

LEADING THE SOUND OF PROGRESS



LAKESIDE PRIDE MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Community Impact Report 2023





A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

March 24, 2023

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you so much for your support of Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles, Chicago's premier LGBTQ music organization! Lakeside Pride has been dazzling audiences across the Chicagoland area, while also committing ourselves to important work to support the LGBTQ community. We've brought together Chicagoans of different sexualities, genders, ages, and cultures to share in the universal language of music, building a community that honors our origins and connects each of us.

Our roots trace back to 1979, but Lakeside Pride in its current form has been making music for over 25 years. During our Silver Anniversary celebration last year, we brought together several of our organization's founding members to share their lived experiences as a small, ragtag group of musicians busking on street corners. They talked about the uncertainty of establishing a new band, but also their joy, courage, and optimism in sharing in the musical experience and spreading awareness of our family.

Now, over 25 years later, Lakeside Pride is 400+ members strong, formed of over 14 ensembles, and performing at some of the most exciting venues across Chicago. And though we shared the collective worry of keeping our membership engaged during the throws of the pandemic, Lakeside Pride proved our community is strong and empowered to keep connecting with each other and our beloved audiences. Through virtual or socially-distanced performances, staying connected over Zoom calls, or keeping tabs on each other during strenuous circumstances, our members and friends have maintained the community we love while sharing our musical talents to delight and inspire each other.

It's this engagement that led to our membership returning to its highest levels - because we know as much as we value the music we share, it's this loving community that has helped us get through the pandemic. We've always sought the silver linings through music and each other, even when they're difficult to find.

In this community impact report, our organization's first ever, we'll provide you with some more information about Lakeside Pride, how our organization is shaping the LGBTQ community across the Chicagoland area, our exciting recent and future events, and what we're hoping to achieve in the coming months and years.

In closing, we thank you for your continued support of Lakeside Pride and our mission. Community members like you have allowed us to return with a vision of revitalization and, most importantly, a sense of pride.



Jonathan Alvares
Chair, Board of Directors

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ABOUT LAKESIDE PRIDE



ABOUT LAKESIDE PRIDE

Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles is Chicago's premier family of performance groups for members and friends of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. Home to four major ensembles – Jazz Orchestra, Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and Pops Ensemble – plus over a dozen chamber ensembles, the organization offers a diverse musical experience for both its audience and its members.

Through an annual series of performances and special events, Lakeside Pride provides a forum for musicians, inclusive of any background, age, ethnicity, gender identification or sexual orientation, to represent the LGBTQ community and express themselves through music.

Lakeside Pride is a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All ensemble members, conductors and the Board of Directors are volunteers, sharing their time, talent, and love of music. The operating budget comes from ticket sales, small government grants, and the generosity of individuals. Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles is an inductee into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame and a founding member of the Pride Bands Alliance.

ENSEMBLES

Lakeside Pride is home to over a dozen distinctive musical ensembles, spanning a wide variety of genres. Our four primary ensembles – **Marching Band**, **Symphonic Band**, **Jazz Orchestra**, and **Pops Ensemble** – provide thrilling productions that electrify concert halls and excite millions of parade watchers.

Additionally, our chamber ensembles – **Latin Band**, **Brass Quintet**, **Jazz Combo**, **Ukulele Ensemble**, **Woodwind Quintet**, **Polka Band**, and others – entertain and engage new audiences. Together, these bands are featured in more than 50 performances annually, from intimate **Cabaret** shows at local bars to and large scale gala events.



A large, faded graphic of musical notes and stems is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a light blue gradient background.

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MISSION STATEMENT & OUR PATH TO IMPACT



Our mission is to empower
an affirming LGBTQ and ally community
by engaging audiences and
inspiring change through music.



BUILDING CONNECTION
THROUGH MUSIC

CREATING AN AFFIRMING
COMMUNITY FOR
LGBTQ & ALLIED MUSICIANS

AMPLIFYING ORGANIZATION
HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

OUR PATH TO IMPACT

BUILDING CONNECTION THROUGH MUSIC



Music holds a tremendous power to influence hearts and minds. Sounds that entertain and uplift, or reflect deep sorrow and hardship. Lakeside Pride musicians share their unique experience as LGBTQ artists to inspire, challenge and engage audiences with topics and themes not commonly explored in conventional settings. Programs explore themes of racial inequality, highlight key leaders or moments in LGBTQ history, or recreate protest songs to build understanding of the triumphs and challenges faced.

We offer vibrant, emotionally moving programs that promote acceptance and stick with audiences long after the curtain goes down.

CREATING AN AFFIRMING COMMUNITY FOR LGBTQ & ALLY MUSICIANS



We pride ourselves on being a community organization first, and a band second. At our core, we are a chosen family that comes together to provide support and celebrate our community. Through frequent social activities and an expansive offering of nurturing affinity groups, members new and old can find a place within Lakeside Pride to feel a sense of belonging. Our constellation of ensembles provide a platform for LGBTQ and ally musicians to play at impactful events across the city.

Each Lakeside Pride performance is an opportunity to connect with new audience members in a fresh way. We create a safe space for LGBTQ and allied audiences to feel at ease dancing, celebrating, and embracing their authentic selves. From small wedding receptions to parades attended by millions, our music connects and comforts both our members and listeners.

AMPLIFYING ORGANIZATIONS HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

Lakeside Pride is deeply woven into the fabric of Chicago's LGBTQ community. We collaborate purposefully with mission-driven organizations to amplify the values of inclusion and awareness with artistry that inspires. We serve as a longstanding resident partner with Center on Halsted, the heart of Chicago's queer community.

In addition, we cultivate strategic relationships for with institutions across the city, be it higher education, civic foundations, corporate sponsors, and social advocacy groups. We were honored as an inductee to The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2011, joining the ranks of other dedicated advocates empowering our community.

Lakeside Pride is also a founding member of Pride Bands Alliance, a global network of 38 LGBTQ bands.

**CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED**

The Chicago
**LGBT**
HALL OF FAME

**PRIDE
BANDS**
ALLIANCE 

 *VanderCook*
COLLEGE OF MUSIC

**DEPAUL
UNIVERSITY**
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

PROUD COMMUNITY PARTNER

**LOGAN
CENTER**
Community Arts

**LAKESIDE
PRIDE MUSIC
ENSEMBLES**



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OUR MEMBERSHIP

BETTER WITH THE BAND

We're not just a collection of musicians – Lakeside Pride most importantly is a chosen family. We share our love and support for each other on-and-off the stage, with instruments in hand, with finding similar passions, or even with rings on fingers.





MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lakeside Pride allows me to be the musician I want to be and surrounds me with some of the greatest people I've met. It's the best thing happening in my life.

Manic Maxxie
Percussion, Pops Artistic Director | Member since 2019



MEET OUR MEMBERS

I was just looking for a place to play my trumpet – I had no idea how much this organization would shape my life. The people I have met and the experiences I have had made me who I am today.

**Music is my therapy.
Lakeside Pride is my home.**

**Melissa Terrell
Trumpet, Drum Major | Member since 2005**





MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lakeside Pride means twenty-five years of belonging, growing, risking, shining, helping each other.

It's about opening hearts, breathing together, sounding together, **uplifting Chicago and beyond.**

Rhonda Tullis

Saxophone & Trombone | Lakeside Pride Founding Member, 1997



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lakeside Pride is like a second home, a second family to me. In the midst of others who share common attitudes and interests, there is **a rooted feeling, a sense of belonging** that I treasure.

Patrice Mustaaflaa
Flute | Member since 2015



MEET OUR MEMBERS

Lakeside Pride is my chosen family. The opportunity I've had to learn from others within the LGBTQ+ community is invaluable.

I am Lakeside Proud!

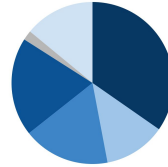
Jordan Francisco
Clarinet | Member since 2021

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Since our inception, Lakeside Pride provides a welcoming, affirming space where musicians from every walk of life can come together. The resonance of our message can best be illustrated by our exponential growth over the past decade - we've tripled in size to over 400 active members!

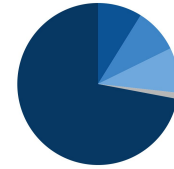
Affinity Groups

Member-driven affinity groups support the multitude of identities, experiences, and interests of our players. These safe spaces strengthen ties and support BIPOC, HIV+, and Bi- | Pan- | Trans- | Genderqueer people, and promote discussion groups on racial justice. Lakeside Pride helps our members be their true selves.



Identities

- **Gay** | 43.0%
- **Queer** | 24.4%
- **Bisexual** | 21.5%
- **Straight / Heterosexual** | 17.4%
- **Lesbian** | 15.3%
- **Asexual / Aromantic** | 2.4%



Racial Demographics

- **White** | 70.6%
- **Black & AfAm** | 8.7%
- **Hispanic or Latinx** | 8.7%
- **AAPI** | 8.8%
- **Middle Eastern & N African** | 1.2%



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DRIVING CHANGE



DRIVING CHANGE

Lakeside Pride strives to be a leader in pursuing racial justice and equity for Chicago's LGBTQ community. This is a key initiative that we hope inspires other arts organizations to pursue.

While we know we have continued work to do, we're proud of the active steps we've taken on our DEI journey as we continue to provide a safe, welcoming, and empowering space for all Chicagoans.

DRIVING CHANGE

Recent Initiatives & Successes

Actively recruited members from all neighborhoods across Chicago, particularly focusing on disinvested communities, to develop and elevate racial/ethnic and gender-diverse leaders.

In 2022, we launched a DEI Partnership Questionnaire to ensure our partners and vendors share our values, and provide further insight into their respective DEI journeys.

This year, we have one of our most diverse leadership teams in our 25 year history, including our first BIPOC Board Chair. Our membership steadily enhances to reflect the diversity of our city.

We've established thought leadership and community resources to discuss critical issues around racial justice, including an impactful reading group (mandatory for our leadership) and an affinity group specifically for our BIPOC members.

We're continuing to expand our geographic reach across the city and suburbs, to make sure all those in the Chicagoland LGBTQ community – South Side, West Side, and North Side – can fully experience and participate in the empowering environment we offer.





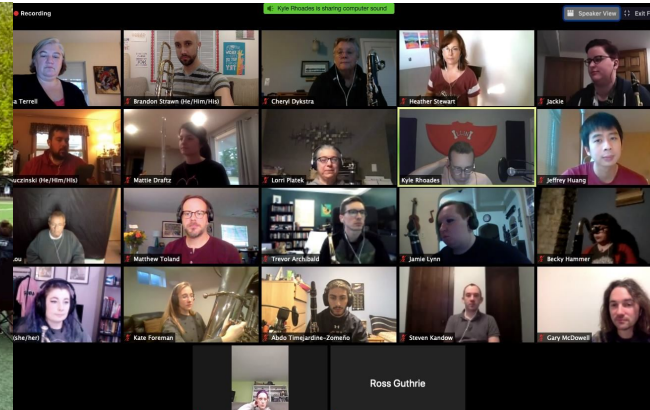
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RESILIENCY THROUGH TURBULENT TIMES

RESILIENCY THROUGH TURBULENT TIMES

As with most performing arts organizations, Lakeside Pride faced significant adversity from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the inherent risk involved in rehearsing and performing together, the organization initially weathered a complete shutdown of all in-person operations and diminished revenue streams.

Through a decades-long effort of prudent financial planning, cultivating strong relationships with generous donors and foundations, and quick maneuvering deftly through constantly changing guidelines, we were able to overcome the challenges of the pandemic with minimal long-term consequences.



RESILIENCY THROUGH TURBULENT TIMES

Lakeside Pride proved resilient over the past several years - a time of great unease for many arts organization. Our decisive actions helped us stay engaged with members while also prioritizing their safety.

Here's how we powered through:

Following local and federal guidance, actively monitoring community-level transmission, and implementing COVID best practices

Staying flexible, while working with our partners to create safer in-person performance opportunities, including with outdoor facilities

Investing in instrument-specific PPE for all our members

Strategically managing our expenses, line-by-line

Using technology to engage members and audiences through virtual performances

Focus on retaining membership by making dues *opt-in* for the FY20 - FY21





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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

As we work to advance our mission in Chicago, we are grateful for the support and partnership of individuals, corporations, institutions, and foundations who share our sense of purpose and pride in our community.



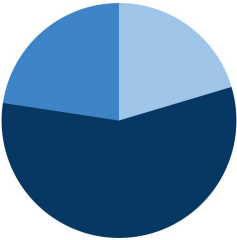


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Lakeside Pride is fortunate to have the support of loyal members, private donors, philanthropic foundations, and corporate sponsors who give year-after-year. We rely on multiple income streams to sustain our operations, and primarily from three revenue streams: Fundraising efforts, membership dues, and ticketed performances.

To provide equitable access for our members of all socioeconomic backgrounds, we believe in a financially-inclusive dues model: Keep full membership dues as low as possible, and grant a no-questions-asked dues waiver upon request.

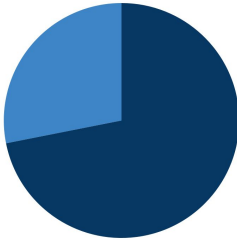
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



Revenue

Total: \$80,888

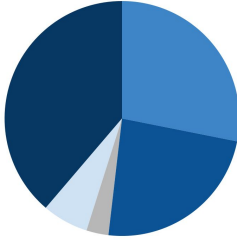
- Fundraising**
57% | \$46,107
- Ticketed + Paid Performances**
23% | \$18,280
- Membership Dues**
20% | \$16,487



Fundraising

Total: \$46,107

- Foundation+ Corporate**
72% | \$33,145
- Individual**
28% | \$12,962



Operating Expenses

Total: \$79,886

- Occupancy**
39% | \$30,958
- General Operations & Staff**
28% | \$22,470
- Equipment & Music**
24% | \$18,948
- Marketing**
6% | \$5,080
- Major Concerts**
3% | \$2,430



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THE FUTURE OF LAKESIDE PRIDE

THE FUTURE OF LAKESIDE PRIDE

From tripling in size of our membership, stabilizing our finances, investing in our infrastructure, and continuing our expansion to new neighborhoods through rehearsal and performance opportunities, we're strongly positioned to take on our next chapter. To help Lakeside Pride continue on this successful trajectory, we've identified a few central goals that will be crucial to implementing our mission:

EXPANDING & ANCHORING ACROSS CHICAGO

We strive to be a beacon of hope and inclusivity for all across Chicago, and know that we have great opportunities to spread our mission to all of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods and suburbs. Through performance opportunities and new anchor rehearsal spaces, we envision a Lakeside Pride that is established and enmeshed with each community we touch.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL GROWTH

Our nonprofit organization needs to remain financially viable and prepared. Through years of steady development efforts, Lakeside Pride was able to continue our work during the pandemic. But with increasing costs for a growing membership, we recognize the need for an expanded and sustainable development strategy to help support our operations and programming.

Most importantly, we want to continue growing responsibly, providing the same level of community and service to our membership – no matter how big we get, no matter how far our music reaches. Because, as we've shared throughout this Community Impact Report, it's our members that truly drive this organization. We're optimistic of the future with each new member we welcome, every new stage we play, and every Chicagoan we connect with through our music. We hope you join us in our proud tradition as Lakeside Pride charts its next 25 years.





**LAKESIDE
PRIDE MUSIC
ENSEMBLES**

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