

**REGISTRATION REMINDER:** Complete your general registration <u>online</u> before 31 May to avoid late-fee penalties.

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### Reserve room today for best rates

Make sure to save the most dollars with the special Gay Games rates at Cleveland+Akron hotels by reserving your room through the exclusive Gay Games 9 lodging reservation site <u>here</u>.

More than two dozen hotels in close proximity to the events

Issue 3 2014

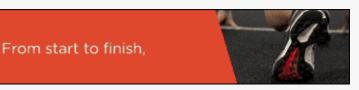
GAMES WEEK: 9-16 August 2014

**SPORTS & CULTURE** 

Click on event for more information.

- Badminton
- <u>Band</u>
- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- <u>Bodybuilding</u>
- <u>Bowling</u>
- <u>Cheer</u>
- Chorus
- <u>Cycling</u>
- <u>DanceSport</u>
- <u>Darts</u>
- <u>Diving</u>
- Figure Skating
- Flag Football
- <u>Golf</u>
- Ice Hockey
- <u>Marathon/Half-</u>
- Marathon Martial Arts
- Open Water Swim
- <u>Pool (Billiards)</u>
- Powerlifting
- Racquetball
- <u>Road Races (5K &</u> <u>10K)</u>

have partnered with the Games to offer their lowest rates available. To book through the Gay Games lodging site, click <u>here</u>. Want to reserve 10 or more rooms for your team? Contact <u>housing@positivelycleveland.com</u> or call +1.216.875.6621 or +1.800.321.1001 ext. 6621.



## Sports spectator tickets on sale

Specatators now can purchase tickets for **Bodybuilding**, **Figure Skating** and **Dancesport** (general admission and reserved seating). All other sporting events offer free admission for spectators.

Tickets also are on sale for <u>Pink Flamingo</u>, the unique Gay Games pool show on Friday night (15 August) at Cleveland State University natatorium. Seating is expected to sell out!

Band and choral concert tickets, as well as Closing Ceremony, are expected to go on sale within the next week.

Stay tuned in the next two weeks for a big announcement about the Opening Ceremony celebration and to purchase spectator tickets. (Registered participants receive Opening Ceremony access through the parade of participants and have special reserved seating inside Quicken Loans Arena.)

## Event Spotlight: DanceSport

Participants will be stepping on the dance floor at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Participants will be competing in seven different style divisions (International,



- Rock Climbing (Sport Climbing)
- Rowing
- <u>Sailing</u>
- <u>Soccer (Football)</u>
- <u>Softball</u>
- <u>Squash</u>
- <u>Swimming</u>
- Synchronized Swimming
- <u>Table Tennis</u>
- <u>Tennis</u>
- <u>Track and Field</u>
- <u>Triathlon</u>
- <u>Volleyball</u>
- Water Polo
- Wrestling

#### Games Week Schedule





American, Country Western, Line Dance, Argentine and Open). DanceSport is open to same-sex dancing partners as well as mixed-sex dancing, from beginners to advanced. To view more about the DanceSport competition specifics, click <u>here</u>.

If you are interested in being a spectator for the DanceSport events, general admission tickets can be purchased <u>here</u>. For reserved seating tickets, click<u>here</u>.

# Participant Spotlight: Mark Hertzendorf

Mark Hertzendorf of the Rainbow Spinnakers Sailing Club will be participating in Gay Games 9 on Lake Erie. Here, he shares his story with the <u>Washington Blade</u>. Mark is ready to get out on the water with his teammates and "Go All Out." "There is



nothing like being out on the water," he says "There is always something new to improve and opportunities to improve your skill set. As you get older, you just get bigger boats."

To read the article in its entirety, click here.

#### SHARE YOUR STORY

Whether you're a first-time participant or someone who's competed in every Gay Games, we want to share your story and inspire others. Use the "Share Your Story" tab on our <u>Facebook</u> page or email us at <u>info@GG9CLE.com</u>.

If you are interested in sharing your story with the media, let us know. GLAAD, a national Gay Games 9 partner, is eager to help participants learn how to tell their story and work with the media.

# Spotlight on Cleveland+Akron

THIS IS CLEVELAND



"Cleveland has never followed anyone else's rules, we made our own." Have you seen the Cleveland anthem? Watch it <u>here</u>. Check out the website for even more, <u>thisiscleveland.com</u>.



For more information on Cleveland-area attractions, visit <u>www.positivelycleveland.com</u>.

#### "LOVE" IS IN THE AIR IN AKRON

The <u>Akron Art Museum</u> has found a creative way to spread the love.



Travelers in downtown have been seeing what appear to be random

flashing lights in the sky. But they aren't crazy. The flashing lights are emitting from the <u>Akron Art Museum</u>, with a hidden message in Morse code. The message is "Love You."

"We're sending out a love message to Akron," Executive Director Mark Masouka told <u>The Plain Dealer</u>. "We thought, what better message to send out?"

The message has been emitting into the Akron sky since Valentine's Day and has no set date to end.

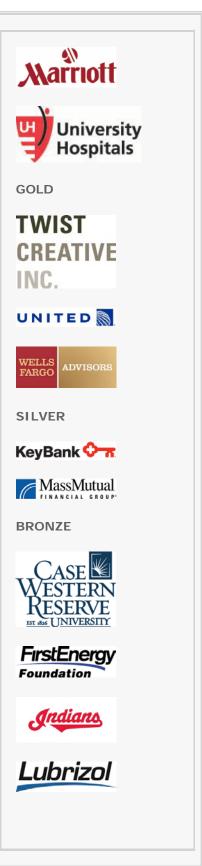
For more information on Akron-area attractions, visit <u>www.visitakron-summit.org</u>.

## Plan Your Visit: Register, reserve lodging and more

#### **REGISTER TODAY**

Have you registered to participate in the <u>2014 Gay Games</u> presented by the Cleveland Foundation? Register here.

General registration is required of all participants and enables you to march in opening and closing ceremony, receive the Official 2014 Gay Games Program, access to public and GG9provided transportation and a participant medal. General Registration is open through 31 May 2014.



Once you have completed general registration, you can complete registration for your particular event(s).

Click here to register today.

#### **BOOK A ROOM - BEST AVAILABLE RATES**

Have you reserved your lodging? The Gay Games has negotiated special rates that are the lowest available for 30-plus hotels in Cleveland+Akron. Make your reservations (no payment needed today) through this <u>exclusive Gay Games lodging site</u>.

The <u>Gay Games website</u> also has a helpful drop-down menu so you can pick your event and see the distance of each hotel to your event venue (some event venues have not been finalized but all are expected to be completed this fall.)

Please note that payment is not due for your hotel reservation through this site until July 2014.

Marriott is the official lodging sponsor of the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation. The <u>Renaissance Cleveland</u> is the official host hotel.



Limited campus housing is available. For more information or to reserve a bed, click <u>here</u>.

Visit <u>Plan Your Visit</u> at <u>www.GG9CLE.com</u> for the latest information.

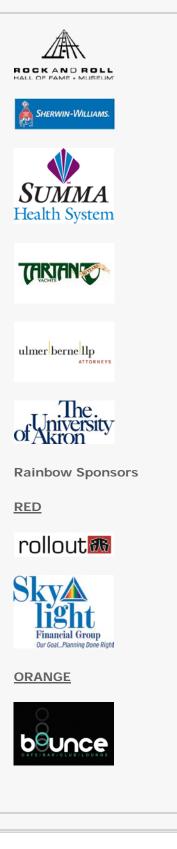
#### PLAN AIR TRAVEL

Cleveland+Akron offers two destination airports (<u>Cleveland</u> <u>Hopkins International</u> and <u>Akron-Canton Regional Airport</u>) with easy and affordable access from hundreds of cities in the United States and one-stop connections for international travelers.

**<u>UNITED</u>** Airlines is the exclusive airline partner for <u>the 2014 Gay</u>



<u>Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation</u>. It serves both airports in the region. It offers a discount code to Gay Games registrants. The code is emailed to all participants upon completion of general registration.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Lori Lynn Cartellone

Living and working in Cleveland, Lori Lynn Cartellone will be a volunteer during the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation. Lori is excited to have the games in Cleveland + Akron. "I think it is GREAT," she said. "The fact that these games are put together to be inclusive to everyone is amazing, adds a lot of heart."

To learn more about Lori's story or from other volunteers, click <u>here</u>.

#### WANT TO BE A VOLUNTEER?

**To volunteer during Games Week, click <u>here</u> to sign up**. Schedules have begun to be posted online so registered volunteers can start signing up for shifts. (Participants in the Games also can be volunteers at the Games ... volunteers can select their own schedules.) There is no charge for volunteering.

## Merchandise and Team Uniforms

Want to "Keep Calm and Go All Out"? Or want to purchase the cool blue Gay Games 9 shirt with individual events listed to form the "9" on the back? Tshirts, pins and sweatshirts are being sold at www.GayGames9.com today. Go All Out

Planning for a team uniform to wear marching into Opening Ceremony? The

Federation of Gay Games, Nike and Lids Team Sports are offering a unique program with savings off retail prices. Click <u>here</u> for more information.



CardinalHealth

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IQUIC

# Special appreciation for sponsors and civic funders

Individual donors, business sponsors, and others are encouraged to support the 2014 Gay Games through financial contributions as well as their support of the 2014 sponsors and civic funders.

To donate, click here.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit this page.

And please support and say thanks to all sponsors of the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation. To see all our sponsors, click <u>here</u>.

#### CIVIC FUNDERS

A special acknowledgement and appreciation of the <u>civic</u> <u>funders</u> of the 2014 Gay Games, including:

**City of Cleveland** 

Positively Cleveland

Cuyahoga County

City of Akron

Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau

Summit County

## Social Talk and Find a Team

Be part of the Gay Games buzz on social media. Special opportunities to save, engage and connect with your fellow Gay Games participants are posted weekly.





East Bank Grille Lodge Tre Belle

Law Office of Daniel M. Margolis Like the 2014 Gay Games on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GayGamesCleveland and follow us on Twitter @GG9Cleveland. Looking for a team to join or have a question about your sport? Post on the sport-specific bulletin boards at2014GayGames.ProBoards.com. #Go All Out. You received this email because you are subscribed to the Federation of Gay Games or the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation.

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