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Staying Proud in Tough Times

As the last few weeks of the strangest summer of my lifetime come to an end, I am reflecting on the impact that the events of the past several months have had on LGBTQIA+ communities, BIPOC communities, and our world at large. In the same month of June that we celebrated pride and took a step forward together to protect LGBTQIA+ workers from employment discrimination, we saw our health care threatened. As the days in July and August heated up so did the social and political tensions in our communities. We are now hearing daily news of death, violence, and division that continues to harm the same people disproportionately. I'll admit, hope feels a little harder to find. The multifaceted and deeply-rooted wicked problems we are confronting at this moment in government call for more than quick fixes and sound bites. Our communities need us to dig in and do the hard work of truly and holistically examining our systems and the change necessary to better realize the priorities and values of the people.

In the midst of it all, I find inspiration in the stories of all of us. Our stories teach us that we can overcome seemingly impossible obstacles because we have done it before. While we are all different, we have common threads—tales of perseverance and determination drowning out evil, the power of people working together, the quiet strength that comes when the only direction left to us is survive and rebuild. I believe one way we can stay proud in tough times is through listening to and telling our stories—the true, complex, sometimes

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queer authors, Dorothy Allison, said it best: “Two or three things I know for sure, and one of them is that to go on living I have to tell stories, that stories are the one sure way I know to touch the heart and change the world.” In a time when it is hard to find answers to the problems in front of us, may we seek to find connections through our stories. I hope you’ll join us in that effort this fall.

In Solidarity,

Pam Davis, CivicPRIDE Board Chair

Stories Of Pride - Launches September 15!

CivicPRIDE has been thinking about additional ways to showcase our experiences as LGBTQIA+ public servants, to help build resources for those interested in local government leadership, and to show the change that we are able to effect in our communities. In light of this, we are creating a platform to discuss our experiences.

In partnership with ELGL, CivicPRIDE is launching "**Stories of Pride.**" Stories of Pride is a virtual storytelling platform via web-conferencing, where we ask a speaker to discuss their experiences as an LGBTQIA+ public servant. These stories may be uplifting and demonstrate community acceptance of a speaker's identity, showcase difficulties that a speaker has faced, and where they have found strength to press on. Please join us for an hour of stories with time for questions and answers. The first guest will be former ICMA president and current ICMA West Coast Regional Director Pat Martel.

To register for this upcoming event, please visit the Stories of Pride ELGL

website: <https://elgl.org/event/stories-of-pride/>

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Stories of Pride

This virtual series studies the intersectionality of our sexual, gender, and racial identities as LGBTQIA+ public servants, and how the different facets of our experience shape the way we serve.

**EPISODE 1:
CELEBRATE PRIDE
WITH PAT MARTEL**

Former ICMA president and current ICMA West Coast Regional Director will share parts of her 38+ years of experience as a LGBTQIA+ public servant, followed by Q&A.

**September 15
5:30 p.m. PDT**

LGBTQIA+ Noteworthy News:

1. **Supreme Court Ruling** - On LGBTQIA+ rights: [What does it mean and what changes?](#)
2. **California** - Commences [LGBTQIA+ specific data collection](#) for COVID-19 and other diseases
3. **New York State Park** - [Changes name](#) to honor LGBTQIA+ activist Marsha P. Johnson
4. **Seattle School Board** - [Supports queer youth](#) with name change and more
 1. [LGBTQIA+ Youth Inclusion Resolution](#)
5. **Opinion** - [COVID-19 is quietly ravaging the LGBTQIA+ community](#)

CivicPRIDE at ICMA:

Are you attending ICMA's [UNITE virtual conference](#) this month? If yes, keep an eye out for CivicPRIDE's session! We do not yet know what time it will air, but the prerecorded session will be available through December. Steering

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Welcoming Discomfort

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

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