

# PARTICIPATE!

the Newsletter of the Gay Games



***Welcome to the July 2022 Edition of Participate!***

***Join us for Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong and Guadalajara, November 3-11, 2023!***



**Joanie Evans, Co-President**



**Sean Fitzgerald, Co-President**

We hope that as the Northern Hemisphere summer takes hold that you are able to get back to participating in the events that have drawn you into the Gay Games family. It is great to see the sport and cultural communities returning to normal. As intense heat, a new COVID variant and Monkey Pox grip the world, remember to play safe. But most of all, Have Fun.

Frankie  
Zö

Sw

## **FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES AND GAY GAMES 11 GUADALAJARA SIGNS OFFICIAL LICENSE AGREEMENT**



Guadalajara is celebrating!!!, As we will be co-hosting the 11th edition of the Gay Games in 2023.

Near the end of LGBT Pride Month, this last June 28th, a press conference was held, where the governor of Jalisco and his Tourism, Sports, and Culture Secretaries announced to local and national media the Gay Games Guadalajara 2023. The Games of Diversity, Inclusion, Union, and Fraternity.

One of the highlights of the governor's speech: "it is a job that should be assumed as a priority for everyone, because this city (Guadalajara), its history, culture, and its capability to think about the future needs to be permanently accompanied by respect and tolerance."

Also, the Sports Director of Jalisco said that a strategy will be implemented, including retrofitting the spaces that were built for the Pan-American Games, so the quality of each one of them is guaranteed according to each discipline's rules and requirements.

In terms of public policy and human rights, Jalisco is one of the few Mexican States that has made great progress in recognizing our community, because same-sex marriage has been approved, as well as the same-sex adoption, the recognition of de Trans Childhood Identities rights, and the abolition of conversion therapies.

Guadalajara is getting ready with a first class quality cultural and touristic offer, to the athletes and their companions nine days of sport and artistic

to the athletes and their companions, nine days of sport and artistic experiences in an atmosphere of global celebration.

At the same time, an important alliance with Puerto Vallarta and Tequila is taking place, to hold tours before and after the Gay Games, so our “amigos” leave with a very Mexican lifetime experience!

Guadalajara is ready to be among the best Gay Games hosts ever, because everyone here is and it will always be welcome!

## Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2023 (GGHK) Update



Pre-Register



Funding Support



Become a  
Champion





Partner



Donate



Volunteer

Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2023 has been hard at work for many months, working with numerous sports, arts & culture and LGBTQ organizations to make this the most successful Games, and for the first time in Asia.

We were eager to take the chance 3rd July to host our first 'Coffee With Gay Games' live online, to answer the many questions that we've received, such as:

- How ready is Hong Kong to welcome the Gay Games?
- What sports are offered in Hong Kong?
- What is on the arts & culture calendar?
- How do we register, and when?
- Are there financial support programs to visit Hong Kong?

[Watch the event here](#) for answers to all of these questions and more from Lisa Lam, Co-Chair, Shawn Griffin, Director of Arts & Culture, and David Ko, Director of Marketing & PR



### Summer Pride Parties and Events

With the expected relaxation of social distancing rules around the world, GGHK is organising Summer Pride 2022, a series of promotional events over the second half of July in Hong Kong.

[Visit our website](#) to find out all of the details on the events, join us and spread the word!



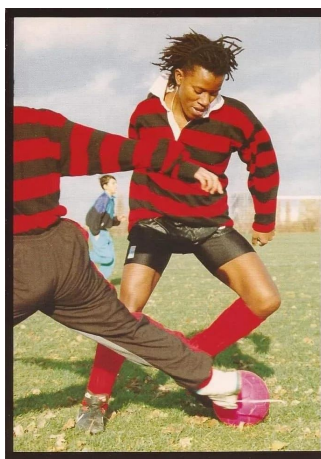


We're going to continue to take advantage of the momentum from our Summer Pride events and keep building each and every month leading up to November 2023. With satellite events expected to welcome 2,000 participants per month on average over the next 19 months, as well as 7,000 participants and 25,000 visitors during November 2023, we estimate the Hong Kong-hosted Games will in total bring 70,000 individuals together to celebrate this global experience.

As we emerge from COVID restrictions, our re-energised team at GGHK is fully focused on the delivery of our sports, arts and cultural events. In collaboration with our co-host city Guadalajara and the FGG, Gay Games 11 will truly be the broadest and most inclusive Gay Games event ever.

Come out with us, we are ready!

## 40-DAY "PASSING THE TORCH" CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAYGAMES



With the 40th anniversary of the first Gay Games fast approaching, the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) is launching a 40-day series of online posts chronicling its history, told by those who have led the global LGBTQ+ sports and culture movement since its inception. Entitled “Passing The Torch,” this series of essays will be accompanied by iconic images from the FGG digital archives.

“I was part of the first out lesbian football team in Europe in the mid-1980s, participated in several Gay Games beginning in 1994, and have served on the administrative side for nearly two decades” stated current FGG Co-President Joanie Evans of London UK. “It really is extraordinary to see how people’s contributions overlap and are interwoven into the fabric of the Gay Games, and how so much of that history is relevant to our goals and our future.” Evans is just one of nine current and former FGG Board Co-Presidents contributing editorial content to the project. Nearly half of the two dozen individuals contributing editorial content participated in the inaugural Gay Games in 1982, with several participating in all ten Gay Games. Also sharing their stories about the impact the Gay Games has made on their lives and communities are world record holders and sports administrators from around the world.

“Best of all, we even have previously unpublished comments made by Gay Games founder Tom Waddell, as well as a special tribute by his daughter, Jessica Waddell-Lewinstein Kopp,” added FGG Archivist and former Officer of Marketing Doug Litwin (San Francisco, USA). Litwin has been curating this project for the past two years through the FGG Culture & Ceremonies Committee along with Honorary Life Member Shamey Cramer (Los Angeles, USA), a Gay Games pioneer and associate of Dr. Waddell; as well as representatives from the Gay Games 11 Host Organization.

The series will run from 28 July – one month before the 40th anniversary of the original Opening Ceremony at San Francisco’s Kezar Stadium – and run through 5 September, the anniversary of the Gay Games I Closing Ceremony.

All postings will remain online and available for viewing at the FGG website, [www.gaygames.org](http://www.gaygames.org). Also at that website, you can participate in the celebration by purchasing some of the 40th Anniversary pins now on sale (visit <https://gaygames.org/store>)

The 40th Anniversary of the first Gay Games will also be celebrated during Gay Games 11, being co- hosted in November 2023 in Hong Kong and Guadalajara, the first time the Gay Games will be held in Asia and Latin America. Registration for both of those events will open in the next few months. Links to both host city websites will be available soon and found at [www.gaygames.org](http://www.gaygames.org).

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Volunteers are the backbone of the Federation of Gay Games. You are absolutely integral to FGG, and we manage to be such a successful global organisation because of your generous time, good will and hard work. We really appreciate all you do.

Let's hear from Brad – one of our hard working volunteers - about his experience of volunteering with FGG.

### **1. Why do you volunteer for the Gay Games?**

I truly like helping organizations which I believe are worthwhile in their endeavour. I see the FGG as a prudent and stable operation, and therefore the FGG provides fantastic advocacy of sport and culture through avenues to which almost all humans may relate. I truly want to give back to the community, which

I know and love. It also affords me an opportunity to support community resources which I use, and knowing this, I believe, helps to uplift the community as a whole.

### **2. What things have you done as a volunteer?**

I have been volunteering since I was a child. Either with neighbourhood events, or community undertakings. As for the Gay Games, I have volunteered at numerous Gay Games in one capacity or another, dating back several decades. I have provided numerous skills to entities that need any services which I may render. I have always been happy to assist with a gracious attitude, as the end goal is about achieving success for the entire organization. I truly believe in working on the overall mission, whenever and wherever I may be of service.

### **3. Tell us a bit about you – who you are, where you live, what you do when you are not volunteering for FGG**

I prefer to consider myself a ‘behind the scenes’ sort of person. Providing support and insight, assistance, encouragement and reinforcement to many people, and several organizations that value my knowledge and collaboration. I reside in the Northern United States, and therefore I have the opportunity to experience all four seasons. Furthermore, I have various sports which I enjoy, depending upon the season. In the summer, it is cycling and walking, along with hiking and swimming. During the cooler months I enjoy skiing, skating, snowshoeing and hiking. I truly enjoy the outdoors and try to enjoy nature whenever and wherever the occasion develops.

### **4. What motivates you to volunteer for FGG?**

As all time is precious, and I thoroughly believe we need to make the most of the finite time each of us has in our lifetime, I know that the longevity and mission of this organization is to bring all people together. This organization has Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the base of the mission. Therefore, as someone who was unfortunately raised in a highly bigoted and racist community, this affords me the opportunity to interact with people of the same mindset, that life is better when we are all different and unique in our own right.

### **5. How much time do you have to dedicate to volunteering for FGG (Lots of people think they don't have the time)**



I make time for important items. I see this as a principal issue in my own life. I still keep an old-fashioned paper day planner, (in addition to an online calendar) as it better affords me the opportunity to see my days and appointments in a flat- out arrangement, versus an on-line calendar (which have been known to magically disappear) and therefore, I am able to easily manage my schedule, which works for my own personal time management system.

Thank you Brad.

No matter who you are or what your skill level is, there are lots of ways to get involved. We also offer a range of roles that require specific qualifications and skills to get involved in. You can complete the volunteer application form [here](#).

Currently, we have these open positions.

Our Technology Committee is looking for volunteers with website management and development skills, database management, or skills in using the Google Suite of programs - email, docs and forms, file management. We are particularly interested in hearing from people with web and app development to help us update our approach.

Our Marketing Committee is seeking experienced marketing professionals, and graphic designers to help us to drive our marketing strategy forward. Graphic Design skills are really needed. Please volunteer if you can.

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

- Writing press releases
- 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 Human Resources task force would like to hear from you if you have HR skills/qualifications to help us manage our volunteering strategy.

To apply for any of the above roles, please complete our form [here](#).

Thank you for your commitment to the FGG – we never forget that without you and your volunteering work, we would not be able to do what we do!

### **Vacancies on the Board:**

We currently have two vacancies on the Board of Directors of the FGG.

1. Officer of Ceremonies – whose role is to ensure that all the ceremonies associated with the Gay Games and our annual meetings are effective, inclusive and enable everyone to participate.
2. Officer of Human Resources and Nominations – whose role is to help

FGG Board of Directors manage all the volunteers

If you think you might have the skills for either of these roles, do get in touch with Viv Woodcock- Downey, Vice President, Operations who will be pleased to explain more about the role and give you details of how to apply.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pins Are A Winner – Get Yours Today!



The Gay Games 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pins have been on sale since January 2022. To see what people think of these pins, purchasers were surveyed to get their reactions. These pins are a BIG HIT. Don't take our word for it; here's what the survey said...

- Pin Puzzle Overall Satisfaction: 82% gave the highest rating possible
- Trading Pin Overall Satisfaction: 80% gave the highest rating possible
- Pin Quality: 64% gave the highest rating possible
- Would Recommend the Pins to others: 75% gave the highest rating possible

Individual Comments:

- Wonderful creative design
- I think they are amazingly beautiful and are of such great quality. Nice job!
- Would have liked to have been able to purchase a specific issue number
- Thank you for producing the beautiful pins.
- All I can say as a pin collector is WOW!
- I like that the pins have two backing posts to support its substantial size to keep from losing it due to weight.
- The quality is there; it is a really nice pin. These are nice enough to give as gifts.

To preview these exciting collectible offerings, check out [THIS VIDEO](#).



At the online store, you can purchase individual pins or bundles of 5 or 10 pins.

- Single Pin = USD 10 plus shipping
- Pack of 5 Pins = USD 45 plus shipping
- Pack of 10 Pins = USD 90 plus shipping

#### ALL PURCHASES BENEFIT THE FGG

The net proceeds from all pin sales will be used to further the global mission of the Federation of Gay Games, in the spirit of founder Dr. Tom Waddell.

Order your 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pins today! Visit <https://www.gaygames.org/Store>

## ALL PURCHASES BENEFIT THE FGG

The net proceeds from all pin sales will be used to further the global mission of the Federation of Gay Games, in the spirit of founder Dr. Tom Waddell.

### SHOP NOW!

Visit [gaygames.org/store](http://gaygames.org/store) or click on the “Store” link in the top menu of the Gay Games website

SHOP NOW!

### 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™*.

Copyright © 2018 Federation of Gay Games, All rights reserved. You have received this email newsletter because you agreed to receive communications from the Federation of Gay Games or subscribed to the Participate! newsletter.

[Unsubscribe](#) • [Past Newsletters & Press](#) • [Email us](#)

Address: 584 Castro Street Suite #343 • San Francisco, CA 94114 • Phone: +1-866-459-1261

