letter from the executive director
In 2022, I am proud to celebrate ten years of leadership at the Center with clarity of focus in service of our mission to “enrich the lives of LGBTQ+ people through support, advocacy, education, and celebration.” When I began with the Center in 2012, it was brimming with excitement about the opportunity to rise to street level. Visibility means a great deal to a community whose struggles and obstacles are often erased and disregarded. This new wave of visibility allows us to continue our commitment to serve the community.

After almost a decade of learning and growing through humility and well-earned successes, we expanded on the goal by establishing our Center as an anchor organization in our neighborhood. We successfully ended 2021 by rising together as an organization, community, and network of activists to overcome an ongoing pandemic while simultaneously keeping our mission alive. As 2021 ended, we continued rising together with the energy of having experienced an incredible year of delivering LGBT Center programs, activities, activism, an increased community presence, and plans to make 2022 just as fulfilling.

Cultivating a community organization that reflects the community itself has always been an intentional goal; we are who we serve. I feel this fully as I continue marveling at The LGBT Community Center’s team of dedicated staff, volunteers, community partners, and board members. Together, we have proven ourselves and boldly demonstrate our capability to rise in the face of unimaginable challenges. As Covid-19, the Delta variant, and the Omicron variant surged, I dealt with separate health issues that kept me away from the office for six months of the year. As I fought to maintain my health, my staff rose to the occasion of doing their best to keep themselves, others, and our community safe. We did this amongst an underlying stress from the several continuous attacks on trans youth and their basic right to health care and to be a kid; a demographic we have an obligation to serve and protect.

Together, we faced those challenges on how to care for Center guests, LGBTQ community members, and each other with grace and success. We also gained a newfound understanding of our role in the community, beginning with building collaborative supports and partnerships across the LGBTQ+ serving organizations and groups because together we rise not only to benefit the Center, but in coalition with other organizations who have dedicated themselves to establishing a safer, accepting, and just environment. Together, through sharing information via monthly LGBTQIA Coalition meetings, sharing space with the LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce, connections with Studio West’s development, sharing program delivery with the Colors+ to ensure the delivery of counseling services for trans and nonbinary youth, we gained even more momentum and strength in community. We look forward to this work to rise together in 2022. We plan to start the year by organizing focus groups to give us feedback and to share their ideas as we transition back to the traditional format of Pride in the CLE Jun 4, 2022, as well as other celebratory events to come. Together, we rise and still our strongest has yet to be seen.

Sincerely yours,
Phyllis Seven Harris
As the world began to open back up in 2021 many communities started to and continue to define what normalcy looks like in a post-pandemic world. There were points of great uncertainty for many, especially those in marginalized communities. But even among this uncertainty, The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland has continued to provide and innovate our programs and services to meet the needs of our surrounding community. We believe that if we stick together and support each other through our personal struggles, together we will rise to make up a bigger and stronger community than ever.

1200+
total community members received hybrid social/emotional support

46
organizational training workshops provided

27
total organizations who participated in training workshops

700+
total program participants

3951
nutritional boxed lunches

40
individuals or families received grocery assistance

960
total grocery deliveries made

55+
total number of individuals received transportation assistance

160+
individuals connected to partner virtual medical/mental health providers

30+
individuals connected to partner legal aid for housing and financial stability assistance

"we stick together and support each other through our personal struggles... we will rise to make up a bigger and stronger community than ever."
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland experienced another year of inspired growth in fiscal support from our community. The numbers displayed here reflect this heightened commitment to LGBTQ+ programming across the Northeast Ohio region. As we continue to expand these vital services, we also seek to expand our expertise in delivering the highest quality programming. This expansion required growth that was matched by our community. We thank all who generously gave in 2021!

2084
Total Gifts Made
13.6% increase over 2021

$25,775
in recurring gifts

81%
of all gifts made by individual community members

1681
gifts made by individuals (15.4% increase over 2021)

749
total amount of individual donors

$304
Average Community Member Gift Amount

68%
Staffing

18%
Misc. Office & Building Expenses

12%
Program Supplies

2%
Development Overhead

Total Revenue
$1,940,156.41

Total Expenses
$1,168,388.33

WE RISE TOGETHER
The Center would like to thank all organizations who contributed to the Center in 2021

AlphaSights, Ltd.
Antioch University
Aristotle Design Group
Artists Archives Of the Western Reserve
Bellefaire JCB
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff, LLP
BETAH Associates, Inc.
Better World Advertising
Carmen’s Custom Window Treatments
Case Western Reserve University
Charles River Laboratories
The Child & Family Counseling Center of Westlake
Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County
The City Club of Cleveland
The Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Couples Together
Cleveland Metropolitan School District
The Cleveland Outpost
Cleveland Play House
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
Cleveland State University
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.
Community Behavioral Health Center
Compass Consulting Services, LLC
Dancing Classrooms Northeast Ohio
Dean Rufus House of Fun
Dinsmore & Shohl, LLC
Dominion Energy
Douglass & Associates Company, LPA
East Cleveland Public Library
Embrace Pet Insurance
Enlightened Solutions
Fire Baby Studio
Firelands Scientific
First Federal Lakewood
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown
Freedom Valley of Huron County
Giant Eagle
Greater Cleveland Community Shares
Hathaway Brown School
Human Rights Campaign
Hyland Software
Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court Buckeye Empire, INC
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
John Carroll University
Keyfactor
Lake Erie College
Laurel School
The Legacy Perspective, LLC
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Lincoln Electric Company
Lorain High School
Marcus Thomas LLC
Medical Mutual
The MetroHealth System
Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis
The Center would like to thank our Foundational partners who supported the Center in 2021:

AmazonSmile Foundation
Avery Dennison Foundation
The Callahan Foundation
Carlisle and Troiano Family Fund
Center for Community Solutions
AIDS Funding Collaborative
The Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation
Cyrus Eaton Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation
The Higley Fund
KeyBank Foundation
The Lubrizol Foundation
The McGregor Foundation
Nordson Corporation Foundation
The Progressive Insurance Foundation
Ronald & Deborah B. Ratner Philanthropic Fund
Thomas J Coltman Foundation
Three Arches Foundation
The Treu-Mart Fund
The Woodruff Foundation

OUR FOUNDATIONAL PARTNERS

My Village Yoga
New Directions, Inc.
Noonday Collection
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
NRP Group
NVent
Ohio Alliance To End Sexual Violence
Ohio University
Olesia's Taverne of Richfield
One 80 Reasons
Opentrons Labworks, Inc
Peace Lutheran Church of Cleveland Heights
Petal Storm Floral
Pfizer
PFLAG Cleveland
Plexus LGBT Chamber Of Commerce
PNC Bank
Cleveland Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLC
Propaganda Coffee
Beachwood Pure Barre
Recovery International
Pearl Road Recovery Resources
Rocky River Public Library
Run Wild CLE
Sangfroid Strategy
The Sherwin-Williams Company
Signature Health
Skidmark Garage CLE
Sleepy Robot 13
Southwest Unitarian Universalist Church
Sweet Epoxy Dreamz
Target Corporation
Terrestrial Brewing Company
That Gay Guy Candle Co.
Thrift 2 Gift
Towards Employment
TWIST Creative
Twist Social Club
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Living Water United Church of Christ
United Way Lake County
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
UnitedHealth Group
University Hospitals
University School
University Settlement, Inc.
Variegate Design
Vibe Bar + Patio
Village Prep Willard
Village Prep Woodland Hills
West 117th Foundation
Women's Recovery Center
YMCA of Greater Cleveland
YourCause
Youth Opportunities Unlimited

WE RISE
ARTISTS ARCHIVES OF THE WESTERN RESERVE CONVERGE

Throughout September and October, the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve hosted “Converge,” a special art exhibition across multiple venues throughout Northeast Ohio showcasing the work of local and national LGBTQ+ artists. The Center was selected as a venue and housed a carefully curated collection of artwork. Through the generosity of some community members, many of the pieces now permanently call the Center home. As the artwork was going up in early September, some on staff finally began to feel a renewed energy return to our building, giving hope that the pandemic may be nearing an end.

“[we] began to feel a renewed energy return to our building, giving hope that the pandemic may be nearing an end.”
LEEDS EVENT

On September 30, 2021 a group of individuals who were instrumental in the construction of the new Center facilities gathered to celebrate the building’s official LEED Certification. This award recognizes the environmental intentionality behind the design of the building. “LEED certification identifies LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland as a showcase example of sustainability and demonstrates your leadership in transforming the building industry” (Official LEED Certification recognition letter).

PRIDE IN THE CLE 2021

With the pandemic still limiting many large-scale events throughout 2021, the decision was made early in the year to continue the Pride Ride in place of an in-person festival and march. Coupled with a polished, regionally broadcast prime time production detailing the history of the Center and Pride in the CLE on News Channel 3 WKYC, the Pride Ride grew in popularity and size. The Center looks forward to continuing this tradition in October of 2022, celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month and Coming Out Day!

800+ Participants
$135,000+ Raised
47 Partnering Organizations
40,000+ Viewers of the WKYC program (same as nightly news)
PRIDE IN THE CLE 2021
PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Alexander Mann Solutions Corporation
All Events Planned
Ambiance
American Greetings
Artists Archives Of the Western Reserve
Avient Corporation
Bellefaire JCB
Cavaliers Operating Company, LLC
CBIZ, Inc.
Centerlink, Inc.
Centers For Families and Children
The Cleveland Clinic
The Cleveland Foundation
Cleveland Public Library
Connecting For Kids
Cuyahoga Community College District Administrative Office
Detroit Shoreway Community Development Organization
Dobama Theatre
Dominion Energy
Douglass & Associates Company, LPA
Embrace Pet Insurance
FirstEnergy Foundation
Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
Huntington National Bank
Hyland Software
JoAnn Stores, LLC
KeyBank Foundation
Keyfactor
The Lubrizol Foundation
Mancan Wine, LLC
Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC
Mars Bar & Cafe
Martha on the Fly
Medical Mutual
Meijer
The MetroHealth System
Nestlé USA
New York Life Insurance Co.
Nordstrom
Ohio City Inc.
Oriana House, Inc.
PFLAG Cleveland
Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio
Platform Beers, LLC
Plexus LGBT & Chamber Of Commerce
PNC Foundation
Stonewall Sports, Inc. - Cleveland
Tremont Scoops
Trinity Lutheran Church
Twist Social Club
Federated United Church of Christ
Westlake United Methodist Church
Brecksville United Methodist Church
University Hospitals
University Settlement, Inc.
West 117 Foundation
WKYC News Channel 3
Windsong, Cleveland's Feminist Chorus
XYZ Tavern
CITY OF CLEVELAND
LGBTQ+ HERITAGE DAY

Cleveland’s LGBTQ+ Heritage Day takes place during the month of October in honor of LGBTQ+ History Month.

It is a day for the community to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the vitality and betterment of Cleveland’s LGBTQ+ community in the areas of advocacy and activism, health & wellness, public service, arts & culture, and workplace inclusion.

In 2022, a new award honoring Legacy in Volunteer Service was awarded to longtime Center volunteer Tom Stebel, who was previously awarded for Public Service in 2015.

2021 AWARD WINNERS

KEN SCHNECK
Advocacy and Activism

BELLA SIN
Arts and Culture

LAURA MINTZ
Health and Wellness

ROMAN SARDO-LONGO
Rising Leader

MICHELLE TOMALLO
Workplace Inclusion

TONY CORREA
Public Service

ERIN NASH
LGBTQ Legacy Award

WE RISE TOGETHER
STAFF
Phyllis “Seven” Harris
Executive Director
Denise Astorino
Engagement Coordinator
Mary Beth Bartholomew
SAGE Coordinator
Pam Bittner
Guest Relations
Christian Contessa
Office Coordinator
Gulnar Feerasta
Senior Director of Programs
Calvin Gibson
QYou Lorain Coordinator
Matthew Graves
Director of Development & Communication
Andrew Guzzetta
Development Associate
Daniel Hamilton
Director of Operations
Tamika “Devinity” Jones
HIV Prevention & Trans* Wellness Program Coordinator
Dawn Kotalik
Facilities Coordinator
Bridgette Lewis
QYou Program Coordinator
John Licatatiso
Training Coordinator
Eric Odum
QYou Program Coordinator
Alyssa Roberts
Program Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Justin Gould
President
Kenyon Farrow
1st Vice President
Laura Chalker
Treasurer
Shawn Brown
Braveheart Gillani
Stephanie Jansky
Elizabeth Newman
Henry Ng
Eliana Turan
Terri Williams

WE RISE
2021 annual report