

Chair's Report LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Committee December 8, 2021

Congratulations to leZlie lee kam

One of our members, leZlie lee kam, was presented with this year's Steinert & Ferreiro Award by the Community One Foundation. leZlie joins an impressive list of community advocates who have received this award in recognition of their 2SLGBTQIA+ leadership in the GTA.

For decades, leZlie has been fiercely committed to raising the proud and joyful visibility of 2SLGBTQIA+ seniors, ensuring out individuals don't feel pressure to retreat into the closet as they age. From recently serving since 2016 as the only openly queer representative on the Provincial Liason Committee of the Ministry of Senior Affairs and Accessibility, to co-organizing and hosting International Day of Older Persons queer events, and developing 2SLGBTQIA+ Best Practice Guidelines for service providers in Ontario, leZlie is a huge force in creating visibility and dignity in ageing as a 2SLGBTQ+ individual.

Status of Motions to City Council

Funding Cuts to AIDS Committee of Toronto and Other Health Service Providers

City Council adopted our recommendation expressing disappointment and concern with the Federal Government's decision to significantly reduce funding the HIV/AIDS health service providers in Toronto and across Canada; and calling on the Federal Government to increase the federal HIV/AIDS strategy funding to \$100 million annually beginning in 2022.

Supporting Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Communities in Toronto's Shelter and Overnight Services System - Clearing of Encampments

The Executive Committee referred this item to the General Manager, Shelter Support and Housing Administration, the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, the Director, Office of Emergency Management and the Director, Corporate Security for their consideration regarding the impacts of enforcement of the Parks By-law on members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Two-Spirit community.

New Tools for Protecting Local Culture

At the November meeting, City Council directed the General Manager or Economic Development and Culture to begin public engagement on the development of a Cultural Districts Program that strengthens local culture and communities, supports small businesses and retail and promotes community-owned spaces and to bring forward a final program design and implementation plan in 2022 that includes the: eligibility criteria; program components; community role and ongoing engagement; and estimated costs and financial impact.

As part of this work, City Council also directed staff to identify planning policies that would support cultural districts and be of benefit to communities and neighbourhoods, in particular Church-Wellesley, Little Jamaica, Downtown Chinatown and Geary Avenue, and at least one community and neighbourhood in the former City of Etobicoke, North York or Scarborough.

Cultural Festivals Funding Program

Also at the November meeting, City Council approved the establishment of the Cultural Festivals Funding Program with implementation commencing in 2022.

City Council also amended the eligibility of project applicants, in addition to BIAs and culturally mandated organizations, to include incorporated not-for-profit community organizations who wish to partner with unincorporated individuals or collectives who are producing a community festival.

Missing and Missed Implementation Team Community Representatives

The Toronto Police Service has announced the Community Representatives on the Missing and Missed Implementation Team:

Praney Anand, a Registered Psychotherapist (Qualifying) and the current Executive Director at the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention with more than a decade of experience working with gender and sexual minority communities in research, counselling, and education.

Monica Forrester, 2Spirit Transwoman of colour, Founder of Trans Pride Toronto and Transitioning Together 2004, currently working with Maggie's Toronto as the Program and Outreach Manager, Monica was a member of Judge Epstein's Community Advisory Group.

Ashley Hiscox has over a decade of experience working as a trauma-informed victim support and response specialist, supporting people impacted by crime and sudden

tragedy, and their direct involvement with police in relation to these. She has worked closely with and advocated for members of vulnerable and marginalized communities, including those affected by missing persons.

Justin Khan, the Director of Public Interest and Legal Initiatives at The 519 and a vocal advocate for 2SLGBTQ+ communities navigating the justice system.

Michele Lent, previously a 26-year member of the New York Police Department, a member of the Gay Officers Action League and a member of Judge Epstein's Community Advisory Group.

Maureen Parkinson has worked with the provincial government managing various teams in investigating at risk persons facing financial/physical abuse, homelessness and a lack of financial resources. These people often cannot speak for themselves and advocating on their behalf called for liaisons with multiple local, provincial and federal agencies all while being cognizant of the individual's prior capable wishes and personal background.

Ron Rosenes, a life-long advocate and community leader, awarded the Order of Canada in 2015 for his work on behalf of HIV communities, and a member of Judge Epstein's Community Advisory Group.

Desmond Ryan, with lived experience as a police officer spent decades working with people experiencing homelessness and addiction as well as those in the street-level sex trade, including Trans and marginalized sex trade workers.

Natalie Sitt, a Parole Supervisor with the Correctional Service of Canada brings experience working closely with Elders, Indigenous Liaison Officers and first-hand knowledge of how the justice system has impacted many Indigenous people.

Haran Vijayanathan, the Director of Equity and Strategic Initiatives at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, a Casey Award winner for work with HIV/AIDS and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and a member of Judge Epstein's Community Advisory Group.

Flora Vineberg, an Associate at Spring Law with a Masters in International Law and Human Rights, frequently represents sexual assault survivors, and a current member of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee.