

PARTICIPATE!

the Newsletter of the Gay Games



Welcome to the August 2021 Edition of Participate!

Join us for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, 11-19 November!

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Joanie Evans, Co-President



Sean Fitzgerald, Co-President



We would like...

...to congratulate the 180+ out LGBTQ+ athletes of the Tokyo Olympics. They return home with dozens of medals, millions of new fans, and hundreds of stories to last a lifetime. They showed the world how well they can perform when they are allowed to participate as their true selves. We would especially like to congratulate Laurel Hubbard, the first out trans woman to compete at the Olympics and Quinn, the first non-binary Olympic Gold Medalist.

Next year, thousands of LGBTQ+ athletes and artists will descend upon Hong Kong to participate in the 11th Gay Games. While they may not add millions of social media followers, they will return to their homes around the world with hundreds of medals and thousands of memories. They will also have the satisfaction of knowing that they were able to reach for their personal best. The Gay Games invites all people to participate and boasts a Gender Inclusion Policy that we have shared with other organizations like US Quidditch and the Special Olympics.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franie". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "F" and a trailing flourish.A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Sun". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FGG signs on to letter from Muhammad Ali Center calling on IOC and IPC to change course on Rule 50 and IPC Section 2.2

Olympics should allow free expression of Human Rights, Racial Justice, and Social Inclusion

This past July, the world's greatest athletes gathered in Tokyo for the Olympic Games. It was a bittersweet two weeks-plus of competition with the constraints of pandemic protections and the excitement of new records made. The Summer Paralympics Games follow with hope for their success.

Many of the most moving stories were just as much of the people as well as their performance. Trans Olympians competed openly for the first time and Quinn became the first to win a gold medal as part of Canada's women soccer team. More than 170 out athletes competed, more than in any other Olympics. "Team LGBTQ+" earned a total of 32 medals.

Memorable moments of the Olympics include Simone Biles bringing attention to the struggle to maintain mental fortitude during competition, and silver medal shot-putter Raven Saunders of USA gesturing an X to represent "...the intersection of where all people who are oppressed meet." This last act symbolizes perhaps one of the most controversial moments of personal expression at Tokyo 2020 because it was considered political. Commercial sports success depends on who owns and funds the leagues, how teams are assembled, where events occur, and who sponsors the events. And because people make these commercial decisions, politics are involved, making sports political.

Raven's gesture in Tokyo is closely reminiscent of the famous black power salute by US sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos on the medals podium at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. At the time, this gesture was universally condemned and these two medalists were kicked off the team and sent back to the USA (the passage of time has caused most people to realize this reaction was totally wrong). One of the few people to support this powerful social justice gesture was Smith's and Carlos' teammate Tom Waddell. He realized the significance of what they were expressing and stood behind them while nearly everyone else turned their backs. When Tom Waddell went on to found the Gay Games in 1982, he carried those memories close. We are certain that Tom would applaud the efforts of Raven Saunders if he were around today.

Ahead of the Summer Games, FGG and over 150 sport, human rights, and racial/social justice academic experts signed a [letter](#) demanding the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) leadership change Rule

50. This Rule restricts some forms of expression and is in conflict with the social movements globally seeking justice for all people.

The full-length letter, including a list of signatories, supporting organizations, and athlete supporters, can be accessed [here](#).

The stand that FGG takes with these signatories is important. Gay Games was started in order to allow LGBTQ+ athletes to express their true selves and directly challenge the culture of homophobia in sport and the Olympics through our sports and culture event. In this Olympic's moment, we are reminded of the importance sport has in our society. As a community of LGBTQ+ athletes, the Gay Games has always been a place where participants are invited to present as their authentic selves.

This next generation of athletes, spectators, consumers, supporters, business leaders is an intersectional generation and it is important that these diverse voices across all communities are heard.

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Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 Update



GAY GAMES 11

HONG KONG 2022

UNITY IN DIVERSITY
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GGHK will take place from 11-19 November 2022 in Hong Kong and will be the first Gay Games in Asia. It will feature 36 Sports, Arts & Cultural events, Opening & Closing Ceremonies and a Festival Village for 12,000 participants and 75,000 spectators, and it's open for all!

Pre-registration is OPEN for GGHK! [Pre-register here](#) to participate in any of the sports or arts & culture events, and join us in Hong Kong.

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Tokyo 2020 Olympics



"United in all our diversity, we become bigger than the sum of our parts. We are always stronger together."

- IOC President, Thomas Bach, in his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic

Games Tokyo 2020, July 22, 2021

Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 wholeheartedly shares these sentiments, and sends our congratulations to the people of Japan and all the athletes, participants and organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

We hope that the unifying power of sport will bring us together again in Hong Kong 2022 in a spirit of inclusion, understanding and respect.

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Hong Kong is ready for Gay Games 2022

“We’re less than 500 days away from Hong Kong hosting Asia’s first Gay Games in November 2022, a region where two-thirds of the world’s population live. As momentum and excitement continue to build around our preparations, so does the socio-political commentary among certain quarters – both good and bad.

As organizers, we are unified in our commitment to the success and preserving the legacy of the Gay Games in Hong Kong.”

Read the full LGBTQ Nation article from our Co-Chairs [here](#).

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‘Coffee with Gay Games’ Pride Webinar Recording





You can also get involved by taking part in or watching the GGHK monthly webinars. These webinars are vital assets in learning about LGBTQ+ best practices, about the event itself and the progress that has been made so far.

The latest webinar was all about women, and it's for everyone! Learn about how Gay Games Hong Kong is preparing to welcome its women participants, and how it's actively promoting gender inclusion. You can watch the recording of the webinar on our [YouTube channel](#).

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Want to learn more about GGHK or have any questions?

- Check out our [website](#)
- Follow our social media channels @GayGamesHK2022
- Contact our Customer Experience Team for any questions hello@gghk2022.com
- Watch recordings of our monthly webinars on our [Youtube channel](#)

Thank you for your support of GGHK!

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Site Selection

Site Inspections of the three finalists for Gay Games XII 2026 (Guadalajara MX, Munich DE, Valencia ES) are taking place from August 9-23, 2021. The Site Inspectors consist of Annette Wachter (DE), Martha Ehrenfeld (US), and Joan Miro (ES). Media Representative is Tony Smith (US) - look out for his daily posts on social media to see what the three finalists are like!



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Culture

Pride Bands Alliance

Hey Band Fans! Check out the [Pride Bands Alliance Conference Welcome Video!](#)
Registration is open! November 18-21, Houston, TX



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Pride Cheerleading Association

Anytime is the perfect time for a cheergram from [CHEER SF!](#)

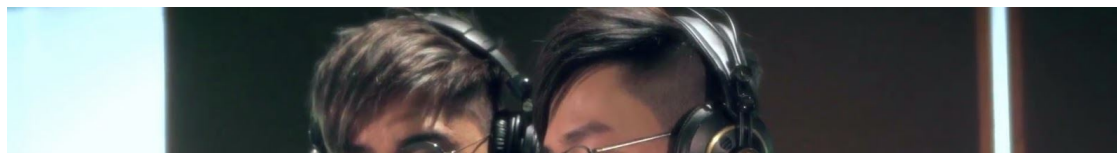
♥♥ It's not too late to pre-register and save \$\$\$!



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Proud Voices Asia Member Spotlight

Super huge thank you to [Elements Choir](#) in Hong Kong for sharing this awesome teaser video for their upcoming [10th anniversary concert](#)





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National AIDS Memorial

Watch this 5 minute video featuring leaders in the AIDS Movement. 40 Years of AIDS -- [A Day of Tributes and Remembrance - YouTube](#)



Forty Years: Forty Powerful Quilt Stories - Activism, Resilience, Hope & Remembrance.
Click on an image below.

FORTY YEARS

FORTY POWERFUL QUILT STORIES



40 years later

Activism, Resilience,
Hope & Remembrance



NATIONAL
• AIDS •
MEMORIAL





Block 0687

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"Well, this should be interesting."

~ the last words spoken by Tom Waddell

This Block has a panel honoring the founder of the Gay Games, Dr. Tom Waddell, a gay American physician, sportsman and competitor at the 1968 Summer Olympics who founded the Gay Olympics in 1982 in San Francisco. The international sporting event was later renamed the Gay Games after the International Olympic Committee (IOC) sued Waddell for using the word "Olympic" in the original name. The Gay Games are held every four years. In 1985, he was diagnosed with AIDS and although dogged by the IOC's lawsuit, Waddell lived to see the success of Gay Games II in 1986, and even participated, winning the gold medal in the javelin event. Tom Waddell died from AIDS on July 11, 1987, aged 49.

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and through sport and culture!

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- Search for "Federation of Gay Games" to select the FGG as the charitable organization to support.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

NOTE: This program may or may not be available when shopping from your country. Please check on your end.

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Share your stories of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ with the hashtag #gaygames

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture and ensures that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of *Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™*.

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