

Titi Chartay She/Her
(Nominated by Steve Warren)

Lived MG DNA.	Governance	Finance/Accounting	Human Resources
4 - Extensive	4 - Extensive	2 - Competent	4 - Extensive
Risk Management	Arts/Event Sector	Legal	Business Strategy
2 - Competent	4 - Extensive	2 - Competent	1 - Basic

Diversity is crucial to community representation. Given my background and experience I know I can contribute a practical, creative and consultative voice to Mardi Gras. Attacks upon the LGBTQI+ community around the world are on the increase and strong, cohesive organisations are vital for our community's future.

An activist all my life, I have worked in the arts including theatre and film, both as a performer and also on the technical side. A classically trained musician I understand the discipline necessary to effect successful projects. Having managed various community based organisations and written many successful grant applications, I know the importance of probity and accountability. Working as a journalist gave me an appreciation for language and the importance of clear communication.

As someone living with a disability I have acted as a consultant to various groups, both government and community on issues of access equity and discrimination. A working knowledge of how to read and interpret legislation and the law has also proven useful. A photographer, I have a strong appreciation of all the visual arts and know the importance and impact an image can have, be it a poster or a sculpture and how it tells a story.

There are both legal and community responsibilities to being on any board and the ability to listen and compromise is crucial in my experience. Honesty, openness, and lateral thinking ensures the healthy longevity of any organisation.

My background is both practical and creative and as a 78'er I appreciate the importance of preserving the history and forging the future of Mardi Gras. Over the years I have participated, worked in and volunteered for countless groups and organisations and probably one of the most important principles is plain, common sense.

LGBTQIA+ alliances

Cochair of the Original 78'ers Association and the Cardinal of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence.

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I first attended a Gay Liberation march in 1971. I was very young. Over the years I have consistently been involved in the LGBTQI community on a community and political level. In 1978 I lived in Melbourne but was in contact with activists in Sydney; when the idea for a "Mardi Gras" was decided at a meeting, though not everyone at that meeting agreed with this idea of a celebration merged with political, legal and social demands. I was phoned in Melbourne to spread the word. The rest is now history.

Prior to living in Melbourne I lived in Adelaide. For over three decades I was on the organising committee for International Women's Day in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. As generational change is important, our Sydney committee handed over the reins and the bank account for IWD to a younger group of women some years ago.

Since the 70's I have worked in various jobs. From a bicycle factory to the research officer and writer for the NSW Government Information Service (as it was called at the time). A mobile community worker in the Blue Mountains, I drove a converted bus complete with generator that went from town to town in the region delivering programs for both children and adults.

Over the years I have done various work with children and young people, a highlight was working with Pipi Storm, a children's theatre in education company where I organised a tour of NSW country towns. I have a strong commitment to empowering children and young people and being supportive of them.

I have written and photographed for various publications including the Nation Review, Campaign and Tribune. My background in theatre and film also goes back to the 70's and includes both mainstream and alternative.

I never "came out" as I was always upfront about my sexuality and have been active in fighting for our rights as well as the rights of other marginalized groups since the 70's. A consequence of this has been the countless committees, groups and organisations I have been a part of. As such I know the importance of courtesy in all forms of interactions.

I shared the grief of our community during the bad days of the AIDS pandemic and was one of the organisers of ACT-UP which did a lot behind the scenes with big pharma to facilitate drug access, treatments and research that to this day most people are unaware of due to confidentiality agreements.

Over the years I have marched with many groups in Mardi Gras, including what is now Positive People when I was the office co-ordinator and manager of what was then known as People Living with HIV Aids – PLWHA. With better funding after I left, my job was eventually split into 3 different positions.

In terms of longevity my involvement with the Order of Perpetual Indulgence is, aside from the 78'ers – I was involved with the 20th anniversary; probably the longest I have spent with any group.

My involvement with Mardi Gras has differed over the years and I am very cognoscent of it's evolution, difficulties including financial and the sheer hard work necessary to not only bring about the parade, festival and party but to simply continue as an organisation held to high account by the LGBTQI community.

Having written constitutions for a few different organisations to ensure funding and legal compliance, I am very aware of the obligations of board members and have no naivety about either the work involved or the ethical responsibility.