

*Acadiana*  
Queer Collective

**IMPACT  
REPORT**

**2022-2023**

# OUR STORY SO FAR



## OUR MISSION

AQC's Mission Statement—To provide opportunities for queer people of Acadiana to show up for one another and promote the positive visibility of queer people throughout the community.

The Acadiana Queer Collective (AQC) is a dynamic and inclusive organization dedicated to empowering and uplifting the queer community in the Acadiana region. With a deep commitment to fostering positive change and inclusivity, AQC has emerged as a prominent force for promoting the well-being and visibility of queer individuals across the community.

AQC's commitment to the queer community in Acadiana is resolute. Through events, initiatives, and collaborative efforts, the organization seeks to establish a robust support system that addresses the unique needs and challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals. AQC firmly believes that every queer person deserves to feel valued, included, and empowered within their community.

**ONLY**  
**16%**  
**OF LGBTQ+ YOUNG PEOPLE**  
**REPORT HAVING**  
**ACCESS TO AFFIRMING**  
**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

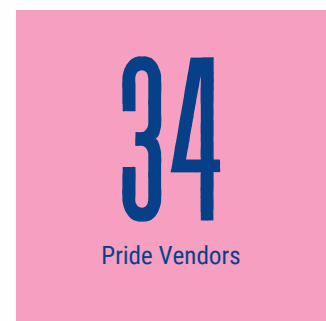
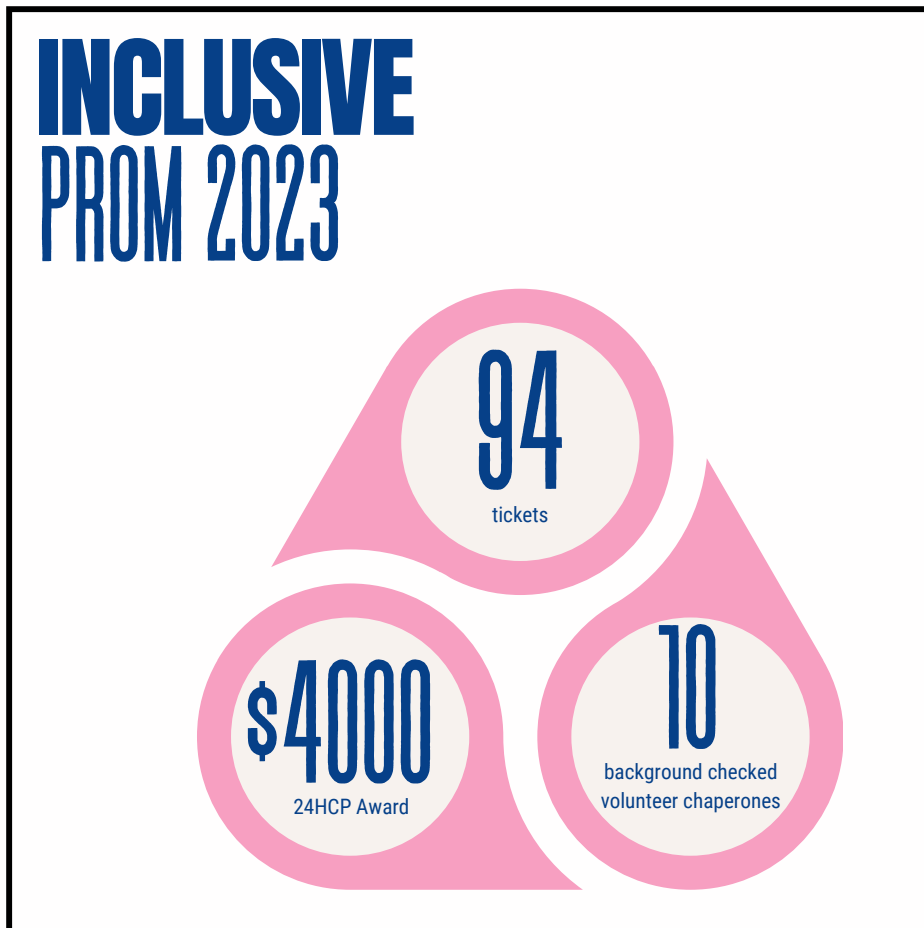
# OUR 22-23 STRATEGY

Our commitment to community investment involves dedicating our resources, time, and expertise to support the growth and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community. We prioritize the needs and aspirations of our community members, channeling our efforts into projects and programs that directly address these concerns. By investing in the community, we demonstrate that their voices matter and their experiences are valued. We ask that community investment be not only financial but also extend to the emotional and social well-being of the community. We actively create spaces for dialogue, engagement, and skill-building, fostering an environment where individuals can learn, grow, and advocate for themselves and their peers.

Collaboration is the cornerstone of our strategy. We recognize that by working together, we can achieve far more than we could individually. We seek out partnerships with like-minded organizations, local businesses, educational institutions, healthcare providers, and community leaders. These collaborations allow us to pool our strengths, share insights, and create a unified front for positive change.

Through collaboration, we harness a diverse range of perspectives and resources, enriching our approach to achieving our goals. We build bridges between different sectors of society, fostering understanding and empathy among various stakeholders. By coming together, we amplify our impact, creating a ripple effect that spreads throughout the community.

Our strategy of community investment and collaboration is a dynamic and holistic approach to achieving our goals. By investing in the well-being of the LGBTQ+ community and fostering collaborations, we create a powerful network of support that uplifts, empowers, and brings about lasting positive change. Together, we strive for a more inclusive and accepting Acadiana, where every individual can live their truth without fear or prejudice.



The consistent presence of events like an inclusive prom and a pride parade helps to normalize LGBTQ+ identities and relationships within the broader community. Over time, this can lead to increased understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in all aspects of community life.

The visibility and positive representation created by these initiatives can challenge stereotypes and reduce discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. As more people interact with and learn about LGBTQ+ individuals through events and resources, attitudes shift towards greater understanding and tolerance.

By consistently hosting these events and maintaining the resource list, you contribute to educating the next generation about LGBTQ+ issues. This can lead to more open and informed conversations around diversity and inclusivity among young people, creating a more accepting and empathetic future.

# 3000+

Pride Acadiana  
Celebration Attendees

Over time, these initiatives contribute to a cultural shift towards inclusivity and diversity in Acadiana. The community becomes known for its welcoming and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals, attracting more residents, businesses, and organizations that align with these values.



# OUR 23-24 GOALS

Each of the goals listed has a direct and impactful role in empowering and uplifting the LGBTQ+ community in Acadiana. Let's explore how each goal contributes to these objectives.

## 1

### **Pride Acadiana Parade and Festival**

Pride events are powerful platforms for visibility, celebration, and advocacy. By hosting a Pride event and parade, we give the LGBTQ+ community a chance to come together, celebrate their achievements, and showcase their resilience. These events uplift the community by providing a sense of unity and strength. They also raise awareness and promote acceptance among the wider population, contributing to a more inclusive society.

## 2

### **Inclusive Prom 2024**

An inclusive prom provides a safe and affirming space where LGBTQ+ youth can celebrate their identities without fear of judgment or discrimination. By organizing such an event, we are creating a positive and supportive environment that directly uplifts the community. This empowers LGBTQ+ youth by allowing them to express themselves authentically, fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance. It sends a strong message that their identities are celebrated and honored.

## 3

### **Expanded Pride Acadiana Health and Wellness Fair**

Healthcare access can be a challenge for many LGBTQ+ individuals due to discrimination and lack of understanding. By organizing a Health and Wellness fair that specifically features LGBTQ+ affirming providers, we facilitate the accessibility of essential services. This not only promotes physical health but also addresses the mental and emotional well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals. This goal empowers the community by showing that their health matters and that they deserve respectful and knowledgeable care.

## 4

### **LGBTQ+ Affirming Resource List and Wellness**

A constantly updated and thoroughly vetted resource list serves as a lifeline for LGBTQ+ individuals seeking support. It empowers the community by providing easy access to resources that understand their unique needs. This goal uplifts the community by eliminating the frustration and uncertainty of finding LGBTQ+ affirming services. It also shows that there is a network of businesses and providers that are committed to respecting and supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A HUGE thank you to

Kelly Noyes, Wendy Dorfman, Brandi Ortiz, Peyton Rose Michelle, Jessica Allain, Monet David, Roxie C. Black, The Jacob Crouch Foundation, River Oaks, Ariel Moore, Blake Lagneaux, Deedee Luke, Dory Thomasee, The 24 Hour Citizen Project, Downtown Lafayette Unlimited, Catherine Jumonville, Bolt Nightclub, PFLAG, Social Entertainment, First Horizon Bank, CGI, Jones Walker, Krewe of Apollo, Lafayette Travel, Fertility Answers, Acadiana CARES, Compass Minerals, Aetna, Krewe de Canailles, Louisiana Trans Advocates and everyone else who worked tirelessly on AQC projects throughout the year.

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# WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR PROGRAMS