

Welcome to the March 2020 Edition of Participate!

Join us for Hong Kong 2022 - Gay Games 11!

March 2020



One Quarter in...

...And 2020 continues to present the World with challenges. We started with an overhang of protests, endured raging bushfires, and are now faced with a rapidly spreading virus that both threatens lives and throws a spotlight on the disenfranchised, disadvantaged and those with challenging socioeconomic status. Countries are doing what they believe to be in the best interest of their citizens, the pattern of which is to close their doors in an effort to contain the spread. Sport and Cultural activities are shuttering their doors to do their part to stop the spread. In these times, education and compassion are what is needed, a coming together for everyone to do their part to limit the pandemic and ensure those less fortunate whether due to lack of access to healthcare or lack of basic goods that once populated supermarket shelves, are supported. Getting informed on how to stay safe and protected is key. The World continues to endure and our newsletter is here to remind us that there is, of course, lovely and heartwarming beauty in the midst of chaos. We look forward to the return of our sport and cultural events and continue to work hard to produce Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022.

#FGG #gaygames. #gaygameshk2022 #lgbtq #love



Joanie Evans, co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, co-president

GGHK2022 Update

Get involved now at Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022!



Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 is happening in 2.5 years. Get involved now to support GGHK as donor, fundraiser, sponsor, volunteer or champion, and be sure to sign up for our newsletter!

Check out our new [website](#) and follow GGHK on social media to stay up to date about life in Hong Kong & Asia, LGBTQ+ sport, arts & culture events:

[Facebook](#)

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FGG Family Profiles

Meet Hoi Yuet Chau, Martial Arts Coordinator, GGHK Team



"I remember the first-time meeting Dennis (Co-chair) and Winnie (Outreach) from the Gay Games HK team at the documentary screening organized by the Hong Kong Pride Parade. They gave us a brief overview of the event and I decided to attend the Info Night the week after to find out more about this exciting organization and see if I can be part of it too.

Looking back, sports have always been a strong part in my life since I was little. It gives me strength to keep moving forward and stay healthy. Taekwondo, specifically, has shaped me into a braver person.

I want to help our LGBTQ+ community to build a safer and more inclusive living environment.

I am a workaholic most of the time but I love what I do. I draw, make models and take pictures. I record videos too when I am in a traveling mood. Not exercising much now, I set fitness tasks and workout at home occasionally. My commute will do the rest.

Although I am a local, there are still many hidden gems waiting to be discovered in this city. Everything keeps me curious and excited. To name one, I still love to ride and enjoy the road scene on the upper deck of the Ding Ding."

*

Meet Kim Mo, Aquatics Manager, GGHK Team





"I competed at previous Games - 2002 in Sydney and 2006 in Chicago. I heard about Hong Kong's bid through a friend.

I want to share my experience at previous Games to help organise the best Games, and promote a healthy lifestyle and diversity and inclusion at GG2022. Everyone can play a part. It's not about winning a competition or getting a medal. To me, it is about making my best effort to achieve my personal best in any event.

I manage two teams, one in Hong Kong and one in Taiwan. I often travel on business. I feel that I can bring my people management and project management skills to the Games. I am passionate about sports, in particular aquatics sports. I have competed in swimming, diving and water polo at previous Games. I recently Participated in diving and swimming at the International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) Championships 2020 in Melbourne bringing home two silver medals for Hong Kong!

Hong Kong is a vibrant city and a thriving business and financial hub. What a lot of people do not know is that Hong Kong has a lot of country parks and beaches. Nature is less than 30 minutes away from most places in Hong Kong."

Site Selection

20 Cities From 6 Continents Return RFIs to be the Host City for the Games that Change the World.

The Federation of Gay Games has received a record number of expressions of interest from cities around the globe desiring to be the host of the twelfth Gay Games XII to be held in 2026!

Dave Killian, Officer of Site Selection says,

"We are extremely delighted to have received this record amount of interest for the Gay Games! The excitement of 20 cities from 6 continents shows that countries want to not only welcome diverse communities to their cities but also want to be a place of community and connectedness for *all* people. These are the Games that change the world and the growing interest in participation, hosting and volunteering proves that."

The cities are:

Brisbane	Australia
São Paulo	Brazil
Toronto	Canada
Munich	Germany
Dublin	Ireland
Guadalajara	Mexico
Amsterdam	Netherlands
Auckland	New Zealand
Lisbon	Portugal
Cape Town	South Africa
Durban	South Africa
Valencia	Spain
Taipei	Taiwan
Liverpool	UK
Austin	USA

Fort Lauderdale	USA
Minneapolis	USA
New Orleans	USA
San Diego	USA
Seattle	USA

"We listen closely to our members and take the feedback on the submission process from previous bidders and host cities very seriously. Our goal is to make it easier for the Games to come to cities and we are on the right track for doing that," Killian adds.

The RFP will be available March 1st and April 30th will identify the official contenders for host status for Gay Games XII as that is the date that Letters of Intent are due. For more information on the process including timelines [visit our website](#).

Diversity and Inclusion

By the end of 2019 the FGG had welcomed three new Members from Mexico – Lobos México, Zorros LGBT and Federación Mexicana Deportiva de la Diversidad. These organisations join our four existing Latin America Members – from Mexico City, Argentina, Brazil and Chile. Our family is growing!

In addition to these organisations, an increasing number of individuals from Mexico and Latin America more generally are becoming involved in the Gay Games. Luis and Enrique are volleyball athletes from Mexico and both participated in their first Gay Games in Paris 2018. For Enrique, his motivation to participate in Paris was "...ser parte de una historia más en mi carrera como atleta, dar un ejemplo en la comunidad LGBT" (...to be a part of history in my career as an athlete, and be an example to the LGBT community). Enrique felt he had to participate in Paris 2018 "...en apoyo a todos esos deportistas de la comunidad que no tienen oportunidades de representar a su país por el hecho de ser diferente..." (...in support of all those athletes in our communities that do not have the opportunities to represent their country because they are 'different' ...).





Luis is encouraged to continue supporting Gay Games "...para que llegue a más personas de la comunidad, que vean que pueden tener un futuro como deportistas y así tratar de mejorar la sociedad alejándonos de vicios teniendo otra opción como deportistas sin importar tus preferencias - de sexualidad o como te identificas" (... so that it reaches more people in our community, who will see that they can have a future as athletes and thus try to improve society, moving away from things like alcohol and drug abuse through having another option, as athletes regardless of your preferences – sexuality or how you identify).

The Gay Games has the potential to be a presence in countries that are currently significantly under-represented and to create a positive effect for the athletes in our communities. Luis adds: FGG has the power to "ayudar a jóvenes y niños de la comunidad hacerle ver que como deportistas tienen espacios lugares gente y una Federación para el apoyo de sus deporte"(...help young people and children of our communities to see that as athletes they have safe spaces, places, people and a Federation that supports them in their sports).

Luis and Enrique are both very positive about Gay Games 11 because they are being held in Asia for the first time. Unfortunately, both are uncertain about whether they will be able to attend the Gay Games in Hong Kong 2022 – simply because of the cost for them to travel from Mexico to anywhere outside Latin (or even Central) America. But they are working on it! They are looking at possibilities for local sponsorship and will also look at the FGG's scholarships program to help them.

The Passing of Gay Games Icon Susan McGreivy

Gay Games icon Susan McGreivy passed away on November 30, 2019. A loving tribute to her memory was written by Federation of Gay Games Honorary Life Member Shamey Cramer.

Among Susan's major contributions to the Gay Games and sports equality are:

Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell asked Susan to form Team Los Angeles in the build-up to Gay Games I. She ended up recruiting Shamey Cramer to do a lot of this organizing work.

At the Gay Games I Opening Ceremony in 1982, Susan, along with Tom Waddell's fellow track & field athlete, had the honor of lighting of the cauldron, signaling the official opening of the Gay Games.

In 1983, Susan filed a suit against the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, demanding that the 5,000 and 10,000 distance races (track & field) be added to the program for women.

Susan also worked on the Supreme Court case against the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), after they sued Dr. Waddell and San Francisco Arts & Athletics, the organization producing the Gay Olympic Games, over the use of the word "Olympic."

Susan's efforts on the Gay Olympics case were documented in the 2009 documentary film entitled "Claiming the Title: The Gay Olympics on Trial."

At the FGG 2013 AGA in Cleveland, the Awards Committee chose to honour Susan and fellow Gay Games pioneer, Jean-Nickolaus Tretter, with Legacy Awards.



Lighting the cauldron at Gay Games I Opening Ceremony: George Frenn (left) and Susan McGreivy (right).

Photo: Lisa Kanemoto

Compete Sports Diversity Awards

Kimberly Hadley, Tony Smith and Reggie Snowden attended the Compete Sports Diversity Awards, 10th Annual Petey Awards event in January the night before Sin City Classic started in Las Vegas, Nevada. Founded by a couple of Rugby players, Compete magazine recognizes outstanding achievement in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ Sports Diversity community. It's the first LGBTQ+ Sports Diversity magazine in the world that celebrates our community this way.

The event included a meet and greet reception on January 15th followed by a Diversity Conference on January 16th and ended with the Diversity Awards Gala on January 16th at the Flamingo, Las Vegas Resort. The Gala event honors athletes and organizations for their efforts in sports diversity, equality and inclusion. The following athletes and organizations were presented with recognition and awards:

This Year's Honorees Include (In Alphabetical Order):

- Alexis Levi, First Woman to own a Professional Men's Basketball Team
- Brian Hawker, Cascade Football League (CFL)
- Dr. William Kapfer, Esteemed LGBTQ+ Advocate
- Gus Larosa, GPL Athlete
- John Deffee, NAGAAA Commissioner
- JP Morgan Chase
- Lance Husak, Denver NAGVA Championship Tournament Director
- Las Vegas Gay Softball League
- Phoenix Gay Flag Football League (PGFFL)
- Quit Your Pitching, ASANA Softball Team
- Robert Goman, BETRUE Campaign and NIKE
- Seattle Seahawks, NFL Franchise

This Year's Partners Include:

- JP Morgan Chase, Presenting Sponsor
- Atlantis Events
- MGM Resorts
- Samuel James Watches
- Athlete Equality & Equality Nevada
- Amateur Sports Alliance of North American (ASANA)
- Gay Polo League (GPL)
- Sin City Classic Sports Festival
- USA Dodgeball
- Cloud Sports Network, Live Stream Media Partner
- The Las Vegas Spectrum, Media Partner
- QLife Magazine, Media Partner

Every January for the past 12 years, Sin City Classic has taken over Las Vegas with hosting thousands of LGBTQ+ participants and supporters for a very well organized, extended weekend of various sports. While it started with softball, it has grown to over 20 different sporting events and continues to successfully bring the community together by offering well organized events that are well attended by diverse supporters. There was an Athlete's early arrival party to kick the weekend off followed by a well attended Registration Party and a unique Cornhole for charity event going on while athletes registered and mingled. On the last evening, a closing party with live entertainment gave attendees the opportunity to bid farewell till the next event!

A Brief Q & A with Sin City Classic, Tournament Director, Ken Searce

Q: What are you most proud of with Sin City Classic?

A: When we, "The Greater Los Angeles Softball Association (GLASA)", started this 13 years ago in 2008, we were just one organization and one sport trying something new in a town that didn't have an LGBTQ sport presence. Today, we are partnering with 22 other sports organizers to host 24 different sport competitions in a unified umbrella we all know

as the Sin City Classic. There is a vibrant LGBTQ sports community in Las Vegas and we're happy that 4 of the sports are run by Las Vegas locals (Swimming, Tennis, Billiards and eSports).

Q: What's your biggest challenge in regard to Sin City Classic?

A: We have created a simple plug and play model for the different sports to join the Sin City Classic; hence, we are ready and prepared for additional sports and same sports growth but we must continue to pay attention to the changing demographics and needs of the athletes. Our athletes range in age from 18 to 60+; therefore, we need to continue to think of that when building the program schedules especially, if the Women's growth we noticed this year continues in future years.

Q: The number of participants is very impressive! What sports have the most impressive increase of participants?

A: We experienced a big growth spurt this year with the total number of athletes reaching 8,000 - an 18% increase from 2019. This brings the total attendance of athletes/family/friends to 10,000. Softball, Kickball and Soccer lead the way in growth this year. We had a 50% increase in total Women's Division teams this year with 61 total teams attending attending the Women's Softball tournament. Kickball grew by 25% breaking the 1,000 athlete total, only the second sport ever to break that number (softball is at 3,700 athletes this past year). Soccer continues to be the highest growth sport for our international athletes. With the move to a bigger venue, we expect the soccer team and athlete total to continue to grow in the coming years.

Q: In your opinion, what's the takeaway from the participants?

A: Over the last 3 years, we have put an increased focus on our nightly events with the two biggest being the Friday night Registration Party and Sunday night Closing Party as well as partnering with Charlie's, Piranha and GayVN to host join parties for our athletes as well. All events reported record number of attendance this year. The point of this is that the athletes know when they attend they will have the opportunity to compete during the day and connect during the night in an open and fun environment.

Q: What's the future hold for Sin City Classic?

A: Of course, we are always hopeful of more sports joining in the fun and we will be adding more events to our Thursday night schedule because the early arrival total for athletes has skyrocketed in the last two years. We typically have one early arrival jock party but it seems like we'll need to partner with more of the local Las Vegas venues to host more events on Thursday to accommodate the new demand.

PCA Charitable Cheerleaders raise \$3,559.67 for charity at the Sin City Classic XIII, Las Vegas NV, January 17-18, 2020

The Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA) announced a JACKPOT today! PCA's Charitable Cheerleaders perform to raise funds for nonprofits that support the LGBTQ+ community. In its lifetime, PCA and its Member Teams have donated over 1 million dollars to charity! PCA's performances at the Sin City Classic XIII, Las Vegas NV, January 17-18, 2020, raised money for a carefully selected local beneficiary, Golden Rainbow (www.goldenrainbow.org). Golden Rainbow provides housing, education and direct financial assistance to men, women and children living with HIV/AIDS in Southern Nevada.





Through public donation solicitation using their signature “Spirit Buckets” and through electronic crowdfunding, PCA raised over 3x their projected total. Today, PCA officially announced that \$3,559.67 was raised and donated to Golden Rainbow.

Why was this year such a huge success? It all comes down to the awe-inspiring volunteer cheerleaders, or “volunCHEERleaders,” as they like to call themselves. This year’s Sin City Classic drew record-breaking attendance. 132 Cheerleaders registered to participate in PCA’s Charitable Cheerleading events. Participants hailed from eleven different cities and ranged in age from 18 to 55. Cheerleaders entertained (and fundraised) at the Registration & Opening Night Party on Friday Jan 17. They traveled to 6 other sport venues within the tournament to cheer on fellow athletes (and fundraise) all day long on Saturday, Jan 18. PCA hosted a Charitable Cheerleading Competition Saturday night, and the tireless Cheerleaders competed (and fundraised!) all night. Routines were judged. Medals were bestowed. But every single cheerleader was a champion - a champion for the cause.





PCA will continue to unite, support, and develop Charitable Cheerleading and will continue as a Member of the Federation of Gay Games to support LGBTQ+ athletics domestically and internationally. Connect with PCA via the links below for updates.

Visit our [website](#)

Facebook: [PrideCheerleadingAssociation](#) - PCA;

Instagram: [PrideCheerleadingAssociation](#)

Twitter: [@PCA_Rocks](#)

YouTube Channel: [PCA Pride Cheerleading Association](#)

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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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