

It's Pride Y'all
2025



Pride Guide



Thank You Sponsors



Host Committee

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Booth at It's Pride Y'all**

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Letter from the Board

Dear Friends, LGBTQIA+ Community, and Allies,

The Board and I extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has made this year's Pride celebration possible. Whether you're a sponsor, Host, VIP, vendor, volunteer, performer, or attendee, your presence is a powerful act of pursuing and celebrating Queer joy. This is especially meaningful in a time when support for our community is under threat. Your continued support, and that of our partner organizations, aligns you with historical figures who have championed equality, inclusion, and the celebration of LGBTQIA+ lives and joy. We're honored to be part of that history with five years of "It's Pride Y'all."

"It's Pride Y'all" is an invitation to connect and celebrate our vibrant community. We encourage you to engage with the performers on stage, our local Queer and ally vendors, and the many organizations present. As we navigate the times ahead, our community will be more vital than ever. We urge you to sign up for non-profit email lists, support vendors who stand with us, and get involved with an organization. We are incredibly proud to have assembled a diverse group offering everything from open and affirming faith communities, to financial and legal services, and unique artists and small businesses. These are folks who have consistently stood up and stood out for our community, even as others have retreated. We encourage you to extend your engagement beyond today's event – get plugged in!

Today, we honor and uplift everyone involved, and most importantly, we encourage you to HAVE FUN! From morning educational panel discussions to dancing in the street by night, "It's Pride Y'all" offers something for everyone – and we are so glad you're here!

With Pride and Gratitude,
Chris Ellis
Chair, MS Capital City Pride



2025 It's Pride Y'all Planning Committee



AINSLEY SMITH
(she/they)



LAURA HELLER
(she/her)
2025 CO-CHAIR



LAUREN NG
(she/her)
2025 CO-CHAIR



BRITTANY MYBURGH
(she/her)
2026 CO-CHAIR ELECT



**LYNDSLEY
WILLIAMS**
(she/her)



**TIFANI
KEITH**
(she/her)



**JASMINE
TAYLOR**
(she/her)



**GENETRA NICOLE
ROBINSON**
(she/her)



**MARREO
MCDONALD**
(he/him)



**KATHY
CLEM**
(she/her)



**MARY ELLEN
FOSTER**
(she/her)



**HAILEY
GANN**
(she/her)

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE 2026 IT'S PRIDE Y'ALL
PLANNING COMMITTEE, SPEAK TO ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS!**

2025 Board of Directors



**MERRY
BARNES**
(she/her/hers)



**KATHY
CLEM**
(she/her/hers)



**CHRIS
ELLIS**
(he/him/his)



**JERRY
HAND**
(he/him/his)



**MARREO
MCDONALD**
(he/him/his)



**STAN
NICHOLS**
(he/him/his)



**MARQUETA
PERKINS-CLAYBORNE**
(she/her/hers)



**GENETRA
ROBINSON**
(she/her/hers)



**CHRISTINA
SPANN**
(she/her/hers)



**DANNY
TOVAR**
(he/him/his)



**RYAN
UPSHAW**
(he/him/his)



ASHLEE PITTS
(she/her/hers)
EMERITUS DIRECTOR



LUCAS POSEY
(he/they)
EMERITUS DIRECTOR



TYLER SAULS
(he/him/his)
EMERITUS DIRECTOR



JACK MYERS
(he/him/his)
BOARD ADVISOR

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**CAPITAL
CITY
PRIDE**

HALLOWEEN DRAG BRUNCH

**OCT. 19, 2025
DOORS - 12PM**

**HAL & MAL'S
SHOWTIME - 1PM**

www.msccapitalcitypride.org



**HOSTED BY
PENNY NICKELS**

PERFORMANCES BY

**LOVE
LATONIA**

**AMANDA
ANDREWS**

**IVY
WHITE**

**BRITNEE
ALEXANDER**

scan qr
code for
tickets and
more info

**ALL AGES WELCOME
SHOW AND COSTUME CONTEST**



Schedule of Events

Friday, September 19

7:00 pm **VIP KICK-OFF GALA**
featuring RITA BRENT and friends
beats by DJ CITIZEN JANE

The Faulkner
Fifth Floor
Rooftop

Saturday, September 20

10:00 am **PANEL DISCUSSION: ALLYSHIP IN ACTION**

The Faulkner
First Floor

11:10 am **DRAG STORY HOUR** with PENNY & MERRY

12:00 pm **IT'S PRIDE Y'ALL 2025 WELCOME**

12:15 pm **N'SPIRE WALKER & DJ KND**

1:15 pm **SADÈ**

1:30 pm **BLEU-JEAN**

1:45 pm **BRANDON ANDREWS**

2:00 pm **MYSS HOUDIE**

Capitol Street
Shade Stage

2:00 pm **MEET & GREET** *with* SPIKEY VAN DYKEY

The Faulkner
First Floor

3:00 pm **DRAG SHOWCASE**
starring SPIKEY VAN DYKEY
LOVE LATONIA
SERAPHINA
SASHA LEIGH CHAMBERS
WILL RYDER
MERCEDEZ E. L'OREAL
MAHOGANY CAMPBELL
and PENNY NICKELS

Capitol Street
Shade Stage

5:15 pm **MEET & GREET** *with* LOCAL DRAG STARS

The Faulkner
First Floor

5:30 pm **DOLLHAUS**

6:15 pm **KICKING**

7:15 pm **NEON DANCE PARTY** *with* DJ CITIZEN JANE

Capitol Street
Shade Stage

9:00 pm **PRIDE AFTER DARK**
THE OFFICIAL "IT'S PRIDE Y'ALL" AFTER PARTY

Shade
Pub & Nightclub

Vendors

Broadmeadow UMC
 Canadian Consulate in Atlanta
 Consulate General of Canada
 CONTACT the Crisis Line
 Democratic Socialists of America
 Eddie Wright BBQ
 Emily Makes Studios
 Funky's Bauble Boutique
 Human Love Apparel
 Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health
 Invisible Histories
 JXN Roller Derby
 JXNOLOGY
 Kimyata's Express Kitchen
 Klassy Krafts
 Milan Sergeant
 Mississippi Folk Festival
 Ms T's Sweets & Treats

Nadabutter
 PFLAG Jackson
 Ponderosa Drive
 R.M. Miller Art
 Samantha Lynn Watkins
 Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies
 Sirena's Custom Jewelry
 St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral/
 The Episcopal Diocese of MS
 The Good Guys Mobile Kitchen
 The TRANS Program
 Transcending Wellness
 Violet Valley Bookstore
 Voices and Choices
 Vote Your Pride MS
 Wendy's Witchery LLC
 Wurmworks

and more!

Musical Artists

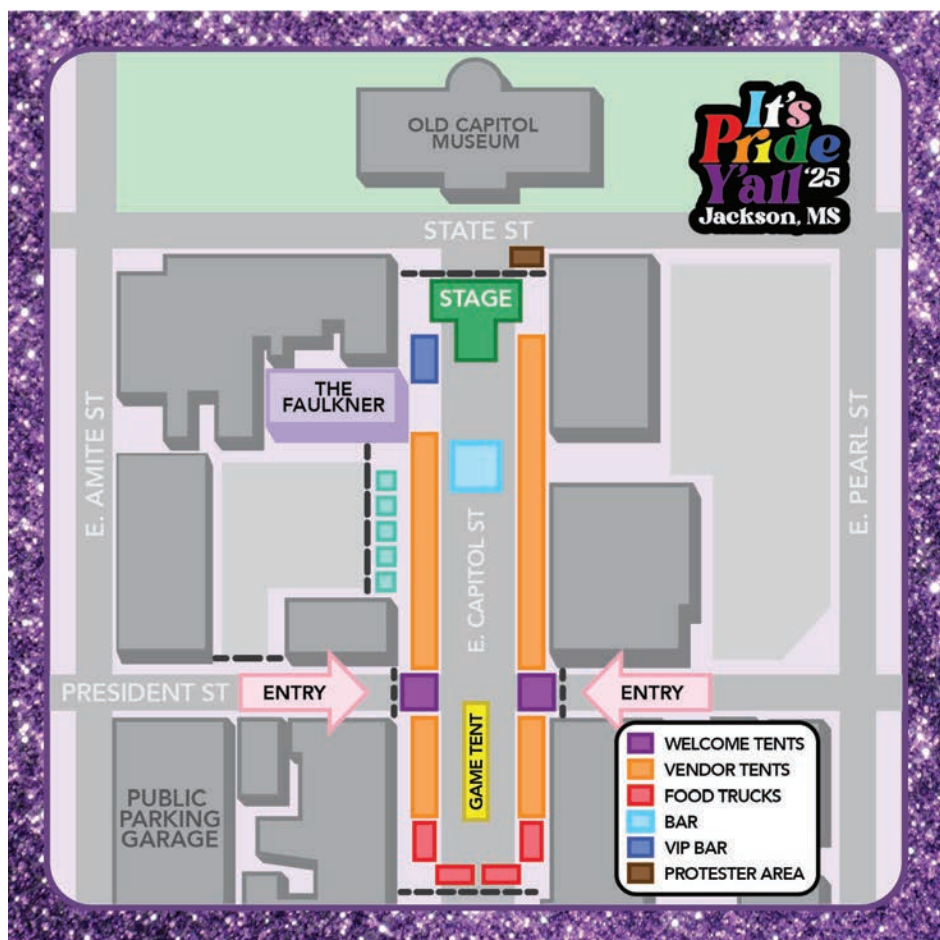


KICKING
MYSS HOUDIE

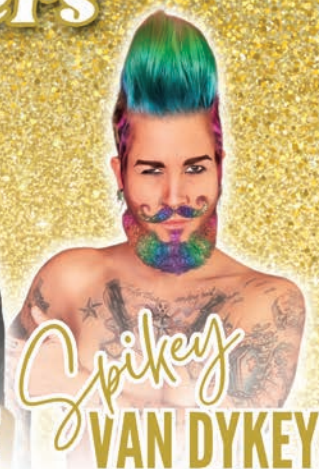
N'SPIRE WALKER
SADÈ

BLEU-JEAN
BRANDON ANDREWS

DOLLHAUS
DJ KND



Headliners





UNTIL **HIV & AIDS** ARE NOT

We've been here since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, and we'll be here until the end.

[LEARN MORE](#)



2025 Grand Marshals

JENSEN LUKE MATAR

is a man of many hats. He is a proud Christian, husband, father and friend to many. He is the volunteer Director of TRANS Program, a trans-led and state-wide non-profit organization that comprehensively serves the transgender and nonbinary community of MS; a paralegal at Bufete Legal, the state's only trans-owned and operated law firm; and owner of Jensen Custom Prints and Human Love Apparel. Jensen serves on HRC Mississippi's steering committee and LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi's board. Jensen's advocacy work sprung from personal experiences of discrimination as a trans man. His advocacy led to policy change in the workplace, followed by 10 years of service to the transgender and non-binary community of MS. He has achieved many firsts for MS, such as writing the first state-wide newspaper about trans issues, organizing the first Mississippi Legislative Hearing on Trans Rights and organizing the state's first publicly acknowledged Trans Day of Visibility event. His greatest achievement is witnessing positive life change as result of his consistent and humble service. Through community relations, leadership development, state-wide organizing, legal assistance, education, advocacy and business, Jensen has been able to lead a shift in culture around trans narratives and is a vital contributor in the fight for LGBTQ Rights in Mississippi.



LOVE LATONIA

is a multi-talented and multi-faceted two-spirited woman of trans experience who serves as the Director of Awakening Love. Their mission is to empower and support trans communities by advocating for their rights, providing harm reduction strategies, and promoting emotional wellness practices, while creating a safe and liberating environment where individuals can thrive. In 2025, Awakening Love Drop-in Center opened as the first of its kind in all of Mississippi! Awakening Love is offering not only a space for gathering necessary resources, but also a space for transgender, non-binary, and gender expansive individuals to receive emergency services and the support they need, from the community that directly understands their needs. Love also works as a Program Specialist for CARE4ME Services' CARE4Women. This program includes Evolving Voices, which focuses on connecting all women with social and emotional support services and addressing barriers to care. She serves on various boards and committees while advocating for others whose voices may be silenced. Love has been entertaining as an illusionist and artist for nearly 30 years and counting. Entertainment is her art form of ministry that enlightens individuals to feel free, understood, and loved. In April 2025, Love Latonia was crowned Miss Black Trans International!



Nov. 21, 1954 - May 22, 2025

WANDA HENSON

Wanda Henson, co-founder of Camp Sister Spirit, left behind a legacy of fierce love, resilience, and strength – a woman who helped carve out safe, affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ women and allies for decades in Overt, MS, alongside her partner Brenda. The couple owned a Lesbian, feminist, metaphysical bookstore in Gulfport called Southern Wild Sisters. It was more than a store. Their compassion extended beyond the LGBTQIA+ community to help any service organization assisting people in need. Due to Wanda and Brenda's deep ties to the women's music festival circuit and their vision of something similar in MS, something larger came of it: Camp Sister Spirit, a haven for women, especially lesbians. The camp quickly became more than a gathering space but grew into a safe space where women felt empowered and supported. People came from all over the US. Despite violent threats and harassment, the camp sustained itself. Wanda's legacy is found in the lives she touched. "Wanda and Brenda knew the importance of showing up....Women are powerful and that includes me," their friend Robin Morgan recalls. Wanda Henson said in her 1994 testimony: "Democracy must be restored. We have one option. We will continue to live in freedom. And we intend to defend our lives."



VOTED ONE OF THE BEST GAY BARS IN THE SOUTH

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PUB AND NIGHTCLUB

THURSDAYS: LOW KEY NIGHT & DRINK SPECIALS

FRIDAYS: KARAOKE'S HOTTEST STAGE

SATURDAYS: DRAG. DANCE. LIGHT-UP FLOOR.

OPEN THURS-SATURDAY

3911 NORTHVIEW DRIVE

JACKSON MS 39206

PRIDE

AFTER DARK

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

THE OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY OF
CAPITAL CITY PRIDE

3911 NORTHVIEW DRIVE | JACKSON MS 39206

Local Drag Stars



Love
LATONIA



Seraphina



Sasha Leigh
CHAMBERS



Will
RYDER



Mercedes
E. L'OREAL



Mahogany
CAMPBELL



Penny
NICKELS

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at THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION for MISSISSIPPI

The LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi envisions a state where all LGBTQ Mississippians live safely, openly, and without isolation, prejudice, and discrimination.



The LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi develops and invests resources to support efforts that address the needs of LGBTQ Mississippians.

Your donation provides resources for Mississippi and efforts that are aimed at providing economic, social, cultural, health, and other needed services for LGBTQ Mississippians.



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2025 It's Pride Y'all Panel Discussions

10 AM - 11 AM



JENSEN LUKE
MATAR

ALICE
TAURUS

EZARA ELI
STANLEY

ALLYSHIP IN ACTION:

understanding and supporting trans and nonbinary lives



PENNY NICKELS

MERRY BARNES

DRAW STORY HOUR:

family friendly storytime and crafts!



TRIVIA NIGHT

with Penny Nickels

7-9 PM

FREE
TO PLAY!

AT HAL & MAL'S
THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

“LET’S REMEMBER
THE PEOPLE WHO
HAVE GIVEN
THEIR
LIVES
FOR
BELIEVING
THAT GOD
CREATED US
ALL EQUAL.”

— DR. ROBERT SMITH

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SHINE!



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THE
CITY
WITH
Soul
JXN
MINISTRIES

Join MS Capital City Pride's



RAINBOW MAGNOLIA SOCIETY

WHAT IS "RAINBOW MAGNOLIA SOCIETY"?

A new donor circle to support the mission and goals of MS Capital City Pride. Your donation will go directly towards funding the organization's community-driven programs throughout the year. A portion will also benefit the "It's Pride Y'all" festival to help keep our festival FREE to the public. This is more than just a gift; it's a powerful act of love for our local LGBTQ+ community.

WHY WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Local LGBTQ+ nonprofits like ours are often the first to feel the impact of political pushback and funding cuts. We've already felt the pressure this year as we've lost several sponsorships from past years because of cuts to DEI. Your donation keeps us moving forward! It allows us to show up when our community needs us most; offering resources, sharing vital information, and creating safe spaces filled with pride and belonging.

JOIN US!

If you believe in building a stronger, more inclusive Mississippi for LGBTQ+ people, we invite you to stand with us. Together, we can ensure Pride isn't just an event, but a lasting force for change in our community!

FOUNDING MEMBER BENEFITS

Exclusive Recognition

- Special "Founding Member" lapel pin
- Recognition in the "Rainbow Rundown"
- Listed on website as "Founding Member"

Exclusive Invitations

- Access to exclusive, celebratory events.
- Invitation to the "Annual Donor Social"
 - Catered dinner for Society members
 - Presentation on Impact of contribution
 - Preview of future programs

Free Tickets and VIP Access

- 2 unlimited Drag Brunch tickets a year
- Free entry to the Rainbow Run and Gayrage Sale
- Host Committee membership at It's Pride Y'all each year

Community Impact

- Directly support MS Capital City Pride's year-round programs and outreach
- Help keep "It's Pride Y'all" a FREE and inclusive celebration.

JOIN AS A FOUNDING MEMBER TODAY!





OVER 2 MILLION LIVES IN CARE

Pride is more than a celebration. It's a movement for equality, dignity, and care.

AIDS Healthcare Foundation is proud to support Jackson Pride, standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community in the ongoing fight for health, justice, and equality. With over 2 million lives in our care, we know that when we stand together, we're stronger than ever.

Together, we are AHF Strong.



Classic Strength and Support

Wilson Elser protects our clients, their holdings and their reputations through skillful risk management, negotiation, arbitration, mediation and litigation. We are pleased to again be among the sponsors of the **MS Capital City Pride Festival** and salute all of today's participants!

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43 Offices Nationwide



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Dear Friends & Family,

*Robin Morgan Financial, an LGBTQ+ owned
financial services business welcomes you to
It's Pride Y'all 2025! It is an honor and a
privilege to be part of this great event.*

*I have been a financial advisor for 34
years. The LGBTQ+ community is diverse,
and everyone's situation is unique. Our
office is a safe space where you are
welcome to come as your authentic self
and freely talk about your family's
financial goals and dreams.*

*Please stop by our booth and say hello, ask
a question, sign up for a complimentary
financial review, or join our mailing list for
LGBTQ+ topics. We love what we do, and
we love our community. We look forward
to meeting you!*

*Enjoy Pride,
Robin*



