

Welcome to the January 2020 Edition of Participate!, our first newsletter of 2020!

Join us for Hong Kong 2022 - Gay Games 11!

January 2020



Welcome to 2020 - A New Decade!

The world is in a state: fires destroying Australia, the threat of war in the Middle East, Megxit derailing the Royal Family. When you look at the World as a family, it contains all the elements of family dynamics: arguing, fighting, challenge, wrestling with differing opinions etc but it also contains elements on the other end of the spectrum like caring, appreciation, acceptance and love. It's never been more important for there to be organizations like the FGG and events like the Gay Games to bring these positive elements to the fore. Both sport and culture bring people together through appreciation and respect. Sport celebrates physical prowess through friendly competition, while culture tends to celebrate our inner victories, reminding us of the beauty in our lives, and of the power we have to change the world. We are excited to be part of a movement that aims to bring positivity not just to our under-represented communities but to all communities that co-exist in societies around the globe. As we move into 2020, the start of a brand new decade, and towards the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, we will showcase more of our members' stories around the world to bring rounded perspectives that promote awareness and connectedness and a celebration of our differences resulting in greater unity. Check out our new FGG Family Profiles section, information about the Site Selection process for 2026, the 2020 Sin City Classic, updates from Hong Kong, and more below. Here's to a positive 2020!



#FGG #gaygames. #gaygameshk2022 #lgbtq #love





Joanie Evans, co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, co-president

Site Selection for Gay Games XII in 2026 Starting in January 2020.

Would your city like to bid for the 2026 Gay Games? Your chance to bring the largest sporting event open to all is coming very soon! The Request for Information (RFI) document will be available on January 31, 2020 with a response for intending bidders due back by February 21, 2020. The RFI document reviews the Gay Games at a very high level and provides the timeline for the site selection process. The response form that you will also receive which will be returned to the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) provides us insight into your organization, your community, and an understanding of why you would like to bring the Gay Games to your city.

If you would like to find out more about bringing the excitement of the Gay Games to your city in 2026, please contact FGGBids@GayGames.net for more information!

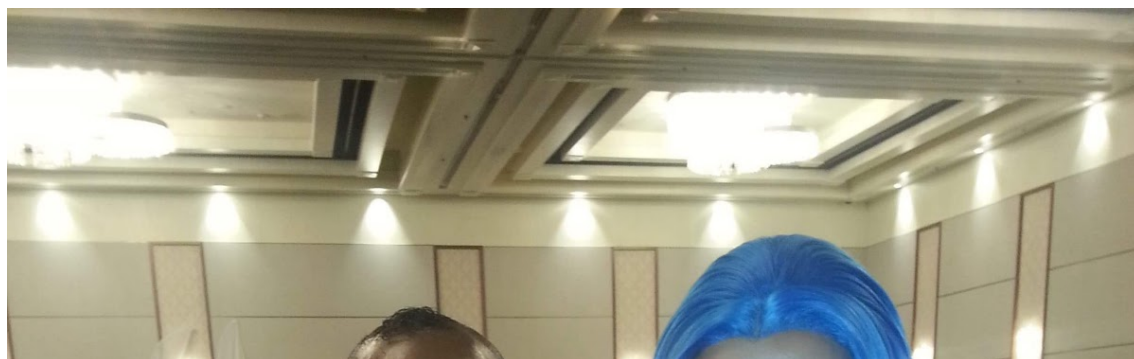
Sin City Classic 2020

The Greater Los Angeles Softball Association, (GLASA) hit the jackpot in 2008 with the inception of the Sin City Classic. It started off with a strong foundation created by softball teams that came together and has grown to be the largest annual LGBTQ, multiple sport's event that occurs every January as we observe Martin Luther King Jr holiday.

Over 25 different sports are offered that range from swimming, basketball, tennis and ultimate frisbee but also includes softball, cornhole, cheerleading and more. This four day tournament attracts participants and spectators from all over the world that come together to participate and support Sin City Classic for the past 11 years. The abilities range from novice to expert and I have witnessed this for the past 3 years by attending numerous sports offered.

Last year, it was such a thrill participating in the running portion of Sin City Classic and a representative from the Hong Kong organizers for Gay Games, Hong Kong, Dennis Philipse, participated in the 10k. When we were done running, we visited Billiards, Dodgeball, Volleyball, wrestling & grappling and we got active with the premiere of esports. Last year was the first time Sin City Classic offered esports and we had a blast learning how to navigate new activities in a welcoming format.

Besides all of the sports offered, Sin City Classic gives participants and supporters the opportunity to network and connect every year. It continues to be well organized and supported by local hotels and businesses in Las Vegas every year with it's growing numbers. They are expecting 8,000 participants this year! For more information, check out www.sincityclassic.org. Congratulations to GLASA for organizing a well respected event and best of luck with this year's Sin City Classic!











FGG Family Profiles

Meet Sabranya Yan Wen



What is your name and what is your role at Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022?

My name is Sabrina Yang Wen. I am the co-chair and director of sports for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022.

Tell us more about your life in Hong Kong: what do you do in daily life, which sports do you do?

I am managing a Hong Kong based food tech company called Spoonful, a virtual cafeteria group that specializes in food production and delivery service. I live with my wife Jacqueline, who is a history tutor and gym instructor. We got married in Guam last year over Easter and we have a three-year old cat named Kafka.

What excites you about Hong Kong?

What excites me the most about Hong Kong is its beautiful and diverse offering of people and scenery. You can work in the busiest financial district during the day and at night take a boat home to a remote island and grow your own vegetables. You feel free and safe like nowhere else and everyone you meet is open and well-travelled, and therefore

How did you learn about the gay games?

I first learned about the Gay Games from a fundraising event in 2016 where the team was trying to bid to host the Games in 2022.

Why did you join Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 team?

I still remember the first time I went to an LGBTQ+ event six years ago and how scared I was to introduce myself because I had always been very closeted at work and in life. People welcomed me with warm hearts and hugs and helped me accept who I really am. Ever since I have always wanted to give back to the community, so I organized weekly lesbian sports events, social gatherings and started to be more vocal on social media about LGBTQ+ rights. I believe in the power of sports and community. Gay Games is the perfect platform to bring people together and I know it's time for me to contribute to an event that's bigger than myself.

Even though I have not been to the Gay Games before, I have heard from past participants how inspiring it is and I am in a wechat group of participants from the Greater China region (Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan), where people talk about their memories of the Paris Games almost every day and about how excited they are for the 2022 Games. Then I know I will impact more people's lives than I can imagine. I am already myself inspired everyday working with the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong team and the FGG, speaking to sports leads from all over the world dedicating their free time to build and grow the LGBT sports scene in their home countries. I know from now to 2022 and beyond, more people from Hong Kong, Mainland China, and across Asia will be united because of what we are doing out of the spirit of sport and love.

News Updates From Hong Kong

During December, the organizers of Gay Games 11, Hong Kong 2022 announced four news updates.

1. FIRST EVER HONG KONG PRIDE RUN A SUCCESS!

Pride Run Hong Kong 2019 held on 1 December, was a resounding and sold out success! This is the first time that a Pride Run or Rainbow Run has been held in Hong Kong. With 450 registrations representing 27 countries, beautiful weather, and an excited crowd, a good time was enjoyed by all! Plans call for this to become an annual event leading up to Gay Games 11 in 2022.



Congratulations to our friends in Hong Kong!

Read more about this event [here](#).

2. CHRISTOF WITTIG APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING

On 11 December, the appointment of Christof Wittig was announced as Director Fundraising for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022. Christof joins with significant experience in the LGBTQ+ community. He currently serves as CEO and Founder of Hornet, a gay social network established in 2011 with over 25 million diverse users worldwide. Christof has been at the lead of several digital startups. Christof also serves as the President of the LGBT Foundation, a non-profit organization that aims to deliver equality for, and advance the cause of, the LGBT community across the world.



Read more about this appointment [here](#).

3. SABRINA YANG APPOINTED AS CO-CHAIR OF GAY GAMES 11 HONG KONG 2022

On 26 December, the appointment of Sabrina Yang was announced as co-chair of the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 team, alongside Dennis Philipse.

Sabrina joined the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 management team in September 2018 as Director of Sports. She has been successfully building and leading the sports team working together with NSAs (national sports associations) as well as International LGBT+ sports organisations to organise the 36 sports events in Hong Kong. Sabrina will continue her role as Director of Sports and will now assume in addition the role of co-chair of the team, leading the team to organise the Gay Games in November 2022.



Read more about this appointment [here](#).

4. EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH 4 HONG KONG SPORTS LEADERS

To learn the very latest on the LGBTQI sports scene in Hong Kong, check out this exclusive interview with four key members of the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 team. This interview was published in COMPETE Magazine on 27 December. Read it [here](#).

Welcome our New Members!

"On behalf of the entire Federation of Gay Games, I welcome our two new members of 2020."

- Bill McManus-VP Member Services



1. GRUPO D.C.R. En Pro de la Diversidad Lobos México (Grupo Lobos Mexico), Mexico

Lobos México., Is a non-profit group where main task is to practice and promote sports, recreational and cultural activities, nationally and internationally. It is intended to inform the members of the group and the general population of different ways of maintaining health and thereby achieving a better quality of life.

Website : <http://www.lobosmexico.com>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/GrupoLobosMexico/>

2. GAYS APASIONADOS POR EL FUTBOL (GAPEF), ARGENTINA

Founded in 17 July 2010. GAPEF is a Sports group for sexual diversity and social inclusion.



Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/gapefar/>

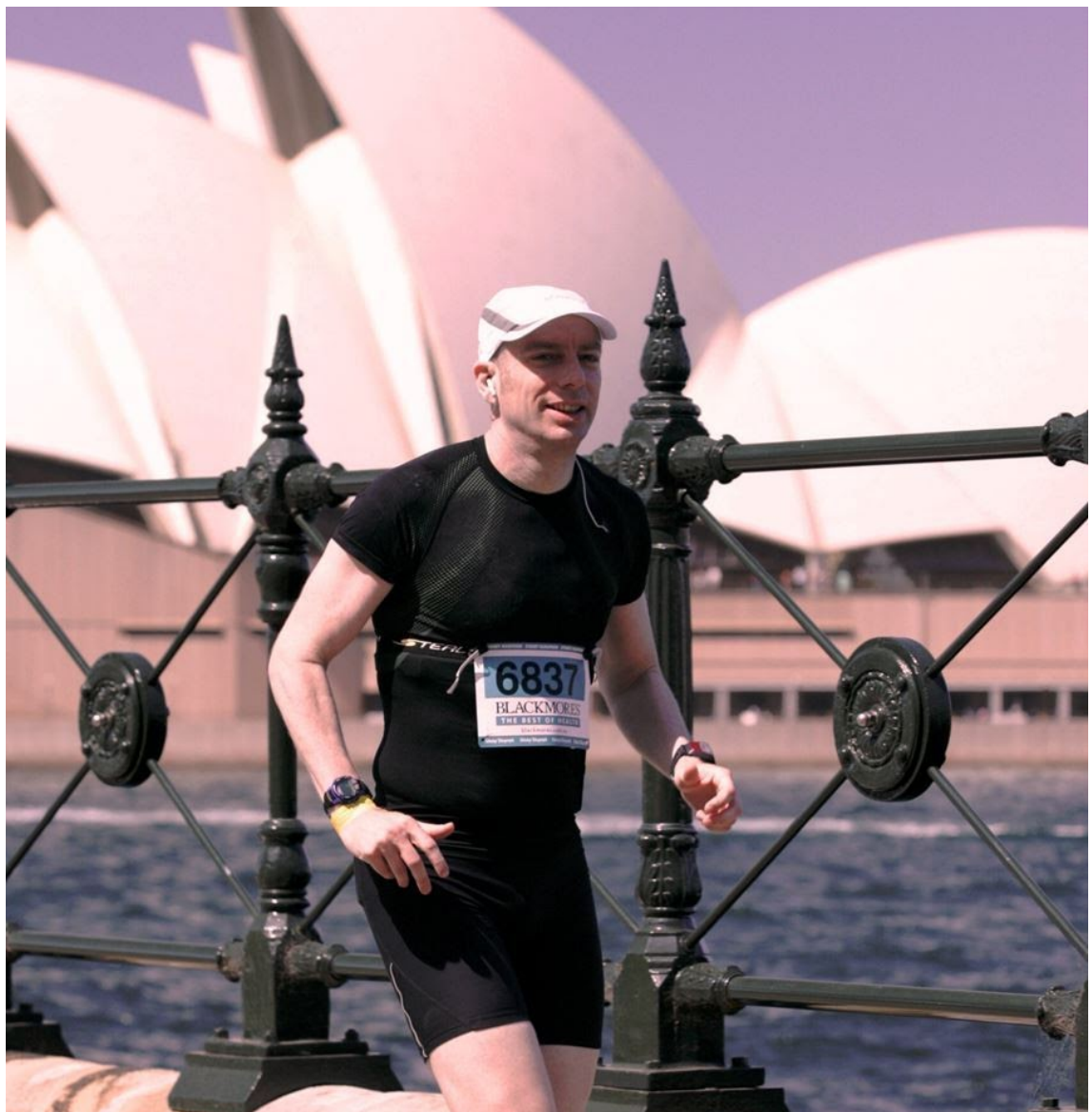
International Front Runners Chooses New President

FGG member organization International Front Runners (IFR) is proud to announce the election of its new President Chris Rauchle, a member of Sydney Frontrunners and the long-time IFR Australia, Asia Pacific Regional Representative.





Chris Rauchle with the Sydney Frontrunners





Chris Rauchle running alongside the Sydney Opera House

Chris takes over from Danny Luong, who represented IFR at the Paris Gay Games and fostered a landmark partnership with Brooks Running. Danny will continue to oversee the Brooks / IFR scholarship program and we thank him for his service as president of IFR and his continuing involvement. Of note is that Chris is the first President of IFR from outside the United States, which highlights that the fast-growing family of 113 LGBTQ+ running clubs on 5 continents is now comprised of a majority of non-U.S. clubs.

Chris Rauchle is a 52 year old IT Project Manager originally from Queensland he has been living in Sydney, New South Wales for 30 years.

He has been running seriously for 15 years. Taking it up as part of triathlon, he found that with the right shoes and enough spare time he could run very much farther than his original distance of 400 meters around his local park. Working his way up from 5k to the half marathon in a series of races in Sydney he eventually took on his first marathon and now enjoys running this distance although he will never win any races. As a side effect of diet and exercise (go figure!) he lost 20kgs (40lb) after taking up running regularly in 2004 and enjoys the time running alone, with the Sydney Frontrunners, or with his "Red Dog" Kelpie, Jessie, in the outdoors when running around his local park, Centennial Park. This is the park the Sydney Frontrunners use for their regular runs.

Having been involved with the Sydney LGBTQI+ community for 30 years (almost as long as Sydney Frontrunners has been around) Chris has been the Sydney Frontrunners webmaster and been on the Sydney Frontrunners committee in various roles. He has project-managed the charity Little Black Dress Run for five years which has raised up to \$54,000 annually for children living with HIV+ and Youth programs. He has been the Asia/Pacific representative for International Frontrunners for four years.

Chris is interested in growing the organisation in Asia, South America, and Africa. He has visited the cities with Frontrunners clubs in Australia, New Zealand and Japan several times over the last few years for work and pleasure. Not wanting to wait for the legalisation of same-sex marriage in Australia, he and his now husband, John, were married in Wellington, New Zealand in 2015, another city with a vibrant Frontrunners club.

When the opportunity to be the first President outside of North America presented itself, he leapt at the chance to show the truly global nature of our community of LGBTQI+ runners where it is possible to share good fellowship and exercise in more than one hundred cities around the world.

AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT RETURNS TO SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA





AIDS Memorial Quilt Exhibition Gay Games 10: Paris 2018

On 20 November 2019, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and other Congressional leaders joined the NAMES Project Foundation (NPF) in announcing that the National AIDS Memorial will be the new caretaker of the AIDS Memorial Quilt ("The Quilt"), returning from Atlanta to its home in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Quilt, founded in San Francisco by Cleve Jones in 1987, and its programs, which include display activities, panel making, conservation, and public education efforts, will transition to the National AIDS Memorial in early 2020. It will thus become an integral part of its mission to provide, in perpetuity, a place of remembrance so that the lives of people who died from AIDS are not forgotten and that their stories are known and understood by future generations. This archival collection currently totals more than 200,000 items. It includes biographical records, correspondence, photographs, tributes, epitaphs, news clippings and artifacts submitted by panel makers that add context about the lives memorialized on The Quilt panels.

On behalf of the Federation of Gay Games Culture and Ceremonies Committee, we thank The NAMES Project Foundation for caring for The Quilt. We are deeply grateful to have had The Quilt as a Visual Arts core component in our Cultural Festival. We look forward to our next exhibition at Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong in November, 2022. In 2018, Gert McMullin, one of the founders of the Quilt, offered the following description of the Quilt when she received the FGG's Tom Waddell Award during Gay Games 10 in Paris: "The AIDS Quilt is the world's largest community art project."

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress will become the new home for the National AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive. To learn more about the The Quilt click [here](#)

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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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