

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Kristin Mazur  
Communications Manager  
216-202-7385  
[kmazur@lgbtcleveland.org](mailto:kmazur@lgbtcleveland.org)

**Billionaire and Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott awards  
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland \$2M**

March 19, 2024 – Today, philanthropist and billionaire MacKenzie Scott awarded the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland \$2 million through her charitable organization Yield Giving.

Recently, Yield Giving launched an open call for nonprofits, working with people and in places experiencing the greatest need in the United States, to apply for funding. The open call received 6,353 applications, with just a few hundred organizations selected to receive a grant.

“We are sincerely moved by this transformative gift supporting the LGBT Community Center of Cleveland, fueling our unwavering dedication to service excellence,” said LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Executive Director Phyllis Harris. “The LGBTQIA community can trust in the Center’s leadership to be visionary and accountable stewards of this invaluable support.”

Funding applications came from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, according to Lever for Change, the nonprofit overseeing the application process.

“We are excited that our partnership with Yield Giving has resonated with so many organizations,” said Cecilia Conrad, CEO of Lever for Change. “In a world teeming with potential and talent, the Open Call has given us an opportunity to identify, uplift, and empower transformative organizations that often remain unseen.”

To date, Yield Giving's network of staff and advisors has yielded over \$16,500,000,000 to 1,900+ non-profit teams to use as they see fit for the benefit of others.

"The significance of this award underscores the vital role the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland plays in serving the needs of our LGBTQ+ community," said LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Managing Director Gulnar Feerasta.

Kenyon Farrow, board president of the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, echoed that sentiment. "Given the attacks that the LGBTQ+ community is facing across the country and right here in Ohio, it is quite an honor to receive this kind of generous gift from Yield Giving," said Farrow. "We are very grateful to Yield Giving for this gift, and as we approach our 50th Anniversary next year, we will be using these resources to do even more to support the health and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community in Greater Cleveland."

Since 2019, Scott has awarded a significant amount of money to nonprofits, giving away the fortune she acquired after divorcing Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. She is currently worth more than \$36 billion, according to Forbes.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized by the Yield Giving Open Call with this generous gift," said LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland Director of Development William Marion. "I am proud of the hard work of my colleagues that led to this amazing event, and I look forward to building upon those efforts!"

More information on the Yield Giving Open Call and other initiatives can be found at [www.leverforchange.org](http://www.leverforchange.org).

**Established in 1975, the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland is one of the oldest LGBT community organizations in the country. The organization plays a crucial role in providing support, resources, and advocacy for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the Greater Cleveland area.**