

PRIDE HAPPENINGS

Moab Pride Festival, September 28-30, 2017

The organizers of the Moab Pride Festival invite you to celebrate the uniqueness of our Moab Community at the 7th Annual Moab Pride Festival Thursday, September 28th through Saturday, September 30th, 2017. This year's programs are designed to be inclusive and creative, with intentions of cultivating safe spaces for those who may feel hesitant to explore their LGBTQ identities, while engaging friends and allies to celebrate diversity! Be sure to join us at the Visibility March (12pm on Saturday) and enjoy the festival at Swanny City Park with live music, delicious food, and vendors. For a full listing of workshops and events, please see www.moabpride.com.

The following article by Laura Gale is reprinted from the Moab Sun News with permission.

As momentum builds toward this year's Moab Pride Festival, organizers are spreading the word that it will bring together lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer leaders from the region to teach workshops, perform and mingle in a three-day, all-ages celebration of the power and beauty of authentic self-expression. "This is a community effort," Moab Pride Festival Director Cali Bulmash said. "A lot of people have already brought so much to planning and fundraising this year." Bulmash reached out to fellow activists and leaders in the community. The response has been incredible, she said. "The Pride planning committee came together beautifully," Moab Arts and Recreation Center Director Meg Stewart agreed.

In the wake of the January suicide of seventh-grader Lily McClish, who faced gender-related bullying in school, a deep desire to understand and help rectify problems that precipitated her death has galvanized Moab area school, government and activist leaders to collaborate and search for answers. As a result, this year's festival has reconnected with its original mission to strengthen community spirit, Bulmash said, with a special focus on embracing Moab's youth.

Working together with the City of Moab's arts program leaders, Grand County School District teachers and Youth Garden Project program leaders, the Pride committee has arranged to hold poetry, T-shirt screen printing and mural painting workshops – some in the classroom and some as after-school activities. The workshops are for all young people, and are meant to offer ways to share authentic self-expression, Bulmash said. "We really wanted to create a space for people to explore their individuality," Stewart said.

The festival itself is specifically organized to be welcoming to young people this year, Bulmash said. Last year's popular Rock the Mic open-mic night and Poetry Slam contest will return, with the addition of afternoon creative expression workshops led by LGBTQ artists. On the day of the festival itself, the celebration will include

performances by LGBTQ identified, Moab-area and regional music groups, poets and drag performers. Orange Party, a traditional night of revelry before the final and biggest day of the festival, will be the only adults-only event this year, at Woody's Tavern.

"We really want to emphasize that all are welcome to plan and participate in this community event," committee member Marcy Till said. "We're really solid in terms of our mission, our focus and wanting Pride to be a time of year and an event that builds community and supports the people that live here." A former elementary school teacher and Moab City Recreation Program director, Till is glad to see the Pride committee put such an emphasis on the community's young people, she said.

Molly McClish, Lily McClish's mother, will speak at the festival and will have a booth for her nonprofit organization, Lily's Hope, focused on building empathy in schools and communities. She has spent the year learning about the risk statistics and gaps in programming to address the sort of bullying in school that her daughter faced, and being part of creative solutions has helped inspire and motivate her as she works to honor her daughter's life, McClish said.

McClish's has been an important voice helping focus planning around the needs of young people, Bulmash said.

Festival activities are designed to elicit authentic creative expression from all of Moab's diverse young people. Most of the workshop presenters and identify as LGBTQ, Bulmash said. An important part of helping young people feel hopeful about their future is to see people "like them" in leadership roles, she said.

In a small, rural community like Moab, the message that everyone in a community is seen and appreciated is critical, Till said. "Every single one of our citizens has value and has worth. We all have a strength and something to offer," she said. "The best way we can serve our youth is by being great examples as adults – we reach out to each other, support each other and include each other, and we can follow suit with our kids."

Schedule

THURSDAY SEPT 28

7 PM: Rock the Mic: let's get weird@the MARC

FRIDAY SEPT 29

2-5 PM: Workshops at the MARC

2-3 PM: Writing Slam Poetry with Regie Cabico

3-4 PM: From Page to Stage: Editing with Joy Young

4-5 PM: Zine Publishing with Charissa of Wasted Ink Zine Distro

7 PM: Spit Love : a Queer Poetry Slam ft. Regie Cabico @ MARC

10 PM: Orange Party ft. the Royal Court of the Golden Spike Empire and eXis10shAL@ Woody's (21+, \$7 Cover)

10 PM: Diamond Lockettes Burlesque Revue @ Heli Pad (18+)

SATURDAY SEPT 30

11:30 AM: Gather at Swanny City Park featuring Moab Taiko Dan

12 PM: Visibility March begins featuring Fiery Furnace Marching Band

12:30- 5:00 PM: Pride Festival @ Swanny City Park

12:30-1:10 PM: Early Successional

1:15- 1:50 PM: Molly McClish

1:55- 2:25 PM: Poetry! Featuring Joy Young, Nico Wilkinson, and more!

2:30-3:00 PM: Forbidden Fruits & the Royal Court

3:05-3:50 PM: Cali Bee & Moose 'n Bootz with Sock Beach

3:55-4:15 PM: Lost By Reason

4:20- 5:00 PM: Fists in the Wind

12:30- 4:30 PM: Workshops @ Swanny City Park

12:30-1:30 PM: Learn Hena with Star

1:30-2:30 PM: Self Defense with Molly

2:30-3:30 PM: Herbs with Erika

3:30-4:30 PM: Forbidden Fruits: Purrformance Drag

6 PM: Youth ONLY Karaoke Dance Night featuring eXis10shAL @ MARC

8 PM: The Moth Closet: A Moab Affair featuring the Forbidden Fruits @ Heli Pad

ALL events ALL ages and by donation unless otherwise noted.

**MOAB
PRIDE
FESTIVAL
SEPT 28-30, 2017**

WWW.MOABPRIDE.COM

*QTs = questioning/queer trans/straight allies