



# NEWS

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April 26, 2016

## **San Mateo County Hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride Celebration “Without Borders”**

**SAN MATEO, Calif.** — On June 4, celebrate the diversity and inclusiveness of San Mateo County at the fourth annual San Mateo County Pride Celebration, 11am to 5pm, in San Mateo Central Park. This year’s theme is *Pride without Borders: Embracing Culture and Diversity*, which emphasizes the importance of recognizing how culture, race, sexual orientation, and gender identity overlap and affect our community.

The 2016 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Two-Spirit (LGBTQQI2S) Pride Celebration provides an opportunity for all communities to come together, learn from each other, and share a common experience. Festival goers will enjoy a fun-filled day of live music, family friendly activities, local art and merchandise, entertainment, and local resources including LGBTQQI2S-specific as well as inclusive and informed organizations that welcome our entire community.

“Pride strengthens our commitment to the principles of fairness, equality, and inclusiveness,” said San Mateo County District 1 Supervisor Dave Pine. “The Pride Celebration is an important annual event in San Mateo County where we can showcase the richness and diversity of our community.”

“Pride Day in San Mateo is a great celebration of individuality, friendship and joy,” said San Mateo County District 2 Supervisor Carole Groom. “With attendance growing each year since the first San Mateo County Pride Celebration in 2013, we’ve been able to break down more barriers between our diverse communities and recognize our commonalities. Pride provides us with a safe space to reflect on and celebrate all the opportunities that are available in San Mateo County, and reminds us that we must help ensure we can support everyone who lives here and meet our community’s diverse needs.”

“It’s important for everyone in our community to know that we are here for them,” said Stephen Kaplan, Director of San Mateo County Health System Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. “Pride celebrates the resilience of San Mateo County’s diverse communities, and showcases the comprehensive health and wellness services available to all of our diverse residents.”

This is a free event and everyone is welcome. Sign up online at [smcpride.eventbrite.com](http://smcpride.eventbrite.com). For more information about Pride and to participate as a contributor or to volunteer, visit

[smchealth.org/pride](http://smchealth.org/pride). Follow the latest festival details on Facebook at [facebook.com/PRIDEInitiativeSMC](https://facebook.com/PRIDEInitiativeSMC).

The Pride Initiative is working with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC) in support of the annual Pride Celebration. For more information about PCRC or to make a donation to the Pride Celebration, please visit [donatenow.networkforgood.org/pcrc](http://donatenow.networkforgood.org/pcrc) and choose "Pride Initiative (SMC Pride Event)" under "Select a designation."

*Please note, this is not a City of San Mateo-sponsored event.*

**ABOUT:** The San Mateo County Pride Initiative was established in 2007. It is led by the San Mateo County Health System's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Office of Diversity and Equity and supported by the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission. The Pride Initiative's mission is to foster an inclusive environment based on equality and parity for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and two-spirit communities of San Mateo County.

Major sponsors of Pride 2016 include the Entercom San Francisco cluster radio stations: 96.5 KOIT, 98.5 KFOX, Q102.1, 102.9 KBLX, and 95.7 THE GAME; San Francisco Federal Credit Union; Communities Overcoming Relationship Abuse; Congregational Church of San Mateo; Kaiser Permanente; Lakin Spears, LLP /Alma Soongi Beck, Esq.; Hilton Worldwide; AAA Northern California; Bettelon Duong & Parrish, LLP; Mandy Andrei, AAMS -Edward Jones Investments; First National Bank of Northern California; Freedom in Christ Evangelical Church, David Richardson and Dan Neumann; Peninsula Metropolitan Community Church; PFlag; Second Harvest Food Bank/CalFresh; The Bohannon Foundation; and Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo. The fiscal sponsor is Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

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