

Gay Games partners with The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

New program provides LGBT-sensitivity training in anticipation of 2014 event

(SPRING 2013) – Northeast Ohio organizations have a unique opportunity to improve their awareness and sensitivity to LGBT issues through a new program developed by The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio and supported by the 2014 Gay Games Cleveland+Akron.

“With Cleveland and Akron hosting the Gay Games in 2014, now is the ideal time to promote LGBT cultural competence training and awareness throughout the community,” said Christen DuVernay, Director of Programs at The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio.

“Through a new partnership between The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio and the 2014 Gay Games, organizations can take action now,” she explained. “They can obtain helpful LGBT cultural competence training, have their policies and procedures assessed, and guidance provided as it relates to LGBT inclusivity.”

Gay Games Executive Director Thomas Nobbe agreed. “We’re pleased to be a catalyst for companies, restaurants, hotels as well as other organizations eager to show the world how welcoming and inclusive they are to the LGBT community.”

Organizations can opt for a formal program coordinated by The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio that evaluates the organization’s LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) inclusiveness by assessing their policies and procedures. Participants then select from a menu of cultural competency training programs to better prepare employees to engage with the LGBT community.

Based on their participation in the assessment and training (and meeting predefined levels), the organization will be recognized as a recommended retailer by the Gay Games. All recommended retailers will be identified on the Games website.

Organizations also can opt to participate only in an LGBTQ cultural competency training program offered by The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio to marketing, human resources, diversity officers and other interested staff to build or refresh their skills.

The program is open to all vendors in Northeast Ohio as well as Gay Games sponsors. Program fees vary depending on an organization’s assessment size and number of training program participants.

For additional information, contact Christen DuVernay at The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio at cduvernay@diversitycenterneo.org or (216) 752-3000.



The
Diversity Center
of northeast ohio



About The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

The Diversity Center is a human relations organization working to eliminate bias, bigotry, and racism in Northeast Ohio for more than 80 years. The Diversity Center focuses on increasing knowledge, raising awareness, and building skills to help create communities where all people are connected, respected and valued. Visit www.diversitycenterneo.org for more information.

About the Gay Games

The Gay Games are an international sporting and cultural event held every four years. Launched in 1982, the Games invite participation from all competitors regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic or artistic ability, age, physical challenge or health status. The Games also offer a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered participants. They are open to anyone 18 years or older. About 10 percent of participants are from outside the LGBT community.

The Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation runs August 9-16, 2014, in venues around Cleveland and Akron, Ohio, in the United States. More than 35 sports and culture event competitions will be held, with more than 11,000 participants expected to join the medal race. For more information, visit www.gg9cle.com, www.facebook.com/gaygamescleveland or www.twitter.com/gg9cleveland.