

Welcome to the May 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



On May 25, 2021...

...it be one year since George Floyd was murdered and a global lens was put on racial injustice that, combined with the pandemic, led to a surfacing of peoples' anger and weariness of injustice on the diversity scale.

Two things are important for us to focus on at this time: First, what changes have we as individuals and organizations seen, instituted, and embraced, and what changes haven't been present and, therefore, what did we expect to see? At the FGG, we signed up with fellow organizations to CEO Act!on For Diversity and Inclusion which is the largest CEO-driven business commitment to advance diversity and inclusion within the workplace. Collective action matters more than ever, as is the need to look internally at what we can do better to function not just more fairly but more effectively and efficiently to better serve our mission. We have also been checking in with our members to see how we can support and plan to offer more in the way of our Return To Play Initiative which can provide financial assistance to get member organizations back up and running.

Second, we are about to enter a year of reliving, starting with the anniversary of George Floyd's murder. As we start to embrace life in ways that have been off limits in the past 18 months, we must prepare ourselves for a reviewing and a retelling of the injustices that have taken place, and we mustn't underestimate the toll this can take on us mentally and emotionally.

Our new FGG talk show, [Participation and Inclusion Matters](#), provides a safe forum for these honest discussions to occur, focusing on everyday fears and what must change, and how, for a better world to exist. Check out our first episode, How Can Sport Play A Bigger Role In The Inclusion Solution, [here](#). Our guests were former basketball player John Amaechi OBE, our Ambassador and athlete and speaker Amazin LeThi, and British pro handball player Zooey 'Effy' Perry, the first openly transsexual player in the world.

We encourage you to talk, share, engage with those around you and use resources at your disposal to manage your mental, spiritual, emotional and physical health over the course of a year that will undoubtedly take the fight for equality and justice to a new level.



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Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 Update

Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 will take place 11th-19th November 2022. This will be the first time a Gay Games has taken place in Asia, and it will feature 36 sports, 14 cultural events and a rich calendar of events for 12,000 participants and 75,000 spectators. Pre-registration is open now! Full registration will open in Q2 of 2021. For more information go [here](#).

Pre-registration for GGHK is now open!



PRE-REGISTER HERE AND SAVE

[Pre-registration](#) offers you two benefits:

1. You will get access to general registration before anyone else. Since all activities and sports have a limited capacity, it means you won't miss out.
2. You save money in the long run! [Pre-registering](#) costs HK 50 (6.44 USD / 5.35 EUR) and gives you a discount of HKD 200 (25 USD/ 21.9 EUR) off the participation fee.

Together, Let's Make History. Become a Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 participant and help us bring Gay Games to Asia for the first time: pre-register [here](#).

Support GGHK in your community, sport club or city

We are looking for Champions (volunteer role) to promote GGHK within your LGBTQ+ community, sport club, city, country or region. Read more [here](#) about this role and how you can apply.

Learn more about GGHK

- Want to learn more about GGHK or have any questions? [Email us](#).
- Watch recordings of our monthly webinars on our [Youtube channel](#)
- Check out our [website](#)

Contact our Customer Service Experience team for your questions hello@gghk2022.com

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Funding Support (previously Scholarship) is now live!



Get to #GGHK2022

with our Funding Support Program

We are excited to announce that the Funding Support Program for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 (GGHK) is now live! Previously known as the scholarship program, Funding Support makes it even more accessible for underprivileged participants from around the world to attend the Gay Games.

The new-look program will empower you to drive your campaign to get to the Games. Together with the Funding Support Team, applicants will learn how to build a social presence,

how to engage their communities, and how to crowdfund. When their campaigns close, we'll do our part to make up for any shortfalls, helping teams and individuals get to the Games.

Applications are available in the following languages: English, Spanish, Traditional Chinese, and Simplified Chinese.

Find out more and apply [here](#)!

You can also watch the recording of GGHK's April Webinar about Funding Support [here](#).

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Become a #GGHK2022 Champion

If you're passionate about supporting LGBTQ+ causes, make history with us by becoming a local champion to promote #GGHK2022 within your city, region or country.

From attending events and engaging in public dialogue to fostering partnerships with organisations within your community, you will play a pivotal role in spreading the message of 'Unity in Diversity' and the spirit of the Games.

Find out more and apply [here](#)!

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1. Shopping

As a city that takes its place among the best in the world for shopping seriously, Hong Kong truly is a shoppers' paradise. Its shopping scene offers something for everyone, with trendy boutiques, traditional stores, local designers, luxurious shopping malls and bustling street markets. Oh, and did we mention that all of the international brands worth having have outlets here? Whether you're looking for the perfect souvenir to take back home, vintage stores filled with hidden treasures or to snap up incredible deals from high-end brands, Hong Kong has got you covered. With must-see shopping areas in Festival Walk, SOHO, Causeway Bay and Kowloon, shopping in Hong Kong gives you the perfect opportunity to explore the city as well.

2. Markets

Shopping in Hong Kong goes far beyond department stores and luxury brands, its markets are an experience all of their own. There are lively markets in every corner of the city with famously tempting street food, bargain clothing, gorgeous flowers, and counterfeit luxury goods. You'll find all the flowers you could want at the aptly named Flower Market, clothes and handbags aplenty at the Ladies' Market, delicious traditional Hong Kong cuisine at the colourful night markets and all of the latest gadgets and sportswear in Mong Kok. Whether you're ready to sharpen your haggling skills or just want to people watch, these bustling markets are unmissable.

3. Museums

A city that is steeped in history and culture, Hong Kong is awash with wonderful museums that document the city's fascinating past and cultural heritage. Spanning history, science, the arts, space, and even tea-drinking, there are plenty of diverse Hong Kong museums that are well worth a visit. Most excitingly just in time for GGHK in November 2022, two state of the art museums, M+ and the Hong Kong Palace Museum, are scheduled to open in the next year. M+ will be a masterpiece in and of itself, a museum for modern and contemporary art nearly twice the size of the Tate Modern. The Hong Kong Palace Museum will take its place fittingly overlooking the iconic harbour and showcase a fresh, contemporary interpretation of both

Western and Chinese culture. As a bonus for those wanting to explore as much history and art as possible, the permanent exhibitions of five of Hong Kong's main museums, including the Museum of Arts, Museum of History and Dr Sun Yat-sen Museum, are open to all free of charge.

Next time we will tell you all about the Weather, Sport and Stadiums in Hong Kong.

Learn more about GGHK here

Want to learn more about GGHK or have any questions?:

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

Thank you for your support of GGHK!

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FGG Ambassador Profiles

In this month's newsletter, we are excited and honored to introduce you to two new FGG Ambassadors: Kedzie Teller and Jon Lee. We warmly welcome them to the Ambassador community.

Meet Kedzie Teller



What's your story? (Who are you? Where are you based?)

My name is Kedzie Teller and I am a collegiate track athlete-turned US quidditch player (yes, it's true) based in Philadelphia, PA. I grew up in a sport-centric family in New England, focusing on soccer and track. It was at Boston University where I traded my sprinting spikes for quidditch gear and wound up spending eight years in the full-contact, co-ed sport most people don't realize has high-level, real-life competition. Most simply put, it's a mix of handball and dodgeball. I competed abroad and won gold with Team USA in 2012 and 2014, racking

up regional and national titles while competing domestically. Since leaving the sport in 2017, I've thrown myself into tennis – my true passion – and marathon training.

Outside of competition, I am an ambassador for Athlete Ally and I spend a good amount of time looking for additional ways to advocate on behalf of queer athletes like myself. As a kid, I always wanted to see someone speak out, be themselves, and help me feel like I belonged in sports. I truly believe my calling is within this space, and I want to put my outspoken personality and empathy for others to good use while I have the ability to do so.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

Sports have always been a part of my life, and they've given me so much. They've provided an outlet for my competitive nature, of course, but they've always seemed to give me what I needed for that particular moment in time of life, too. As a kid, they provided structure and a place to make friends. In high school, they were a way to prove myself to others – a way of showcasing talent and my own perceived value when I was struggling with my sexual orientation. In college, they gave me community and self-confidence. And now, they're the break I need from the hustle and fatigue of everyday life. Above all, sports bring me a rush of joy and adrenaline that nothing else ever has.

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

Oddly enough, for all the good sports have brought me, they were also a source of extreme pain, but coming through those negative experiences only made my love of sport stronger. Growing up (and even today) I experienced and witnessed my fair share of homophobia. Even before I was out I was a target for homophobic remarks, and often I would wonder if it was worth putting myself through. Should I keep playing? Should I just focus on schoolwork instead? Lucky for me, I've always been a person who has used doubt and negativity to fuel my own fire, so the experiences I endured paid off in the long run. I was hungry to prove myself. If someone said I couldn't, I would show them I could. And I did.

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

As simple as it may sound, be you. Be unapologetically yourself and be fearless as you go forward. There is no mold for what makes an athlete, and you belong here as much as the next person. Our time is short, so do what you love, and do it with the energy and personality that only you bring to the table. You never know who is watching and you never know who you'll inspire to do the same.

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

I want to be a Gay Games Ambassador because I believe full-heartedly in what the Gay Games stand for: promoting equality and acceptance for *every* athlete, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, skill level, or anything else. Sport is and should *always be* a unifying experience. It's something we rally behind, and something that inspires us. Sport is special in so many ways, and I want nothing more than to dedicate more of my time to helping promote equality in the athletic space.

What else do you want us to know about you?

Haha well, I guess some extra facts about me would include: I'm a diehard Dutch soccer fan, I've been running my own marketing consulting business for nearly four years, I've got a green thumb and too many plants to prove it, and I'm always down to step on a tennis court with a new friend.



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Meet Jon Lee



What's your story? (Who are you? Where are you based?)

My name is Jon Lee-Olsen. I'm 28 years old and I'm an adoptee from South Korea. I live in Copenhagen. I was raised in Hellerup by my parents with my older brother.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

Ice hockey gives me a community where I feel like I belong and have a role to play. You fight for each other and become more like brothers throughout a season. You work hard and earn you place on the team and that's something that I was always drawn to. I've learned a lot about being professional in other aspects of my life from hockey and it's giving me a lot of great memories.

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

There was also a lot of difficult times for me, especially when I understood my sexuality. I didn't know if it would destroy my dream of getting pro. I struggled a lot with my mental health at that point of my life. I had a lot of sleepless nights and it tore me apart that I felt different and out of place in the sport I loved so much and I couldn't see a way out.

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

My best advice would be to be true to yourself and to remember that you are always valued. Find your support group if it's your friends, family or LGBTQ+ community.

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

I want to be an ambassador for Gay Games because I think it's important to show up and fight for inclusivity in sport. I want the future to look brighter for the next generation and I want to help and fight for what Gay games stands for.

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Culture

Proud Voices Asia

[Hand In Hand Virtual Choir Festival 2021](#)

- ELEMENTS Choir, The Harmonics Choir Hong Kong & Proud Voices Asia need help getting the Hand in Hand choral festival party started!
- Currently sorting out the logistics for meeting again in Hong Kong in 2022,

- Looking for member choir contributions for their first virtual Asian queer choral festival later this year!
- Messages have been sent out to all member choirs.
- See you on screen in 2021, and in real life in 2022!
- #handinhand #HiHHK #HiH2021 #HiH2022



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Lesbian Gay Band Association

- [MVPX Episode 3: Gender Equality in Classical Music](#)
- - The Daffodil Perspective is a radio show focused on championing a space for everyone.
 - Telling the stories of all these brilliant composers and musicians marginalized by centuries of the white supremacist patriarchy.
 - Creating a mirror that reflects our wonderfully diverse world and making a brave space so EVERYONE belongs.



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Pride Cheerleading Association (PCA)

excerpt from April 2021 Newsletter

Feature PCA Member Team: CHEER San Francisco

Hey, CHEER San Francisco! You are the world's original Charitable Cheerleading team! With 40+ years of cheering for the LGBTQ+ community, we're sure there are tales to tell. But that's not what we're snooping around for. We want to know what's next! How is CHEER San Francisco planning for the future? For Pride 2021 and beyond...

CHEER SF is thrilled to be planning for Pride 2021! Cautious optimism is the theme, here. Historically, CHEER SF's Pride Tour spans the entire Bay Area and beyond. This might be a year that we stay closer to home. But we're grateful for every opportunity and we are prepared to be vigilant about health and safety protocols in every location.

We've initiated a clean and safe return to some small, outdoor events within SF - our bright red uniforms and creative, custom chants bring cheer to the community even when our smiles are masked. We are prepared to support Sonoma County Pride at its drive-through parade on June 5 and small outdoor festival on June 26 (unless things change with travel across counties). And, we are gearing up for the "sequined clutch" of in-person events by San Francisco Pride that are sprinkled throughout the month of June.

Our Board and Leadership have been fantastic about staying on top of regulations, community re-openings (... and closings, and re-re-openings), and team morale! In fact, our Board

President and our Program Director have learned so much about planning, that they are not only planning for Pride 2021, they're planning for CSF c/o 2040! Program Director Anthony Chavira welcomed baby Luca and Board President Chris Lintz welcomed baby Cameron just days apart at the end of March. To the CHEER DADS: Congrats! And thank you for making this world a cheerier place!



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Human Resources - We Need Your Help!

The Federation of Gay Games runs entirely on volunteer effort. We are always delighted to hear from you if you have a couple of hours a month, consider volunteering with us. We need lots of people with specific skills to support the work of our Board Members and the Committees. This month we are specifically looking for the following skills and expertise.

Our **Technology Committee** is looking for volunteers with website management and development skills, database management, or skills in using the Google Suite of programmes - email, docs and forms, file management. Apply [here](#)

The **Marketing Committee** is seeking experienced marketing professionals, and graphic designers to help us to drive our marketing strategy forward.

The **Communications Committee** is seeking people with skills in the following areas:

- Writing press release
- Writing news stories for our website
- Writing newsletters - Participate regularly reaches 13,000 readers
- Social Media management - keeping our facebook, instagram, twitter and LinkedIn pages up to date

The **International Development Committee**

Current openings for 3-4 individuals who can commit at least 5 hours each month of productive and efficient engagement with the team. We want talented people who can think vertically in a broad landscape.

- Are you an "out" leader in your local sports community?
- Do you approach projects, partnerships and people with integrity and curiosity?
- Do you have strong written communication skills?
- Do you have working knowledge of local legislation?
- Do you speak multiple languages or engage regularly with embassies on development projects?

If you answered yes to ANY of these questions we would like to work with you to implement a comprehensive network of localized support around the globe to ensure current and potential FGG members have the tools, benefits and opportunities they need to have a sense of belonging and be their best!

Apply [here](#) for any of the above roles.



SMILE... and help the Gay Games Change the World!

Do you shop Amazon.com? You can make a quick change to your account and every dollar you spend will support the Federation of Gay Games mission to promote equality in and through sport and culture!

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from Amazon's list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

To change your charitable organization:

- Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
- From your desktop, go to Your Account from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to Change your Charity. Or, from your mobile browser, select Change your Charity from the options at the bottom of the page.
- Search for "Federation of Gay Games" to select the FGJ 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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