

Welcome to the February 2021 Edition of Participate!

Join us for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, 11-19 November!

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Joanie Evans, co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, co-president



What a month January was!

Wow. Since you last heard from us, changes have been plentiful. The USA has a new President, COVID vaccines are being rolled out worldwide and the Federation of Gay Games has seen some exciting developments too. We have just completed our 2020 Annual General Assembly (AGA) deferred to January 2021. For obvious reasons it was an entirely virtual event. With over 100 participants each day, a packed agenda and positive feedback, we'd say it was incredibly successful. There were a few core people who were integral to making this happen led by our brilliant VP of Operations, Viv Woodcock-Downey. Viv considered many options for the production of the AGA before determining that a fully virtual meeting was the only choice. Powered by Cisco Webex, we were able to host a productive event. We are excited to welcome several new board members, 2 new Honorary Life Members, and a streamlined Mission Statement: The mission of the Federation is to promote equality, diversity and inclusion through sport and culture.

But our most exciting news came a week after the AGA when Dave Killian, our brilliant and tireless Officer of Site Selection, announced the 3 finalists competing for the honor of hosting Gay Games XII in 2026: Guadalajara, Munich and Valencia. We congratulate these finalists and are excited to welcome them at the 2021 AGA in Hong Kong this November, where the presumptive host will be announced.

We at the FGG extend our gratitude to all those who were able to attend our 2020 AGA, to those joining our board in new positions, to the GGHK2022 team for its continued stellar work in preparing for Gay Games 11, and lastly, to the 20 cities that began the bid process for Gay Games XII, and the 5 cities that made it the pre-final round. Auckland, Brisbane,

San Diego, Taipei, and Toronto, we honor you for your passion and commitment to making change, and hope to see the Games held in each of your cities in the years to come.

Finally, it's LGBTQ History Month in the UK and Black History Month in the USA. Deep gratitude to all of the trailblazers who have made the way that we live possible, and pushed for acceptance and equality. We aim to carry this torch.

#FGG #gaygames. #gaygameshk2022 #lgbtq #love

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored, textured background. The signature reads "Franie Zito" in a cursive, flowing script. The "Z" is particularly large and stylized, with a small circle and a dash at the end of the "to".A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads "Sam" in a cursive, flowing script.

FGG in the BBC's LGBT Sport Podcast



The LGBT Sport Podcast

The One on the History of the Gay Games

"What do the Gay Games mean? I think they mean everything."

Sean Fitzgerald and Shiv Paul were part of an interview by Jack Murley from the BBC for The BBC's LGBT Sport Podcast to discuss The History of the Gay Games. You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

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FGG invited to present at SportWorks Live Webinar

Joanie Evans and Shiv Paul were invited by [SportWorks](#), an online platform dedicated to the professional and personal development of the global SportWorker community headquartered at the prestigious *Maison du Sport International, in the Olympic Capital Lausanne, Switzerland*.

The talk, ["Sports industry and the LGBTQ+ community: an inevitable embrace"](#) focused on how the Sports Industry needs to adapt to cater to a changing demographic and FGG's plans and POV at having a seat at the table.

FGG will launch its own topical chat show coming soon!

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Federation of Gay Games 2020 Annual General Assembly – Memorial Moment



Each year at the Annual General Assembly (AGA) meeting, the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) pause to remember those who are affiliated with our organization who are no longer with us. This event is called the Memorial Moment, founded in 1997 by one of our past Board members, Brent Nicholson Earle. A recipient of 2010 Waddell Cup, Brent also founded the International Rainbow Memorial Run.

The Memorial Moment honors Gay Games founder Dr. Thomas F. Waddell and artist Keith Haring, two leaders of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and queer (LGBTQ+) community lost to AIDS. Over the years, the memorial also honors those who have been lost to breast cancer and other illnesses. The deceased members are part of the Gay Games family and their friends and allies. In keeping with this theme of remembrance, reading names and leaving memorials on Signature Quilt Squares have traditionally been an integral component of these events.

This year, we were forced to celebrate the Memorial Moment event differently because of the coronavirus pandemic, which sadly prevented us to meet in person in London for the 2020 AGA meeting. Instead, the Memorial Moment event was held virtually with a pre-recorded 24-minute video. The same ceremonial elements were applied in producing this video to ensure

that the virtual event is sensitive, intimate, memorable, and celebratory. This year, we remembered 220 FGG family, friends, and allies.

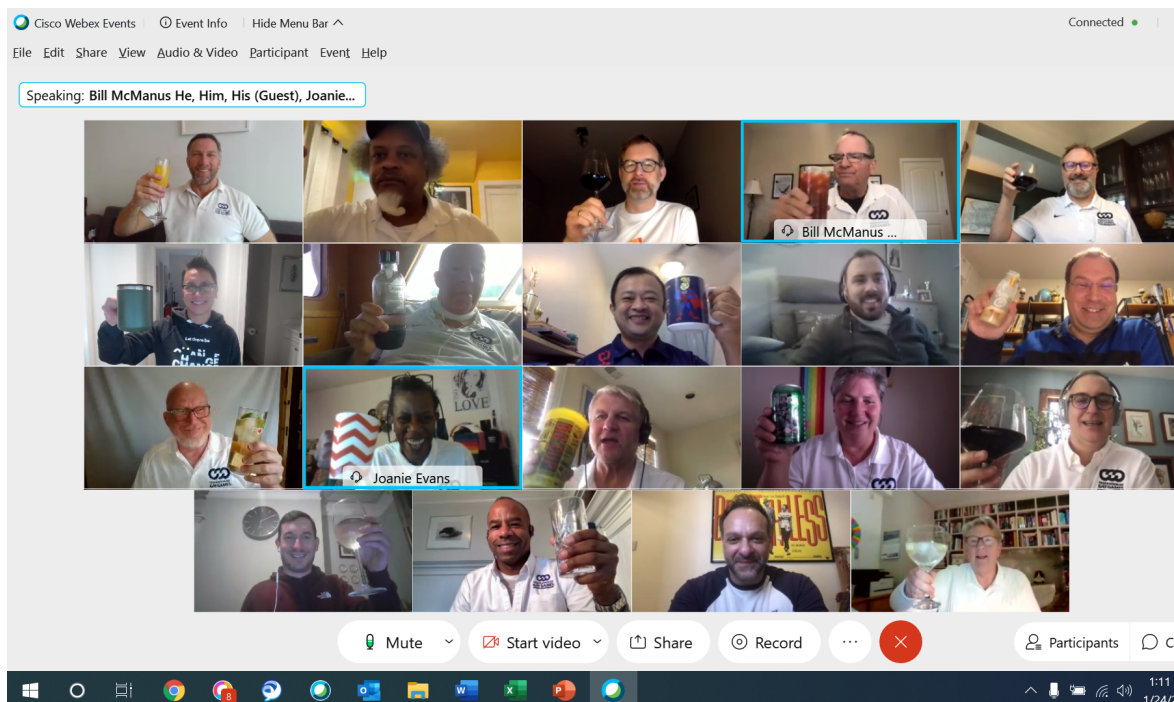
The Culture and Ceremonies Committee took the opportunity to produce a second, shorter version of the Memorial Moment video so that we can share it with our larger FGG community. This 15-minute video is agnostic of any particular AGA meeting and therefore preserves the essence of the Memorial Moment that can be shared for posterity. We invite you to enjoy this Memorial Moment video to remember those who have left an indelible imprint to our FGG community.

The FGG Board of Directors would like to thank David Doan (Officer of Ceremonies), Shamey Cramer (Honorary Life Member), and Doug Litwin (Officer of Marketing) for their collaborative, artistic work in producing these sublime Memorial Moment videos. The broadcast version of the FGG 2020 Memorial Moment video can be viewed on our GayGamesTV YouTube channel [here](#).

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Welcome to our new Board!

We managed to get most of our board in a screenshot at our January AGA. Hopefully it won't be too long before we are able to take a picture together in person!



Welcome our new Board members!



SHIV PAUL

Vice President of External Relations

Sport: Tennis

Location: UK

Loves: *"My dog, my family, Tennis, Making change, I guess I should mention my boyfriend!"*

Goal: *"I'm excited to be in this role and bring FGG to the next level in terms of external engagement!"*

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GRACE THOMPSON

Sports: Road and Trail running, Cycling, Triathlon, Obstacle Racing and Rock Climbing

Location: Washington, D.C. USA

Loves: *"Being outside. Exploring each moment I am presented with curiously."*

Goal: *"It is through this lens I hope to cultivate and explore the possibilities of International Development."*

"Plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."- *Nelson Henderson*



DAVID DOAN

Officer of Ceremonies

Sport: Volleyball

Culture: Band, Orchestra

Location: Anaheim, California, USA

Loves: *"My family, dog (Toby), cats (Moulin and Rouge), and friends."*

Goal: *"I am eager to leverage my skills and experience from various non-profit Boards to advance the mission, goals, and strategic initiatives of FGG."*

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JAMIE HOOPER

Officer At Large

Sport: Hockey and Rugby

Location: UK

Loves: *"My new puppy Eddie, long walks on the beach, hiking in the hills, reading, campfires, Buddhism, and fighting for equality!"*

Goal: *"I am absolutely determined to support the FGG to ensure that the Gay Games remains inclusive and accessible for the entire diverse global LGBTQ+ community."*

[Website](#)

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PETE MEAGER

Officer At Large

Sport: Dancesport

Location: UK

Loves: "My dog when he hasn't wee'd on the floor and eating - both have helped me tremendously with being at home for almost a year!"

Goal: "I am really hoping I can help the FGG bring it's' members closer together, making the benefits of membership more interactive and engaging."

In addition, we are excited that several of our Board members were re-elected to their posts for another term!

Anthony Alston, Officer of Culture

Hlengiqwe Buthelezi, Officer At Large

Sean Fitzgerald, Co-President

Kimberly Hadley, Officer of Sport

Ken Hundrieser, Secretary

Armin Lohrmann, Officer of Host Relations

Mike Myers, Treasurer

Jan Schneider, VP of Production

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FGG Ambassador Profiles

In this month's newsletter, we are excited and honored to introduce you to two new FGG Ambassadors: Eric Radford, an Olympic and World Champion Figure Skater, and Amini Fonua a two time Olympic swimmer who represents the Kingdom of Tonga.

Meet Eric Radford



What's your sporting story?

My name is Eric Radford and I'm an Olympic and World Champion in figure skating and I'm based in Montreal, Canada.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

Sport has given me so much life experience to a degree that I believe little else can. It has not only taught me and shaped who I am but also given me perspective on how I live my life.

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

I was the only male figure skater in a town dominated by Hockey. I dealt with a lot of bullying but in the end, I believe it made me stronger. Learning that what other people said or thought about me had *no bearing on who I am and what I'm capable of helped me to achieve my highest levels of success.*

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

I believe a part of life is to become "the youest you" you can be. When you realize that other's opinions about you don't matter, you become more comfortable in your own skin and become free to be yourself. I can guarantee you this will benefit you on and off the field of play.

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

I feel a responsibility to use my success to make a difference. The Gay Games are an incredible event that celebrates acceptance and diversity and exemplifies humanity through sport. It's a privilege to add my voice to movement.

What else do you want us to know about you?

If dodgeball was an Olympic sport I would've quit skating to pursue it. I love it! Maybe it can added as an event for 2026!



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Meet Amini Fonua



What's your sporting story?

I'm a two-time Olympic swimmer for the Kingdom of Tonga. I was born and raised in New Zealand but hold dual citizenship with the Pacific nation through my father. I'm based in New York City and train at the moment, while trying to qualify for my 3rd Olympics training at the New York Athletic Club.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

Sport has given me self-confidence and a robust self-esteem that is rooted in hard work and accomplishing goals. I really believe that sports saved my life as a kid as it gave me an outlet for excellence that wasn't derived from anything physical but through internal dialogue and self-introspection.

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

I have had a few negative experiences but I choose not to dwell on them. The easiest way for me to deal with these negative experiences is through saying: "I'll show them." I love turning haters into motivation for my next accomplishments.

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

Do your best, compete, and enjoy! Winning isn't everything but wanting to is. Learn to love the pain that comes with pushing your physical boundaries.

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

The Gay Games is the biggest global human rights event in the world, and being a Gay Games Ambassador will hopefully progress equality in homophobic parts of the world like the Kingdom of Tonga, which is the country I represent and where it is still illegal to be gay.

What else do you want us to know about you?

After the 2016 Olympics, I moved back to Tonga and built a hotel with my family called The House of Tonga. It was so fulfilling to create jobs and stimulate the Tongan economy that I wondered what else I could create, but this time for myself. Because I couldn't find any

sponsors for my Tokyo 2021 Olympic journey, I decided to create my own company and sponsor myself! If you can't find somebody to choose you, you've got to find a way to choose yourself. So I created a beauty company called Tropikaux, which is a collagen treatment for both hair and skin. Everyone, regardless of gender, skin type, or skin color, needs collagen! And I wanted to create a product that promoted diversity and inclusion, which we need to encourage more of, especially in the beauty business.



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Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 Update



GAY GAMES 11

HONG KONG 2022

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

在多元中團結



Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 will take place 11th-19th November 2022. This will be the first time a Gay Games has taken place in Asia, and it will feature 36 sports, 14 cultural events and a rich calendar of cultural events for 12,000 participants and 75,000 spectators. Registration will open in Q1/Q2 of 2021. For more information go [here](#).

Important dates for your diary:

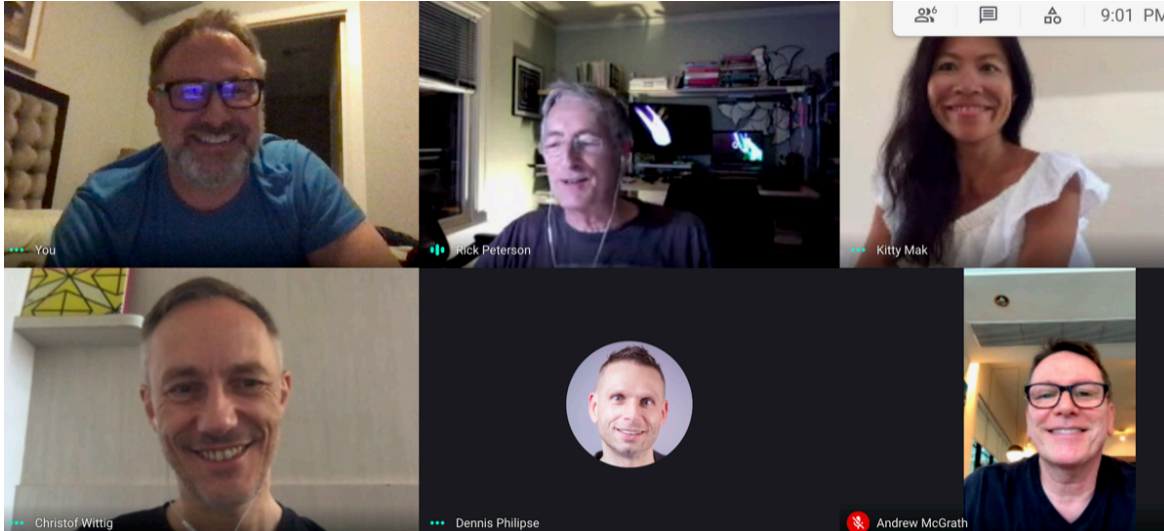
- Pre-registration opening March 2021
- Registration opening June 2021

- GGHK 11-19th November 2022

Become a GGHK Champion! Apply [here](#).

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Corporate Sponsors are Lining Up for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022



Sponsorship Development Team: Clockwise from upper left: Daniel Holland (Toronto), Rick Peterson (Seattle), and Kitty Mak, Andrew McGrath, Dennis Philipse and Christof Wittig (in Hong Kong).

Corporate sponsors and partners are an important part of funding for Gay Games, not just to help keep participant costs affordable, but also to raise Gay Games awareness around the world.

And Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 is no exception.

Participants at the recent FGG Annual General Assembly meeting held in London (virtually) learned that GGHK2022 is making tremendous progress lining up significant global brand partnerships. An announcement is expected in late March or early April 2021, when the first set of key partners will be introduced.

Sponsorship levels for GGHK2022 range from US\$100,000 to \$500,000, offering greater exclusivity and visibility depending on the sponsorship level. At US\$1 million, platinum partnerships are the highest level, offering customized brand activation programs depending on each brand's strategic goals.

Under the leadership of GGHK2022 head of fundraising Christof Wittig, the sponsor and partner development team includes FGG officer of development Daniel Holland, GGHK2022 head of sponsorship FGG HLM Rick Peterson, GGHK2022 founder and co-chair Dennis Philipse, GGHK2022 partner success manager Kitty Mak, and GGHK2022 sponsor success manager Andrew McGrath.

The team is in high level conversations with famous brands in a wide array of segments including technology, activewear, hospitality, financial services, travel and more.

Recent past Gay Games 10 Paris 2018 corporate sponsors included BNP Paribas, GE, Franprix, and Renault.

For more information about GGHK2022 partner and sponsorship opportunities, contact the team at <https://gghk2022.com/en/our-supporters/>. There are also ways for individuals and patrons to also make important and welcome contributions to making history at Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, visit <https://gghk2022.com/en/donate>.

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Access GGHK's Webinar on 28th January: Update and plans for 2021 [here](#)

The first of our monthly webinars of 2021 held on Thursday 28th of January at 7pm Hong Kong time (6am Friday New York time / 11am Friday London time) was very well received.

As well as an update on the GGHK program and details on the plans for 2021 including registration, sponsorship and contingency, the team was able to answer many questions about the experience an attendee can expect as a LGBTQ+ person coming to the country. It's

not illegal to be LGBTQ+ in Hong Kong. This webinar which has already had 352 views is in English and you can access it via [GGHK's YouTube channel](#).

Look out for news of our next webinar!

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Get involved now and become a Champion of GGHK

We are looking for Champions (volunteer role) to promote GGHK within your LGBTQ+/sports communities, city, country or region. Read more [here](#) about this role and how you can apply.

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SMILE... and help the Gay Games Change the World!

Do you shop Amazon.com? You can make a quick change to your account and every dollar you spend will support the Federation of Gay Games mission to promote equality in and through sport and culture!

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from Amazon's list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

To change your charitable organization:

- Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
- Search for "Federation of Gay Games" to select the FGG as the charitable organization to support.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

NOTE: This program may or may not be available when shopping from your country. Please check on your end.

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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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