

**Welcome to the May 2020 Edition of Participate!**

**Join us for Hong Kong 2022 - Gay Games 11!**

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## **Who Could Have Imagined...**



...the changes that 2020 would bring to the World? There is no part of the Globe that has not been swept up in the past 6 months by the frenzied hurricane that is CoronaVirus. The pandemic has changed everything. When we ask what that means for us in terms of sport and culture, we already know some of the answers: Nearly all worldwide sporting and cultural events have been cancelled for 2020; the Olympics have been postponed; everyone has had to be creative on new ways to train, practice and rehearse; our cultural participants have entertained us in new and interesting ways; many of our member organisations have had to cancel their 2020 events - for most, these being their primary form of raising funds...

Still, many questions remain: when will in-person events begin again?; when we will be able to return to the courts, fields, pools and stages?; when will we, once more, enjoy the 'normal' that we took for granted?

However, in the midst of the unknowns, there are things we do know: we will be back, practice will restart, play will resume, performances shall once again entertain. And the Federation of Gay Games will be there to lead the way.

Keep watching for your Participate! newsletter as we promote our members' events that they will reschedule for later in 2020 and early 2021, and we celebrate their stories of innovation, connection and endurance during this unprecedented time. We look forward to returning to the new 'normal' for sports and culture, whatever that may be.

#FGG #gaygames. #gaygameshk2022 #lgbtq #love



Joanie Evans, co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, co-president

## GGHK2022 Update

### New Gay Games 11 Logo Unveiled!



The new logo for Gay Games 11 debuted on March 14, marking a natural evolution from the original Hong Kong logo. Its new name is, **The Sails Of Unity**, and through its design it expresses a unique meaning and symbology.

Until the 1970s, *sampans* – traditional Chinese wooden flat boats – were a familiar sight as they sailed up and down Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour. The striking red sails of the revered vessels as they crisscrossed through the waters were a sight to behold.

Nowadays, only a few remain visible in the harbour but their enduring legacy has made them one of the most cherished symbols of the city.

It's therefore fitting that the new logo for Gay Games 11 has been designed in the form of the *sampan* with the diversity that embodies the LGBTQ+ communities highlighted by the six rainbow colours. A grey hand represents humanity of which we are all part; the two-coloured waves depict the immense streams of water that unite all continents and gently push the ship towards reaching #UnityInDiversity.

Finally, the blue and orange colours, representing the sun and the sea chasing sunrises and sunsets, paint the wording, while the dark blue of the ocean rests quietly at the bottom, reminding us of the motto chosen for the Games, and of our Patron Committee, the Federation of Gay Games.

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](#) \* [Instagram](#) \* [Twitter](#) \* [Weibo](#) \* [Youtube](#)

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## FGG Family Profiles

### Meet Tommaso Panerai, Brand and Creative Director, GGHK Team





I feel honoured and thankful to join this team and bring my creative experience to help craft what's going to be an historical international event. For me, the games are the embodiment of inclusiveness and peace in the name of athleticism and culture: it's for everyone and open to anyone. This is an accomplishment that not too many decades ago could have been considered too dangerous to even dream of.

Creativity often eludes a specific definition. It can tie together ideas, imagination, and expectations with surprising and unexpected messages to make people feel at ease and intrinsically happy. It can also be leveraged to boost critical conscience by speaking a language that nobody has heard before.

This may be our definition of creativity for the Gay Games 11 2022 in Hong Kong. We will translate the spirit of tenderness, cooperation, and fairness into images, colours and imagination, integrated into the courage, fun, and resourcefulness of a city that – for the first time ever in Asia – will officially celebrate our unity in diversity, revealing its true soul beyond sports, borders, and rainbows.

\*

#### **Meet Twiggie Snow, Outreach Manager, GGHK Team**



My name is Twiggie Snow and I am an Outreach Manager of Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022.

Four years ago, my friend invited me to join a party where some volunteers were introducing Gay Games and talking about its history. At that time the GGHK team was bidding to host the games in Hong Kong and they were looking for more people to join the team.

I am the co-founder of Diversity Games Hong Kong, which promotes sporting activities to the wider community including LGBTQ+. I've also had experience helping to coordinate events such as Pink Dot Hong Kong and Hong Kong Pride.

I love sport and I'm proud to be part of the team that will bring a global LGBTQ+ sporting event to Asia for the first time. I believe these games will make history and increase awareness of LGBTQ+ diversity in the region. I'm looking forward to sharing my experience and to network with the local community so that they can better understand the Gay Games.

I enjoy all sports including baseball, badminton, basketball, swimming, and e-sports. My favourite activity, though, is hiking with my doggie, Snowy. I live near a country park and we go hiking and chase the peacocks every day!

Hong Kong is a diverse place where we embody the multicultural relationship between traditional Chinese culture and Western culture. You can have a traditional *yum cha* (Chinese dim sum) for breakfast and then just as easily find great coffee or pizza later that same day. Most Hongkongers can speak Cantonese, English, and Mandarin and we're really lucky that we live somewhere where we can make friends that come from all over the world.

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#### Meet the GGHK Team ; Shawn Griffin, Director of Arts & Culture



I was initially asked if I was interested in joining the team by a former colleague who was already involved with the Games. I was first brought on to Gay Games as a photographer during their initial bid in Paris. I stayed on ever since and assumed various roles as photographer, social media content creator, and Arts & Culture Performance curator before taking on my current role.

I joined the Gay Games in the Arts & Culture role to promote worldwide exposure of young creators in Hong Kong and Asia to a larger audience. Working in Hong Kong's art scene for the past 7 years has introduced me to the immense talent and wealth of creativity in the region by young artists and LGBT artists who are frequently underrepresented. Gay Games 11 Hong Kong provides a safe, highly visible, and accepting platform for these young LGBT visions to be expressed and I am very excited to be a part of its facilitation.

I live in North Point, which is considered the “*old side*” of the island. I initially moved to Hong Kong to pursue my MFA in photography and ended up staying on as a permanent resident after graduating. I currently run my own creative services company which puts me in various roles as a photographer, video producer, and copywriter. I am also active in the Hong Kong arts scene and a member of the Hong Kong Arts Collective, contributing to the gallery exhibitions and participating in performances around the city. I am not really involved in team sports, but I remain an active weightlifter and try to keep up with a daily 5k run.

The energy of the city and the attitude of the local residents excites me in Hong Kong. It has a very unique vibe that was instrumental in my artistic inspiration and living in the city is like living in an art piece. The generosity, open-mindedness, and colourful heritage of the city has captivated me for nearly a decade and I am very excited to be a part of bringing The Gay Games to *Asia's World city*.

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## Culture and Ceremonies

### Check Out These Culture Updates From Our Communities!

**GALA Choruses:** [GALA Festival Minneapolis announcement](#)

**Lesbian Gay Band Association (LGBA):** [Cancellation LGBA 2020 Portland announcement](#)

Here is FGG's own Officer of Marketing, Doug Litwin, with some lockdown clarinet recitals to lift your day:

[Rainbow Connection Clarinet Quintet](#)

[Flower Duet Clarinet Quartet](#)

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## Membership

### The National Meeting of Sports of Sexual Diversity, DIDESEX 2020 is postponed



*Preventive measures to avoid the spread of COVID at the national level. Puebla, Mexico, will continue as the venue for the meeting that will tentatively take place in November.*

On March 10, DIDESEX A.C. Organization that seeks to promote the sport of diversity in Central America, launched an open call to be part of the National Meeting of Sports for Sexual Diversity, DIDESEX, Puebla, 2020, an event that has been held annually since 2013 and has been characterized as being the largest in the region: it has had the participation of 1,000 athletes representing 28 states of the Mexican Republic and 6 different countries, within the 10 sports disciplines and the cultural event that comprise it.

This event was scheduled for June 12 and 13 of this year in the City of Puebla, Mexico, with the aim of positively impacting human rights in the State since, as we well know, Puebla has been characterized for being a conservative State where religion and discrimination towards people in the LGBTQ+ communities predominate. According to the National Survey of the National Council to Prevent Discrimination, Puebla ranks first in discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the country.

As part of the impact strategy, the National Meeting works together with the coordinators of the LGBTQ

March in Puebla and for the first time a pride march in Mexico will be dedicated to LGBTQ sport, as well as other institutions such as: The Poblano Institute of Sport, The Poblano Youth Institute, Comunidad Amiga Puebla, APPS, Federation of Gay Games, Football v Homophobia, among others, also decided to join the Meeting.

However, despite the efforts made to carry out the National Meeting, it had to be postponed due to the entry of COVID-19 in Mexico, a country that is currently in Phase 3 and has had to implement precautionary measures including the cancellation of sports events, closing of hotel, and limitations to transportation to safeguard peoples's health.

Despite this setback DIDESEX has announced that nothing will be prevent the annual National Meeting taking place like it has every year, so it has made the decision to postpone it until the first week of November 2020.

*"Not holding the Meeting would be letting pass a great opportunity to make ourselves visible, to continue promoting the sport that we have planned so that more athletes from Mexico come to Hong Kong 2022 and allow the rights of the LGBT community to continue to be violated in Puebla "*, according to Rafael Villanueva, Director of DIDESEX AC.

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## International Development



Pride House Tokyo opened its doors in 2019 as a temporary hospitality pop-up space to welcome Rugby World Cup athletes, their families and fans in Harajuku, the capital's fashion center. Pride House Tokyo members worked together as a consortium made up of over 25 LGBTQ+ organizations and individual activists, 18 companies and 15 Tokyo based embassies to raise awareness of LGBTQ+ issues in Japan and more specifically in the field of sports at large



After a successful 49 days, we closed our temporary space in November 2019 and began preparations for Pride House Tokyo 2020 which was due to be hosted near Shinjuku Nichome – Tokyo's main gay town - during the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics and Paralympic games. Yet, as we all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has postponed these games until 2021. Pride House Tokyo 2020 has thus shifted its attention to online events and achieving its ultimate aim of opening a permanent LGBTQ+ center in Tokyo – something that Japan still lacks - while waiting for the Tokyo Olympics to re-open the following year.

Pride House itself is a concept that began in 2012 at the Vancouver Winter Olympics. Since then Pride Houses have popped up at nearly all Olympic events and also at other major sporting events to draw attention to sports still being one of the last frontiers for the LGBTQ+ community. And while enormous strides have been made in recent years – including the participation of a record number of openly LGB athletes at the 2016 Rio Olympics (there were unfortunately no transgender athletes at Rio) – there is still a lot of work to be done in this field. Including in Japan, where diversity is still a new concept that is just starting to take roots.

The Federation of Gay Games has a history of contributing to Pride Houses going back to 2012 in London, and we are looking forward to having a presence at Pride House Tokyo in 2021!

Visit: <http://pridehouse.jp/> IG: @pridehousetokyo

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## **Out Athlete Fund launches LGBT+ college runner grant with support from International Front Runners**

The Out Athlete Fund is fiscally sponsored by the Federation of Gay Games. An April 17 article on Outsports.com details the latest initiative of OutAF with FGG member organization International Front Runners.

Under this program, each Tuesday from April 21 through May 5, the newly launched non-profit Out Athlete Fund (OutAF), sponsored by the Federation of Gay Games, held 10K Fundraisers to support college runners through a need-based grant. International Front Runners (IFR) is promoting this virtual run as a way for its global running community to come together at this time.





## The Federation of Gay Games Mail - The Official Newsletter of the FGG

Even though the event is completed there are many ways you can help and support us. Visit this [link](#) for more information.

Stay connected with us on facebook (OutAthleteFund) and Instagram (@outathletefund) to stay up to date and join in on future work the fund will be doing!

To read the complete article, on Outsports.com, published on 17 April 2020, 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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**Address:** 584 Castro Street Suite #343 • San Francisco, CA 94114 • Phone: +1-866-459-1261

