscal Officer

Teen PRIDE NIGHTS

Akron
RECREATION & PARKS

**AT
FIRESTONE PARK
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

**A safe and
accepting place
for teens in the
LGBTQ+ community
and their allies
to hang out
with others.**

**Recreational and
social activities
each month!**

For more information, please call
the community center at
(330) 375-2806

2026 SCHEDULE

6:00–8:00 PM:

- ★ **FRIDAY, JUNE 12**
- ★ **FRIDAY, JULY 10**
- ★ **FRIDAY, AUGUST 14**
- ★ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**
- ★ **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**
- ★ **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**
- ★ **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11**

Firestone Park Community Center
1480 Girard St. ★ Akron, OH 44301

11

GAY
PEOPLE
ARE
GOOD
PEOPLE.

AKRON PRIDE
FESTIVAL 2026

From Jesse & Jon Bon Jovi
HAMPTON WATER®
Rose



PROUD PARTNER OF
IT GETS BETTER®

HAMPTON WATER IS PROUD TO SUPPORT *IT GETS BETTER* IN ITS MISSION TO UPLIFT, EMPOWER, AND CONNECT LGBTQ+ YOUTH AROUND THE GLOBE.



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BOARD**
COUNTY OF SUMMIT
ALCOHOL, DRUG ADDICTION &
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



CIRCLE OF HOPE

**PROUD
SUPPORTERS OF
THE AKRON PRIDE
FESTIVAL**

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE



www.admboard.org

**LIVE
FOREVER**
BUILD YOUR LEGACY WITH *pride.*



FIND OUT HOW



**AKRON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

**A safe space
to hope, heal,
and recover.**





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ADDICTION RECOVERY
Call 330.644.4095 Visit ibh.org



More love.

Proud supporter of the
Akron Pride Festival





**YOUR GIFT GOES
TWICE AS FAR**

**EVERY MONTHLY GIFT IS MATCHED
DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR.**

YOUR \$10 BECOMES \$20. \$25 BECOMES \$50.

**YOUR MONTHLY GIFT SUPPORTS HOUSING
ASSISTANCE, HIV TESTING AND PREVENTION,
AND COMMUNITY CARE ACROSS GREATER AKRON!**

**LEARN MORE AT:
[CANAPI.ORG/PRIDE-IN-ACTION](https://canapi.org/pride-in-action)**



SCAN ME

**CANAPI
PRIDE IN ACTION**



**Akron
LGBTQ+ & ALLY
Youth Groups**

LGBTQ+ AND SAME GENDER LOVING
FACILITATORS

Crafts Pizza Party BRAND NEW - PLEASE JOIN US! Games Relax
Attend on your own or with friends!

HIGH SCHOOL
MEETS 1ST THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH
NEXT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3
6 - 8 P.M.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
MEETS 4TH THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH
NEXT MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24
5 - 7 P.M.

LOCATION:
THE BAYARD RUSTIN LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER
652 WEST EXCHANGE
QUESTIONS?
TRANSJOYAKRON@GMAIL.COM

**TJA
TRANS JOY AKRON**

Trans Joy Akron's mission is to
build a thriving, meaningfully
inclusive trans+ community.
We provide affirming spaces
for visibility and social
connection, empower future
leaders, and create educational
opportunities so trans people
feel safe, supported, and
appreciated.

Happy Pride! 
we hope to see you at one
of our upcoming events



@transjoyakron
transjoyakron@gmail.com
<https://linktr.ee/transjoyakron>

NEW DATE! Volunteer Here! 

**TRANS PRIDE
AT THE PARK**
COOKOUT AND FIELD DAY

Sunday, September 27, 2026
2 - 5 p.m. at Hardesty Park in Akron

Vegan and GF Options Casual Games Competitive Games

NO PETS PLEASE,
FOR THE COMFORT OF ALL GUESTS

Free! All Ages Rain or Shine

Thank you to our Community Partners!

TJA **plexus** **BTMOHio** **Equitas Health** **AKRON**

**It's Trans Joy's
Birthday**
& YOURS, too!

Friday, August 28
6-8pm

Bayard Rustin Center
652 W. Exchange Street in Akron!

Join us at August's monthly meetup for
cake, party games, goody bags, and all of
the kids' party themes you wanted but
could never have!

TJA

JF



TRANS
HUMANS
DESERVE
BETTER
AND THEY
SHOULDN'T HAVE
TO ASK...

respect
is the Bare
MINIMUM.



JF

MAGIC
AKRONITE } OK?



AKRON PRIDE
FESTIVAL 2026



THE 2026 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 2026 Akron Pride Festival with step off Downtown on Main Street (fka Spaghetti Warehouse) at 10 a.m. and head towards LOCK3 and Cascade Plaza.

"COMMON GROUND"

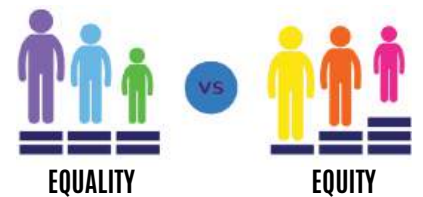
The theme for this year's Equity March is "Common Ground". We want to continue to bring focus to all members of our community and intersectionality with the understanding that any oppression or discrimination experienced by one community impacts other communities too.

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

We march for our 10th year to demonstrate that Akron - OUR city, OUR **HOME** - is a safe and equitable community for all! There is strength in numbers when we recognize we are on Common Ground.

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.



And now... a message from Dorothy....

Hi my
name is
Dorothy

you may
have
seen me...

AKRON
PRIDE

10
YEARS

I live
over the
rainbow

I'm this
year's AKRON
PRIDE
SPOKES MODEL

AKRON:
uncanny in
the coolest
way

Whether
you're happy,
carefree
or gay...

The PRIDE
FESTIVAL
Committee,
and Jeffrey Fulbright,
the artist who
drew me...

Wouldn't
have it any
other
way

(by the way)
enjoy your
day...

This is
where we
find ourselves
today

If you're
here (or unapologet-
ically QUEER,
or just a dear

AKRON PRIDE
2020



What exactly is a *Jeff* Fulvimari?

I went to NORTH HIGH.

Let's GOOGLE IT...

Dearest,

MAGIC AKRONITE

you may be wondering what is going on, what is behind the new look of AKRON PRIDE?

Jeffrey Fulvimari is joining forces with AKRON PRIDE

we are creating a new year-round Pride Campaign called MAGIC AKRONITE, to bring out the MAGIC AKRONITE in all of us... in YOU!

Jeffrey Fulvimari is a prominent American illustrator, designer, and former model known for his distinctive, playful, and highly stylized pop-art illustrations. His iconic work—characterized by bold lines and large, soulful eyes—has left a lasting impact on fashion, advertising, and children's literature. Born in Akron, Ohio, he went on to study at the Cleveland Institute of Art and Cooper Union in New York City. In the mid-1990s, he rose to fame both behind the canvas and in front of the camera, uniquely establishing himself as a top-tier model while simultaneously establishing a career as a top-tier illustrator. @ Goodreads

Major Career Highlights

- **Collaboration with Madonna:** Fulvimari gained widespread international recognition for illustrating Madonna's best-selling children's book series, *The English Roses*. @ Koko Art Agency

we are also creating a digital storefront, where new product drops will allow you to wear your AKRON PRIDE year round as well!

stay tuned: <http://akronpride.bigcartel.com>

i have been all over the world, and i am here to tell you that Akron is an amazing place to call home!

ODE TO YOU

I'm So honored to be back HOME Doing PRIDE!!!

stay tuned for exciting details of this one of a kind situation, making AKRON PRIDE a lifestyle we can all enjoy!

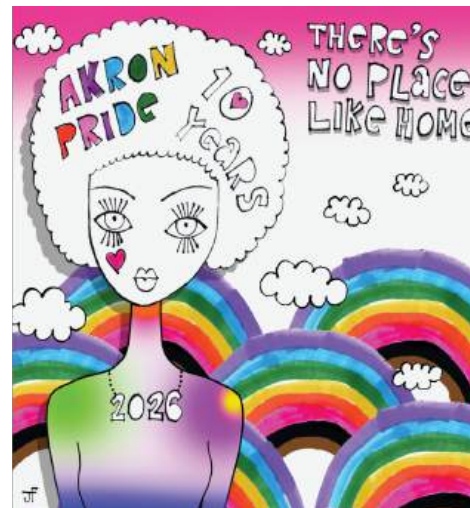
#beproudofwho you are

#beproudofwhere you live

dedicated to the magic akronite in YOU!

facebook and instagram: @akronpridefestival and @jeffreymfulvimari

THERE'S
NO
US VS. THEM.
WG ARG
THEM.



DOGGIES, DRINKS & DISCO!

Akron Pride Festival is expanding its 10th Anniversary celebration with a new pet-friendly experience: Doggies, Drinks & Disco! Designed as a welcoming gathering space for Pride attendees and their furry companions, Disco Dogs will transform Lock 4 into a place to relax, socialize, and celebrate with friends—both two-legged and four-legged. Guests can enjoy Pride-themed beverages, DJ, an interactive photo booth, and the Disco Dogs Pet Parade, featuring some of the community's most fabulous pets. Attendees are encouraged to dress their pets in colorful Pride-inspired outfits and celebrate the joy, creativity, and inclusiveness that make Akron Pride special.

THE 2026 AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

WHEN & WHERE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND | 10 AM - 10 PM
DOWNTOWN AKRON | MAIN STREET
LOCK 3 & CASCADE PLAZA

The Akron Pride Festival proudly celebrates its 10th Anniversary in 2026, marking a decade of visibility, advocacy, and community with its largest celebration to date. This milestone year embraces the theme 'Home'; honoring the journey of LGBTQ+ individuals who have found belonging, acceptance, and community in Akron.

What began as a grassroots gathering has grown into one of Ohio's premier Pride celebrations, welcoming tens of thousands of attendees each year to Downtown Akron for a day of celebration, entertainment, education, and inclusivity.

The 2026 festival brings an exciting entertainment lineup headlined by internationally acclaimed performer, Todrick Hall, national fan-favorite and Akron native drag entertainer, Discord Addams, along with performances by local and regional musicians, drag artists, dancers, and community theater groups throughout the day. The annual Equity March will once again lead participants into the heart of the festival, reaffirming Akron Pride's commitment to equality, inclusion, and visibility.

The day's events are free and open to all. Free parking at City and County decks surround the festival and Metro RTA will be providing free rides to festival goes 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. All ages welcome!

TODRICK HALL

Todrick Hall is a multi-talented singer, rapper, actor, director, choreographer, and social media personality who rose to prominence on and after his appearance on the ninth season of American Idol. He later developed a YouTube following with original content and became a resident choreographer and judge on RuPaul's Drag Race. Hall has starred in multiple Broadway productions and has written, co-produced, and released eighteen studio albums. In addition to his many achievements, he is an advocate for organizations like Broadway Cares | Equity Fights Aids, Covenant House, Black Queer Town Hall, and the Ali Forney Center. Todrick is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and champions every rebel, free-thinker, and dreamer to raise their voice and own their power!



DISCORD ADDAMS

Discord Addams grew up in Akron, OH. She first got into drag in 2011 and incorporated her love of punk and alternative culture into her drag persona. She competed on the 18th season of RuPaul's Drag Race where she finished in 6th place. Additionally, she plays guitar in the punk rock band, Dame Judy. She currently resides in St. Petersburg, FL with her partner, Gidget Von Addams.

WELCOME HOME, DISCORD!!!

AKRON PRIDE
10 YEARS & PRIDE

AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL + EQUITY MARCH

LOCK3 STAGE

10:00 AM	DJ HONK
11:00 AM	GRACE ODDO
12:00 PM	WEDNESDAY DEMONSTRATION
1:00 PM	SUNRISE JONES
2:00 PM	DRAG SHOW
4:30 PM	DJ HONK
5:00 PM	MTP: THE CAST OF SISTER ACT
5:30 PM	HYDRA
6:00 PM	DRAG SHOW FT. DISCORD ADDAMS
8:30 PM	DJ HONK
9:00 PM	TODRICK HALL

EQUITY STAGE

12:30 PM	KROWN BAY
1:30 PM	ELEK: TRIK DANCE CREW
2:30 PM	EDWEN
3:30 PM	RUSTIC SKIES
4:30 PM	MIRON HALA
5:30 PM	HOUSE OF MAKAVELI
6:30 PM	DREAMSTATES

EQUITY MARCH

10:00 AM	STEP-OFF FROM FORMER SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE
----------	--

AUGUST 22, 2026

main STREET downtown AKRON

+fabulosity VIBES

WERY ST

ASH ST

AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL 2026



Lock 2

EQUITY STAGE

LOCK 3
MAIN STAGE

LOCK 4

GRUB

DOWNTOWN
AKRON



KIDS' ZONE

SMUCKERS PLAZA
AT CASCADE

P

PARKING

P



APF MERCH



ROCK
RECOVERY

VOLUNTEERS



S. MAIN ST VENDORS

SPONSORS

S. MAIN ST

VENDORS

MARCH ROUTE

INFO &
FIRST AID

BEER

BEER

P

P

S HIGH ST

STATE ST

UNIVERSIT

City Hall

BOWERY ST

Summit County

P

Akron-Sun
Public

J.S. V
Ce



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Everyone**

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 **PIONEER**
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HOTTEST
DESTINATION**

HOT GLASS STUDIO AND GALLERY
WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS


Akron Glass Works
akronglassworks.com



**Akron
Symphony**

CHRISTOPHER WILKINS
MUSIC DIRECTOR





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**Our purpose drives us
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At Huntington Bank, that means welcoming everyone who comes through our doors and supporting their financial journey. No matter who you are, you can expect appreciation, acceptance, safety, respect and care at Huntington.

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huntington.com/AboutUs

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PFLAG

AKRON

@yourMETRObus

  
 **YouTube**

YOURMETROBUS.ORG
330.762.0341

LEADING WITH LOVE



Celebrate Your Pride



The Akron Civic Theatre
www.AkronCivic.com



Upcoming Events



BREAK THE CYCLE LUNCHEON

September 10th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm



CHC RECOVERY PICNIC

September 19th
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
FREE and open to all

**PREVENT.
TREAT.
RECOVER.**

Since 1974



Outpatient
Treatment



Residential
Treatment



Recovery
Support

Over 50 years of
compassionate,
evidence-based
behavioral
healthcare.

Events



Donations

cheakron.org



McDonald's of Northeast Ohio

Everyone is welcome at our table.



We're proud to stand with Akron Pride
and celebrate the vibrant, diverse
communities we call home.



— Your local McDonald's Owner/Operators



GET TESTED!

Confidential Testing & Treatment of STIs
Chlamydia Gonorrhea Syphilis Testing

FREE HIV Testing

For an appointment:

330-375-2772

1867 W. Market St., Bldg C- Door 10, Akron, OH 44313
(behind Acme #1)




GAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND 25 YEARS

An Akron Community Foundation LGBTQ+ Fund

Since 2001, the Gay Community Endowment Fund has reinvested more than \$1 million in the Greater Akron LGBTQ+ community. Thank you for empowering our mission for 25 years.

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS

THE BUCKEYE FLAME	PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF GREATER OHIO
CANAPI	TRANS JOY AKRON
EQUITAS HEALTH	UNIVERSITY OF AKRON FOUNDATION
GLSEN NORTHEAST OHIO	
HOPE AND HEALING SURVIVOR RESOURCE CENTER	

Learn more at akroncf.org/GCEFgrants

Help make our 25th anniversary in 2026 our most impactful year ever!
Make a gift at akroncf.org/give/GCEF



25TH ANNUAL SUGAR PLUM TOUR of Holiday Homes

BUY EARLY & SAVE

LIVE TOUR: Sun. Dec. 6, 2026	LIVE OR VIRTUAL TOUR: \$40*	PATRON PARTY BUNDLE: \$250* INCLUDES THE LIVE AND VIRTUAL TOUR AND PATRON PARTY
VIRTUAL TOUR: Sat. Dec. 12, 2026 - Sun. Jan. 3, 2027	BOTH TOURS: \$65*	

*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 25 YEARS
An Akron Community Foundation LGBTQ+ Fund



Tickets and sponsorships can be purchased online starting Aug. 22.

sugarplumtour.org | 330-376-8522

JF



 **AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL 2026**

COLE
CENTER

Great Clips®
IT'S GONNA BE GREAT®

Gender-Affirming & Judgment-Free
Haircutting & Styling for Everyone



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(Across from Whole Foods)
330-794-7537

Mention this ad at time of service for a
\$9.99 HAIRCUT

Consultations always free, no obligation!

Everyone is welcome in our chair! ♥

 All Hair • All People • All Welcome 

GOODYEAR

HELPING BUILD A
**BETTER
FUTURE**

goodyear.com/community



Akron Pride 2026

Amy Corrigan
JONES
FOR JUVENILE JUDGE

LISA DEAN
FOR DOMESTIC RELATIONS
JUDGE

STEVE ELLIOTT
CHIEF MAGISTRATE
FOR PROBATE JUDGE



PROUDLY
SERVING
AKRON
★ SINCE 1940 ★

Happy Akron Pride 2026!



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY, INCLUSION,
AND OUR COMMUNITY.



Lite



Akron Pride 2026

Pride After Party
August 22
Showtimes
10:30/12:30

No Cover
— 21+ —

ABSOLUT ALLY
21+ APPLES ONLY

Cocktails
Est. 1998
AKRON

Come celebrate pride and
the grand re-opening of our patio!

Cherry Veneer - Mars Soleil - Samantha Styles
Marley Muvarrri - Chelsea Enchantress - Alejandra J Love
Lady B Davenport - Latrice J Love Diamond - Cyn Styles - Daphne Dupree
Gaia Ciccone - El Ross - AleXXX - Paradise - Ethan Owne
Manny Nuff - Sebastian

Your Host Veronika Katrell
33 W MAPLEDALE AVE AKRON OH

Y I Y

MERCEDES'

NEIGHBORHOOD
TAVERN

AN AKRON TRADITION
SINCE 1986

TEAR-EZ
AKRON • OHIO



360 S. MAIN STREET AKRON 44311

JF

AKRON GAYS ARE
PRAYING FOR YOU



get
your
wings



AKRON PRIDE
FESTIVAL 2026

IT'S A BRAND
New
ERA



for
AKRON

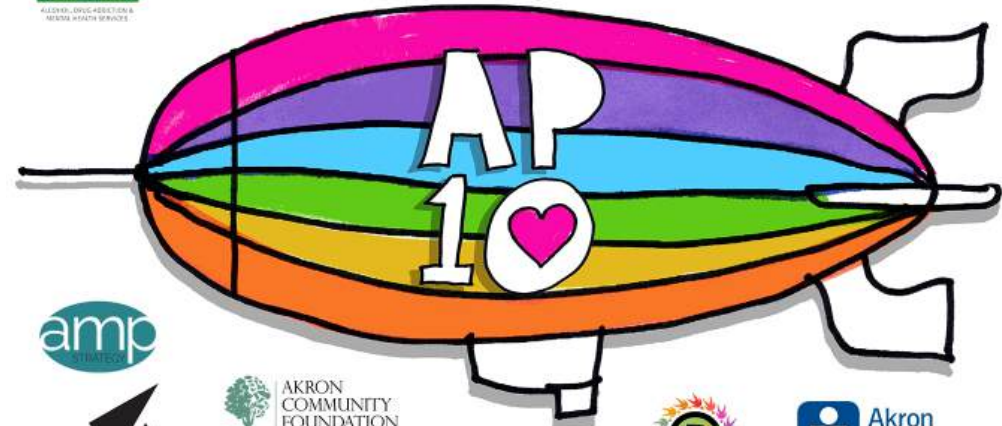


JF



2026
AKRON PRIDE FESTIVAL

PARTNERS &
SPONSORS



JF



AKRON PRIDE
FESTIVAL 2026
AKRONPRIDEFESTIVAL.ORG

