

SUCCESS STORY: SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Today, City staff are working with community partners and others committed to equity and inclusion to address emerging issues facing those who identify as LGBTQ+, including expanding gender inclusion, supporting LGBTQ+ youth programming, and addressing issues facing our LGBTQ+ communities of color.

Santa Monica is known worldwide as a welcoming place to live, work, and visit. The City, known for its progressive and inclusive policies, has established LGBTQ+ liaisons in our City Manager's Office and Police Department, We have expanded protections and benefits for LGBTQ+ staff and their families, residents, and contractors.

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Santa Monica is committed to ending the legacy of binary gender identifiers in many areas. City staff are trained on gender inclusive practices for City locker rooms and the City is actively working to transition our single-use restrooms and changing rooms to be all-gender.

The City Council has allocated funds to support those looking to change their gender identification by funding Trans Equity Scholarships that subsidize court and administrative fees for those who live and work in Santa Monica. To do this, the City has partnered with the Church in Ocean Park, a non-profit, non-denominational church committed to equity and inclusion.



Santa Monica is also committed to expanding protections for LGBTQ+ youth who are at increased risk of bullying. The City has implemented a comprehensive anti-bullying initiative including training for all City youth programs. Queer Prom, hosted at the City's Annenberg Community Beach House, welcomes LGBTQ+ youth and allies to celebrate a time-honored high school tradition.

We extend an invitation to join us each June for SaMoPride. Co-sponsored by the City, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., the Santa Monica Pier, and Santa Monica Place, SaMoPride is a community-wide celebration featuring local artists, non-profits, and businesses supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Santa Monica thanks HRC for its guidance and expertise as we explore these and other issues. This collaboration has been fundamental to effectively serving our local LGBTQ+ community and welcoming visitors to our beachside city.

**SUE HIMMELRICH
MAYOR**