# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC

# **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

VERSION 2023

## **Candidate Information**

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	Brandon Strawn, He/Him/His
Email Address / Phone Number	BTStrawn@gmail.com, 773-520-9745
Position Sought	Chair
	Trombone, Vocals, Ukulele
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	<b>Current</b> : Brass Quintet, Symphonic Band, Wilde Cabaret, Marching Band
	<b>Past</b> : Jazz Orchestra, Pops Ensemble, Queer as Polka, Strayhorns Jazz Combo, Trombone Choir

If you are not elected to this position, wo	ould you like your name considered in the selection of
At-Large board members, using this sam	e application?

✓ Yes

☐ No

# Experience/Skills

Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates
	Chair	Chicago	2023-Current
Labraida Duida	Member-at-Large	Chicago	2022-2023
Lakeside Pride	Operations	Chicago	2020-2022
	Member Resources	Chicago	2015-2020
Chicago Public Schools, Edison Regional Gifted Center	Teacher Member, Local School Council	Chicago	2021-2024

Sample Task	l have experience with this	l would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)			
Grant writing			
Accounting/Financial record keeping			$\checkmark$
Inventory management	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)			
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance	$\checkmark$		
Concert coordination	$\checkmark$		
Customer/membership services	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Volunteer coordination	$\checkmark$		
Record keeping	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations	abla	abla	
Fundraising		$\checkmark$	
Managing a team	$\checkmark$		
Data Entry	$\checkmark$		
Networking / Public Speaking	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	

# Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

I've been Lakeside Proud since 2008! I joined the board in 2015 and have been on it for 10 years: first as Member Resources Officer, then Operations Officer, then Member-at-Large, then Chair.

I am also a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teacher at Edison Regional Gifted Center in Albany Park, and I have been elected to its Local School Council (LSC) for two consecutive terms as its teacher representative. (The LSC is responsible for approving the school budget and budget transfers, giving an annual evaluation to the school principal and renewing their contract), as well as acting as intermediaries between the students, teachers, administration, families, and the local community.

I also did phone banking, organizing, and door-to-door get out the vote volunteering for Tammy Duckworth back in 2016.

# Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization.

First and foremost, I am a people person: I love chatting with them, working with them, making music with them, problem-solving with them, and even disagreeing with them. Additionally, as a teacher, my strengths lie not necessarily in my own success, but in galvanizing others to achieve theirs. From 2014-2017, I was earning my doctoral degree in urban education leadership from UIC. While I eventually realized that becoming a principal was not something I actually wanted to do, I learned many tools for empowering people to do their best. As a leader in Lakeside Pride, I will leverage this training to affirm, inspire, challenge, and support other leaders in the organization to do the same!

I also have a bachelor's degree in mathematics from James Madison University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago. Along with these degrees come a familiarity with technical data, and accordingly, with the inner workings of Lakeside Pride. I am also proficient in many of the programs our organization uses, notably the Google Suite and WordPress.

One of my greatest assets for this position is perhaps my institutional knowledge of Lakeside Pride's past and present. I know what has worked and what has not, and I'm not afraid to try something new. I have been in nearly every ensemble, and I know how they can collaborate more effectively. I have a number of ideas as to how we can continue to nurture and strengthen our chosen family as we continue to grow, all the while maintaining our close community feel. (See below!)

#### Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

To quote Oprah Winfrey:

You want to max out your humanity by using your energy to lift yourself up, your family and the people around you. Theologian Howard Thurman said it best. He said, "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and then go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive. [Harvard Commencement Address, 30 May 2013]

I love this organization and the people in it. I consider the work I do for this group to be a labor of love, contributing to our queer community and to our music community, making our organization stronger and more beautiful, and even providing myself true internal joy. I take great pride in so much that we have accomplished:

- We have (hopefully!) grown by two primary ensembles!
  - Our Latin Band has grown so much in quantity and quality that they are rightfully seeking to be promoted to a primary ensemble!
  - The TGNB-focused choir, Resonate, is reviving and joining forces with Lakeside Pride to provide a safe and joyful space for our gender expansive members to train their voices and create music together!
- We have grown from under 100 members to around 500 members, now performing in dozens and dozens of gigs every year, while still maintaining a strong sense of community through our many ensembles.
- We located a new rehearsal space for the symphonic band at DePaul, a new pops ensemble with a south side rehearsal space at Vandercook, and a new more central rehearsal location for our marching band at Lake View High School.
- We have revamped our website (twice!), our logo (twice!), our marching uniforms, and our internal board organization (via Google Drive) to make our public facing work more transparent and our behind-the-scenes work more efficient.
- We amassed, organized, and relocated our hundreds of thousands of dollars of resources, as well as currently systematizing our inventory system for lending resources out and using them.
- Two years in a row in which all board members have enjoyed the process of leading and collaborating so much that every single one of them has sought and won reelection to add some longevity and consistency to our work.
- We updated our annual members meeting from a sit-and-get lecture at Preston Bradley Center to a get-together party format at Sidetrack.

# Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

Through my various positions on the board, I have experience in almost every Lakeside Pride department. I have created and updated spreadsheets, forms, emails, websites, newsletters, and more. I have scheduled and organized social events, performances, member meetings, and more. As chair, I plan on transitioning from executing many of these tasks personally to overseeing their execution by the vast and talented group of board members, artistic leadership, chamber liaisons, and section leaders. My work will lie in maintaining frequent communication with board members (including members at large), artistic directors (and assistant directors), primary ensembles (and chamber ensembles), and considering myself the lucky ringmaster who gets to see it all come together and make sure our organization continues to shine! Some of my ideas for my second tenure include:

- More frequent social events (including virtual and physical activities) to bridge the gaps between ensembles and combat the ever-present silo effect that can affect organizations such as ours, **particularly highlighting our affinity groups**.
- Ensuring that each and every action performed by our board and our groups is done as a social justice organization actively fulfilling an antiracist and trans-inclusive role in our community, especially highlighting our Racial Justice Discussion Group.
- Setting ourselves up for long-term, 5-10 year goals, in ways that are actively scalable, replicable, and trackable, as well as prioritizing transitions from outgoing to incoming officers to make sure we are not reinventing any wheels or not using the many resources that we already have.
- Refreshing our finances through a larger push for private grants than we have ever employed before, ensuring that our organization is not financially dependent on the backs of our members.
- Leading, recruiting, retaining, training, empowering, and inspiring a new generation of leaders within our organization that reflects the demographics of our beautiful city, and empowering them with an even more distributed format of leadership.

#### If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here.

Our country is going through a bit of a reckoning right now. I cannot remember in recent years any time that our queer community has felt less safe, our music community has felt less vital, and our nonprofit community has felt less supported. It is time for us to close our ranks, support our most vulnerable subcommunities, spend as much time together (and offline) as possible, and create beautiful art together to demonstrate how proud we are of this community we have grown and nurtured, and how we are never going away. It has been the honor of a lifetime to lead this organization, and I am humbly seeking reelection to continue this labor of love for two more years, to continue our joyful, Herculean efforts and empower a new generation of leaders for Lakeside Pride!

# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC

## **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

Version 2023

#### Candidate Information

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	TG Warford -He/Him/His
Email Address / Phone Number	Sirtnis18@gmail.com, _414-243-9474
Position Sought	Treasurer
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	Tuba/ Symphonic Band, Marching Band, ABAB

If you are not elected to this position, would you like your name considered in the selection of At-Large board members, using this same application?

> X- Yes No

### Experience/Skills

List past and present memberships and leadership positions in other professional or non-profit organizations. Additional lines can be added if completing this form electronically.

Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates
LPME	Treasurer	Chicago	May 2023 - Present
LPME	Member-at-large	Chicago	May 2022-April 2023
USC Pride	Member	Chicago	2010 – Present
USC Pride	Secretary	Chicago	Jan 2018 – Mar 2022
Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce	Lakeview East Festival of the Arts Cash Management	Chicago	Sept 2018 - Present

Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

I have been the Treasurer of Lakeside Pride since May of 2023. I have been responsible for the Annual Budget as well as the day-to-day financial aspects of the organization. I pride myself (no pun intended) in making sure reimbursements are processed as quickly as possible. I am also responsible for payments to the ADs/AADs as well as any payments made to vendors for programs, music, or venues. After year end, I work with the Auditors to make sure our taxes are prepared quickly and correctly. Previously, I was on the Board as a Member-At-Large from May 2022 – Apr

2023. I continue to participate with my company's Pride ARG, and I have also volunteered with our VALOR (Veterans) ARG packing care packages for VA Hospitals. I also volunteer as the Cash Management Lead for the Lakeview East Festival of the Arts. It is a yearly street festival held by the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce.

Sample Task	l have experience with this	l would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)			
Grant writing			
Accounting/Financial record keeping	Χ		
Inventory management	Χ		
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)	X		
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance	Χ		
Concert coordination		X	
Customer/membership services	X		
Volunteer coordination	X		
Record keeping	X		
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations	X		
Fundraising	X		
Managing a team	X		
Data Entry	X		
Networking / Public Speaking	X		

Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization.

As I continue being within leadership of the organization, my drive to make sure it remains successful grows.

#### **Platform**

Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

I believe my current work as the Treasurer has proven that I am more than capable of maintaining this position. It has also helped with my career as I continue to use the knowledge and skills needed in my daily work.

Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

I would like to continue honing the annual budget process. There is still room for improvements.

If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here.

My middle name is "G-"(microphone cuts off). 😊

# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC ENISEMBLES

## **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

Version 2023

#### Candidate Information

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	Logan Henderson (He/They)
Email Address / Phone Number	HendersonLogan2E@gmail.com (815) 245-3527
Position Sought	Development Officer
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	Trombone, Percussion (Pops/ABAB)

If you are not elected to this position, would you like your name considered in the selection of
At-Large board members, using this same application?
✓ Yes
□ No

### Experience/Skills

List past and present memberships and leadership positions in other professional or non-profit organizations. Additional lines can be added if completing this form electronically.

Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates
Lion's Pride Mentoring, Inc.	Development Manager	Chicago, IL	Jan. 2023 - Present

Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

I have 2 years of experience in Development in education (and here). I have also briefly volunteered with the Broadway Youth Center, ChiPride, and FairVote Illinois doing tasks involving crafting, stocking, preparing food, and lobbying my Alderman. I will also be starting a new role (yay) in a few weeks that is more involved with the funder side of philanthropy (specifically in the food system).

Sample Task	l have experience with this	I would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)			abla
Grant writing			
Accounting/Financial record keeping		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Inventory management			$\checkmark$
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)		$\checkmark$	
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance	$\checkmark$		
Concert coordination			
Customer/membership services		$\checkmark$	
Volunteer coordination		$\checkmark$	
Record keeping	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations	abla	abla	
Fundraising	$\checkmark$		
Managing a team	$\checkmark$		
Data Entry	$\checkmark$		
Networking / Public Speaking	$\checkmark$		

Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization.

I can write grants, and I have been developing more management skills to better manage direction and teams. So I'm marginally better at delegating.

Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

I have the skills for the position from both paid work and volunteer experience here. I believe I have shown what kind of capacity Lakeside Pride has to fundraise successfully (because let's be honest, it's more about those giving & the organization than it is about the people stewarding the gifts).

Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

I believe that if I am able to serve two more years in the position, we could strengthen the continuity that can be challenging with frequent turnover. I can use the position to help us continue building relationships with our members and the wider community to continue our success in fundraising from the previous two years.

If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here. Band :)

# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC

# **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

Version 2023

### **Candidate Information**

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	Kaitlyn Nelson (she/they)
Email Address / Phone Number	kaitlyn.nelson@lakesidepride.org / 269-350-6560
Position Sought	Public Relations Officer
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	Saxophone / Symphonic Band, Sax Ensemble

If you are not elected to this position, would you like your name considered in the selection of
At-Large board members, using this same application?
✓ Yes

## Experience/Skills

☐ No

List past and present memberships and leadership positions in other professional or non-profit organizations. Additional lines can be added if completing this form electronically.

Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates
Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles (LPME)	Member-At-Large	Chicago, IL	2023 - Current
National Band Association (NBA)	Member	National	Current
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)	Member	National	Current
Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI)	Member, Editor	Urbana-Champaign, IL	2018 - Current (Alumi)
Kappa Kappa Psi (KKP)	Member, Parliamentary Committee	Urbana-Champaign, IL	2018 - Current (Alumni)
Marching Illini	Member, Section Leader	Urbana-Champaign, IL	2014 - 2019
Illinithon	Member, Team Leader	Urbana-Champaign, IL	2019

Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

While as a Team Leader for Illinithon, I organized members of the different music fraternities and members of the Marching Illini to join and raise money for St. John's Children's Hospital. This included different small fundraising events before the lock-in where the Illinithon event raised over \$381,000 through donations. I relayed communication from the board of the organization to my team of 20 members through email and GroupMe regarding fundraising goals, and ways they could fundraise independently.

As a member of Lakeside Pride, I've had the opportunity to assist in the Jazz Orchestra as Co-Assistant Artistic Director and Winds Section Leader, in the Pops Ensemble as Saxophone Section Leader, revived the Sax Ensemble with Michael Connors as Co-Liasons, and served as a Member-At-Large. I've also been postering in some new (for me) neighborhoods with some of other members and had the opportunity to network at Lakeside Pride Events and even at work.

Sample Task	l have experience with this	I would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)			
Grant writing			$\checkmark$
Accounting/Financial record keeping			
Inventory management	$\checkmark$		
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)	$\checkmark$		
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance	$\checkmark$		
Concert coordination	$\checkmark$		
Customer/membership services	$\checkmark$		
Volunteer coordination			
Record keeping			$\checkmark$
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations			
Fundraising			$\checkmark$
Managing a team	$\checkmark$		
Data Entry		$\checkmark$	
Networking / Public Speaking	$\checkmark$		

Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization. I have experience running multiple social media pages,

Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

I love talking about LPME. I want to help continue to make the organization look (and sound) great. I love being able to serve this organization, I look forward to serving it in a high position and continuing to serve.

Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

I would love to create an accessible "Grab N Go" media package for the organization. Something that is easy for any member of the board to respond to media outlets or other institutions about what our organization is, what it stands for, and how it impacts our community.

I would also love to increase our social media presence. Looking at other Pride Bands Alliance accounts, there is a lot of member interaction and even interaction between band chapters. I would love to build on this, to reach more members of the community, but also other musicians.

With our current "growing pains" I would love to bring more attention to some of our smaller ensembles and affinity groups. Offering a more intimate or social environment for some musicians and taking some of the strain from the larger ensembles.

If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here.

# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC FINE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

## **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

Version 2023

#### Candidate Information

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	Abdo Timejardine-Zomeño
Email Address / Phone Number	atimejardinezomeno@gmail.com / 708-860-4129
Position Sought	Public Relations
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	Clarinet - Symphonic Band

If you are not elected to this position, would you like your name considered in the selection of
At-Large board members, using this same application?
✓ Yes
□ No

### Experience/Skills

List past and present memberships and leadership positions in other professional or non-profit organizations. Additional lines can be added if completing this form electronically.

Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates
Lakeside Pride	Public Relations	Chicago, IL	05/23-Present
Lakeside Pride	Public Relations	Chicago, IL	05/21-04/23
Lakeside Pride	Member at-Large	Chicago, IL	08/20-05/21

Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

I'm just wrapping up my first term on the board as the Public Relations Officer. As the officer I've been in charge of writing press releases for concerts, MailChimp announcements, and helping construct program books and posters. As a member-at-large I also helped in the production of two virtual Lakeside Pride concerts: 8-Bit-Wonderland, and Spring Spectacular. I was also in charge of recruiting panelists for presentations and masterclasses when Lakeside Pride hosted the 40th Anniversary Pride Bands Alliance conference, Sweet Home Chicago. As the PR officer I was a helping hand to Adam Lang and later Jordan Francisco on getting our name out to the city and the community.

Sample Task	l have experience with this	I would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)			
Grant writing			
Accounting/Financial record keeping			
Inventory management			
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)			
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance	$\checkmark$		
Concert coordination	$\checkmark$		
Customer/membership services			
Volunteer coordination			
Record keeping	$\checkmark$		
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations	abla		
Fundraising			
Managing a team		$\checkmark$	
Data Entry		$\checkmark$	
Networking / Public Speaking	$\checkmark$		

Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization. I have experience with music notation softwares like Sibelius, Noteflight, Finale, and MuseScore. I also have worked in Logic Pro X and Final Cut Pro X to make audio and video edits should that be necessary later.

Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

Lakeside Pride has meant a lot to me in the time I've been on the board. I love the positive attitude that everyone comes here to work with, and I want to continue building on those relationships. Being the PR officer has helped me make connections with other neighboring organizations that we have partnered with in the past and others that may be interested in working with us down the road. One of my big aspirations before stepping off is for Lakeside Pride to appear on a Spanish speaking news network.

Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

Mentioned above, one of my big last rodeos is to talk about Lakeside Pride to a Spanish speaking news network like Univision or Telemundo. We've made significant strides in getting out name out there on the news as far as the marching band, latin band, and organization as a whole with the press, so I'd like to build on this with our Latino/Hispanic community in the city and around the country as well.

If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here.

If elected, this will be my last term on the board. Thank you for your time and consideration!

# LAKESIDE PRIDEMUSIC ENSEMBLES

## **BOARD ELECTION DECLARATION**

Version 2023

#### **Candidate Information**

✓ Yes

At-Large board members, using this same application?

Name / Pronouns (if comfortable sharing)	Greer Anderson they/them
Email Address / Phone Number	greer.anderson@lakesidepride.org / 719-210-8534
Position Sought	Secretary
Instrument(s)/Ensemble(s)	Clarinet (Pops Ensemble), Drumline (Marching Band)

If you are not elected to this position, would you like your name considered in the selection of

□ No			
Experience/Sk	ills		
	memberships and leadershi onal lines can be added if co		
Organization	Position (if any)	Location	Dates

Describe any work or volunteering for non-profit organizations you have completed, including previous board work and work for Lakeside Pride.

I have served as Secretary of the Board since 2023, where I have led both a revamp of the newsletter and the beginnings of an external, community-based newsletter.

Sample Task	l have experience with this	I would like to assist with this	I would like to learn about this
Website development/maintenance (WordPress is a plus)		$\checkmark$	
Grant writing			
Accounting/Financial record keeping			
Inventory management		$\checkmark$	
Creative writing (programs, press releases, etc.)			
Design software (Photoshop, InDesign, Canva, etc.)			
Social media account maintenance			
Concert coordination			
Customer/membership services			
Volunteer coordination			
Record keeping		$\checkmark$	
Relationship building with other businesses/organizations			
Fundraising			
Managing a team			
Data Entry		$\checkmark$	
Networking / Public Speaking	$\checkmark$		

Describe any additional knowledge, experience, or skills you feel would be beneficial to the organization.

Why do you want to serve Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles in this position?

Since joining, Lakeside Pride has become my home, and it would be an honor to serve it's membership to keep this organization that we love so much thriving!

Describe what you would like to enhance, strengthen, or change in the organization during your term on the Board. Include any initiatives you feel would benefit the organization.

A personal growing point for me is making sure the minutes and agendas are updated on the website. This requires bot increased communication from the rest of the board leading up the meeting and better time management from me following the meeting.

If there is anything else about you that you would like us to know, please mention it here.