

7. Presentation by Rob Darrow, Chair of the Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee, recognizing 50 years of Pride celebrations in Santa Cruz County ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Fifth District

Subject: Presentation from Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee

Meeting Date: May 20, 2025

Formal Title: Presentation by Rob Darrow, Chair of the Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee, recognizing 50 years of Pride celebrations in Santa Cruz County

Recommended Actions

Presentation by Rob Darrow, Chair of the Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee, recognizing 50 years of Pride celebrations in Santa Cruz County.

Executive Summary

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Pride events in Santa Cruz County, Rob Darrow, Chair of the Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee, will give a presentation on the highlights of LGBTQ+ Pride history in Santa Cruz County. This year's Pride festivities will begin on May 27 and culminate with the annual Pride Parade on June 1.

Discussion

In addition to information on history of Pride celebrations in Santa Cruz County, Mr. Darrow's presentation will also include information about the first-ever IllumiNight celebration on May 27 during which the County Governmental Center will be lit in rainbow colors and the Progressive Pride Flag will be raised at the site. The same flag will be raised at the South Government Center in Watsonville, and both will remain in place throughout the month of June.

As part of the May 27 festivities, community members are invited to participate in a lighted Rainbow Procession from the County Building to the Town Clock, where the City of Santa Cruz will light the City's landmark in rainbow colors. All of these events reflect a collaborative effort by the County, City and Santa Cruz Pride 50 Committee to show visible support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts from the recommended action.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Community Voices & Partnership

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Monica Martinez, Fifth District Supervisor and Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this

agenda item.

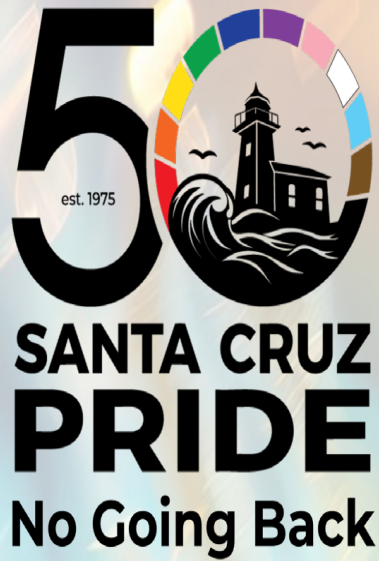


Santa Cruz Pride

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

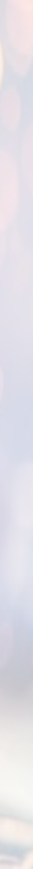
Rob Darrow, Chair, Santa Cruz Pride

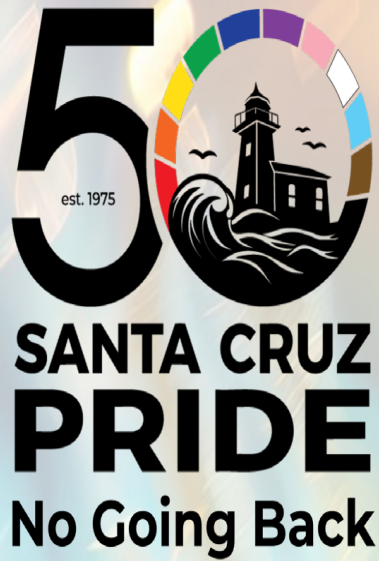
SantaCruzPride.org



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.

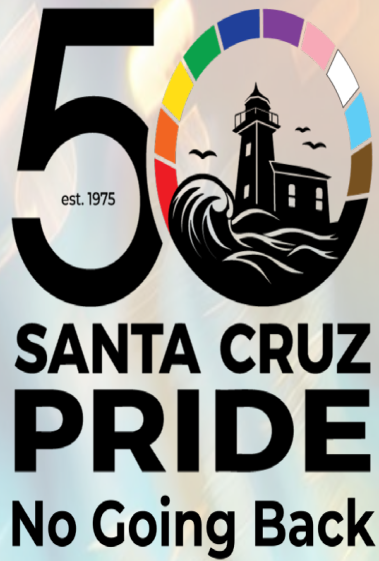


LGBTQ+ people have thrived in Santa Cruz County because of the contributions of the broader ally community in the county.



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 COLVIG**
8:00 Women's Club 306 Mission St. Admission: \$3.00

SATURDAY JUNE 21: day of gay workshops: Movement and Body Work, Bisexuality, Gay Minors, Asexism, Counseling, Gay Politics, Self Defense, Sado-Masochism. Poetry readings by Rawl Mariah and Diane Ramsey. The Lesbian-mothers film "Sandy 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"** 4:00PM-1:00AM \$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 Stafford, Aline 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.

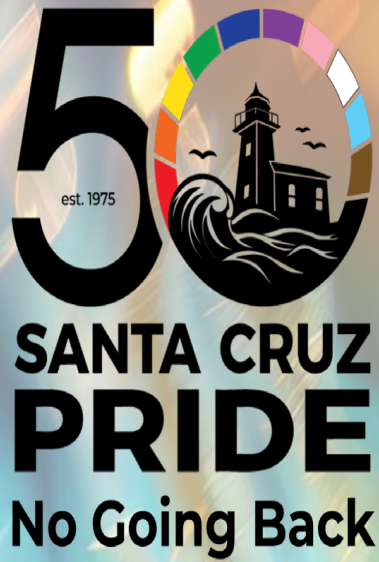
The County Board Continues to Show Up for LGBTQ+ People in Santa Cruz County

- **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**



**SANTA CRUZ
PRIDE**

No Going Back

Santa Cruz Pride 50th and Rainbow IllumiNight Procession



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



**SANTA CRUZ
PRIDE**
No Going Back

Thank You

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

SantaCruzPride.org

Rob Darrow:

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