

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

SAN FRANCISCO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER
PRIDE PARADE AND CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Francisco Pride names new Executive Director *Former Communications Manager, Interim ED Lopez to oversee organization as it readies for 50th anniversary celebrations*

SAN FRANCISCO – Following a country-wide search for a new leader, the San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee has named longtime member Fred Lopez as its newest Executive Director.

Lopez joined the organization in 2016, working as a contractor with the SF Pride Parade Team. In 2017, he became a staff member as Communications Manager and last July was named Interim Executive Director.



"I am grateful to be able to help steer San Francisco Pride into 2020," Lopez said. "On the cusp of this landmark 50th commemoration, we are tasked with acknowledging the incredible history of LGBTQ strength in San Francisco and with looking to the future and what it holds. I look forward to being a part of it."

Lopez's activism goes beyond SF Pride and the Bay Area, having spent more than 14 years serving the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities. He began as a community organizer for the Gay City Health Project in Seattle where he managed an active team of more than 100 volunteers and helped open the first rapid-HIV testing site in King County. During that time, Lopez helped organize two national health summits for gay men, as well as co-facilitated a bicoastal intensive health leadership academy.

After moving to San Francisco in 2005, Lopez served as Executive Assistant to the executive directors of Lyon-Martin Health Services and the SF LGBT Community Center – both during times of organizational transitions. He went on to serve on the board of the Castro Street Fair and was named its Executive Director in 2014. Lopez also has led event management teams for SFMOMA and the Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture.

"We interviewed a diverse pool of about 110 candidates and following a thorough process, our Board is happy to have Fred's interim position as Executive Director become permanent," SF Pride President Carolyn Wysinger said. "Fred is a truly qualified individual and we are excited about his overseeing the organization as we prepare for our landmark celebration."

Lopez will follow previous Executive Director George Ridgely who announced in May he would be leaving the position after more than five years to join the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department. Lopez began serving in his new role on Jan 15.

"In many ways, SF Pride has become a celebration of the character of our city," Lopez said. "Our LGBTQ communities have long been at the center of San Francisco's story and we've become ambassadors to the world, who look to us for a

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vision of an inclusive community. We welcome the many allies we've made to our streets and we ask that these supporters continue to grow alongside us as we move into our next 50 years of progress."

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Photo credit: Keri Vaca

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About the San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee

The San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to produce the SF Pride Celebration and Parade. The mission of the organization is to educate the world on LGBTQ issues, as well as commemorate the heritage, celebrate the culture and liberate the people of all LGBTQ communities. A world leader in the Pride movement, SF Pride also is a grant-giving organization through its Community Partners Program.

Since 1997, SF Pride has granted more than \$3.2 million dollars in proceeds to local nonprofit LGBTQIA organizations and organizations working on issues related to HIV/AIDS, cancer, homelessness, housing rights and animal welfare. For more information or to become a member, contact SF Pride at info@sfpride.org, (415) 864-0831 and/or visit us at sfpride.org.