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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Atlanta Pride Announces Four New Board Members,
Expanding Leadership and Commitment to Diversity**

ATLANTA (December 10, 2024)—Atlanta Pride is excited to welcome four new members to its Board of Directors, each bringing distinct expertise and a shared passion for fostering inclusivity, advocacy, and community engagement. Their collective experiences will enhance Atlanta Pride’s ongoing mission to advance equity and celebrate LGBTQ+ communities across Georgia while driving the organization’s recently unveiled [2025-2027 Strategic Plan](#).

Ben Ackerley (they/them) founded Katsura Creative and champions LGBTQ+ voices and community empowerment. Ben, a non-binary activist, has a rich history of involvement in queer advocacy through roles with TransParent, Georgia Rainbow Families, and the Mayor of Atlanta’s LGBTQ+ Advisory Board. Their experience will bolster Atlanta Pride’s commitment to fostering family-friendly and inclusive programming.

Chris Ruiz (he/him) brings over a decade of experience with the Atlanta Pride Committee as a volunteer, board member, and former Vice Chair. In his previous board service, Chris demonstrated outstanding leadership during Atlanta Pride’s return to in-person events following the COVID-19 pandemic. As Staff and Community Development Coordinator at Georgia Tech, Chris is committed to fostering spaces that uplift and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

Tony Uceda (he/el) joins with a strong background in nonprofit fundraising and a deep commitment to ensuring inclusive spaces for all Atlantans. As the Senior Director of Institutional Giving for U.S. Soccer, Tony brings over a decade of experience securing funds to empower impactful community programs. His leadership roles with the National

LGBTQ Task Force and StartOut reflect his dedication to advancing LGBTQ+ economic empowerment and health initiatives.

Farah Witt (she/her), Director of Finance for the Policing Alternatives & Diversion Initiative (PAD), brings extensive financial management experience from her time with the Arizona Department of Economic Security and various public service initiatives. Farah's passion for public service and community building will help guide Atlanta Pride's financial stewardship as the organization grows.

"We are excited to welcome Ben, Chris, Tony, and Farah to our Board of Directors," said Chris McCain, Executive Director of Atlanta Pride. "Their expertise, dedication, and passion for community advocacy will play a crucial role in shaping the future of Atlanta Pride as we continue to uplift and empower LGBTQ+ voices."

Elected at the November 2024 board meeting, the new board members officially began their tenure in December. They join a dedicated team committed to fostering a safer, more inclusive Georgia for all. Returning board members include Crystal Bowman, Board Chair; Brian Desarro, Board Secretary; Gabriel Martinez, Board Treasurer; Forrest Evans, Director; Dewayne Queen, Director; Toby Vargas-Jaume, Director; and Nicoal Whitworth, Director.

To learn more about Atlanta Pride, visit atlantapride.org.

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About the Atlanta Pride Committee

Atlanta Pride is Georgia's oldest nonprofit organization serving the LGBTQ+ community in metro Atlanta and across the South. Atlanta Pride's operations include the annual Atlanta Pride Festival and Parade in October, along with educational, social, and cultural programs and philanthropic initiatives throughout the year. For more information about Atlanta Pride, visit atlantapride.org. Stay connected with Atlanta Pride on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).