

The BGOPride Association Presents

Out & About

BG
PRIDE

**THE TRANS+
AWARENESS ISSUE**

January 2026 • #2

Read All About It.

You Just Art.

A cozy chat with local queer artist, Jax Foster, of the Transcendence Art Show & Benefit. (pg. 1).

**JAX
FOSTER**

What's the Deal...?

Pronouns aren't anything new, but sometimes we need to practice them. Learn more within! (pg. 6).

Trans+ Resource Guide

This handy list will help you find quick access to some incredibly useful resources. (pg. 7).



Credits

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PHOTOS: Jax Foster, Thistle & Berry, Transcendence Art Show, BGO Pride

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A Letter From the Editor

Friends, we've made it through the holidays. Hurrah! We're moving into the new year—the big '26—and bracing through the winter season. Through this time, we've also passed Trans Day of Remembrance, a time we spend to reflect on those lives we've unfortunately lost due to acts of violence against our trans+ community. Now, we approach Trans Day of Visibility, a day we celebrate our community and spread awareness that (believe it or not) we're just people.

This can be a very difficult time of year, especially for our community. Many trans+ folks simply do not have a family or place to call home for the holidays. Some are struggling to get the healthcare they need. We're constantly at threat of losing more rights. Simply using the restroom is something that could cost our lives. This is serious and scary and *lonely*.

In this quarter's issue, I really wanted to focus on our trans+ community. We need to spread awareness, and we also need to find and connect with one another. In times like these, we truly need *community*. And it's out there! It's right here. I hope this issue helps make those connections. Personally, I wish you all warmth and love. And if you ever need a friend, I am always here.



Maeve ❤

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

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You Just Art.

by Jules Reith, BGO Pride At-Large Member

Jax Foster is a friendly neighborhood cat-loving artist. Many folks know them from their previous position at Broad Wing Tattoo Studio in Bowling Green. Some know them from their art studio Thistle & Berry. Others from the annual Transcendence Art Show & Benefit. But I knew them as one of the first trans people I'd met in town. I sat down with Jax in their studio on a rainy October evening to rest in their cozy chair and pet their lazy orange tabby, Sonshine. We chatted about art, community, and the challenges the queer community struggles with. As they worked on a painting, I asked questions.

How did you get started making art, and what inspired you to paint in oils?

“MAKING ART IS JUST AN IMPULSE. I DON’T THINK ABOUT IT, I JUST HAVE TO BE MAKING SOMETHING. ARTISTS JUST DO. YOU JUST ART.”

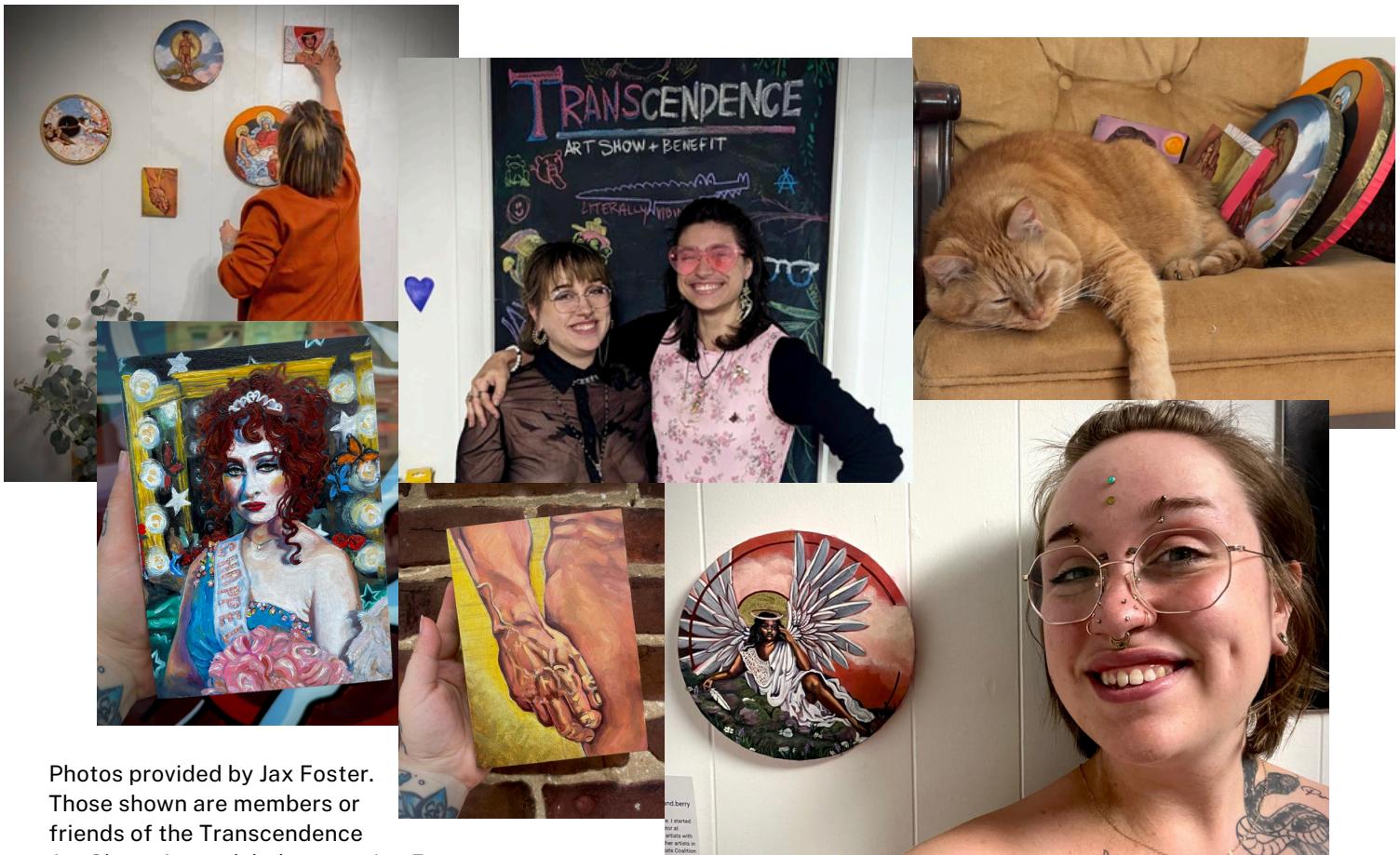
I made some art while in high school, but I didn’t really start again until I was working at Broad Wing. Jamie Mulholland, a tattoo artist, has been my mentor ever since... I’m really into the masters. I’m into Renaissance and the Baroque era. I didn’t go to the Toledo Museum of Art much before but now living so close I go as often as I can. I watch what exhibits they have and the Brilliance of Caravaggio exhibit changed my life. That duality, the contrast he made between light and shadows—no one was doing that in his time and nobody did it well after him. He created an entire movement. Caravaggio is one of my favorites forever.

Out & About

What led you to form the Transcendence Art Show & Benefit in Bowling Green?

I made all this trans work during my medical transition and I entered it into a bunch of shows and I got rejected because of the content. There were eight pieces, they were the largest ones I'd ever done, and I could not get them into a show to save my life. I still struggle trying to get into shows because of the content of my work. I could understand nudity to an extent and that's why I made a few without it, but even those were still rejected.

I started the Transcendence Art Show because I didn't want anyone else to continue to get rejected on the basis of their content. If you're creating right now and you're branding yourself on your trans identity, there should be no problems with that and you should have the same gallery opportunities as every other artist. As well as the opportunity to build your resume while still making things you care about. I think my ultimate goal is to have any artist, be it corporate or a selling artist, who still makes



Photos provided by Jax Foster. Those shown are members or friends of the Transcendence Art Show. Artwork belongs to Jax Foster.

work that speaks to them without devaluing what they are making. It created a need and a work ethic in me to make that opportunity—not just for myself, but for everyone regardless of content.

The “Benefit” part of the show supports the nonprofit No More Dysphoria, an organization that works to help trans+ individuals get the care they need. What’s been your experience with them?

No More Dysphoria is a great organization. They’re very good at giving you all the information you need to be affiliated with them to credibly make donations to their org. They do really amazing work within the community. They’ll fund a transition at every level of the process—be it medical, funding a bus ticket to your appointment, sharing and donating to your GoFundMe page, and so on. ***Their founder even says if it will help, they’ll buy you a “damn cheeseburger.”*** They paid for two months of my testosterone and they shared and donated \$200 towards my GoFundMe for top surgery. They don’t require you to jump through hoops to get the care you need. Your transition is yours and they treat you with the respect that deserves. I always encourage people to reach out to them for any care they need help with.



How do you feel the show has impacted the community, and what would you like to see for the future?

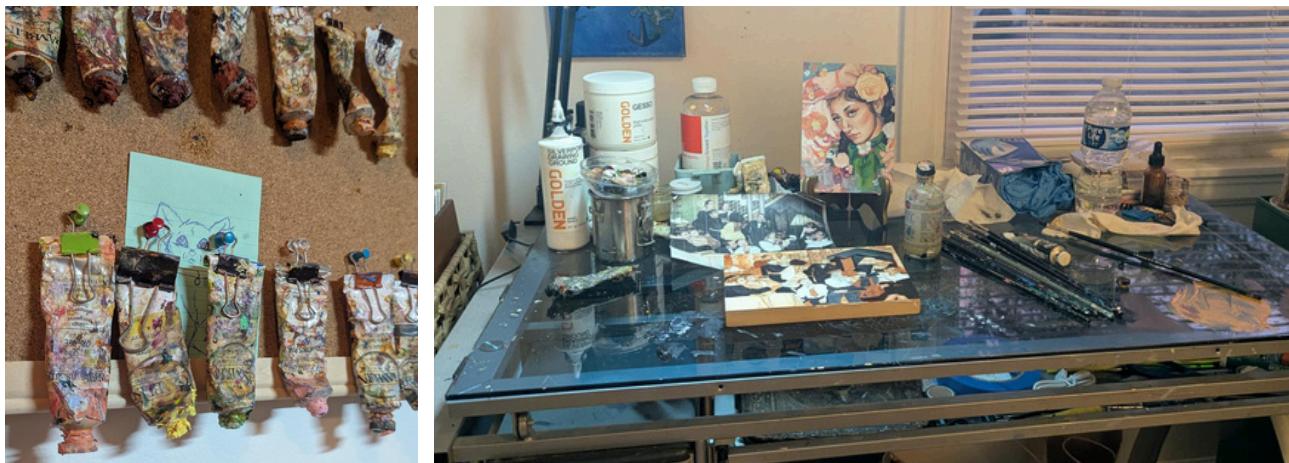
I think we’ve given people a platform and access not only to community, but friendships and resources. There are community members who are comfortable reaching out not just for art advice or

work-in-progress updates, but medical needs, food access, and anything like that. It feels like we’ve built a community that’s built around mutual aid regardless of what we’re doing—because in the end we all just want to f***ing make art.

I would like to keep growing at a steady rate like the show has. I would like to see us find a larger, more permanent space to host the show. That would be my ultimate hope for the future. It’s been difficult lately because this show is all



about raising money for NMD and elevating trans artists and the validity of their work. So it's hard to fund the money necessary to rent a space like that. I don't have the credentials to rent that kind of space. Making that ask alone has historically made finding spaces we could afford difficult. I'm just one person, I don't have a college degree. I'm just trying to make things better for trans people and trans artists.



“THAT’S OUR GOAL, TO TRANSITION AND BE COMFORTABLE IN OUR BODIES, MAKE ART, AND BE AROUND PEOPLE THAT VALUE US AND OUR IDENTITIES.”

What advice would you give to the trans and queer community to help us get through these hard times?

Keep making art. Connect with as many people as you can. Don't be afraid to ask for help—someone is always willing. Depending on what you need, reach out to your social media connections. Reach out to the Center for Healing in Toledo or Solace Health. Look into resources like TransOhio or No More Dysphoria. You've got to do the work and find what you need online and connect with the orgs that can point you in the right direction to get the help you need. ❤️

No More Dysphoria was founded by Nicole Maroulis, lead singer and guitarist for the band Hit Like A Girl. If you find yourself in need of help in your transition, even as small as finding the right binder, feel free to reach out to their contact page [on their website](#). And if you're looking for local community resources, please check out our [Resource Guide](#) on the BGO Pride website. Help is available!

UNDER THE
UMBRELLA



Comic by Jules Reith

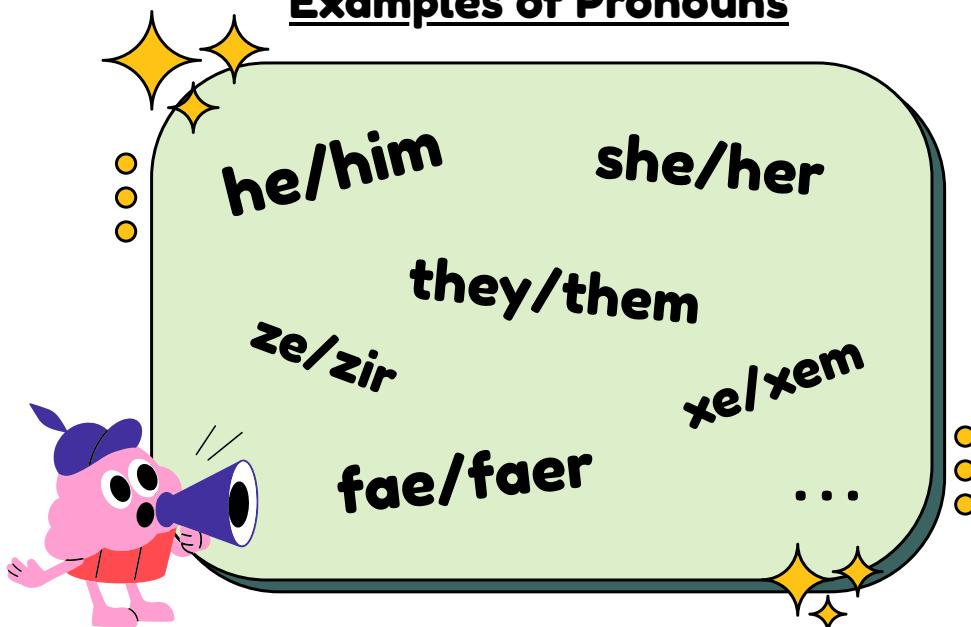
So What's the Deal With Pronouns?

by Maeve Georgeson, BGO Pride Treasurer



Believe it or not, pronouns aren't anything new. We've been using different words to refer to people indirectly for as long as anyone can remember. And it isn't just for trans+ individuals. Sometimes in conversation you need to refer to someone and you don't always want to use their name. In this case, you use a pronoun! Chances are you even have some of your own. Take a look at the chart below to see some common examples of pronouns we use in English.

Examples of Pronouns



Some folks don't like to subscribe to any pronouns at all, and would rather be called by name any time they're referenced. You'll also notice some sets of pronouns aren't as common as the others. These are called "neo-pronouns" and were made by trans+ folks to better suit their identities. They're new, but they're still just as important. You can ask someone their pronouns and practice getting them right to become more confident in conversation. All things take practice!



Want to learn more?
Scan the code to read
the [LGBT Foundation's](#)
[guide to pronouns!](#)



Trans+ Resource Guide

A Quick Reference for Trans+ Folks to Get the Help You Need



Advocates for Trans Equality - <https://transequality.org/>



Human Rights Campaign - <https://www.hrc.org/>



TransOhio - <https://www.transohio.org/>



No More Dysphoria - <https://www.nomoredysphoria.org/>



Even more resources can be found on these sites:

<https://glaad.org/transgender/resources/>

<https://www.ohiohealth.com/health-and-wellness/lgbtq-healthcare/>

<https://bgopride.org/resource-guide>

Looking Forward

Upcoming Events by BGO Pride and Friends
Also available at bgopride.org/events



BGOPRIDE

5 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER

HIGH FIVE FOR PRIDE!

Saturday, January 17th 2026
Doors Open @ 8PM Shows Start @ 9PM

LEARN MORE

QR code



THISTLE AND BERRY PRESENTS

3RD ANNUAL TRANSCENDENCE ART SHOW

OPENING RECEPTION FEB 14TH 11-8
FEB 15TH 11-8//FEB 16TH 11-5
VENDOR EXHIBITION FEB 16TH 6:30-8:30

Join us in celebrating the trans+ artists in our community! Opening night will have a 6:30 pm raffle with items from local stores, art, and more! 100% of proceeds are to be donated to No More Dysphoria to help local trans+ friends with financial aspects of their transitions. Enjoy light refreshments from Sugar Milk Gluten Free Bakery and others

ART FOR SALE//This is a FREE TO ATTEND event

For more information follow our 3rd Annual Transcendence Benefit page on facebook!

Located at 178 South Main Street (rear entrance) //alcohol free event//NSFW art on display//donations welcome

LEARN MORE

QR code

Countdown to Pride 2026

We're hosting a new event each month to get hyped for our summer Pride festival!

High Five for Pride! - 1/17

Valentine's Mixer - [TBA]

Paws & Drag - 4/24

AND MORE!
Stay tuned for more event updates to come.

For more, please visit our Events page on our website. If you or someone you know is hosting an event that is welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community in or around Bowling Green, OH, please let us know! We would love to add the event to our community calendar and potentially feature it in our next issue of Out & About.

[Visit bgopride.org for more information or to reach out.](http://bgopride.org)



Thank You

We could not do what we do without our community. Thank you for all you do and all you are. We hope to honor, uplift, educate, unite, and serve our local LGBTQ+ community with the work we do here at BGO Pride. If you are able, it would mean a great deal to us if you donate to our cause. With your support, we can provide even more programming, education, and resources to the BG area and beyond.



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