

21

**21 YEARS & LEGAL**

DC BLACK PRIDE 2011

# VOLUNTEER INFORMATION



## OUR HISTORY

The African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Washington, D.C. has always been full of life, and its history rich.

From 1975 until 1990, the Club House was a premiere community gathering space most notable for its annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children's Hour. It was, of course, more than an hour—in fact, it usually went all night long. The Children's Hour quickly became an institution that could not be missed—word of mouth about what was happening in D.C. during Memorial Day weekend spread up and down the East Coast and throughout the country. What began as a local highlight soon began pulling in folks from all over.

When the Club House closed its doors in 1990, many feared that the Memorial Day tradition would be lost as well. Three men—Welmor Cook, Theodore Kirkland and Ernest Hopkins—found themselves concerned with not just the lack of a place for the community to gather during the holiday weekend, but also with the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS and its impact on their community. They envisioned creating an event that would continue the tradition of the Children's Hour as well as raise much-needed funds for the HIV/AIDS organizations that served the African-American community in Washington and the surrounding area.

From that idea came the first Black Gay and Lesbian Pride, which was essentially collaboration among those three organizers, the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, and the Inner City AIDS Network. On May 25, 1991, the first DC Black Pride (DCBP) festival was produced on the grounds of Banneker Field. Hundreds of people from the community came together for a relevant cause.

The following year, DCBP increased its offerings as it took steps to truly become a weekend-long festival,

with an event line-up, including a midnight cruise on the Potomac River, a Sunday prayer breakfast and the first Washington film screening of Marlon Riggs' groundbreaking film "Tongues Untied."

As DCBP continued to grow in popularity and in programmatic offerings during the mid-nineties, organizers decided to make the event official by creating a board of directors, filing for incorporation and becoming a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization -- Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD) was born. The all-volunteer governing body of this nonprofit would now oversee the planning and execution of DCBP.

DCBP was the catalyst for what is now referred to as the Black Pride Movement. Since the birth of DCBP, thirty other Black Pride celebrations now take place throughout the world, many using DC Black Pride as a model. During 1998's DCBP Festival, Earl Fowlkes, the President of BLGPD at the time, met with the organizers of Black Prides from New York City, Detroit, Atlanta and several other cities to form the International Federation of Black Prides. That organization now has thirty members and serves as the principal body through which organizers find support, raise funds and share best practices.

Twenty years after the first DCBP drew 800 people to Banneker Field for a day themed "Let's All Come Together," more than 100,000 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of African descent and their allies have come to celebrate the beauty of a shared community and raise awareness and funding for HIV/AIDS in the name and spirit of Black Pride.

We mark our 21st year with continued efforts to not only celebrate the traditional Memorial Day Black Pride, but to raise funding for programs throughout the year.

## BLGPD MISSION

The mission of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD) is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in the African American community as well as support organizations that focus on health disparities, education, youth and families.

## **BLGPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. (BLGPD) is made of dedicated volunteers who have a passion and drive for its mission and vision. Each board member brings special skills, experience, and energy to the organization and helps recruit other volunteers to help plan for DCBP and other events.

George Birdsong

Earl Fowlkes

Jimma Elliott-Stevens

Danielle King

## **2011 COMMITTEES**

The success of DCBP depends on individuals like you who volunteer your time and talents. Below are descriptions of the committees that you can volunteer for. The Board of Directors would like to thank you for your interest in assisting and if at any times you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us at [volunteers@dcblackpride.org](mailto:volunteers@dcblackpride.org)

### **Volunteer Committee**

This committee monitors and assigns volunteers to all of the DCBP committees. Duties include but not limited to: assisting in the training and assisting in the management of volunteers and facilitating volunteer informational meetings. Volunteers who select this committee may be asked to work with the other committees if additional support is needed.

### **Communications Committee**

This committee develops and advises the BLGPD board on the implementation of a communications & marketing plan. Furthermore, it ensures the creation and delivery of effective communications with internal and external audiences (e.g. website, e-mails, facebook, twitter, on site signage etc.). The DCBP webmaster is a member of this committee. *Those interested in this committee may be asked to assist with dissemination of promotional materials and other forms outreach.*

### **Cultural Arts/Education Committee**

This committee organizes and/or monitors DCBP events such as the poetry slam, film festival and Town Hall meeting. Other duties involved but not limited to: assisting with the organization and monitoring of educational and support group related workshops.

### **Entertainment Committee**

This committee organizes events that may involve performers or presentations by artist that require a contract to perform. Volunteers for this committee should have experience in booking entertainers or have contacts in the entertainment world. This committee will be instrumental to the Sunday event planning and implementation, Volunteers can expect to work with the entertainers making sure that the performances run smoothly and the entertainer(s) have what they need.

### **Interfaith Committee**

This committee assists with selecting and organizing the Sunday Interfaith Service and events that focus around spiritual connection. Signers and bilingual volunteers are encouraged to participate in this committee.

### **Program Committee**

This committee may be broken down into sub committees to cover the planning and monitoring of family oriented programs and events such as; family planning workshops or event, informational sessions that may focus on Same Gender parenting, adoption and foster parenting. Other duties may involve working with vendors and ensuring that the venue(s) is/are set up properly. Volunteers in this committee will work closely with vendors and the general public.

# VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## EXPERIENCE

Have you ever volunteered for an organization before?  Yes  No

If yes, please list the organization(s) and what your role(s)/duty(ies) were: \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you ever chaired an activity, supervised staff, or managed a project?  Yes  No  N/A

If yes, please tell us about those experiences. \_\_\_\_\_

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List any special skill(s) or expertise that you possess that could benefit DC Black Pride \_\_\_\_\_

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**INTERESTS**

What are your areas of interest with working with DC Black Pride? Rate your selection(s) with 1 being the highest. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice when possible.

- Volunteer Committee
- Communications Committee
- Cultural Arts/Education Committee
- Entertainment Committee
- Interfaith Committee
- Program Committee

Use the space below to elaborate on your interest to assist us in using your talents and skills appropriately\_\_\_\_\_

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Thank you for your time and desire to be a part of this organization. Return completed applications

**Via E-mail:**  
volunteers@dcblackpride.org

*To submit your application electronically, download the editable version at  
dcblackpride.org/assets/DOC/2011DCBPVolunteerApplication.dot*

**Via U. S. Mail:**  
BLGPD, Inc.,  
Attn: Volunteers  
1806 Vernon Street, NW Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20009