

# ◆ COLGAY PRIDE ◆

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*in partnership with the Debra Smith Wellness Center*

OFFICIAL EVENT ITINERARY & PROGRAM GUIDE

# 13th Annual Columbus GeorgiaPride Festival 2026

Official Event Itinerary & Program Guide

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*Presented by Colgay Pride & the Debra Smith Wellness Center*

**June 12-13, 2026 | Columbus, Georgia**

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**“Where Everyone Is Valued. Everyone Is Cherished.  
Everyone Is Loved.”**

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## WELCOME TO PRIDE 2026

Welcome home. On behalf of Colgay Pride and the Debra Smith Wellness Center, it is with full hearts and open arms that we welcome every single one of you to the **13th Annual Columbus Georgia Pride Festival** — a celebration that has been a long time coming, deeply earned, and beautifully deserved. For thirteen years, this community has shown up for one another — through joy and through grief, through triumph and through hardship — and this year, we gather once more to affirm what has always been true: that love is not a privilege, it is a right. That belonging is not something you earn — it is something you are given the moment you walk through these gates. This festival exists because *you*

exist, and this day is dedicated to every person who needed it — whether you knew it or not.

This year's Pride carries something extra in its bones. After the challenges this community has endured — the weight of recent years, the battles fought, the names we have lost, and the roads we have traveled together — Pride 2026 is not simply an event. It is a declaration. It is a homecoming. It is proof that we are still here, still standing, still celebrating who we are with unshakable dignity and unmeasurable love. Our theme says everything: **“Where Everyone Is Valued. Everyone Is Cherished. Everyone Is Loved.”** That is not merely a slogan — it is a promise we make to you today, and every day. Welcome to Pride. You are exactly where you belong.



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## ► FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2026 — OPENING PRE-CELEBRATION NIGHT





### NIGHT ONE | THE EVENING BEFORE PRIDE DAY

Friday night is where Pride begins its heartbeat. This is the Opening Pre-Celebration Night — a night of live music, laughter, love, powerful messages, and community connection. Before the main event, the people of Columbus and beyond gather to set the stage emotionally, spiritually, and joyfully for Pride Day. Friday night is the warm ember before the flame. This is *not* a night to miss.

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<b>6:00 PM</b>	 <b>POUND THE ALARM — FESTIVITIES BEGIN!</b> Opening song: <i>“Pound the Alarm”</i> — the festival officially kicks off! Woodruff Farm Park comes <b>ALIVE.</b>
<b>6:03 PM</b>	 <b>WELCOME TO THE STAGE</b> Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director,

<p><b>6:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>POUND THE ALARM — FESTIVITIES BEGIN!</b> Opening song: <i>“Pound the Alarm”</i> — the festival officially kicks off! <b>Woodruff Farm Park comes ALIVE.</b></p>
	<p>Colgay Pride — takes the stage and introduces the National Anthem singer.</p>
<p><b>6:05 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>THE NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> Performed by: <b>Rashard</b></p>
<p><b>6:10 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>OPENING INVOCATION &amp; SPIRITUAL MOMENT</b> • <b>Pastor Colley Williams</b> — Prayer • <b>The Pagan Path</b> — Spiritual Enlightenment</p>
<p><b>6:15 PM - 6:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>OPENING STATEMENT &amp; PROGRAM OVERVIEW</b> <b>Jeremy Hobbs</b>, Executive Director, Colgay Pride Jeremy addresses the crowd — sharing the vision for the evening, the events planned, and what Pride means to this community. A moment to center, to celebrate, and to set the tone for the night ahead. <i>[Note: Opening remarks to be written by Jeremy Hobbs — TBD]</i></p>
<p><b>~6:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>LAMAR SANCHEZ of THE SOFT TOUCH</b> Live performance — approximately 20 minutes</p>
<p><b>7:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>FAMILY WEALTH MOGULS &amp; AMAZON GODDESS</b> Family Production  <b>Recipients &amp; Winners — 2026 Pride Art Contest</b> Pride Theme: <i>“No One Erased, No One Alone”</i></p>
<p><b>7:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>RASHARD — Live Performance</b></p>
<p><b>8:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>DR. RED — COMEDIAN</b> Live stand-up comedy performance</p>
<p><b>8:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>OXE’N</b> Our very own published recording artist takes the stage</p>
<p><b>9:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>PULSE 10TH ANNIVERSARY</b></p>

<p><b>6:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>POUND THE ALARM — FESTIVITIES BEGIN!</b> Opening song: <i>“Pound the Alarm”</i> — the festival officially kicks off! Woodruff Farm Park comes <b>ALIVE.</b></p>
	<p><b>MEMORIAL</b> A Candlelight Tribute honoring the 49 lives lost in the Pulse Nightclub tragedy — June 12, 2016. <i>Ten years. We remember. We honor. We will never forget.</i></p>
<p><b>9:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>DRAG SESSION</b> Hosted and kicked off by <b>Paris Sanchez</b> — and featuring other artists. The queens take the stage. Glamour. Power. Pride.</p>
<p><b>10:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>COMMUNITY MESSAGES &amp; REFLECTIONS</b> A Heart to Heart with our community — Where do we stand? What do we need? How do we get there? The answer is simple: together. An open, honest, uplifting conversation about our path forward.</p>
<p><b>10:30 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>CLOSING CELEBRATION: MUSIC, DANCING &amp; GIVEAWAYS</b> Dance, celebrate, and join in the fun! Special giveaways throughout this final segment. Enjoy every last moment of Opening Night!</p>
<p><b>11:00 PM</b></p>	<p> <b>EVENT CONCLUDES</b> Thank you for being part of the 13th Annual Columbus GA LGBTQ+ Pride Festival Opening Night! <i>Be sure to visit and support all of our amazing vendors before you go — these businesses supported Pride 2026, and they deserve your love!</i> 🌈</p>

Go home tonight with your heart full and your spirit lit. Rest well, Columbus — because tomorrow belongs to all of us. Pride Day is coming, and we need you there: ready to march, ready to celebrate, and ready to love as freely

and as loudly as you know how. We will see you in the morning.

## ► SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 — PRIDE DAY

THE MAIN EVENT | A FULL DAY OF CELEBRATION, REFLECTION & JOY

Saturday, June 13th is **Pride Day** — a full, rich, emotionally meaningful, and joyfully celebratory day from sunrise to midnight. There are three shows, a parade, a block party, a Diva show, memorial tributes, award ceremonies, vendor showcases, and so much more woven into every hour. Come early. Stay late. Feel everything. This is the day this community has built, earned, and deserves.

### ◆ Morning Program

9:30 AM — SHARP | PLEASE ARRIVE BY 9:15 AM

***All guests are warmly encouraged to be on festival grounds no later than 9:15 AM.*** *The morning program begins exactly at 9:30 AM. We begin on time, out of respect for our performers, speakers, and the community.*

<b>9:15 AM</b>	<b>Doors Open &amp; Guests Arrive Find your spot, greet your neighbors, and prepare your hearts.</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	★ FESTIVITIES BEGIN — SHARP ★ <i>All guests are encouraged to be on the grounds by <b>9:15 AM</b>. The</i>

*program begins exactly at 9:30 AM.*

1. 🎺	<b>THE NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> Singer: <i>TBD — To Be Announced</i>
2. 🙏	<b>OPENING INVOCATION &amp; SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS</b> Our Leaders of Faith: • <b>Pastor Colley Williams</b> — New Covenant Church • <b>Representative</b> — Hope United Methodist Church • <b>Representative</b> — The Pagan Path
3. 🎤	<b>WELCOME REMARKS</b> <b>Jeremy Hobbs</b> , Executive Director, Colgay Pride
4. 🎤	<b>INVITED SPEAKER</b> <b>Toyia Tucker</b> , Columbus City Councilor
5. 🎤	<b>INVITED SPEAKER</b> <b>Gary Bruce</b> , Attorney at Law
6. 🎤	<b>INVITED SPEAKER</b> City

	<p><b>1.</b> 🎺</p> <p><b>THE NATIONAL ANTHEM</b>  <b>Singer: TBD — To Be Announced</b></p>
	<p><b>2.</b> 🙏</p> <p><b>OPENING INVOCATION &amp; SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS</b>  Our Leaders of Faith: • <b>Pastor Colley Williams</b> — New Covenant Church • <b>Representative</b> — Hope United Methodist Church • <b>Representative</b> — The Pagan Path</p>
	<p><b>Councilor Walker Garrett</b></p>
	<p><b>7.</b> 📜</p> <p><b>MAYORAL PROCLAMATION</b> Mayor Skip Henderson, City of Columbus, Georgia <i>Official Pride 2026 Proclamation Reading</i></p>
<p><b>11:00 AM</b></p>	<p>* <b>The 13th Annual Pride Parade</b>  The Pride Parade steps off at <b>11:00 AM sharp</b>. The community marches together in unity, visibility, and love — down the streets of Columbus for all the world to see. All are welcome to march alongside us or cheer with pride from the sidewalks. This is our moment. This is our city.</p>

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**◆ Noon Program — “Where We Were. Where We Are. Where We Need to Go.”**

This noon segment is one of the most significant and powerful portions of Pride Day. It is not simply programming — it is a reckoning, a remembrance, and a road map. Before we dance, before we celebrate with our full voices, we pause. We look back at the road that brought us here, we assess honestly where we stand today, and we set our eyes clearly on where we must go together. History matters. Truth matters. Community matters. This hour belongs to all of those things.

**12:00 PM**

**Return from Parade | Noon Program Begins**

**The 250th Anniversary of America Segment**

On this, the 250th anniversary of America's founding, Colgay Pride pauses to hold this nation to its own promise. The Declaration of Independence declared that all are created equal — that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not rewards for the fortunate, but unalienable rights for all. For the LGBT community, that promise has been a long, painful, and ongoing journey toward fulfillment. This segment examines with honesty and with love where we as a community have come from — the discrimination survived, the battles won, the lives lost — where we stand today on the fragile and contested ground of hard-earned progress, and where we must press forward with renewed urgency and unbroken resolve.

Just as the founders of this republic stood against tyranny and oppression — against those who would deny them the right to exist freely — so too do we stand. We stand against racism. We stand against discrimination in every

form. We stand against every force that seeks to silence, diminish, or erase us. We do not do this with hatred, but with the same righteous conviction that has always been the engine of justice. We will stand alone, if we must. We will stand together, always.

#### **HIV/AIDS Memorial Tribute**

A solemn and deeply loving tribute to all those we have lost to HIV and AIDS — the friends, the lovers, the mentors, the trailblazers, and the quiet heroes whose names deserve to be spoken aloud and whose lives deserve to be honored. **We remember them. We honor them. We carry them forward with us, always.** Their legacy is woven into the fabric of every Pride that has ever been held, and into the heart of this one.

#### **Special Tribute: The Late Butch McKay**

A special and deeply personal tribute will be paid today to **the late Butch McKay**, founder of *Okaloosa AIDS Outreach* — a titan of advocacy, a builder of hope, and a steadfast guardian of those most in need. Butch McKay was a mentor to Colgay Pride Executive Director Jeremy Hobbs, and a personal friend whose wisdom, warmth, and fierce dedication to community left an imprint on every life he touched. He did not merely serve — he poured himself out. He saw people whom others overlooked and said: *you matter, and I will prove it with my life's work.* His legacy lives in the work we do, in every soul lifted, in every door that remains open because he refused to let it close. We carry his name forward with immeasurable pride and with the kind of love that does not fade. Rest in peace, Butch. We've got it from here.

 **TAPS**

A solemn bugle call performed in honor of the late **Butch McKay** — a final farewell from the community that loved him.

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**◆ Award Ceremony**

Recognition of the individuals, organizations, and community champions who have made extraordinary contributions to the Columbus GA LGBT community and beyond. These are our heroes — neighbors, advocates, healers, and builders — and today, we celebrate them in front of the community they have served so faithfully.

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**◆ Vendor Spotlight**

Each participating vendor will take the stage to introduce themselves to the community, share the services and products they provide, and deliver their own personal statement about what Pride means to them. This is a moment for genuine connection — a chance for our partners to be *seen*, celebrated, and welcomed as full members of this community. We are grateful for every business and organization represented here today.

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**◆ Afternoon**

<p><b>2:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>🏆 2026 NEWCOMER AWARD PRESENTATION</b> Presented by: Patricia Hutto Walker 2026 Newcomer Award Recipient: Anita Dollar 🎤 <b>SPECIAL PERFORMANCE</b> Anita Dollar ✦ <b>SHOW #1</b> ✦ 🎤 <b>HOST: Monica Alexander — 2021 Miss Columbus GA Pride</b> The afternoon's first full performance showcase — live entertainment, Pride on full display, and the energy of a community fully in celebration mode. Sit back, stand up, and let it move you.</p>
<p><b>4:00-6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>♥ Free Time   Explore, Rest &amp; Refresh</b> The afternoon is yours. Browse the vendor marketplace, enjoy food from our incredible food vendors, meet new friends, find old ones, take photos, rest in the grass, and simply soak in the energy of Pride. Recharge — because the evening ahead is going to be extraordinary.</p>

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**◆ Evening**

<p><b>6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>✦ SHOW #2 + THE PRIDE BLOCK PARTY</b> ✦ 🎤 <b>HOST: Monica Alexander — 2021 Miss Columbus GA Pride</b> The second show kicks off and flows seamlessly into the Pride Block Party — music, dancing, community, and the kind of collective joy that you carry with you long after the night is over. The streets of Columbus come alive. Let yourself be part of it.</p>
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7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<p><b>🎉 DANCE PARTY, GIVEAWAYS &amp; CONTEST HOUR 🎉</b> Dance Party — The entire park is your stage! 🎁 Giveaways — Prizes up for grabs all night long 🏆 Prize Contests — You could walk away a winner! 🏃 Dance Contest — Show Columbus what you've got! ✨ And even more surprises along the way... <i>“The park is your stage. Dance like nobody's looking.”</i></p>
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◆ Night — The Diva Show

9:00 PM	<p>◆ <b>THE NIGHT DIVA SHOW</b>      ◆ The crown jewel of Pride night — featuring the very best drag entertainment Columbus Georgia and beyond has to offer. These queens bring talent, glamour, passion, and heart to a performance that will be talked about all year.</p>
9:45 PM	<p>🔥 <b>INTERMISSION: THE FIRE GIRL</b> (9:45 PM - 10:00 PM) A breathtaking intermission performance featuring our Fire Girl, who takes the stage for a fire performance like no other. Stunning. Fearless. Unforgettable.</p>
10:00 PM	<p>◆ <b>SHOW #3 — THE GRAND FINALE</b> ◆ The closing performance and farewell celebration. We come together one final time to say <i>thank you, goodbye,</i> and <i>until we meet again.</i></p>
11:00 PM	<p><b>EVENT CONCLUDES</b> All festivities conclude by 11:00 PM. Thank you for being here. The love never stops.</p>

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## ► A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JEREMY HOBBS

I want to look every single person reading this in the eyes — or as close as a printed page will allow — and say *thank you*. Thank you for showing up. Thank you for believing in this community when belief was not easy. This past year has tested all of us in ways I know I will never fully be able to put into words. There were moments when I wasn't sure we'd get here. And yet — here we are. Thirteen years. A parade. A festival. A family. What we have built together in Columbus, Georgia is something real, something lasting, and something that I am proud of every single day of my life. Pride 2026 is for every person who held on when holding on was the hardest thing they had ever done.

I also want to take a moment to honor someone who believed in me before I fully believed in myself — my mentor and friend, the late Butch McKay. His voice lives in the work we do here. I carry him with me every step. To this community: I love you. I see you. I will never stop fighting for you. This festival is yours — every moment of it was built with you in mind. Celebrate freely. Love loudly. Be exactly who you are. Happy Pride, Columbus. Let's make it one for the history books.

— Jeremy Hobbs, Executive Director, Colgay Pride

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## ► SPONSORS & VENDORS — THANK YOU

We are profoundly and deeply grateful to every sponsor, vendor, donor, and partner who has made the **13th Annual Columbus Georgia Pride Festival** possible. Your belief in this community, your generosity of spirit and of

resources, and your ongoing partnership are what transform a vision into a reality. Pride is not built by one person — it is built by a village. You are our village, and we honor you.

★ **We Still Need Your Support — Be Part of Pride 2026**

Pride 2026 is not yet fully funded, and there is still a meaningful opportunity for you to be part of something truly historic. Every contribution — of any size, in any form — makes a direct difference in the lives of people in this community.

♥ **DONATE TODAY**

Every gift, large or small, helps us keep these doors open and this celebration alive. No donation is too small. No act of generosity goes unnoticed.

🏪 **BECOME A VENDOR**

Limited vendor spaces remain available for Pride 2026. Secure your space now and put your business, your services, and your heart in front of the Columbus LGBT community.

☀️ **BECOME A SPONSOR**

Corporate and individual sponsorship packages are available. Contact Colgay Pride today to learn how your organization can partner with us and be part of a legacy of love.

**Contact Colgay Pride today to get involved. Together, we make Pride happen.**

“We’ve earned this. After everything this community has endured — we deserve to celebrate, to love openly, and to be seen. Come celebrate with

us. **You belong here.**"

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***With Love, Pride, and Gratitude —***

**Colgay Pride & the Debra Smith Wellness Center**

Columbus, Georgia | Pride 2026

*"Where Everyone Is Valued. Everyone Is Cherished. Everyone Is Loved."*

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*Schedule subject to change. Please follow Colgay Pride on social media for the most current updates.*

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 **THANK YOU TO OUR  
OFFICIAL SPONSORS**

**13th Annual Columbus GA LGBTQ+ Pride Festival 2026**

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**13th Annual Columbus GA LGBTQ Pride Festival**  
 June 12th & 13th Woodruff Riverfront Park

Law Offices of **Gary Bruce**

**Georgia Equality** Edward Jones  
 Serving Individual Investors Since 1871

ATTORNEY **R. WALKER GARRETT**  
**MORGAN & MORGAN**

REALTOR **JAIME WILLIAMS**  
**STARSHIP**  
 Sexual Health & Wellness



**Jon Ossoff**  
 U.S. SENATE



**COLUMBUS GEORGIA**  
 We do amazing.



ELECT **DR. CATHY COOK**  
 CITY WIDE COUNCIL



**KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS**  
 GOVERNOR

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
 LATISHA LITTLEMONADE



Maximillion Wilson PhD  
**CAN Community Health**

**BECCA ZAJAC**  
 CITY COUNCIL  
 DISTRICT 7



**Rope Harbour**  
 The Lifetime for Victims of Family Violence



**PASTORAL INSTITUTE**

**Michaels**

**ROCKY MARSH**



The Mahogany Company



**VOTE! DR. JAKE GOLDEN, IV**  
 City Council District 3



**SO YUMMY BBQ GRILL**



**AHF**

**PRECIOUS A'MOORE**  
 PERMANENT JEWELRY

**JALAPEÑO EXPRESS BBQ**



**COLGAY PRIDE**  
 OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

**OFFICIAL SPONSOR 2026**

**To's Exquisitely SCENTED BODY OILS**

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 **SPECIAL THANKS**

**From ColGay Pride of Columbus, Georgia — We could not do this without you.**

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*A heartfelt thank you to every volunteer, vendor, performer, community partner, and attendee who has made Pride 2026 possible. Your love, your presence, and your commitment to our community is what makes this festival more than an event*

—

*it makes it a movement.*

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— NAMES TO BE ADDED —

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 **ADVERTISEMENT**

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## PRIDE MONTH BLOOD DRIVE



Looney Tunes  
© T<sup>™</sup> Entertainment

## Blood Drive

Columbus Community Blood Drive — Presented by American Red Cross  
Brought to you by: ColGay Pride of Columbus, GA · American Red Cross



Donor Room  
7490 Veterans Pkwy  
Columbus, GA 31909

**Tuesday, June 30, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Schedule at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) — enter code: pride



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®

Every participant receives a classic  
American Red Cross x Looney Tunes  
T-shirt (limited quantities).



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS · [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) · Download the Blood Donor App

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♥ Reminder: LGBTQ+ donors are eligible to give blood — donate today and help save a life. ♥

**Tuesday, June 30, 2026 • 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM • 7490 Veterans Pkwy,  
Columbus, GA 31909 • Schedule at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) — Code: PRIDE**

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 **ADVERTISEMENT —  
DIVERSITY SATURDAYS**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**04 JULY**

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION  
5P-10P FIREWORKS

**05 SEPT**

**Spectrum September: A  
Celebration of Us 5P-10P**

**03 OCT**

Out in the Fall: A Celebration  
of Identity 5P-10P BONFIRE

**31 OCT**

13TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN  
FESTIVAL 4P-11P

**07 NOV**

Gratitude & Grace: A Month  
of LGBTQ Thanks 5P-10P

**05 DEC**

Rainbow Lights Festival & Queer  
Cheer: Holiday Celebration 5P-10P

**Text Diversity to 706-580-6239**

4214 16TH AVE.  
COLUMBUS GA.

**FREE TO ATTEND**

Free Admission

5p-10p  
**Saturday**  
**July 04**

**Diversity Saturday's Returns**

**Celebrate America's 250th**

**MUSIC, DANCING, ROARING BONFIRE,  
& COMMUNITY FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

**BRING YOUR FIREWORKS TO ADD TO THE SHOW**

**NOW SEEKING FOOD VENDORS AND OTHER  
VENDORS - JOIN THE PARTY**

**Text JULY04 to 706-580-6239 to get involved**

**COLGAY PRIDE 4214 16TH AVE,  
COLUMBUS, GA**



**Text DIVERSITY to 706-580-6239 • 4214 16th Ave, Columbus GA • Free  
to Attend**

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# **2026 PRIDE PARADE ROUTE MAP**

**Parade Meetup: 10:30 AM • Parade Begins: 11:00 AM •  
Uptown Columbus, GA**

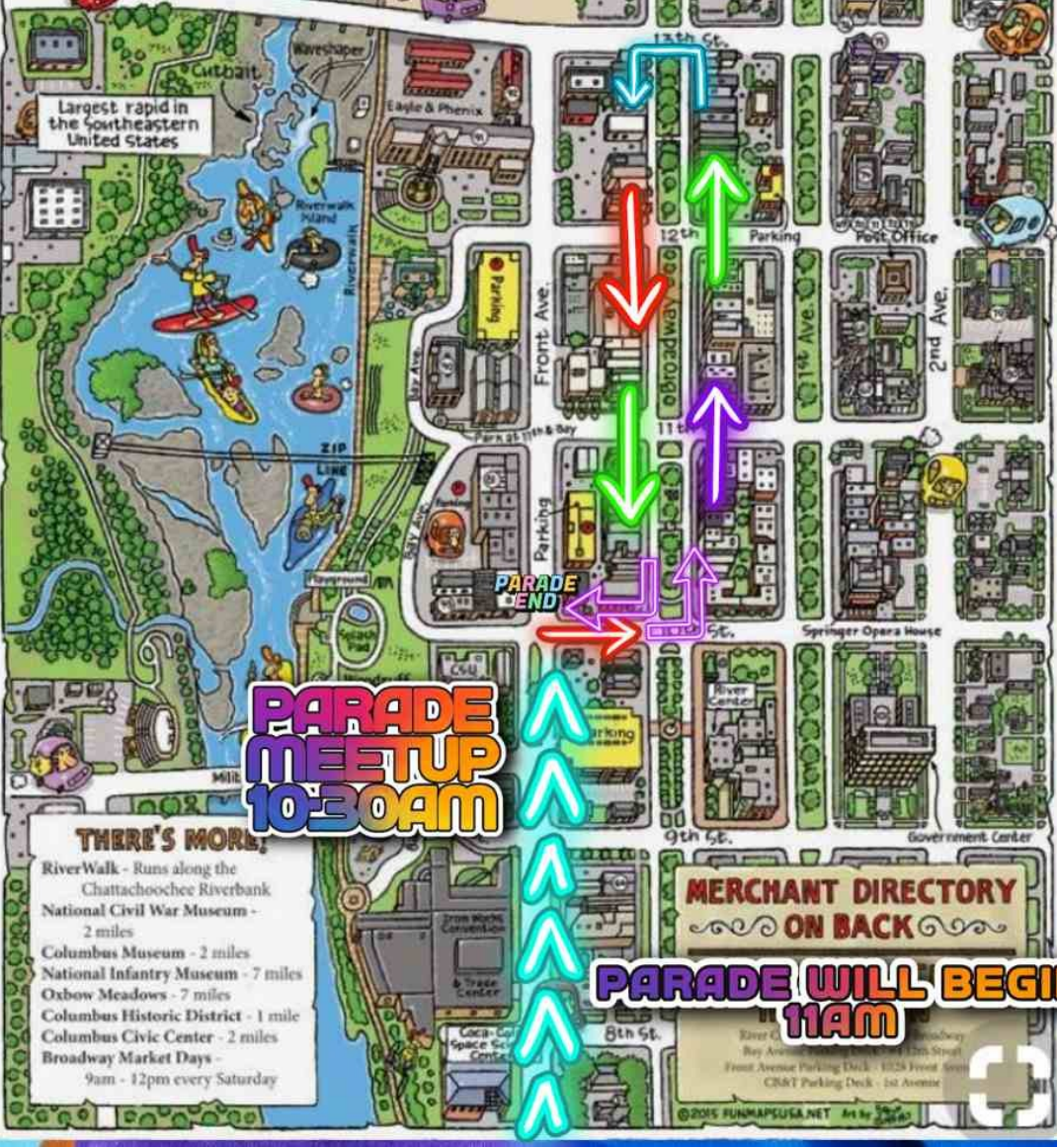
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# UPTOWN COLUMBUS

Uptown COLUMBUS  
Where the locals GO!

## 2026 COLUMBUS GEORGIA PRIDE FESTIVAL PARADE ROUTE

**RIDE the RAPIDS!**  
**ZIP the MOON!**  
Just for the Fun of It!  
**1-800-676-7238**



**THERE'S MORE!**  
RiverWalk - Runs along the Chattahoochee Riverbank - 2 miles  
National Civil War Museum - 2 miles  
Columbus Museum - 2 miles  
National Infantry Museum - 7 miles  
Oxbow Meadows - 7 miles  
Columbus Historic District - 1 mile  
Columbus Civic Center - 2 miles  
Broadway Market Days - 9am - 12pm every Saturday

**MERCHANT DIRECTORY ON BACK**

**PARADE WILL BEGIN 11AM**

River Center  
Bay Avenue Parking Deck - 12th Street  
Front Avenue Parking Deck - 1028 Front Street  
CBRT Parking Deck - 1st Avenue

