

## WELCOME TO MIDDLE AMERICA

You'll be part of history when the Games comes to Ohio, the state that's known as the center of the U.S. political heartland. You'll be welcomed by Greater Cleveland residents and other Games supporters who are working together on this truly international community event.

You'll find LGBT-centric and -friendly businesses, restaurants and bars across the cities, including downtown Cleveland, and particularly neighborhoods such as Ohio City, Tremont, Gordon Square, Clifton, Coventry and Cedar Lee. Greater Cleveland is where cultures and peoples mix. Where Midwest friendliness meets urban, eclectic and edgy, the LGBT community is strong, proud and part of the fabric of the cities.

## HOME TO ROCK AND CLASSICS

Cleveland's Playhouse Square is the second largest theater complex in the United States.

Local arts organizations open their doors to the public as much as possible. The Cleveland Museum of Art offers free admission to its permanent collection, one of the best in the nation. Its neighbors include the Cleveland Orchestra, the Botanical Garden, the Museum of Natural History and the Crawford Auto-Aviation Museum.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum is dedicated to archiving the history of the best-known and most influential artists, producers, engineers and others who shaped rock & roll music over the past six decades. The 150,000-square-foot museum features seven floors, five theaters for films, special events and free public programs, and ever-changing exhibits filled with the energy, passion and spirit of the music.

The Akron Art Museum houses an eclectic modern collection. Nearby Summit Artspace is home to more than 40 arts organizations and has galleries, studios, and classrooms. The stunning Akron Civic Theatre, E.J. Thomas Hall, Greystone Hall, Blossom Music Center and Lock 3 & 4 provide year-round access to fun events.

## ABOUT YOUR HOSTS

Cleveland Special Events Corp. operates Gay Games 9. The organization, which is representative of the LGBT community and civic leaders of Greater Cleveland, exists for the sole purpose to create a fantastic experience for the thousands who will participate in the 2014 Gay Games.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Gay Games offers a scholarship program with the Federation of Gay Games. Recipients receive assistance to attend the Games that could include subsidized registration fees, travel or accommodation. Contact the Games for more information.



DIVING SENSATION AND OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST MATTHEW MITCHAM (PICTURED IN CENTER) AT THE GAY GAMES VIII IN COLOGNE, GERMANY

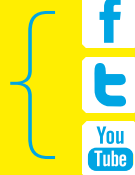
## ABOUT THE GAY GAMES

Since 1982 the Gay Games have empowered thousands of LGBT athletes and artists through sport, culture and fellowship.

Built upon the principles of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™, the Gay Games were conceived in 1982 by Dr. Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and held every four years.

The Federation of Gay Games is the international governing body that perpetuates the quadrennial Gay Games. It is a fundamental principle of the Federation of Gay Games that all activities conducted under its auspices shall be inclusive in nature and that no individual shall be excluded from participating on the basis of sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political belief(s), athletic/artistic ability, physical challenge, age or health status. For more information, go to [www.gaygames.com](http://www.gaygames.com).

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Gay Games Cleveland

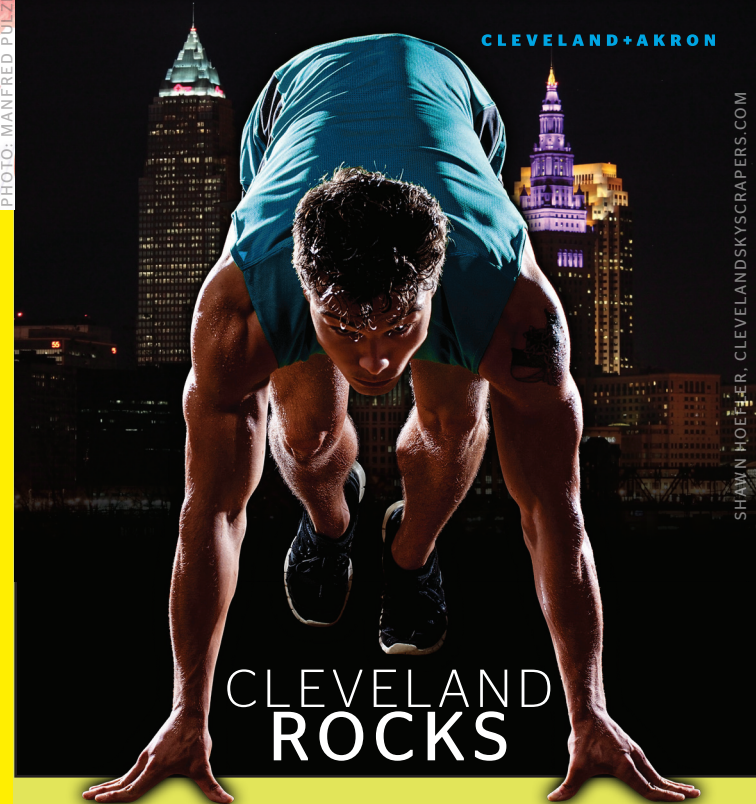
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## YOUR LOCAL CONTACT:

GG9 GAY GAMES™  
2014

CLEVELAND+AKRON



CLEVELAND  
ROCKS

Anyone who attends a major event in Greater Cleveland will tell you about the great welcoming.

Whether it's the U.S. college basketball tournament, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, the U.S. Figure Skating National Championships, the U.S. professional football hall of fame induction ceremonies or the Cleveland International Film Festival – Northeast Ohio always exceeds expectations.

Thousands of volunteers, spectators and community members, as well as hundreds of sponsors, are uniting to make these the best Gay Games yet, setting a new standard for Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ for participants worldwide.

9-16 AUGUST 2014

## A GREAT CITY + A GREAT LAKE

Greater Cleveland is the 15th largest metropolitan area and consumer market in the United States with nearly 3 million residents. Half of the U.S. population lives within 500 miles (804km), making Greater Cleveland a great destination within a half-day's drive or hour's flight of major North American cities, including Chicago, New York and Toronto.

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Greater Cleveland region is home to 80 ethnic groups that speak more than 60 languages. The mix of nationalities can be seen throughout the city's neighborhoods, ethnic restaurants, and more than 300 ethnic organizations and numerous festivals that celebrate and preserve the cultures that make up our community.

## TRANSPORTATION

Travelers to the Games benefit from the diverse Northeast Ohio regional transportation structure, with easy access for personal vehicles, buses, trains and airlines.

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE), a United Airlines hub, offers 250 daily flight departures to 74 markets.

Akron-Canton Airport (CAK) offers the lowest average fare of any airport in the four-state U.S. region with service aboard AirTran, Southwest, Frontier, United, US Airways and Delta.

Cleveland has an excellent bus and rail mass transit system operated by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority. The rail transit system consists of three rail lines and 108 bus routes across four counties, making public transportation a great way to travel to the majority of Games' venues.



PHOTO: POSITIVELY CLEVELAND

## DOWNTOWN CLEVELAND

Downtown Cleveland is undergoing approximately \$2 billion in new development. Projects include a new convention center, which will open next year and host some of the Gay Games in 2014. In 2012, Ohio's first full-service casino and an innovative aquarium joined Cleveland's already impressive destination lineup.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

**Hotels** – Special Gay Games rates are available at more than 30 hotels in the region, all within a 40-minute drive of the Opening Ceremony. These hotels offer the best availability for everyone's budget and preferences. Lodging reservations are now being accepted online exclusively through the Games website. Several new hotels will be added to Cleveland's downtown district by 2014.

**Universities** – In Greater Cleveland, universities and colleges are expected to provide hundreds of rooms for additional housing support.

**Campgrounds** – Campgrounds also are available in Cleveland and the surrounding area. Locations range from Amish country to numerous state parks offering facilities from lodges and recreational vehicle sites to tent camping.

Visit the housing page on the Gay Games website for the most up-to-date information.

## CLIMATE

The weather in Cleveland follows the U.S. Midwest seasonal pattern, but is modified quite strongly by Lake Erie, which eases the worst of the summer heat waves. The average high temperature in August is 80F (27C) and low temperature is 60F (16C). Rainfall in Cleveland is moderate and fairly constant through the year, averaging about 3 inches (75mm) a month.

PHOTO: JEAN FRANCOIS VANSNICK



## VENUES

Athletes and artists will appreciate the world-class facilities in which they will compete and exhibit. From Lake Erie itself to the natatorium at Cleveland State University and the road course of the top-ranked Akron Marathon, Gay Games 9 participants will play in the great sports and culture venues the region has to offer. Athletes and spectators also will have easy access to the centrally located Festival Village.

## SPORTS

Aquatics Diving

Aquatics Open Water Swim

Aquatics Swimming

Aquatics Synchronized Swimming

Aquatics Water Polo

Aquatics Pink Flamingo

Badminton

Basketball

Beach Volleyball

Billiards

Bodybuilding

Bowling

Cycling

DanceSport

Darts

Figure Skating

Flag Football

Football (Soccer)

Golf

Ice Hockey

Marathon & Road Races

Martial Arts

Powerlifting

Racquetball

Rodeo (NEW!)

Rowing

Rugby (Union)

Sailing

Softball

Squash

Table Tennis

Tennis

Track & Field

Triathlon

Volleyball

Wrestling

## CULTURE

Band Festival

Choral Festival

Cheer Demonstrations & Competition

Visual Arts Program

Plus countless exhibitions, films, concerts, and other cultural events for participants and spectators!