

PARTICIPATE!

the Newsletter of the Gay Games



Welcome to the February 2022 Edition of Participate!

Join us for Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong, November 3-11, 2023!

Joanie Evans, Co-President



Sean Fitzgerald, Co-President



Greetings Everyone...

By now, you have hopefully seen the announcement that the Federation of Gay Games and Gay Games Hong Kong have asked Guadalajara Mexico to co-host Gay Games 11. Many details are still being worked out, and we will keep you informed as the process unfolds.

As you may know, Hong Kong has maintained a zero Covid plan. Currently, anyone entering Hong Kong must undergo a compulsory 14 day quarantine in a designated location. This applies whether the traveler is vaccinated or not. These restrictions will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future. Therefore the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2023 team determined that it was time to approach the FGG to name a co-host to guarantee that everyone will have the opportunity to participate in Gay Games 11. The FGG then approached Guadalajara, the runner up to host both the 2022 and 2026 Gay Games to see if it was possible for them to co-host the event. The answer was obviously yes.

What does a co-hosted event mean? The FGG envisions a complete Gay Games experience in both cities. Each city will host a full compliment of sport and cultural activities as well as the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Each city will also include a festival village. We will be working with our member organisations and various sport and culture organisations to ensure that anyone that wants to participate in the Gay Games will have the opportunity.

Finally, we would like to thank Dennis Philipse for his vision and leadership to bring the Gay Games to Asia for the first time. We wish him well as he returns to the corporate world and look forward to continue to work with him in a lighter capacity with Gay Games Hong Kong.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Franie" followed by a large, sweeping flourish that ends in a small, circular mark.A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Sun" followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line.

Gay Games Hong Kong and FGG announces Guadalajara as presumptive co-host city of 11th Gay Games 2023



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The Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and Gay Games 11 Hong Kong (GGHK) today announced that Guadalajara has been named the presumptive co-host of the November 2023 Gay Games, a global multi-sport event founded in 1982 that celebrates diversity and inclusion.

Guadalajara, a finalist for the 2022 and 2026 Gay Games, is an international city located in Jalisco, a state with the official slogan “Jalisco is México” for being the birthplace of many significant Mexican cultural mainstays including tequila, mariachi, birria, and more.

Lisa Lam, co-chair of GGHK, said, “In these unprecedented times, we have to be agile and adaptable to a constantly changing environment. Faced with continued challenges brought on by the Covid pandemic, with the desire to ensure more participants can join the Games regardless of their locations, GGHK recently proposed the concept of a co-hosted event to the FGG.

“By having Gay Games 11 accessible to participants across two locations we can ensure we meet our aim of being as inclusive as possible while international travel continues to recover. We will still be holding the first Gay Games in Asia, but potentially for the first time in Latin America as well, welcoming the widest possible audience to both cities. There is a huge amount of planning to do and we will be providing more detailed updates as soon as we are in a position to share more information.”

Sean Fitzgerald, co-president of FGG, said, “We are energized by this opportunity to organize the first Gay Games in Asia and in Latin America both in November 2023. While the Games are two years away, we are embarking on a mountain of feasibility studies and planning to be undertaken in collaboration between the FGG, Hong Kong and Guadalajara. The passion of these two teams will bring to life the vision of Dr Tom Waddell and the mission of the Gay Games: participation, inclusion and personal best.”

GGHK also announced today the members of its “Road to 2023” management committee, a dedicated and passionate team of over 20 leaders, many of whom have been with the Games since Hong Kong won the bid in 2017. Leading a passionate team of volunteers, this group will bring fresh energy, established experience and connections, essential ingredients for a successful event. For in-depth profiles of each member please visit this [link].

After seven years, the last two full-time in volunteer capacity leading the GGHK team, Dennis Philipse, founder and co-chair has resigned from the management team and will continue to support its mission as a member of GGHK’s Advisory Committee. To ensure continuity as Hong Kong and Guadalajara build the co-host teams, Lisa Lam will remain as GGHK co-chair and

Nigel Lee, who has represented GGHK at FGG events for the last few years, will stand in as acting co-chair until a new co-chair based in Hong Kong can be brought on-board.

Media information

Please contact media@gghk2022.com or <https://gghk2022.com/en/press/>

Two 40th Anniversary Pins Now On Sale! Order Yours Today!

Just in time for 2022 and the 40th Anniversary of the first Gay Games, two exciting new collectible pins are now available for sale. Help kickoff the 40th Anniversary celebrations; buy yours now at gaygames.org/store (or click on the “Store” link at the top of the Gay Games website).

To preview these exciting collectible offerings, check out [THIS VIDEO](#).

40TH ANNIVERSARY “PIN PUZZLE” SET

This is 12 pins in one elegant gift box. These pins represent each of the editions of the Gay Games. They cleverly form a “Pin Puzzle” in the shape of the Federation of Gay Games logo. Inside the beautiful gold ribbon box, you’ll find a printed card telling the design story behind this limited edition offering.

The individual pins can be removed and worn or displayed however you like. Or, you can showcase them as they come in the gold ribbon box. Each pin measures between 1-½” and 2”.

Only 500 of these “Pin Puzzles” have been produced and each set is individually numbered. The price is USD 50 each plus shipping.





40TH ANNIVERSARY TRADING PIN

This is a small version of the large “Pin Puzzle,” featuring all the historic Gay Games logos arranged in the shape of the FGG logo. This is a substantial pin, measuring 2”, in solid brass with gold trim, and two pin posts to support its weight. It truly is the perfect gift for any Gay Games participant, especially if they collect pins. Order a supply for trading while in Hong Kong at Gay Games 11.

At the online store, you can purchase individual pins or bundles of 5 or 10 pins.

- Single Pin = USD 10 plus shipping
- Pack of 5 Pins = USD 45 plus shipping
- Pack of 10 Pins = USD 90 plus shipping

ALL PURCHASES BENEFIT THE FGG

The net proceeds from all pin sales will be used to further the global mission of the Federation of Gay Games, in the spirit of founder Dr. Tom Waddell.

SHOP NOW!

Visit gaygames.org/store or click on the “Store” link in the top menu of the Gay Games website

SHOP NOW!

FGG and GGHK well represented at 2022 Sin City Classic in Las Vegas Version 2

After an absence due to the COVID pandemic, the 15th edition of the Sin City Classic (sincityclassic.org) returned to Las Vegas the weekend of January 14 – 16, 2022. The FGG and Gay Games Hong Kong were sponsors of the event and were well represented, blanketing the event with information about GGHK coming in November 2023.

The Sin City Classic – produced annually by hosted annually by the Greater Los Angeles Softball Association (GLASA) – bills itself as the largest annual LGBTQ sporting event in the world, attracting 7,000 athletes, allies, and fans to Las Vegas. The 20 sports included basketball, dodgeball, kickball, swimming, soccer, bowling, softball, flag football, volleyball, esports, and many more.

The FGG and GGHK shared a perfectly located table at the entrance to the registration party held at the Flamingo Hotel on 14 January. All of the 8,000+ athletes had to pass by the table on their way into and out of the registration party. The table was decorated with all kinds of GGHK signage, a video monitor showing the Hong Kong promotional video, and it featured an oversize wooden dragon head, borrowed from the Las Vegas Dragon Boat Club. It was a real conversation piece that got many people to stop by the table and ask about one of the newest sports to be featured in the Hong Kong Gay Games.

Representing the Federation of Gay Games were Mike Myers, Martha Ehrenfeld, Doug Litwin, and Nicolas Pineda.

Representing Gay Games Hong Kong were Christof Wittig (Director of Fundraising) and North America GGHK Champions Tony Moraga and Jerry Buckley.

Dr. Jason Peplinski and Larry Ruiz, Co-Executive Directors of the Sin City Classic, shared the following statement about the 2022 event: “This year’s Sin City Classic took place over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. The COVID situation at the time certainly called for some pause, but we were determined to safely hold our event. Although we saw some decrease in our attendance, we held an amazing festival. More than 7,000 athletes attended and competed in 20 different sports. This year, we took moments throughout the weekend to honor our former Executive Director, Ken Searce, who passed away unexpectedly in July, 2021. The creation of the Ken Searce Leadership Award made its debut and our inaugural recipient was Andrew Miller. We are already looking forward to the Sin City Classic 2023 and wish to thank everyone for the support of the festival.”

The FGG and GGHK look forward to having an even larger presence at the 2023 Sin City Classic.

Share your stories of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ with the hashtag #gaygames

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture and ensures that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of *Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™*.

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