

LA LGBTQ+ ARTS & CULTURE COALITION

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LOS ANGELES LGBTQ+ ARTS & CULTURE COALITION FORMS TO ADDRESS MULTIPLE CRISES FACING QUEER ARTS SECTOR

Challenges Include the President's Discriminatory Executive Orders Targeting LGBTQ+ Communities, the Dismantling of Federal Arts & Humanities Agencies, and Deep Local and State Budget Cuts to Arts Funding

Registration Open for July 15 Convening at the Los Angeles LGBT Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LOS ANGELES, CA (July 8, 2025) – A broad group of queer arts organizations and artists has launched a new Los Angeles LGBTQ+ Arts & Culture Coalition, representing a network of dozens of LGBTQ+ artists, arts workers, culture bearers, and allied nonprofit organizations across Los Angeles County.

Founded in March 2025 in response to the President's attacks on LGBTQ+ communities through discriminatory executive orders, and federal, state, and local budget cuts that have severely impacted arts organizations, One Institute, the oldest active LGBTQ+ organization in the United States, convened a group of nearly 30 LGBTQ+ and allied artists and arts nonprofits to respond to the multiple crises. In the coming months and years, the Coalition will lay the groundwork for a lasting regional alliance dedicated to the collective defense of queer and trans arts communities and nonprofits that produce LGBTQ+ arts programming, restoring critical sources of revenue, and building political power.

Over the past several months, the current federal administration has terminated active grants for hundreds of nonprofit arts and humanities organizations, including members of the Coalition. Organizations have collectively lost nearly \$28 million in funding which had already been awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The President has ordered that both agencies be defunded and dismantled, along with PBS, NPR, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), even while these actions are being challenged in court. Without these federal agencies, arts organizations, individual artists, libraries, and museums will lose a critical source of funding.

“By forming the LA LGBTQ+ Arts & Culture Coalition, we’re organizing our communities to support each other through these crises,” said Tony Valenzuela, One Institute’s Executive Director. “We’re amplifying the importance of queer and trans culture as a force for good in a country that continues to seek our erasure; and we’re building collective political power to lobby elected officials and philanthropy to help sustain our work despite the President’s draconian actions.”

The Coalition’s inaugural convening will take place Tuesday, July 15, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, located at the Los Angeles LGBT Center (1125 N McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038). The meeting will feature a keynote presentation on “The State of LGBTQ+ Arts in Destructive Times,” which includes a distinguished panel of queer arts thought leaders including **Badly Licked Bear** (she/they), educator, artist, and activist; **Álvaro D. Márquez** (they/them/theirs), artist, arts advocate, educator, and Program Officer with California Community Foundation; **Paul Outlaw** (he/him), Los Angeles- and Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist; and moderator **Ricky Abilez** (they/them), Queer, Latine artist, educator, and advocate serving as Director of Policy & Advocacy at Arts for LA.

Following the keynote presentation, attendees will participate in several rounds of small group discussions and respond to guiding questions. The convening will document stories about how the current environment has impacted artists and arts organizations, identify critical needs and priorities, and help determine collective resources members may share with each other in the work ahead. The day will conclude with a performance led by Pickle, founder and Executive Director of Queer Arts Lab, featuring Drag Artist and Vaudeville star, Odious Ari. Lunch will be provided.

Advance registration is required for the Coalition’s July 15 convening and is open to LGBTQ+ arts and culture workers and organizations, allied organizations that produce LGBTQ+ arts programming, and individual artists in Los Angeles County. For more information and to register, please visit www.oneinstitute.org/la-lgbtq-arts-culture-coalition.

The Coalition’s founding organizational members include 18th Street Arts Center, Arts for LA, California LGBT Arts Alliance, Celebration Theatre, Craft Contemporary, Drag Arts Lab, Drag King History, Feminist Center for Creative Work, HIV Writers Workshop, Junior High, JQ International, LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions), Los Angeles LGBT Center, Los Angeles Performance Practice, Los Angeles Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, One Institute, Outfest, The Outwords Archive, Pelvic Sanctuary, Pride Poets, Queer Biennial, Stripper Worker

Center, Stripper Co-Op, The Lavender Effect®, The Goddess Mercado, The Queer Mercado, and Tom of Finland Foundation. Dozens of member artists and arts advocates can also be found at this [link](#).

"When minority communities of diverse identities, experiences, and needs come together, we have the ability to not only resist oppression, but to learn from one another and strengthen the bonds that protect us," said activist Badly Licked Bear. "The LA LGBTQ+ Art and Culture Coalition ensures that while artists, culture workers, or institutions face unique challenges, none of us will face them alone."

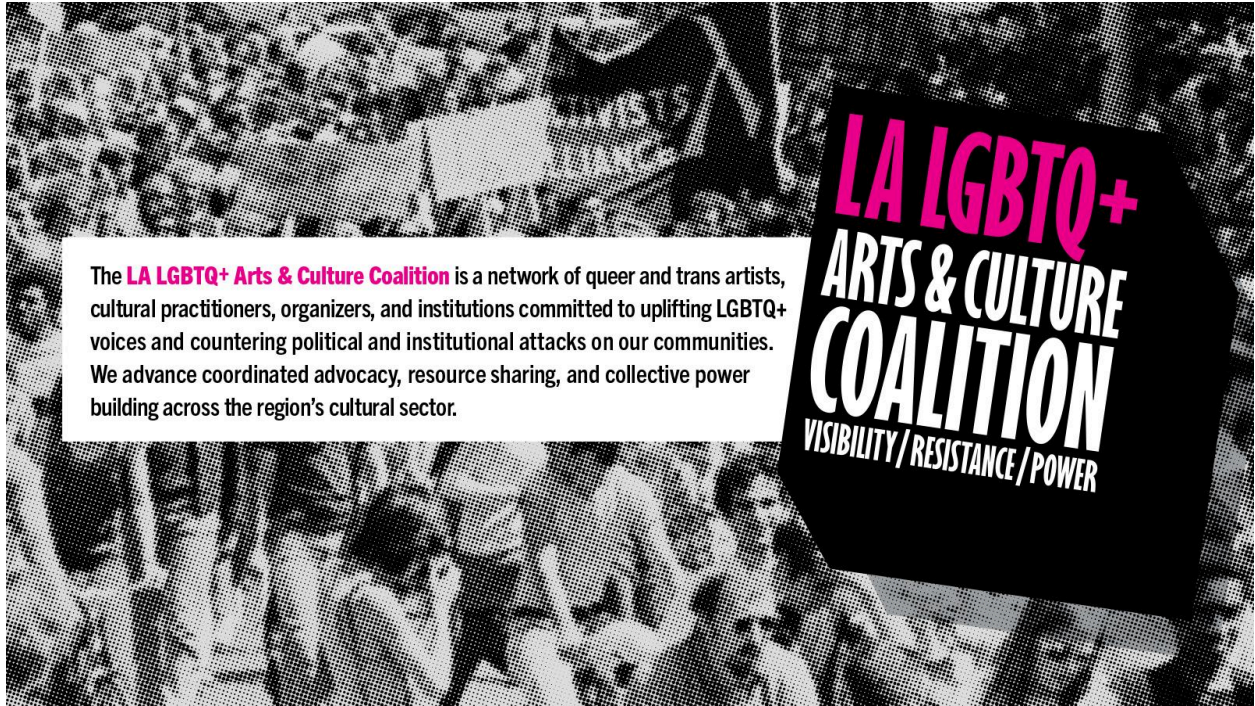
About the LA LGBTQ+ Arts & Culture Coalition:

The LGBTQ+ Arts & Culture Coalition is a network of artists, organizers, and cultural institutions committed to uplifting LGBTQ+ voices and countering political, cultural, and institutional attacks on our communities. We advance coordinated advocacy, resource sharing, and collective power building across the cultural sector.

Press Contact

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SELECTED PRESS IMAGES









1. Promotional Image by Rubén Esparza
2. Photo of Ricky Abilez by Leah Heubner
3. Photo of Odious Ari by Tony Coelho
4. Photo of Badly Licked Bear by self
5. Photo of Álvaro D. Márquez by Mercedes Zapata
6. Photo of Paul Outlaw by Owen Scarlett Photography
7. Photo of Pickle the Drag Queen by Jordan Service

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