

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE®

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PRIDE PARADE AND CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE ANNOUNCES INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRED LOPEZ *Lopez Brings Experience in Event Management, Nonprofit Leadership, and LGBTQ Communities*

San Francisco, CA – The board of directors of San Francisco Pride is pleased to announce the appointment of Fred Lopez as interim executive director, beginning today. Lopez has a broad 14-year background in LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS nonprofits and a tested hand at the helm of local events, including more than five years as the executive director of the Castro Street Fair.

Lopez will be taking over from former Executive Director George Ridgely. Ridgely announced in May that he would be departing the position after five and a half years to join the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department.

"I am honored and humbled to help lead this iconic organization through this transition," said Lopez. "As SF Pride heads into a landmark anniversary year in 2020, I look forward to working closely with the board, staff, volunteers, and community members on planning a world-class, inclusive celebration. The Pride movement is rapidly evolving worldwide, and we have much work to do to continue to grow and reflect the vast diversity and uniqueness of our amazing communities."

Lopez has served with Pride as the communications manager for the last eighteen months. Prior to joining the staff, Lopez worked on a contract basis with Pride, with the Parade team in 2016 and the Media team in 2017. Lopez stepped down from his post of executive director of Castro Street Fair in early June, and will continue his work with Castro Street Fair as a board member. Lopez has also worked as a leader of the event management teams for both SFMOMA and Fort Mason Center for Arts and Culture.

Lopez previously served as a community organizer for Gay City Health Project in Seattle, where he managed an active volunteer corps of more than 100 volunteers, produced numerous community events, and assisted in opening the first rapid-HIV testing site in King County. Additionally, Lopez helped organize two national summits for gay men's health promotion and co-facilitated a bicoastal intensive health leadership academy. After his move to San Francisco in 2005, he served as executive assistant to the executive directors of both Lyon-Martin Health Services and the SF LGBT Community Center, during times of organizational transitions.

"We are delighted to welcome Fred Lopez into the Interim Executive Director role," commented Jacqueline Bishop, president of the board of directors. "He has been a valuable member of the team and will make us proud serving us through this transition. The board is embarking on a larger search to fill the role permanently."

More information about the position and the process to fill the permanent role will be available at sfpride.org soon.

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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 is also a grant-giving organization through its Community Partners Program. Since 1997, SF Pride has granted over \$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 Visit sfpride.org
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