

# SUCCESS STORY: ATLANTA, GEORGIA



**MALIK BROWN**  
**DIRECTOR, MAYOR'S DIVISION**  
**OF LGBTQ AFFAIRS**  
**ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

The City of Atlanta is known across the world as the Cradle of the Civil Rights Movement, the epicenter of influence and culture, and the LGBTQ capital of the American South. For nearly two decades, Atlanta was the only municipality in Georgia to enact a comprehensive set of non-discrimination laws, underscoring our commitment to protecting LGBTQ+ residents and visitors. Today, we are proud to report that, largely due to the dedication of our on-the-ground LGBTQ+ community members and leaders, Georgia now has 16 cities and counties that have passed similar ordinances.

As an employer, we mandate an annual LGBTQ+ cultural humility training for all employees, contractors, and elected officials, a training that we also offer to our housing partners and shelters. We ensure that our employment benefits support our LGBTQ+ workforce, and are proud of our COA Pride Employee Resource Group, home to hundreds of City of Atlanta LGBTQ+ and allied employees. This ERG provides policy recommendations to City of Atlanta leadership, as well as social and professional development opportunities for its membership.

Our city has taken monumental steps toward LGBTQ+ equality, illustrated by the historic moment in January 2022 when four openly LGBTQ+ individuals were sworn in to serve on the Atlanta City Council, marking the largest group of out queer lawmakers in the City's history.

This year, Atlanta made its largest-ever financial investment in the transgender community, funding name and document changes, wellness programs, and a pioneering mentorship pilot for LGBTQ+ youth.

Recently, our inaugural Youth Pride Summit + Festival brought together LGBTQ+ youth under 25, offering activities, resources, and programming to empower and support our young people. Additionally, we released our first-ever LGBTQ+ Historic Context Statement, providing a vital framework for recognizing and evaluating historic LGBTQ+ resources in the city.

The City of Atlanta is proud of our track record on LGBTQ rights and remains honored to do this work alongside so many of the municipalities recognized in the MEI. In 2022, at the HRC Atlanta Dinner, Mayor Andre Dickens said,

**“In Atlanta, we know two things: Atlanta influences everything, and Atlanta includes everybody.”**

