WORLDPRIDE
SYDNEY 2023
CANDIDATE CITY

Fearless

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SGLMG WORLDPRIDE BID IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
A FEARLESS HOST! 
SYDNEY MARDI GRAS!

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (Sydney Mardi Gras) is proud to have submitted our bid to host WorldPride in 2023 - the first WorldPride in the southern hemisphere. WorldPride will be held in Sydney’s warm summer months of February and March, the northern hemisphere’s winter.

Sydney Mardi Gras has a long, proud history of human rights activism as well as celebration of our diverse communities. We are one of the oldest Prides in the world and the largest Pride Festival in the Asia Pacific region. In 2023, we’ll be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first Australian Gay Pride Week as well as the 45th Anniversary of the founding of Sydney Mardi Gras.

We began in 1978 where a small group of activists were violently attacked and arrested by Police. We fought back; and since then our annual Pride Festival has grown into a leading, international arts, cultural and human rights event; drawing LGBTQI communities and allies from around the world.

WELCOME TO SYDNEY 
WELCOME TO ASIA-PACIFIC

From the sandy, sun-kissed beaches of Bondi, to the gleaming sails of our iconic Opera House, to the eucalyptus-fragrant wilds of the Blue Mountains, and the iconic rainbow festooned Oxford Street, Sydney’s landscapes are as diverse as the people who live within it. Sydney is one of the most multi-cultural and LGBTQI-friendly cities in the world. To be a part of Sydney, if only for a week, is to experience not one, but many cultural identities.

The centrepiece of Sydney WorldPride 2023 will be our three-day LGBTIQ+ Human Rights and Health Conference, the first to include multiple representatives from Asia Pacific nations. Together we will lay the groundwork for:

- building community connections between Prides in global north and global south
- further the human rights movement with the creation of new relationships between Prides in the Asia Pacific and beyond
- provide a springboard for Asia Pacific Pride movements to be seen on a world stage unlike ever before.
A WORLDPRIDE UNLIKE ANY OTHER

For 20 years, WorldPride has gathered Prides from across the globe to meet in destinations across the northern hemisphere - Rome, Jerusalem, London, Toronto, Madrid, New York, and soon, Copenhagen.

The bid for Sydney WorldPride 2023 is unlike any other. It presents a unique challenge to the WorldPride movement, asking it to engage with and celebrate the many unique, culturally diverse expressions of genders and sexualities found in Oceania and Asia, on an unprecedented scale.

From the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sista Girls and Brotha Boys, to the Fa’afafine and Fa’afatama from Samoa, the Fakaleiti from Tonga, the Kathoey from Thailand, and the Hijra from India. WorldPride in Sydney will be a global first, providing a unique opportunity for the Prides of the world to meet with these diverse communities and for them to be seen, be heard and be included.

FEARLESS WORLDPRIDE 2023

The Sydney Mardi Gras Festival has always been fearless in its approach to confronting social justice issues facing our diverse communities by promoting political participation and expression through its arts and culture programming. Events like Koori Gras and Sissy Ball empower First Nations communities and provide safe spaces for self-expression, while our annual human rights forum, Queer Thinking, provides insight into the lives of some of our communities’ most marginalised individuals.

Finally, our iconic Sydney Mardi Gras Parade, viewed by over 300,000 spectators and millions more online, invites people from all walks of life to come together and share their messages of love and protest in a show of creativity and inclusion that is truly larger than life and uniquely Mardi Gras!

As host of WorldPride 2023, Sydney Mardi Gras will use its significant experience, reach, passion and connections to hold a WorldPride that will integrate seamlessly with the 45th Anniversary Mardi Gras Festival.

2023 in Sydney offers a unique opportunity to be part of Pride history: the first WorldPride in the southern hemisphere and the 50th Anniversary of the first Australian Gay Pride Week.
Our bid to host WorldPride 2023 is about much more than Sydney and Australia. It’s about the Asia-Pacific, one of InterPride’s most diverse regions that is home to 60% of the world’s population, yet too often overlooked and under-represented. The vast majority of LGBTQI communities within this region are denied fundamental human rights.

Sydney WorldPride 2023 will be the global event that unites LGBTQI+ communities and Prides from across the world and brings them to Asia Pacific.

WorldPride is an event that promotes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pride issues on an international level. Through parades, festivals, rallies and other cultural events and activities. Held every two years, WorldPride is licensed by InterPride, the international association of Pride organisers.

The inaugural WorldPride was held in Rome in 2000. Host cities for each WorldPride are selected by the members of InterPride at annual general meetings. The host for WorldPride 2023 will be selected at the InterPride AGM, Athens in October 2019. Membership of InterPride is available to any LGBTIA+ organisation that produces parades, festivals, rallies and other cultural events and activities for LGBTIA+ communities.

For more information about becoming a member of InterPride
http://www.interpride.org/membership.html