



A Message to the Long Beach Community

To our LGBTQ+ community, our allies, partners, volunteers, vendors, and the City of Long Beach:

Thank you.

To everyone who attended our recent community meeting and spoke openly—about your concerns, your frustrations, your hopes, and your love for Long Beach Pride—we are grateful. Showing up took courage, and your honesty mattered.

Before anything else, we want to be clear: **we heard you.**

Many of the conversations that night were difficult. Some were painful. People spoke with anger, with grief, and with a deep sense of disappointment. You had every right to feel that way. Long Beach Pride has always belonged to this community, and when we fall short of what you deserve, you are right to demand answers and accountability.

So we want to say this plainly and without qualification: **we extend our sincerest apologies.**

We apologize to our community, our partners, our sponsors, our vendors, and the City of Long Beach for the ways this year's Pride did not meet expectations. We know many of you felt dismissed, disappointed, or forgotten. Good intentions do not erase that impact. We hear you, we take responsibility, and we are committed to making things right.

Across the meeting, several themes emerged again and again—**transparency, financial accountability, governance, community representation, and trust.** You are right that each of these requires real action, not just acknowledgment. Here is where we are focusing our work:

Financial Accountability

We recognize the urgency around outstanding financial questions, vendor payments, and refund requests. Our team is actively reviewing all obligations and developing a responsible plan to meet them. Refund requests are being processed as resources allow, and we will keep you informed throughout this process. Silence is not acceptable, and we will not leave you waiting without updates.

Governance and Organizational Structure

You asked for clarity about how leadership is chosen and how decisions are made. We have begun a full review of our bylaws, board structure, and governance practices. As this work moves forward, we will create meaningful opportunities for community input. Long Beach Pride was built by this community—its future must be shaped by your voices.

Leadership Transition

As previously shared, Tonya Medrano-Martin will conclude her term in August. This transition was planned prior to the recent meeting. We are committed to ensuring a responsible, stable transition that supports the long-term health of the organization.

Community Engagement

One message came through loud and clear: **you want access to be included in the process.**

You want to participate, contribute, and help shape what comes next. We welcome that. We will continue holding open community conversations, and we invite anyone interested in volunteering, joining a committee, supporting programs, or helping plan future events to get involved. The work ahead belongs to all of us.

Youth and Teen Pride

Many of you spoke passionately about the importance of safe, affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth. We share that commitment. We will continue working with community partners to strengthen and expand Teen Pride and related youth programs. We are currently organizing a free Teen Pride event with the city in September.

Looking Forward

We know trust is not rebuilt through statements—it is rebuilt through consistent action and inclusivity over time. We are asking you to watch and participate in what we do next.

We understand that some of you remain skeptical, frustrated, or hurt. Those feelings are valid, and we carry them with us as we move forward.

Long Beach Pride is bigger than any one person, any board, or any single event. It belongs to the community that has sustained it for decades. Our responsibility as a community is to ensure the organization we pass on is worthy of that legacy.

In the coming weeks, we will continue sharing updates on governance, finances, organizational improvements, and opportunities to get involved.

To everyone who spoke, listened, volunteered, and held us accountable: **Thank You.** Your voices are already shaping the path ahead. We intend to rise to the standard you set.

With gratitude and solidarity,

The Long Beach Pride Board of Directors