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Retreats & Mixers & Summits, Oh My!

Happy autumn, CivicPRIDE family! While summer fades and winter approaches, our Board is far from slowing down. We are excited to share that this past weekend we held our first-ever strategic planning retreat. For two days we reflected on our growth, worked to establish clarity around our core mission of advancing inclusive local government by empowering LGBTQIA+ leadership, and planned for the next phase of our evolution as an organization. Our retreat was supported by the talent and generosity of CivicPRIDE ally, coach, and facilitator [Nicole Lance](#). We are proud to have emerged from this effort with a draft roadmap for the next year that we will soon share with all of you. One way you can support our work is to join us on October 6 at the ICMA conference in Portland, Oregon to reconnect with friends and colleagues and provide your feedback on the results of our retreat. More information on that event can be found in our newsletter below.

As you all head into the season of sweatshirts and colorful leaves, I wish you opportunities for quiet moments and big belly laughs. Serving our communities through the increasingly complex challenges we face is hard work, often made harder by our struggles to remain true to ourselves in the process. Know that CivicPRIDE is here for you through it all.

CivicPRIDE ICMA Conference Mixer - October 4th!

Please join CivicPRIDE for our [annual networking event](#) at the ICMA Conference in Portland! Fresh from their retreat, the CivicPRIDE board wants to engage with LGBTQ+ professionals and their allies to shape the future of their work! Connect with colleagues while reimagining how we can create a more inclusive profession together. **The mixer is on Monday, October 4th from 4-6 p.m./PDT.**

CivicPRIDE's Next Happy Hour

Join us for another virtual happy hour, [December 1st from 4-5 p.m./MDT!](#)

CivicPRIDE Welcomes New Board Member

CivicPRIDE is happy to announce its newest member to the Board! Please join us in welcoming Erris Dunston, ICMA-CM. Here are some fun facts about Erris:

- Lifelong public servant
- 24-year Local Government employee
- Over 16 years in Community and Economic Development
- Graduate of North Carolina Central University with a BS degree in Geography and an MPA
- Certified Government Chief Information Officer
- LGBTQ Liaison and Diversity Equity and Inclusion Leader
- Trained Executive coach and facilitator
- Member of Wilmington Toastmasters
- Serve on the board of Wilmington Art's Council
- Avid photographer
- Family: Wife, Stepson and 2 canine fur babies

“The measurement of your existence is based on your willingness to serve others.”

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CivicPRIDE Board Reflects on First Inclusion Summit

Read about the Inclusion Summit and some of [CivicPRIDE's Board members' thoughts](#) on the event.



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Communities. Lessons from Queer Ecology

"To be truly inclusive, we must go beyond the binary, embrace the world for all its queerness, and commit to changing along with it."

Read Board Member [Taylor Reimann's article for PM Magazine.](#)

LGBTQIA+ Noteworthy News:

- **Boulder, CO Dedicates Municipal Building** to first Black mayor and LGBTQ+ ally [Penfield Tate II](#)
- **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)** [condemns the recent passage of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Tennessee](#) and offers [resources to support the LGBTQ+ community](#) during their 2021 National Conference
- **"Rainbow Olympics"** - Tokyo hailed as [turning point for LGBTQ+ Athletes](#)
- **Washington State Ban on Conversion Therapy** - [challenge rejected](#)
- **Illinois Expands LGBTQ+ Rights** - expanding same-sex infertility coverage, allowing gender-neutral marriage certificates, and [repealing a law that made transmission of HIV a crime](#)
- **Ford Claps Back** at trolls with a ["very gay" F-150](#)

Click here to see ELGL's Equity and Justice Resources - Crowdsourced from Local Governments Across the Country

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