



AMPLIFYING LGBTQ+ VOICES SINCE 1978

QVEGAS

APRIL 30-MAY 6, 2025

10

**STILL SWINGING:
LAS VEGAS' FAVORITE JUNK
JUGGLERS HIT THE 10-YEAR MARK**

Temptation
SUNDAYS

15th ANNIVERSARY

**15 YEARS OF PARTYING
LOUD AND PROUD.**

**VEGAS' LARGEST
LGBTQ+ POOL PARTY
EVERY SUNDAY**



LUXOR®



BOOK NOW

GIPSY

**BEST[®] of
LAS VEGAS**

SILVER WINNER
LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL
BEST OF LAS VEGAS.COM 2024

FRI MAY 2

FRIDAY NIGHT FIERCE

PERFORMANCE AT 11:30 PM | M&G AT 12:30 AM



SOUNDS BY
J DIESEL

ARRIETTY

SAT MAY 3

ULTRA BRUNCH

DOORS OPEN AT 12 PM | SHOWTIME AT 1 PM | M&G AFTER THE SHOW

**FRI MAY 2
& SAT MAY 3**



DEREK DANIELS

+ ATMOSFIERCE MODELS

SAT MAY 3

BODY HEAT

PERFORMANCE AT 11:30 PM | M&G AT 12:30 AM | DJ SET AT 12 AM

DANNY VERDE



MORPHINE LOVE DION



SUN MAY 4

SHOWKIDS SUNDAYS

DOORS AT 9 PM | KARAOKE 9:15 - 10:45 PM
LIVE MUSIC WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS 10:45 PM - 1AM



**SUNSHINE,
CIERRA & ESTÉVAN**

KARAOKE | LIVE MUSIC | SERVICE INDUSTRY

SUSHI BAR | SHOWROOM
ULTRA LOUNGE | NIGHTCLUB
FRIDAYS | SATURDAYS | SUNDAYS

**BOTTLE SERVICE & TICKETS
AT GIPSYLASVEGAS.COM**



Whether you're a local or tourist, we always feature our favorite spots along with all the new and exciting things our city has to offer.

'Puppetry of the Penis' celebrates 10 outrageous years in Las Vegas with full-frontal laughs, creative "genital origami," and a devoted fanbase. Performers Jamie Morris and Andrew Ryan reflect on mishaps, milestones, and the show's evolution into a fearless, funny, and uniquely Vegas experience that continues to shock, charm, and impress.

The Las Vegas Philharmonic integrates diversity, equity, and inclusion into every facet of its work—on stage, in education, and behind the scenes—reflecting and serving the rich diversity of its community.

The Trump Administration continues to roll back funding and policies supporting the arts, HIV programs, LGBTQ+ rights, and DEI initiatives, sparking national concern and legal challenges across sectors.



Russ White & Garrett Pattiani
Publishers, QVegas & QLife Media



Copyright © 2025, VGM LLC. QVegas and QLife are trademarks of VGM LLC and may be registered in certain jurisdictions. Promotional consideration in the form of payment, products, and services may be received from our advertisers.



View this week's horoscopes at qvegas.com/horoscopes-are-a-drag.

GEMINI

MAY 2025



Hey there, fabulous darlings! Gather 'round and let me spill the tea, because honey, Gemini is strutting into May 2025 like it's their own personal runway! The cosmos is serving you some serious charisma, uniqueness, nerve, and talent this month. Prepare for a whirlwind of social events that even the fiercest queens would envy. Remember to sashay with style and keep those twin energies balanced, henny. Embrace your duality and werk it to the max, sugar!



CAESARS
ENTERTAINMENT



LUXOR



MGM RESORTS
INTERNATIONAL



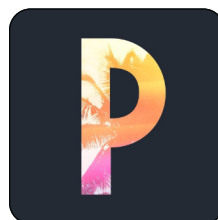
WYNN RESORTS



VIRGIN HOTELS
LAS VEGAS



THE VENETIAN RESORT
LAS VEGAS



PALMS
RESORT & CASINO

Hotels

These hotels have a current HRC Corporate Equality Index score of 100.

CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT
caesars.com

Caesars Palace
The Cromwell
Flamingo
Harrah's
Horseshoe (formerly Bally's)
The LINQ
Paris
Planet Hollywood

THE VENETIAN RESORT LAS VEGAS
venetianlasvegas.com

These hotels have actively demonstrated support for the LGBTQ+ community but do not have a current HRC CEI of 100

MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL
mgmresorts.com

Aria
Bellagio
The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas
Delano
Excalibur
Luxor
Mandalay Bay
MGM Grand
New York New York
Park MGM
Vdara

WYNN RESORTS
wynnlasvegas.com

Wynn Las Vegas & Encore Las Vegas

PALMS RESORT & CASINO
RESORTS WORLD LAS VEGAS

RIO LAS VEGAS

VIRGIN HOTELS LAS VEGAS

When you make a reservation from our website or app you help keep QVegas free. QVegas may earn a commission on your purchase.



Scan the QR Code
to join on May 1.

Preserving Paradise: Nevada Moves to Protect the Fruit Loop's LGBTQ+ Legacy

In a welcome step forward for visibility, affirmation, and statewide recognition of the LGBTQ+ community, Nevada's SCR2 resolution is moving swiftly through the state legislature. After passing the Senate by voice vote last week, the resolution is now scheduled for a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Government Affairs on Thursday, May 1, 2025. Advocates and community members across the state are being encouraged to show their support as the resolution makes its way toward becoming a formal declaration—just in time for Pride Month.

SCR2, a symbolic but meaningful resolution, acknowledges and affirms the contributions of LGBTQ+ Nevadans. Although it does not require the Governor's signature to take effect, its passage carries tremendous weight in recognizing the community's presence, progress, and importance throughout the Silver State. As the bill advances, organizers and allies hope its final approval can coincide with the start of June—a celebratory alignment that reinforces Pride Month's message of inclusion, unity, and visibility.

What the Resolution Means

While SCR2 is not a bill that changes law, it plays a key role in defining cultural and civic priorities. Resolutions like this one are vital in shaping how state institutions, educational systems, and public services consider and represent LGBTQ+ people. Symbolic acknowledgments pave the way for real-world policy advancements by building awareness, encouraging dialogue, and affirming a population that has historically faced marginalization.

By passing SCR2, the state of Nevada would officially affirm its commitment to ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals are seen, valued, and celebrated. This isn't just about rainbow flags—it's about civic dignity. It's about seeing LGBTQ+ Nevadans not as an afterthought, but as integral threads in the state's diverse and vibrant fabric.

Strategic Timing for a Symbolic Win

There's growing excitement about the timeline. If SCR2 clears its remaining legislative hurdles without modification, it will become effective the same day it passes in the Assembly—potentially aligning perfectly with the kickoff of Pride Month on June 1. State Senator Fabian Doñate, the sponsor of the resolution, has signaled his intent to align final passage with the start of Pride, giving the resolution additional visibility and celebratory impact.

The symbolic resonance of timing LGBTQ+ recognition with Pride Month isn't lost on anyone familiar with the power of public acknowledgment. From a legislative standpoint, this coordination also provides an opportunity to reinforce Nevada's progressive leadership on inclusion and civil rights—something many local advocates hope will echo far beyond Carson City.

Community Participation Encouraged

Call-in information and the agenda can be accessed via the official legislative portal. Participation is simple, and voices from the community—whether testifying in person or simply registering support—can make a meaningful impact. The presence of community members reminds legislators that this resolution matters and that

Here's how you can get involved:

The Assembly hearing for SCR2 is scheduled for Thursday, May 1 at 8:00 AM PST. Nevadans who want to support the resolution can participate either in person or virtually. The hearing will be held in Room 4100 at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street in Carson City, and videoconferenced to Room 1 of the Nevada Legislature Hearing Rooms, 7120 Amigo Street in Las Vegas.

Help spread the word across social media using downloadable graphics and updates that will be shared ahead of the hearing.

Talk to your networks—invite friends, coworkers, and allies to support the resolution.

And if you're a local business owner or organization operating in the Fruit Loop, your voice carries extra weight. Consider testifying or making a public statement. The more support the resolution receives, the better chance it has to pass.

LGBTQ+ Nevadans are watching, engaged, and ready to celebrate a win together.

A Celebration on the Horizon

If all goes as planned, SCR2 will be officially recognized at the start of June, and celebrations are already being quietly planned. Senator Doñate has indicated that a local celebration in Las Vegas will follow the bill's passage, bringing together leaders, advocates, and community members for a moment of recognition and joy.

More details about the event will be shared as the resolution progresses, but the sentiment is clear: Nevada is ready to celebrate Pride with intention and heart.

The Bigger Picture

While SCR2 is not a cure-all, it is a vital building block. Recognition fuels resilience, and every official gesture of support helps fortify the lived experience of LGBTQ+ Nevadans. From youth seeing themselves reflected in state documents, to elders who've spent decades fighting for equality, resolutions like SCR2 tell the community: you are valued here.

As June approaches and rainbow flags begin to wave across the state, SCR2 reminds us that pride isn't just a party—it's a promise. A promise that Nevada's LGBTQ+ residents are part of the state's story, and that their future is one of visibility, inclusion, and joy.

For updates, community statements, and post-passage coverage, keep an eye on QVegas Magazine—your guide to LGBTQ+ life in Nevada.



AMENITIES

NEAR THE STRIP

PET PLAY AREA

LAUNDRY FACILITY

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

POOL & FITNESS ROOM

NOW LEASING! SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!

Immediate move-ins available for
newly renovated Two Bedroom Apartments.
ALL YOUR UTILITIES ARE INCLUDED!

CALL US TODAY AT 702.463.0667

🌐 WWW.COURTYARD525.COM 📍 525 E. ST. LOUIS AVENUE LAS VEGAS, NV 89104

FEATURES

GATED COMMUNITY

HARDWOOD FLOORS

GRANITE COUNTERTOPS

STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES

PATIOS ACCESS BOTH ROOMS

ONE MONTH FREE RENT! & RECEIVE A MOVE-IN GIFT

THIS IS A OAC LIMITED TIME OFFER VALID FOR COURTYARD 525 & STUDIO 629 APARTMENTS WHEN YOU SHOW THIS AD TO LEASING TEAM



STUDIO 629
APARTMENTS



OPEN HOUSE

LIVE BROADCAST WITH 98.5FM KLUC | FOOD | GIVEAWAYS | ENTERTAINMENT | LIVE DJ

AMENITIES

SPARKLING POOL

COVERED PARKING

LAUNDRY FACILITY

GATED COMMUNITY

NEAR LV PREMIUM OUTLETS



FEATURES

PRIME LOCATION

PROPERTY UPGRADES

WINDOW COVERINGS

ALL ELECTRIC KITCHEN

LARGE SIZED STUDIOS

SATURDAY MAY 3RD 10AM-1PM

We invite you to visit and tour our Studio 629 apartments.
Nestled in a prime location minutes away from the Downtown Arts District.

IMMEDIATE MOVE-INS AVAILABLE LEASE SAME DAY & RECEIVE A MOVE-IN GIFT

📍 629 MAIN STREET LAS VEGAS, NV 89101 ☎ 702.476.8931 🌐 WWW.STUDIO629.COM

A close-up photograph of two men kissing. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a white shirt. The man on the right is shirtless. They are both looking down and smiling.

ZERO SHAME IN MY GAME

Find out more about PrEP.



the center

Sexual healthcare for every **body.**

(702) 733-9800



the
pride
 collection



Order Online at
oriznapparel.com

At Orizn, we are more than just a brand. We are visionaries, unconventional thinkers, and trailblazers. Our mission is to defy norms and inspire change in the fashion industry by crafting fabrics and garments that cater to every unique shape and size.



PARCS

DENTISTRY

MAKE YOUR NEXT DENTAL VISIT A WALK IN THE PARCS

SERVICES

General Dentistry

Crowns

Dentures

Veneers

Implants

Emergency

Invisalign

Botox & Fillers



725.250.2840



parcsdentistry.com



**2840 E. Flamingo Rd. Suite G.
Las Vegas, NV 89121**



Still Hanging Strong: Puppetry of the Penis Turns 10 in Vegas

In a city famed for reinvention and spectacle, hitting a decade-long milestone is no small feat. Yet somehow, against all odds — and with nothing but a little humor, a lot of nerve, and, well, no pants — Puppetry of the Penis has achieved what many Las Vegas shows only dream about.

The outrageous celebration of what its stars affectionately call "genital origami" has spent the last ten years bending, twisting, and reshaping expectations in a town that thought it had already seen everything.

The show opens with a stand up comedy set by comedian Kristeen von Hagen. Hagen's comedy has been seen all over the World with notable performances at Montreals Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, sets on Comedy Central, Showtime and more! She's is affectionately known as the "fluffer" as she gets the audience prepped for the big reveals to come.

At the heart of the madness are Jamie Morris and Andrew Ryan, two seasoned performers who have made an art form out of one of the most vulnerable — and hilarious — stage acts imaginable.

"It goes by so fast," said Morris, who has been with Puppetry of the Penis for eight years. "Shows come and go in this city all the time. For us to still be standing, literally

naked on a stage after a decade, it's crazy. And it's still so much fun every night."

Ryan, who joined the cast two years ago, echoes that sentiment. "Being part of a show that's lasted this long says a lot," he said. "Vegas is the ultimate proving ground. If you can make it here — especially naked — you can make it anywhere."

The Ancient Australian Art of Genital Origami

For the uninitiated, Puppetry of the Penis is exactly what the name suggests — but it's also so much more.

"There are no puppets," Morris explains with a grin. "We stand naked onstage and make balloon animals out of our genitalia. It's officially called the **Ancient Australian Art of Genital Origami** — but really, it's just silly, hilarious fun. It's an hour of total escapism, full frontal male nudity, and a lot of very creative folding."

The tricks — affectionately dubbed "Dick Tricks" by the performers — range from the signature Hamburger to elaborate creations like the Loch Ness Monster.

"The Hamburger was probably the first trick I ever mastered," said Morris. "Honestly, guys have been trying to make that shape since they were six years old. It's our most famous trick. If you can do the Hamburger, you can do pretty much anything else."

Ryan's early triumphs came in a different

form — namely, falling off the stage. "The Broken Thumb was the first thing I really got comfortable with," he said, laughing. "It's a physical comedy bit where I pretend to hurt myself, and people genuinely think it's real every night. Nothing beats a good pratfall."

Mishaps, Sloppy Joes, and Live Chaos

Performing live, naked, and unscripted naturally invites a few mishaps. Yet Morris and Ryan embrace the unpredictability with humor and professionalism.

"Sometimes your hands are sweaty, and you just fall out of a trick," Morris said. "You make a joke, like, 'Oh, that was a Sloppy Joe!' and you start again. It's part of the fun."

Other accidents have been less graceful. One evening, Morris caught his foot on the camera tripod — the essential equipment that projects the "tricks" onto a large screen behind them for easier viewing — and sent the whole setup tumbling into the audience pit.

"The screen went black," he recalled. "We had to finish the show without the camera. Opera glasses, anyone?"

Recently, an understudy repeated the incident — only this time, the camera broke completely, prompting an expensive replacement.

"Without the camera, it's a different show," Ryan added. "The theater is so narrow, you



really need that projection. Otherwise, you're just trusting people's squinting skills."

Still, part of the show's charm is the ability to roll with the punches — or in this case, the occasional toppling tripod.

The Unexpected Sweetness of a Naked Show

For all its outrageousness, Puppetry of the Penis is often surprisingly sweet. Audience reactions range from shocked giggles to heartfelt compliments. Morris fondly remembers a moment when a woman in the front row called out mid-show, telling him he had "very beautiful eyes."

"Barbara, I think you're missing the point," he joked onstage. "My eyes are down here."

While most attendees are ready for a wild time, every now and then someone isn't quite prepared for the full-frontal experience.

"We had a grandmother and granddaughter once," Morris said. "The granddaughter left halfway through. The grandmother? She stayed and had the best time of her life."

Who Comes to the Show? (Spoiler: It's Not Who You Think)

Over the years, the audience demographics have remained remarkably consistent — and not always what people expect.

"It's mostly women," Morris said. "Bachelorette parties, girls' trips. Some bring their husbands or boyfriends. A smattering of gay guys, too, but it's not a 'gay show' per se."

Straight men, often reluctantly dragged along, are among the most satisfying converts.

"They come in all grumpy, arms crossed," Ryan said. "By the end, they're laughing harder than anyone. It's amazing to watch them let go of whatever hangups they walked in with."

Social media has helped bring a new wave of audiences, too.

"We don't do much advertising," Ryan



explained. "But we'll get these surges when someone mentions us on a podcast, like Trailer Trash Tammy or another big influencer. Suddenly everyone's buying tickets for weeks."

Despite being underground compared to some Vegas productions, the show thrives on word-of-mouth, loyal repeat customers, and those looking to tick off a particularly cheeky item from their bucket list.

"Some people have seen the show four or five times," Morris said. "Each time they bring someone new. I'm like, 'Did you bring your punch card? Wait 'til you see what we punch it with.'"

Creativity, Freedom, and Clean Workspaces

While the show follows a loose structure, Morris and Ryan are encouraged to innovate, creating new "tricks" to keep things fresh.

"There's an official book from the original guys. Simon Morley and David Friend," Morris explained. "It's step-by-step, with pictures. But we're absolutely encouraged to create new stuff."

Ryan, ever the inventor, recently debuted the Wienermobile and the Dolly Parton.

"I felt like Carrot Top raiding the dollar store for props," he laughed. "I broke wheels off a toy truck, glued them to a spatula... it's silly, but it keeps the show evolving."

Grooming standards, however, are non-negotiable.

"Trim and shave — absolutely," Morris said firmly. "We need a clean workspace. You don't want your Hamburger to look like it fell on the floor of a Supercuts."

Ryan added that early mistakes were memorable — like an understudy who hadn't trimmed, leading to a "hairy burger" that drew more gasps than laughs. "Audience reactions said it all," he said. "Lesson learned."

Vulnerability as Power

Both performers agree that Puppetry of the Penis has made them braver artists.



"After this, nothing scares me," Ryan said. "Singing in front of strangers? Doing live comedy? Once you've been naked in front of a roomful of people trying to make them laugh, there's nothing left to fear."

Morris, who's performed one-man shows like *The Santaland Diaries*, says even that was scarier.

"You're totally alone up there for 75 minutes. At least with Puppetry, we volley back and forth. We're co-hosts. We have each other's backs."

Their chemistry is undeniable. Off-the-cuff jokes, improv moments, and the occasional unexpected one-liner often make it into the regular script.

"If I hear Jamie crack up during a bit, I know it's gold," Ryan said. "We keep it. It's like playing tennis — we just volley jokes back and forth."

The Future: Growth, Girth, and Gratitude

As the show marks ten years, Morris and Ryan are mindful of its unique place in Vegas entertainment — and hopeful for its future.

"Vegas is about seeing things you can't see anywhere else," Morris said. "And trust me — you can't see this anywhere else."

Ryan agreed. "We live in a city that's all about longevity. Ten years is a big deal. Especially for a show that's literally built on... well, length."

Their humor, vulnerability, and sheer joy in what they do are part of why audiences keep coming back — and why Puppetry of the Penis remains a singular jewel in Las Vegas' glittering crown.

"If you haven't seen it yet," Morris said with a grin, "get your butt to the Erotic Heritage Museum. You'll leave smiling... and maybe even inspired to try a Hamburger or two yourself."

Catch Puppetry of the Penis at the Erotic Heritage Museum, Las Vegas. Shows nightly. For tickets and info, visit puppetryofthepen.com.



See The World With Your **LGBTQ+** Family!

It's True! We Are **NOT** A Circuit Party Cruise!

GREEK ISLES CRUISE

August 31 thru September 7, 2025

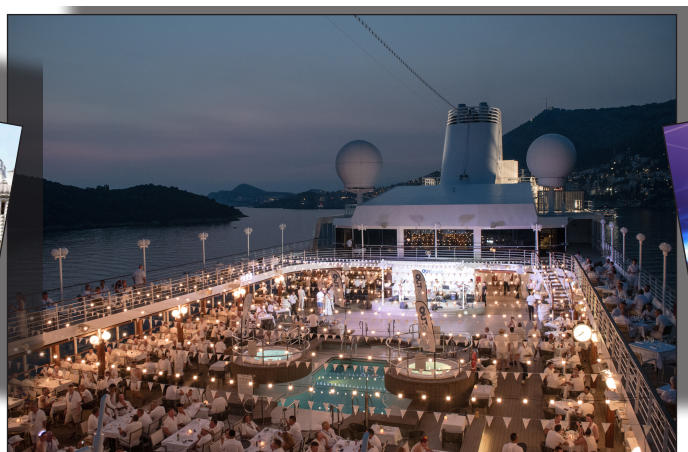


Use Promo Code
QVEGAS
To Receive 10% Off
Your Reservation



“an approachable experience on board where everyone feels like they’re part of the family”

**TRAVEL+
LEISURE**



916.683.1000 • iamOUTbound.com • info@iamOUTbound.com

BEST[®] of LAS VEGAS

GOLD WINNER

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL
BESTOFLASVEGAS.COM

2024

Jimmy Kimmel's
COMEDY CLUB

LAS VEGAS, NEV.

RESIDENCY AT THE CLUB EVERY SUNDAY & MONDAY!

LUFNELL

Jimmy Kimmel's
COMEDY CLUB
LAS VEGAS, NEV.

JIMMYKIMMELSCOMEDYCLUB.COM

OUR WAY



OUR VEGAS

THE "SIT IN"
with
Kelly Clinton

A weekly variety show
featuring Kelly Clinton and
very special guests.
Most Thursdays 7:00pm

Every Other Tuesday

Keith Thompsons
PIANO PARTY

Special Guests Every Show!

SETH ROBICHAUX
PRESENTS
'TIL SETH DO US PART!
AVEGAS VARIETY
EXPERIENCE
MUSIC | COMEDY | IMPRESSIONS

THE COMPOSERS ROOM
LAS VEGAS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
WES MEADOWS
WITH
JAKE GRABNER • AARON RAMSEY

MAY 3RD

**THE BOYBAND
REMIX**
BRUNCH

**THE
REDHEAD
REVUE**

Sarah Hester Ross & Lucy Darling

...**THE B-LISTERS**...

WE'RE LIKE, SORTA FAMOUS...

The Hang

STEPHANIE CALVERT

CHRIS MARION

Every Other Monday | TIME 06:00 - 9:00 PM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR EVEN MORE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT THECOMPOSERSROOM.COM



LAS VEGAS
PHILHARMONIC

ARTISTIC CONSULTANT **LEONARD SLATKIN**

BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH

REI HOTODA,
CONDUCTOR
& PIANO

SATURDAY, MAY 10th
7:30PM



PROGRAM INCLUDES:

ANNA CLYNE
Sound and Fury

JENNIFER HIGDON
"Breeze Serenade"
from *Dance Card*

JESSIE MONTGOMERY
Rounds



ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

Tickets as low as \$29 each • 702.749.2000 • LVPhil.org

MUSIC • CULTURE • EDUCATION – LVPhil.org

Love
PHIL



For more shows
and our complete
online directory,
visit QVegas.com
or download the
QVegas App

BOX OFFICE



RUPAUL'S
DRAG RACE LIVE



DRAG BRUNCH



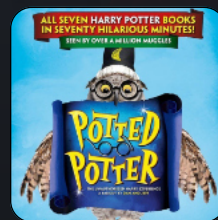
FRANK MARINO



AUSSIE HEAT



MAGIC MIKE LIVE



POTTED POTTER



MISS BEHAVE'S
MAVERICKS



MAD APPLE



AWAKENING



DONNY OSMOND



TERRY FATOR



U2 - UV



ATOMIC SALOON SHOW



ILUMINATE



CARROT TOP



DITA VON TEESE



ZOMBIE BURLESQUE



CHASE BROWN



JIMMY KIMMEL'S
COMEDY CLUB



DIVA ROYALE



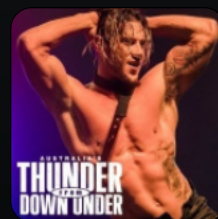
WOW - THE VEGAS
SPECTACULAR



ROUGE



CHIPPENDALES



THUNDER FROM DOWN
UNDER



RAIDING THE ROCK
VAULT



PENN & TELLER



DISCO SHOW



VEGAS! THE SHOW



THE SPHERE
EXPERIENCE



LADY LIKE

When you purchase tickets from our website or app you help keep QVegas free. QVegas may earn a commission on your purchase.



Alice Sauro

Executive Director, Las Vegas Philharmonic

In a city known for its dazzling performances and ever-evolving culture, the Las Vegas Philharmonic has found its own rhythm—one that weaves diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) naturally into the fabric of its work.

At the center of this commitment is Executive Director Alice Sauro, who joined the Philharmonic just over three years ago and sees this integration as a vital part of the organization's future.

"We're still a young orchestra—just 26 years old," Sauro says. "Compared to the LA Phil or New York Philharmonic, we're just teenagers. That youth gives us an opportunity to be intentional about how we grow, and ensuring DEI is embedded in that growth is essential."

A Young Orchestra Reflecting a Young City

Founded in 1998, the Las Vegas Philharmonic mirrors the city it calls home—dynamic, relatively young, and still expanding its cultural footprint. Its venue, the Smith Center for the Performing Arts, just marked its 12th anniversary, adding to the organization's sense of shared evolution with the community.

"Las Vegas is still building its cultural identity," Sauro explains. "That means the Philharmonic can evolve right alongside the city, making sure that diversity and accessibility are not afterthoughts, but essential elements of who we are."

Rather than framing DEI as a separate initiative, the Philharmonic treats it as a natural, integrated part of its identity, from programming choices to educational outreach.

Diversity You Can See—and Hear

Audiences who attend a Philharmonic performance today will find a visible diversity among its musicians and guest performers—something Sauro says is critical for creating a sense of belonging among patrons.

"When audiences see themselves reflected on stage, it helps make the experience feel personal," Sauro notes. "We

BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH

REI HOTODA,
CONDUCTOR
& PIANO

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025 – 7:30PM



want everyone to feel that this orchestra belongs to them."

This season alone has showcased a wide variety of guest artists: singer Storm Large, transgender pianist Sara Davis Buechner, Israeli-Polish conductor Yaniv Segal, and upcoming Japanese-American conductor Rei Hotoda.

Guest selection is a collaborative process, involving Sauro, Artistic Consultant Leonard Slatkin, and the Philharmonic's artistic advisory committee, ensuring that every season offers a range of perspectives and backgrounds.

"It's not about checking boxes," Sauro emphasizes. "It's about offering a tapestry of voices and experiences that enrich our music and our community."

Investing in Young Talent

Building a more inclusive future requires starting early. The Philharmonic prioritizes youth engagement, hosting thousands of students each year for special concerts at the Smith Center—many from Title I schools.

"Last fall, we had about 6,000 kids attend," Sauro says. "It's often their first experience with live orchestral music, and we want it to be welcoming and inspiring."

In addition, the Philharmonic's partnership with UNLV brings students into the administrative side of the arts world through internships. These students, many from underrepresented backgrounds, learn about artist contracts, donor engagement, collective bargaining, and the day-to-day operations of a major arts organization.

"Over the last five years, our interns have included people from Asian American, Hispanic, South American, Pacific Islander, and Albanian backgrounds," Sauro shares. "Developing future leaders who reflect the diversity of our community is just as important as diversifying our stage."

Strengthening Connections Nationally

The Philharmonic also looks beyond Las Vegas for inspiration and partnerships. Sauro draws from her past experience in Detroit, where she worked closely with the Sphinx Organization—a national group focused on promoting Black and Latinx musicians in classical music.

"We're exploring ways to bring Sphinx artists here," she says, "or even create a

shared training program where emerging musicians could work with several orchestras across the Southwest."

Programs like Sphinx offer critical support to young artists navigating auditions and early career development. By forming these connections, the Philharmonic hopes to contribute to a larger, national effort to make classical music careers more accessible.

"This is long-term work," Sauro acknowledges. "But integrating it into our planning now ensures that the Philharmonic's growth will be truly inclusive."

A Community Effort

Local partnerships are another important way the Philharmonic integrates DEI into its mission. For an upcoming concert in May, the organization has partnered with Broadway in the Hood to feature a young Hispanic high school student performing a Shakespearean recitation alongside the orchestra.

"We're proud to provide these kinds of opportunities," Sauro says. "It's about creating an environment where young people from every background feel they can be part of the arts community."

Welcoming New Generations

The Philharmonic is also undergoing generational change within its own ranks. After several retirements following the COVID-19 pandemic, five new musicians have joined the orchestra, including one just 20 years old.

"This mixture of seasoned musicians and fresh talent is exciting," Sauro notes. "It helps keep our performances vibrant and relatable."

Young aspiring musicians are encouraged to get involved early—through discounted student tickets, special rehearsal visits, or taking lessons from Philharmonic musicians who teach in local schools.

"When the time comes," Sauro says, "we welcome auditions from young talent. The door is open."

Funding an Inclusive Future

While federal funding has not been a major part of the Philharmonic's budget thus far, Sauro sees room for growth.

"We haven't historically received large



federal grants," she explains, "partly because applying for programs like those offered by the NEA requires significant staff time and multi-year planning. But it's a direction we want to pursue as we grow."

Currently, most of the Philharmonic's funding comes from individual donors and foundation grants, with corporate support lagging somewhat behind.

"There's a real opportunity for local businesses to invest more in the arts," Sauro says. "Arts and culture are critical to a thriving community—and to Las Vegas's identity as a creative destination."

She also emphasizes the need for broader advocacy efforts: "We all need to talk to our elected officials about the importance of arts funding at every level—local, state, and federal."

A Natural Part of the Journey

For the Las Vegas Philharmonic, DEI is not a separate project or a one-time initiative—it's a mindset that is integrated into every aspect of its operation.

"We are still learning and growing," Sauro says. "But we're committed to making sure that as we evolve, we do so in a way that truly reflects and serves our entire community."

With a growing season of concerts, deeper partnerships with educational and community groups, and an eye toward cultivating the next generation of artists and administrators, the Philharmonic is positioning itself not just as a home for world-class music—but as a welcoming, inclusive institution for all of Las Vegas.

As Sauro puts it, "We are Las Vegas' Philharmonic. Our diversity, our youth, and our spirit of community are what make us strong."

Trump Cuts Devastate Arts, HIV Programs, and LGBTQ+ Protections

Since President Donald Trump's return to office in January 2025, his administration has enacted sweeping policy and funding rollbacks that have significantly impacted the arts, HIV/AIDS programs, and the LGBTQ+ community. These actions, often framed as efforts to dismantle "woke" ideologies, have led to widespread concern among advocates and affected communities.

Defunding the Arts and Cultural Institutions

The Trump administration has aggressively targeted federal arts funding. The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) imposed new restrictions, barring grants for projects that promote diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), or "gender ideology." This policy shift prompted over 400 artists to petition the NEA to reverse these changes, arguing that such restrictions undermine the agency's mission to support diverse artistic expression.

Additionally, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) faced severe cuts, with most of its staff placed on administrative leave following an executive order aimed at reducing federal bureaucracy. This move disrupted funding for numerous libraries and museums, particularly those serving rural and underserved communities.

HIV/AIDS Programs Face Severe Reductions

HIV/AIDS initiatives have experienced substantial funding cuts under the Trump administration. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposed eliminating key programs, including the Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic Initiative and the Minority AIDS Initiative. Moreover, over 200 federal grants for HIV and AIDS research were abruptly terminated, raising concerns about the long-term impact on public health and scientific progress.

Internationally, the administration ended funding for the United Nations' UNAIDS program and significantly reduced support for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Experts warn that these cuts could lead to tens of thousands of excess HIV-related deaths globally by 2030.

Rolling Back LGBTQ+ Rights

The Trump administration has enacted policies that roll back protections for LGBTQ+ individuals. Executive orders have rescinded previous measures promoting LGBTQ+ rights, and the administration now recognizes only two unchangeable sexes, male and female. This stance has led to the elimination of

federal recognition for non-binary and transgender identities.

In the healthcare sector, HHS proposed cutting funding for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline's LGBTQ+ Youth Specialized Services, a program that has provided critical support to over 1.2 million individuals since 2022. Advocates argue that eliminating this service could endanger the lives of LGBTQ+ youth, who already face higher risks of mental health issues.

Dismantling DEI Initiatives

The administration has taken significant steps to dismantle DEI programs across federal agencies and educational institutions. Executive Order 14151 led to the shutdown of all DEI offices within the federal government, and employees associated with these programs were placed on administrative leave or terminated.

In education, the Department of Education issued directives requiring schools and universities to eliminate DEI initiatives or risk losing federal funding. This policy has faced legal challenges; notably, a federal judge blocked the administration's order to defund K-12 schools with DEI programs, citing concerns over free speech and overreach of authority.

Recent Developments in DEI Policy

In the past two weeks, the administration's actions against DEI have intensified. The Department of Education sent letters to state education chiefs, giving them ten days to certify that their schools do not use DEI programs, under threat of losing federal funding. This move has caused confusion and concern among educators and administrators nationwide.

Furthermore, the administration has targeted cultural institutions, such as the Smithsonian Institution, warning them to remove information about transgender individuals from exhibits or face funding cuts. These actions reflect a broader strategy to eliminate DEI-related content from publicly funded entities.

Conclusion

The Trump administration's policy and funding rollbacks since 2025 have significantly affected the arts, HIV/AIDS programs, and the LGBTQ+ community. By dismantling DEI initiatives and cutting critical funding, these actions have sparked widespread concern among advocates and affected populations. Legal challenges and public outcry continue as communities grapple with the implications of these sweeping changes.

Do you know what **DoxyPep** is?

DoxyPep is an antibiotic that helps prevent STIs after exposure. You can get it at the Arlene Cooper Community Health Center inside The Center!

Walk in or schedule an appointment today.

**[thecenterlv.org/
health-center](http://thecenterlv.org/health-center)**

401 S Maryland Pkwy
702-802-5432



 **THE ARLENE COOPER**
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

 **the center**
Serving the LGBTQ Community of Nevada



LGBTQ+ Resources

THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
thecenterlv.org

ACLU
aclunv.org

ADL
lasvegas.adl.org

ALCOHOLICS TOGETHER
alcoholicstogetherlasvegas.com

BEARS LAS VEGAS
bears.lv.org

COMMUNITY COUNSELING CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA
cccfn.org

HENDERSON PRIDE
hendersonpride.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN
hrc.org

IMPERIAL ROYALE SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE DESERT EMPIRE
irscdei.org

LAMBDA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
lambdalv.com

LAS VEGAS MEN'S CHORUS
lvmenschorus.org

LAS VEGAS PRIME TIMERS
lasvegasprimetimers.com

LEATHER UNIFORM CLUB OF LAS VEGAS (LUC OF LV)
lucolvlv.com

LEGACY COUNSELING
legacycounselingandworkforceconnections.com

MAMA DRAGONS
mamadragns.org

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION
ngra.com

THE PRIDE TREE
thepridetreevlv.com

SILVER STATE EQUALITY
silverstateequality.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER QUEER SOCIETY
snapiqs.org

YOUNG: EQUAL
youngequal.org

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LAMBDA MIXER

a social gathering where people can make new acquaintances

Kaftans & Cocktails!

MAY 15, 2025 6 to 8 pm
Special Entertainment Games & Prizes
@ **The Bent Las Vegas**
1108 E Ogden Ave LV, NV

HOSTED BY AUNTIE NORMA

bent
INN + LOUNGE + BAR

RSVP REQUIRED
lambdalv.com/events



Rodeo Idol

\$1000 PRIZE MONEY

QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS AT
FLEX | PHOENIX
QUADZ | DUST
APRIL 27 THRU MAY 19

FINALE: HORSEMAN'S PARK 7 PM
MAY 23 2025
WINNER RECEIVES AN OFFICIAL
2025 BIGHORN RODEO BUCKLE
AND THE HONOR SINGING THE US, CANADIAN, OR MEXICAN NATIONAL ANTHEM DURING RODEO GRAND ENTRY

FLEX
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
Phoenix
QUADZ
DUST
LAS VEGAS

Big Horn Rodeo
Lite 1800
TEQUILA

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

BigHornRodeo.com

BigHorn Rodeo

LAS VEGAS

MAY 23-25, 2025
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

TICKETS AVAILABLE!
TICKETS AVAILABLE!
TICKETS AVAILABLE!

MORE INFO AND TICKETS AT BIGHORNRODEO.COM

Email info@qvegas.com to add your organization to our directory.

HIV Resources

AID FOR AIDS OF NEVADA (AFAN)
afanlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

GOLDEN RAINBOW
goldenrainbow.org

HORIZON RIDGE WELLNESS CLINIC
hrcl.org

SIN SITY SISTERS OF PERPETUAL INDULGENCE
sinsitysisters.org

STI Testing

THE ARLENE COOPER COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
thecenterlv.org

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (AHF)
aidshealth.org

FARABI WELLNESS CENTER
hpvlv.com

HUNTRIDGE FAMILY CLINIC
huntridgefamilyclinic.org

SOUTHERN NEVADA HEALTH DISTRICT
southernnevadahealthdistrict.org

UMC
umcsn.com

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Every Wednesday of the month
9:30-11:30 AM
401 S. Maryland Pkwy

First come, first served while supplies last.

the center
serving the Las Vegas Community of Need

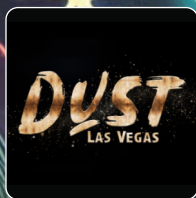
three square
together, we can feed everyone

FEEDING AMERICA



Q VEGAS BAR & NIGHTCLUB GUIDE

Download on the App Store



MONDAYS

SURRENDER MONDAYS

HOSTED BY LACHERRY WILD
\$100 CASH HOT BODY CONTEST • SHOWTIME @ 1 AM
MUSIC BY DJ V
\$7 TITOS COCKTAILS • \$6 DOMESTIC BEERS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

CINCO DE MAYO WEEKEND
SATURDAY MAY 03

Piranha NIGHTCLUB PRESENTS

MORPHINE LOVE DION

FROM RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 16

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

DOORS OPEN AT 10 PM

FRIDAYS

FETISH

SHOWTIMES
12:00 AM FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM

TUESDAYS

VAQUERO VAQUERO

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
SHOWTIME @ 1:30 AM FRONT ROOM
MUSIC BY DJ V / DJ VAGO
\$6 HOUSE MARGARITAS • \$10 DOMESTIC
\$25 IMPORT BEER BUCKETS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

FRIDAY MAY 02

ARRIETTY

FROM RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 17

SHOWTIME
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
MEET & GREET
12:30 AT GIPSY

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS

LATIN CALIENTE

HOSTED BY PALOMA MAKARY
MUSIC BY DJ V
SHOWTIME
2 AM IN THE DREAM LOUNGE
FREE BUCKET OF BEER W/ PURCHASE OF BUCHANAN'S BOTTLE

WEDNESDAYS

WET

HOSTED BY SAGE O'HARA ANDREWS
SHOWTIME @ 1:00 AM FRONT ROOM
MUSIC BY DJ VAGO
\$5 SPECIALTY COCKTAILS | 10 PM TO 3 AM

SATURDAY + SUNDAY
MAY 03+04

LUSH & LOCO

SHOWTIMES
SATURDAY
12:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM
SUNDAY
1:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM
2:00 AM IN THE LATIN STAGE

Piranha NIGHTCLUB **SUNDAY MAY 04**

LUSH & LOCO

SHOWTIMES
12:00 AM IN THE FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM IN THE MAIN ROOM
2:00 AM IN THE LATIN STAGE

REPLAY THURSDAYS

HOSTED BY ROMAN TAJOURE + ASIA KING AGOUR
SOUNDS BY DJ CHYLO + DJ V

SHOWTIME
12:30 AM FRONT ROOM
1:30 AM MAIN ROOM
\$5 WELL COCKTAILS BEFORE MIDNIGHT

SUNDAYS

SUNDAYS