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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRIDE IN THE CLE™ TO RETURN JUNE 4, 2022**

*Annual event to return to in-person march and festival in new location*

Pride in the CLE™, the annual event celebrating LGBTQ+ rights, culture and liberation, will be returning to downtown Cleveland on Saturday, June 4, 2022. A march will be held winding through the streets of Cleveland and end at the historic Malls B & C for the traditional Pride in the CLE™ festival. The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland will again be planning the event in conjunction with an official Pride Steering Committee who bring a diverse skill set to the event's planning and execution. In 2019 (the last time an in-person celebration was held) turnout for the Pride in the CLE™ march and festival at Public Square reached over 30,000 attendees. In order to safely accommodate anticipated crowd size, the event will be relocating from Public Square to the Malls.

Committed to the mission of enriching the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in Northeast Ohio, Pride in the CLE™ has been an extension of the Center's mission by convening community members, partners, allies, and neighbors each year for a march and festival in the spirit of advocacy, support, education, and celebration. "Pride is a bold and beautiful testament to the history, resilience, joy, and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community now and into the future. We are so pleased to be able to resume this year's Pride in the CLE™ festival in-person" says Phyllis Seven Harris, Executive Director of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland.

Over the last two years, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Center reimagined Pride in the CLE™ by producing a series of events that would allow for individuals to participate safely at a distance while cultivating the essence of the event that typically draws more than 25,000 people to Downtown Cleveland. Last year, in addition to the Pride Ride, the Center in partnership with WKYC – Channel 3, brought Pride in the CLE™ directly into the homes of Northeast Ohioans through a 30-minute program highlighting the past, present, and future of Pride and Cleveland's LGBTQ+ community.

As a highly anticipated annual tradition, Pride in the CLE™ brings the LGBTQ+ community together in solidarity and highlights their strength, resilience, and promise. This commemoration both galvanizes and inspires the community onward toward social justice and liberation. As a Black- and LGBTQ+-led organization with a core mission centered on inclusion and intersectionality, the Center works intentionally to ensure all voices and stories of the LGBTQ+ community are heard and honored during Pride in the CLE™. Beyond uniting diverse LGBTQ+ and allied communities, Pride in the CLE™ is an opportunity for the local business community to learn how to be supportive and inclusive of LGBTQ+ citizens and employees and, more broadly, contributes to the steadfast spirit and diversity of greater Cleveland.

The LGBTQ+ community in Northeast Ohio is a vibrant, thriving, and diverse community that includes LGBTQ+ youth, young adults, transgender/gender nonconforming individuals, families, and seniors. The Center has been dedicated to understanding, working with, and responding to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community for more than four decades and is honored to again serve the Greater Cleveland community through continuing to plan and promote Pride in the CLE™.

For more information stay tuned to the official Pride in the CLE™ website ([lgbtcleveland.org/pride](http://lgbtcleveland.org/pride)).

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**About the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland**

Founded in 1975, The Center is a leading non-profit organization that empowers Northeast Ohio's LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, education, collaboration and celebration. A hub of resource and refuge, The Center provides a safe, welcoming and visible space, health and wellness services, cultural competency training, government and media outreach, social events and a variety of intergenerational programming.