

PARTICIPATE!

the Newsletter of the Gay Games





2006's Chicago Gay Games Closing Ceremony

The final countdown...

We are now less than **two weeks away** from the Opening Ceremonies of the Gay Games 11.

Preparations have completed, with both cities gearing up for another incredible Gay Games event. Both Hong Kong and Guadalajara have seen **a sharp increase in registrations** before they closed earlier this month.

The anticipation for these Games is palpable. So many people, from all around the world, are busy putting together their final preparations before they journey to either of the two host cities, where they will be confronted with a truly international celebration of LGBTQ+ sports and culture.

To those of you joining us, make sure your passport is up-to-date, your sports gear is packed, and your training programs have been completed. For those of you staying home, make sure you're **connected to our socials** to enjoy the fun from your computer or mobile phone.

See you in two weeks!





Hong Kong Mixed Volleyball team

Hong Kong prepped and ready

Team GGHK has an **action-packed, fun and eclectic week** of events planned starting with the Opening Ceremony on November 4, which will provide participants with a taste of the east-west culture for which Hong Kong is famous.

The sporting action also kicks off on November 4 and will be in full swing over the first weekend with football, swimming, martial arts, table tennis and tennis on the menu. Also making a Gay Games debut on the weekend will be **two sports especially added for Hong Kong - Dragon Boat and Mahjong**. The Dragon Boat competition has proved to be the most popular sport at GGHK, with over 500 registered participants.

The GGHK Gala Concert Series will be held over two nights and includes not one but two Drag Queen icons to headline each night -

Courtney Act (Australia) on November 5 and Shea Coulee (USA) on November 6. Artistes from Thailand, Cambodia, the UK, the Philippines, Macao and of course Hong Kong will ensure that each night is a diverse, inclusive and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

The GGHK Village will also prove to be a hit and will be located on the waterfront of Hong Kong's iconic Central harbour-front. A week-long programme of events is planned including **talks, afternoon drinks with DJ, main-stage acts** as well as some gentle exercise options.

[See the program](#)





Guadalajara ready to welcome participants

The team in Guadalajara have now announced the program for the **Guadalajara Gay Games Fest** - starting on November 2 and running for the entire length of the Games. Here you will find parties, workshops and conferences, as well as a sexual health module and a cafeteria. It is the space where all people can come together to celebrate, learn and enjoy the Gay Games XI Guadalajara 2023 to the fullest.

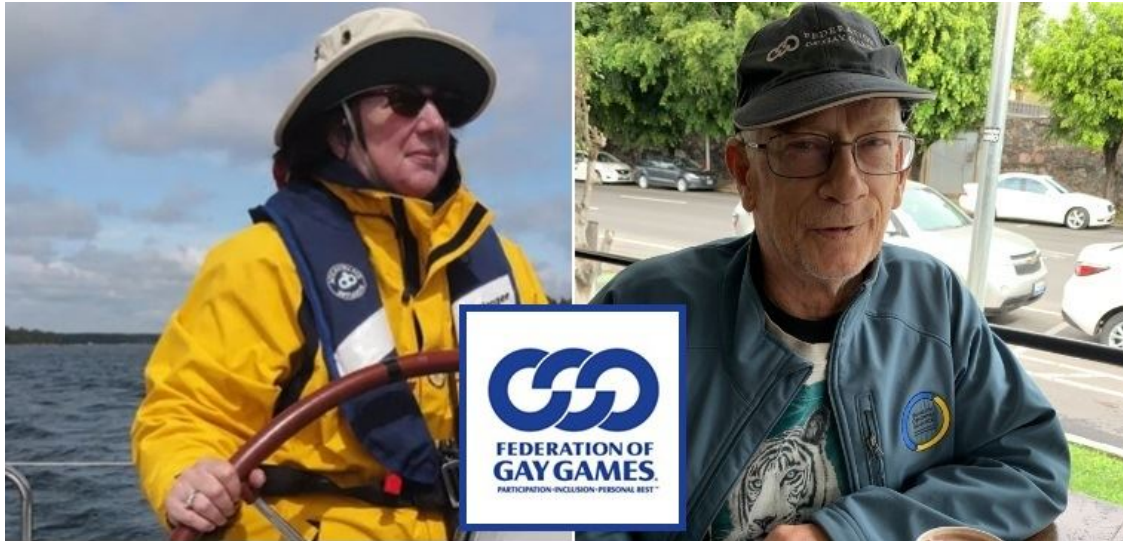
In collaboration with the University of Guadalajara and Laval University, a series of **forums and academic conferences** have been organized that will enrich the Gay Games XI Guadalajara 2023 experience in a significant way. Workshops and talks will cover topics such as LGBTQ+ inclusion in sports, machismo and sexism in sport, leadership for the trans community amongst others.

On Monday November 6, we will celebrate the lives of those we have lost with a **memorial service** where people can gather, reflect and pay tribute to their loved ones to celebrate the time they were in life with us.

And be sure not to miss the **International Rainbow Memorial Run** on Saturday November 4 at 9am. This walk through the city brings together participants to celebrate diversity and inclusion through the streets of the city and symbolizes unity, respect and mutual support in a festive and joyful atmosphere. An opportunity for local people to learn about the Gay Games and feel the spirit of the Games.

[Learn more](#)





Emy Ritt (left) and Roger Brigham

FGG announces recipients of Tom Waddell Award

The Federation of Gay Games has announced the two recipients of this year's Dr. Tom Waddell Award for **significant service and commitment to LGBTQ+ sport and culture.**

From **six nominees**, two people of different genders have been chosen to receive this prestigious award by the Tom Waddell Award Selection Committee and by the Board of Directors of the Federation of Gay Games.

Emy Ritt has been nominated for her many years of service to the Gay Games movement, in particular serving on the FGG Board which included **seven years as Co-President**, VP of Diversity, VP of Host Relations, and service on many FGG committees.

Roger Brigham was nominated for his **decades of service to the**

LGBTQ+ sports community as a professional journalist and directly for the FGG, where he created communications initiatives, served on the Strategic Planning Committee, and helped develop the FGG's anti-doping policy..

The other finalists are Annette Wachter, Kurt Dahl, Laura Moore and Shamey Cramer.

The board members and assembly of the FGG would like to extend their **heartfelt thanks** for all that these recipients and other nominees have done and accomplished in support of the Gay Games movement.

[Read the article](#)





Pride Cheerleading Association launch their Charitable Cheerleading Competition

The Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA) are already gearing up. for the Gay Games with a **10-day online fundraising campaign**. The PCA has raised a whopping \$18,341 USD which will go toward their donations to two beneficiaries.

One beneficiary is Meson A.C. is an institution dedicated to the prevention, detection and comprehensive support of people with HIV-AIDS. Since its founding 26 years ago, it has provided services to more than **40,000 people** in and around Guadalajara Mexico

The other beneficiary is the FGG's Scholarship Fund, which has been awarding scholarships to more than **1,000 underfunded individuals** from 70 countries, providing a life-changing week of acceptance and encouragement that the recipients would never have experienced otherwise.

You can join in the fun by bringing cash - dollars, pesos, or any other currency - to donate in their ***Spirit Buckets*** or contribute electronically.

Watch PCA's Charitable Cheerleading Competition on Facebook Live or in person at Polideportivo Revolución, Guadalajara on **November 8 from 10am to 3pm** local time.

Support the cheerleaders






Guadalajara announce their official song for the Games

Written and performed by **The Música Libre Collective**, the official song of the Gay Games Guadalajara has been launched.

The lyrics celebrate the "**fight for love, rights and respect**" as well as proclaiming that "everyone is different, but it's about being equal".



Watch on  YouTube

Listen to the song





Interview with Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett, FGG's VP of External Relations

Adrian Hyrylainen-Trett spoke to myGwork to share why they are taking part in the upcoming Gay Games 2023.

"At this year's Gay Games, I will be taking part in the Powerlifting, my primary sport; Golf; and 5km and 10km runs in Guadalajara, Mexico. I will be competing in the first Mx Powerlifting competition, as **the first Non-Binary British athlete** (as far as I'm aware) to compete openly at the Gay Games, and indeed internationally."
said Hyrylainen-Trett.

When asked why they would recommend this year's event, Hyyrylainen-Trett said "The Gay Games provides an overwhelming experience of coming together as part of a massive LGBTQ+ community and being able to exist, as you are, be who you are and **compete in the choice of gender that you identify with.**"

[Read the article](#)





Mexico City Olympics Opening Ceremony 12 October 1968

The Spark that led to a Global Movement

Shamey Cramer - one of this year's Tom Waddell Award nominees - has shared with us an article commemorating the fact that this month is the 55th anniversary of the Mexico City 1968 Olympics, where **Waddell first had the idea** to create a sport/culture festival open to all.

Cramer tells us that Waddell "felt as if **his heart was going to burst**; and that it was something everyone should experience".

This story is especially poignant given that Tom was an active member of the U.S. military, meaning **he was unable to compete openly as a gay man at the 1968 Olympics.**

[Read the article](#)





Join the FGG Board

As our preparations for this year's Games come to an end, we are looking to **recruit new members to our board** to help us continue the long tradition of celebrating LGBTQ+ sports and culture on the international stage.

The Board is made up of a group of **volunteers** who commit time and energy to leading the Federation in making an impact on the lives and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ athletes and artists across the world. We bring a **wide variety of backgrounds and experiences**, but we have the same passion and common interests in how we do this for the benefit of the Federation.

The following roles will become available in the coming weeks:

- Co-President (1 of 2, open to non cis-females)

Vice President of Production

- Vice President of Production
- Vice President of Member Services
- Officer of Sport (1 of 2, open to non cis-males)
- Officer of International Development
- Officer of Host Relations
- Officer of Human Resources and Nominations
- Officer of Ceremonies
- Treasurer
- Secretary

We are especially interested in meeting people from the **full range of the LGBTQIA+ spectrum** so that we can have as many diverse voices from our community at the board table. This ethos extends to other backgrounds and identities - we strongly encourage **people of colour, veterans, young people (18+), parents and individuals with disabilities** to apply. We are also especially interested in working with **people from all continents** to ensure we have a global approach to our work.

If you wish to have an informal discussion about the role/organisation or if you have any other questions to help you decide if any of these roles are right for you, then details of how you can do this are included in the link below.

[Learn more about the positions](#)





Here we go...

As we finalise everything for these exciting Games, we would like to **thank you all** for your continued support over the years.

We believe that the Gay Games plays an important role in the **fight for LGBTQ+ inclusion in sport**, and the **promotion of sports and culture** within our community.

We work hard to ensure **hundreds of people benefit from our scholarship program** and that we create an event accesible to as many members of our community as possible.

many members of our community as possible.

These Gay Games have been **a huge challenge to organise**. The COVID-19 pandemic and political disturbances across the globe have thrown our 4-year cycle out of sync, and hosting in two locations has given us multiple additional complications. The global financial climate also makes organising and attending international events even more complex.

But one thing is certain. The Gay Games provides a **beacon of hope** for every member of our community. Whether you are attending in person, or watching events unfold from home, you will see LGBTQ+ sports and culture showcased, and experience a moment where LGBTQ+ people are fully included and catered for in sports.

We are incredibly excited for these Games, and can't wait to share all of our hard work and planning with you in just two short weeks.

See you very soon!



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*.

Copyright © 2018 Federation of Gay Games, All rights reserved.

Address: 584 Castro Street Suite #343 • San Francisco, CA 94114 • Phone: +1-866-459-1261

You have received this email newsletter because you agreed to receive communications from the Federation of Gay Games or subscribed to the Participate! newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#) • [Past Newsletters & Press](#) • [Email us](#)

