

Luka Amona

Luka has been active with Pride Toronto starting in 2009 and since joining the Board, he has taken a very active role in participating and leading a number of Board Committees including Co-Chairing the CAP Implementation Committee which is the committee charged with providing strategic advice and guidance to the Pride Board on the implementation of the recommendations of Community Advisory Panel report (CAP).

Luka is grateful to the community for the increased support that enabled Pride pull through a rather challenging period and ensured the delivery of a successful Pride festival. While a lot of progress has been made and the organization is in a much better position than it was just nine months ago, he acknowledges that Pride needs to continue to listen and engage all the communities that it serves so that their priorities are always aligned and reflected in the activities and festival events delivered by the organization.

With 15 years private, not-for-profit and public sector experience acquired from working in a variety of roles in Europe, Africa and North America. Luka brings along broad and diverse skills, knowledge and abilities that includes: community outreach & engagement, advocacy, human resources management, strategic planning, change management, governance and financial management. Raised in England he believes his experience and knowledge will be particularly valuable to the organization as it looks to elevate its community engagement and accelerate its preparations for World Pride in 2014.

James Dubro

James Dubro has been an investigative journalist and television documentary producer/writer specializing in organized crime in Canada for over 35 years. He has published five books and produced or written many TV documentaries on organized crime & other subjects (notably the award winning "Connections" series for the CBC and a series "the Mobs of Metro" for CITY-TV,. He has been a freelance writer on crime and policing issues involving the LGBT community in Toronto for xtra for the past ten years and has published many articles on the murder of the legendary Barn owner Janko Naglic as well as many other gay-related cold murder cases in the Toronto area. (Most recently a feature for Xtra online Oct 12, 2011 & Xtra Oct 20, 2011). Over the years Dubro has been an active Board member of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association (NLGJA Canada), the Church Wellesley Neighbourhood Police Advisory Committee (CWNPAC) where he served as a member for over 10 years and as Chair in 2000), the 52 Division Toronto Police CCommunityLiaison committee (Chair 2001-2) .

He has been going to gay Pride events since before Pride Toronto & has volunteered for Pride work in the 1980's & 90's and as recently as 2011 where he worked in the "Free Zone." He also attended the first Toronto Gay Action pride demonstration/celebration at Hanlan's Pt in August 1971 and many other versions of gay pride celebrations (including Gay Days)in the 1970's-today.

Susan Gapka

Susan Gapka transitioned on September 28, 1999 to fulfill her lifelong dream of living as a woman while working as a student placement at Toronto City Hall. Susan quickly became a trans activist joining the Board of Egale Canada, Canada's LGBT Advocacy Organization, helping to develop their trans portfolio by creating its Trans Issues Committee. In December 2004 Susan was recognized for her work empowering transsexual and transgender communities when the City of Toronto awarded her the Pride Award.

In 2001, Susan Gapka helped found the Rainbow Health Network (RHN) a network committed to promoting health and wellness for LGBT persons and their communities. Susan currently sits as a RHN Steering Committee Member at Large. Ms. Gapka both founded and is Chair of the Trans Health Lobby Group.

Ms. Gapka graduated with Honours from the Community Worker Programme at George Brown College. Since then Susan has been studying Public Policy and Administration at York University and graduated June 2009 with a degree in Political Science. While at York Susan served three years as TBLG Commissioner of the Canadian Federation of Students Ontario. Susan received several awards while at York including; the Ellen Baar Award for Public Policy twice, and the Ross McMillan Award for student leadership three times, and the 2005 Deborah Hobson Award for Student Leadership from the Vice President Students' Office.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health recognized Susan's leadership when she received the 1999 Courage to Come Back Award.

Marcelo Gomez-Wiuckstern

Over the last 16 years, Marcelo has built a successful career managing communications, marketing, and media, stakeholder and government relations. After leading communications and marketing programs in the finance, media, and government sectors, Marcelo launched award winning social marketing campaigns, rebranding initiatives and community engagement programs for children services agencies in Ontario.

Today, Marcelo is head of communications and public affairs at one of Toronto's busiest hospitals. Involved in the LGBT communities as a volunteer in Vienna, Montreal and over the last 10 years in Toronto, Marcelo has contributed to promote the first Pride Gala in 2006, rebrand the Community One Foundation and organize events for The 519 Community Centre.

Sean Hillier

Sean has been involved with Pride Toronto for three years, he is currently Coordinator for the Public Safety Committee and sits on the Board of Directors Governance Committee. Sean is completing his PhD in Policy Studies, his research focuses on both First Nations and Trans People and the impact policy has on healthcare issues affecting them. He is also a Director of the Board for Our Place Community of Hope.

As a member of the PT Board, Sean plans to focus his attention on community outreach and communication. As someone who identifies as a youth, he has worked alongside high school students to strongly advocate for GSA's. Sean also worked with First Nations Communities through his research and has forged many relationships with two-spirited and LGBT members. People with Disabilities make up a large portion of our community and he wants pride to be more accessible by ensuring that its office becomes fully accessible (he also holds a MA in Critical Disability Studies).

He pledges to ensure that Pride's committee's include members of these communities, including greater participation of the Trans community so our organization can continue to grow and thrive as a place of acceptance, celebration and political action.

Tyler Johnson

Tyler Johnson has been working as an assistant and advisor to several Toronto District School Board Trustees since 2006. He provides counsel to Trustees on policies and procedures, community engagement and communications. He is the founder and director for a children's camp established in 2008 providing services to low income families in downtown Toronto. Tyler has served as the Youth Coordinator for Pride Toronto since 2010. He has been recognized for holding public consultations, building the frame work of a stable Youth Committee, collaborating with Coordinators and brought the largest youth contingent to the parade in Pride Toronto's history.

Tyler has been involved in LGBTQ activism for over a year, protecting the freedom of expression during the debate around Queers Against Israeli Apartheid, and assisting in the organization of the Proud of Toronto Campaign to raise awareness about city funding for queer and HIV/AIDS groups. "I want to contribute and be part of an organization that has great potential to be on a course of growth and fiscal responsibility as we approach World Pride and beyond," Tyler says. He has been nominated and featured on CBC's The Current, on their Super Committed Series and in The Toronto Star's 'The New Faces of Gay Activism.'

Tyler wants to play an instrumental role in collaborating and developing the long-term opportunities for Pride Toronto with and for the community.

Chad Simon

Chad is delighted to be able to work for the queer community and intends to make a positive difference for Pride Toronto. Chad's volunteer experience goes back to the 90's when he first started as a volunteer for the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest Festival.

After moving to Toronto, Chad became involved in the Ontario Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce where he sat on the Board of Directors from 2004-2005. He also sat on the Board of Directors for his condo corporation from 2002-2006. Chad was also involved with Fashion Cares for 2 years.

Chad has extensive experience in production and promotion. For the past 12 years he has been involved in production and promotion for Unity (now called Prism), the largest series of queer dance events at Pride. Chad also owns his own promotions company, from which he produced a number of events for the queer community in the early 2000's. Chad's strengths are communications, budgeting and strategic planning.

For seven years, Chad has been involved with project management in a variety real estate companies, at one point managing several new condominium sites throughout the city with revenues of over \$150 million. He currently works at Ryerson University in logistics and support

Mark Smith

Event Planner. Strategic Communicator. Logistics Manager. Community Advocate. Free-speech Activist. Personal Chef.

Consultant:

Lending support to global events including: Venice Biennale, W2 Media House - 2010 Olympics.

Specialties:

Technical production, information research, Grants/Speech [editing/writing], Event Management/Development, Marketing/Long Term PR goal setting/oversight.

Career Path:

Mark has owned a nightclub, media database, public relations /promotion, music talent agency, catering, VIP/Event management companies and Sideshow Manager. Now dedicates 60% of his day to community/charitable work and has been active helping raise over \$40m for education and outreach.

Board Experience:

Has [Pride 2X], and continues to sit on several boards/committees; drafting bylaws, governance, strategic planning, Mission Values Vision Statements.

Tireless Pride supporter:

Proud of Toronto was developed in his dining room to actively lobby to maintain City Hall Funding.

Core team member, Pride Coalition For Free Speech.

CAP Report recommendation #8 is based on documents Mark authored.

Currently sits on the World Pride 2014 Steering Committee.

Mark's understanding of international events and marketing, are a required asset as we rebuild and develop a lasting legacy for the community, post World Pride:2014

"There are 2 types of people in this world: Thinkers and Doers. Mark is that person." Sid Chow Tan; Chairman; Chinese Canadian National Council

Paola Solorzano

Paola was born and raised in Mexico. She moved to Canada eight years ago and lives with her partner, Adriana, and her two cats, Camilla and Yanta.

Once she got settled in her new life in Toronto, Paola pursued her lifelong dream of being a professional chef and attended college towards that end. She obtained a diploma in Culinary Management and a certification in Food and Nutrition.

She's worked in diverse places since her arrival to Canada. She's been a Nanny, a Customer Service Representative and a Chef. She was Latino Group Hola's President for two years and, currently she is enrolled in college to become a Career and Work Counselor.

Paola is running for a position in Toronto Pride's Board of Directors and is committed to bring her knowledge, skills and experience to the service of our community.

Stefonknee Wolscht

Stefonknee is a 48 year old trans woman, that shared her gender issues with her wife prior to their 23 year marriage.

While working through her issues over the last eight years with her seven children, she was asked last May to leave her family and her home, so she moved to Toronto.

Since leaving she has been dealing with homelessness, depression, and isolation from her children and grandchildren.

She believes she was accused and arrested for various allegations three months after leaving, which led to a stress related heart attack, because of how she looks rather than from things she has done.

Since then she has begun to transition and has started to defend trans-rights through political and social activism throughout Ontario.

Stefonknee has kept a journal of her experiences, has been the subject of a 30 minute documentary on Transgendered Rights and has been writing and performing poetry and stories for the faint of gender.

With a smile on her lips and a tear in her eye she faces each day with hope trusting that small victories from activism lead to major changes in political, social and yes even justice systems!

((((((((Hugs))))))))) Stefonknee

www.vengeo.com/stefonknee