



**SANTA CRUZ  
PRIDE**  
No Going Back

Santa Cruz Pride

**Presentation to  
Santa Cruz County  
Board of Supervisors  
May 20, 2025**

*Rob Darrow, Chair, Santa Cruz Pride*

*[SantaCruzPride.org](http://SantaCruzPride.org)*

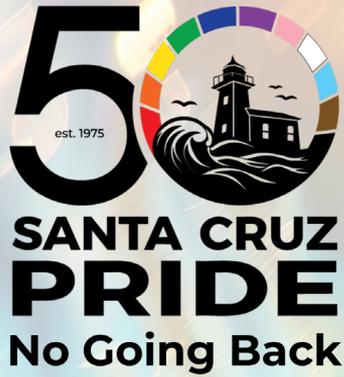


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# Mission of Santa Cruz Pride

**To provide a platform for  
visibility and celebration  
for the LGBTQ+  
community.**



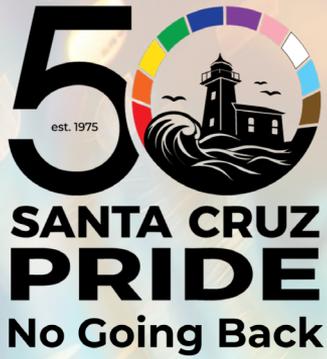


# Our General Belief

**Santa Cruz County has become a thriving county because of the contributions of many groups of people including LGBTQ+ people.**

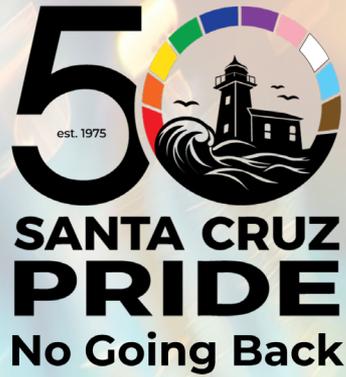
**LGBTQ+ people have thrived in Santa Cruz County because of the contributions of the broader ally community in the county.**





You are all part of Pride  
and the 50th  
Anniversary Celebration !





# A Little History

- **1969: Stonewall Riots in New York. LGBTQ+ people fought back against police harassment / city laws.**
- 1970: “Christopher Street Liberation Day” took place in New York and what was called “Christopher Street West” took place in Los Angeles.
- **1971: First year the term “Pride” was used. Parades in New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Since then, Pride is celebrated each year in cities across the world to commemorate the Stonewall Riots.**
- 1975: Santa Cruz became the first smaller city to convene a Pride event in the nation - and the 4th in California after San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

# GAY PRIDE WEEK!

SPONSORED BY THE  
LESBIAN AND GAY MEN'S UNION

**THURS. JUNE 19:** Potluck dinner and evening with other Bay Area gay groups. 6:00-11:00 at the Student Union Cabrillo College.

**FRIDAY JUNE 20:** Benefit Concert for LAGMU of Chinese Music by LOU HARRISON & BILL COMING 8:00 Women's Club 306 Mission St. Admission = 3.00

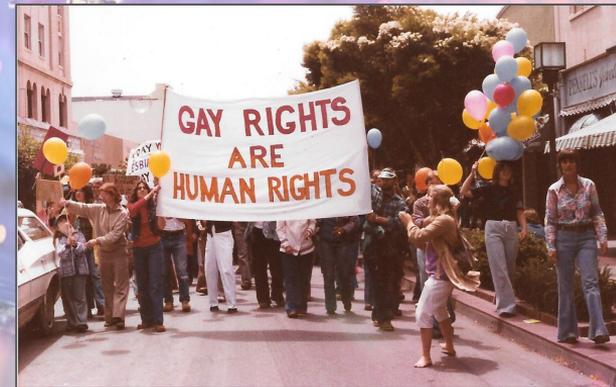
**SATURDAY JUNE 21:** day of gay workshops: Movement and Body Work, Bisexuality, Gay Men's, Aecism, Counseling, Gay Politics, Self Defense, Sado-Masochism. Poetry readings by Paul Mariah and Diane Ramsey. The Lesbian-mothers film "Dandy and Maddy's Family" will be shown. child-care will be provided free. The day starts at 9:30am and ends 5:00 pm. Bring a lunch. Cabrillo College Student Union.

**SAT. NIGHT JUNE 21:** dance with the all-women rhythm and blues band from San Francisco called SWEET CHARIOT 9:00 PM - 1:00 AM \$1.00 CABRILLO STUDENT

**SUNDAY JUNE 22:** Picnic at San Lorenzo Park 11:00am to Sunset. Sports, games, music. "Woody" a woman singer-guitarist from S.F. and Liz Mabungwa. Poetry read by Diane Ramsey, Norma Kalford, Alene Smith.

## Santa Cruz Pride History

- 1975 - San Lorenzo Park Festival. Lou Harrison Concert. Tug of war across the San Lorenzo River (Men vs. Women)
- 1977 - First SC Pride parade
- Continued every year since in San Lorenzo Park and/or downtown Santa Cruz
- 2020 - Virtual Pride during the pandemic
- 2022 - Partnership with MAH / Abbott Square / Downtown Association and others
- 2025 - 50th Anniversary



# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Adopt Resolution No. 263 Proclaiming Jun 16-23, 1975 as Gay Pride Week - 1975

(Resolution No. 263 adopted Proclaiming  
"Gay Pride Week". . .

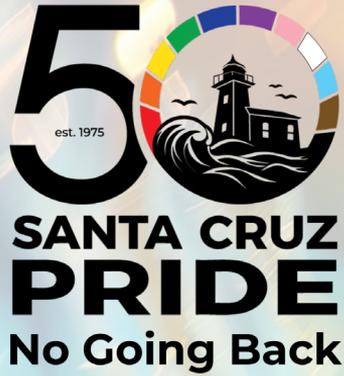
***"Six persons address the Board in support;  
One person speaks in opposition."***

***"Motion by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor  
Patton." 3-1, with Chairman Forbus voting No."***

***Note: Because of a resignation, there were 4 voting members.***

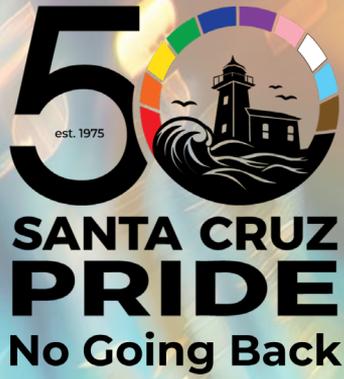
# The County Board Continues to Show Up for LGBTQ+ People in Santa Cruz County

- **1975 - Voted to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation for civil service employees**
- **1983 - County Health Officer George Wolfe and the Board support the development of the Santa Cruz AIDS Project (SCAP) that becomes a model for service to people with AIDS**
- **2024 - Resolution Passed:  
Designated Santa Cruz County as a Santa Cruz County a sanctuary county for transgender, gender queer, non-binary, gender fluid, and intersex people**
- **2025 - Resolution Passed:  
Validated protections and support for LGBTQ+ people Reaffirming the County's Commitment to Protecting the Rights, Advancing Equity, and Ensuring the Wellbeing of LGBTQ+ Individuals and Women**



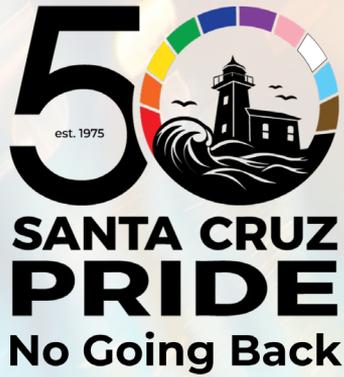
# A Few Statistics

- **Santa Cruz Pride Board - 7 People - All volunteers**
- ***The Diversity Center is our fiscal agent***
- **Our Funding: Yearly Sponsorships, Parade Fees, Booth Fees**
- **Parade Contingents: Between 50 and 100**
- **Parade Watchers: 3,000 - 5,000**
- **Festival booths: 60 - 90**



2025 is  
the 50th Anniversary

Riding the Wave of  
Progress:  
No Going Back !



# Pride Week 2025

- **Tuesday, May 27: Kick off - IllumiNight @ County Building**
- **Wednesday: Author Alison Bechdel with Bookshop Santa Cruz @ the Rio**
- **Thursday: A Queer Evening in May @ Kuumbwa**
- **Friday: Generations of Pride @ the MAH**
- **Saturday: Dyke/Trans March @ Town Clock**
- **Saturday: Queerlantis @ the Rio**
- **Sunday, June 1: Parade and Festival, 11am - 5pm @ Downtown Santa Cruz**



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*Santa Cruz Pride 50<sup>th</sup> and Rainbow  
IllumiNight Procession*



Tuesday, May 27 @ 7 pm  
County Building, 701 Ocean Street  
Wear your pride colors!



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Thank You

**Thank you for your continued  
support of LGBTQ+ People in Santa  
Cruz County.**

**[SantaCruzPride.org](http://SantaCruzPride.org)**

**Rob Darrow:**

**[Robdarrow@SantaCruzPride.org](mailto:Robdarrow@SantaCruzPride.org)**