



WASHINGTON STATE  
**LGBTQ**  
COMMISSION

## **Executive Director's Report**

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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Commission Meeting  
Olympia, WA

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**The Washington State LGBTQ Commission envisions a state where every lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex Washingtonian of any age feels safe, supported, and empowered.**

## Executive Director's Report

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Below is a summary of the activities of the Commission staff from May through mid-July 2022, including legislative advocacy and community outreach.

### 1. STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

**Staff:** Currently, three students from the University of Puget Sound are doing their internship with the Commission: Abby Loboda, Elias Thiemann, and Hong Ta. They have focused on updating our resource lists, identify laws that protect LGBTQ Washingtonians, identify gaps in protections for LGBTQ Washingtonians, and, through a interagency collaboration agreement with the Department of Historic Preservation and Archeology, identify locations of historical significance for the LGBTQ community in King County. Tracey Carlos provides supervision for the interns.

I also had the opportunity to be a panelist for the Washington State Government Innovation Conference held in Tacoma in late May 2022. This conference brings government employees for a full day of panels, workshops, and presentations on government innovation.

### Outreach:

The following outreach events were hosted or co-hosted by the LGBTQ Commission:

- **Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony:** the Commission, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor and RAIN, hosted the raising of the LGBTQ flag on the Capitol Campus on Tuesday, July 22. This is the first year – and WA is the first state – to raise the intersex-inclusive progress flag. Speakers from all branches of Government were present.
- **LGBTQ Youth Roundtable:** a group of LGBTQ youth from throughout the state, and some of their parents and guardians, met with Governor Inslee to discuss their challenges, fears, stories, needs, hopes, and ideas. The issues and ideas discussed at the roundtable helped the policy office brainstorm on policy actions for the next budget and legislative session cycle.

Community and official events attended and relationship with grassroots groups:

- **Say It Out Loud:** I was the moderators for the closing panel for the SIOI Conference.
- **University of Puget Sound – Experiential Learning Programs:** Tracey and I attended the reception for the UPS Experiential Learning Program, which brought together student interns and community partner agencies who provide internship opportunities to students.
- **Meeting with Valentino Vecchiotti:** staff, Commissioners, and RAIN members met with the creator of the intersex-inclusive progress flag to discuss the historic raising of this version of the rainbow flag on the Capitol Campus and for future collaborations.
- **Anti-Defamation League of Washington:** was the speaker at their monthly learning event regarding LGBTQ rights in the state.
- **Economic Alliance of Snohomish County:** participated of a panel to discuss LGBTQ entrepreneurship and economic opportunities for LGBTQ businesses.
- **SOMOS Seattle:** participated representing the Governor at the SOMOS Pride Celebration in June.
- **Tacoma Pride Festival:** represented the Commission and the Governor at the Tacoma Pride awards reception in early July.
- **Constituents:** met with two families of students in schools in WA who have been victims of bullying and aggression due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The families were put in contact with the appropriate legal and service agencies.

## 2. ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATION

### *Government Agencies*

The Commission has the mandate to engage government agencies and offer support and feedback on issues related to LGBTQ inclusion. Currently, I have met or being involved in work with the following agencies to discuss matters related to LGBTQ inclusion:

- **Department of Enterprise Services:** met with Director Tara Smith to discuss continued collaboration. Met with building planning team to discuss compliance with accessibility to facilities for trans and gender expansive folk when remodeling or building new buildings.
- **Office of Financial Management State Human Resources:** was part of the interview panel for new state's Chief Human Resources Officer.
- **Communications Office for the Office of the Governor:** met with the team to plan for communications strategies for Pride Month.
- **Latino Leadership Network:** participated of special Pride Month panel coordinated by LLN and RAIN.
- **Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation:** met with director Allyson Brooks and her team to discuss a collaborative project to identify historically significant locations for the LGBTQ community in Seattle and King County.
- **Office of Equity:** currently in ongoing conversations regarding collaboration and implementation of the statewide equity plan. The Commission, along with other partners, has been engaged in every aspect of the work: from identifying areas of growth to participating of interviewing panels for new staff.
- **America250 Washington State Committee:** communicated the election of Commissioner Figueroa to represent the Commission in this committee.
- **Office of the Corrections Ombuds:** met with newly appointed director to discuss two cases of trans inmates in state prisons.
- **Department of Licensing:** have continued meeting and engaging in conversations with the Director of the DOL to discuss issues of equity and inclusion for LGBTQ employees and clients.
- **Office of the Education Ombuds:** worked with the office to provide support to LGBTQ students facing discrimination.
- **Washington Resiliency Group:** regularly participate of meetings of the WA Resiliency Group, currently addressing system-wide challenges to accessing services and support by underserved communities. A preliminary plan to update systems and processes is currently being developed.
- **Legislative Poverty Reduction Workgroup:** continue participating of meetings with this group to discuss ideas to address poverty in

- Washington and generate ideas on how to reduce poverty and support vulnerable communities.
- **Universal Basic Income Workgroup:** continue participating of the UBI workgroup which has the mandate to generate ideas to implement a UNI pilot program for the state.
  - **Health and Human Services Sex and Gender Coalition:** an interagency workgroup to address the need to update forms, applications, and systems to best record and get information on people's gender identity in way that would both provide them options to self-identify and get services that only recognize the gender binary. I participate of meeting with the Coalition every other week.
  - **Office of Financial Management:** OFM hosts monthly meetings with the executive sponsors for the state's business resource groups and I have attended all meetings this year. I also met with staff from OFM to discuss budget provisos and requests.
  - **Minority Commissions – Commission on African American Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs, and Women's Commission:** participated of regular calls with colleagues to support cross-agency work. Additionally, I have met with the leads of these agencies regularly to ask for feedback, offer support, or work on specific projects.
  - **Rainbow Alliance and Inclusion Network (RAIN):** as their Executive Sponsor, I meet with the leadership team monthly for three hours to go over plans, offer support, listen to concerns, help develop programs, and serve as an advocate for the group with the Governor's Office and OFM.
  - **Office of Boards and Commissions:** Tracey and I recently met with the team at the Office of Boards and Commissions to go over candidates for the next class of Commissioners to be appointed. Tracey and I also met briefly with candidates for Commissioners before making recommendations.
  - **Governor's Policy Office:** recently met with representatives from the policy office to strategize on policy ideas to support LGBTQ youth throughout the state.

### *Community Organizations*

- **WA Association of School Librarians:** met with representatives of the association, the ACLU, and the Office of the Education Ombuds, to discuss strategies to prevent the illegal removal of LGBTQ books and materials from school libraries. Currently collaborating on drafting policies for the association.
- **Village Plan WA:** met with representatives of the agency to discuss LGBTQ competency in service delivery and how to best support the aging LGBTQ community in the state.

*Other – Policy and Budget*

OFM requested to have preliminary budget requests submitted in early July. The Commission submitted three preliminary requests as follows:

1. *LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council:* requesting \$250,000 to, in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, create a statewide youth advisory council to work on policy ideas to keep LGBTQ youth protected in schools.
2. *Washington LGBTQ Community Survey:* requesting \$500,000 to contract with a state research institution to develop and conduct a statewide comprehensive survey that will help identify the needs of the LGBTQ community in the state as well as have a clearer picture of the demographics of the community in Washington.
3. *Lived Experience Stipends:* requesting an increase of \$20,000 to the general operating budget of the Commission to comply with SB5793 to provide appropriate compensation to people serving on boards and commissions sharing their lived experience.

**3. COMMISSION EVENTS CALENDAR**

*Public meetings:*

- Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm (officers elections during this meeting)