

The Importance of LGBTQ+ Centers in Appalachia

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This project aims to create the structural model that will allow for the establishment of an LGBTQ+ center in the Mid-Ohio Valley (MOV) region of Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia. The Stonewall Center of the Mid-Ohio Valley, which shall be referred to as “the center”, aims to provide community engagement within the local LGBTQ+ community. In the long term, it is also the goal of the center that mental and physical healthcare would be provided at low cost to LGBTQ+ identifying individuals in in our service area.

Background on LGBTQ+ Centers

- First centers established in Los Angeles, California and Albany, New York in 1971
- Emphasis on community engagement and grassroots organization
- Centers were vital to pro-LGBTQ+ advocacy during the height of AIDS crisis
- Today, centers have evolved to be an overall hub for resources for LGBTQ+ populations

Mission

- To create a better world for LGBTQ+ populations of Appalachian Ohio and West Virginia

Values

- Equity
- Intersectionality
- Community Engagement
- Belonging
- Access to resources

Structure

- Governed by Board of Directors and Executive Committee
 - Board of Directors consists of seven members
 - President: The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Center. The President shall from time to time make such reports of the affairs and operations of the Center as the Board may direct and shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The President shall have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the President by the Board.
 - Vice-President: Each of the Vice Presidents, if any, shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to such Vice President by the board.
 - Director of Finance: The Director of Finance shall be the custodian of all funds and securities of the Center. Whenever so directed by the Board, the Director shall render a statement of the cash and other accounts of the Center, and the Director shall cause to be entered regularly in the books and records of the Center be kept for such purpose full and accurate accounts of the Center's receipts and disbursements. The Director shall at all reasonable times exhibit the books and accounts to any Director upon application at the principal office of the Center during business hours. The Director shall have such other powers and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Director by the Board.
 - Director of Marketing: The Director of Marketing shall be the custodian of all social media accounts and content creation software owned by the Center. The Director shall be responsible for creating or approving all publicly shared content to be shared by the Center. The Director shall have such other powers, and such perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Director by the Board.
 - Director of Community Engagement: The Director of Community Engagement shall oversee the creation and implementation of all programming conducted by the center. The Director of shall be the liaison for the center when working with community partners. The Director shall have such powers, and such perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Director by the Board.

- Board Secretary: The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all meetings of the board. The Secretary shall be the custodian of and shall make or cause to be made the proper entries in, the minute book of the Center and such books and record as the Board may direct. The Secretary shall be Custodian of the seal of the Center and shall affix such seal to such contracts, instruments and other documents as the Board or any committee thereof may direct. The Secretary shall have such other powers, and such perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Secretary of the Board.
- Member At-Large: The Member At-Large shall act as an outside voice to the board. The Member At-Large shall not have committee chair assignments but will reside on committees as a representative of the Board. The Member At-Large shall have such other powers, and such perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Secretary of the Board.
- Executive Committee
 - The Board, by resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Board, shall designate from among the Directors an Executive, consisting of four (4) or more Directors, to serve at the pleasure of the Board, and each of which, to the extent provided in such resolution, shall have the authority of the Board. The Board may designate one or more Directors as alternate members of any such committee, who may replace any absent member or members at any meeting of such committee.
 - Within the Executive Committee of the Center shall be the Board President, Board Vice President, Director of Finance, and Board Secretary.

Five Year Plan

- The establishment and operation of the center shall be governed by the five-year plan that established the goals of the center in order to maintain success (see attached)

Branding

- The Center shall operate under the following font and color guidelines:



References

- Centerlink, (2022). History of the community center movement. Retrieved from: <https://www.lgbtcenters.org/AboutUs/History>
- Franke-Ruta, G., (2019). How America got past the anti-gay politics of the 90's. The Atlantic. Retrieved from: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2013/04/how-america-got-past-the-anti-gay-politics-of-the-90s/266976/>
- Lambda Legal, (2011). LGBT community centers seeking tax-exempt 501(c)(3) status: Proceed with caution on social or recreational activities. Lambda Legal. Retrieved from: https://www.lambdalegal.org/sites/default/files/publications/downloads/fs_lgbt-community-centers-seeking-tax-exempt-501c3-status_1.pdf
- McCarthy, C., (2019). For the community, by the community: The LGBT center national history archive. Medium. Retrieved from: <https://medium.com/community-archives/lgbt-community-center-archive-c064af2f30b3>

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