



Candidates for Director Elections

All candidates are financial members of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and have been nominated by two financial members of the organisation.

In accordance with constitutional requirements, a meeting of the Company Secretary and Returning Officer was held to determine the random ballot order, which candidates are presented in below.

Luc Velez he/him

Luc was nominated by Mikhael Burnard and Antony Restifo

I believe solidarity must remain a central tenant of our communities and organising. Queer liberation can't be realised in a vacuum – it is bound up with liberatory struggles everywhere. SGLMG has a role in fighting not only homophobia and transphobia, but also colonialism, racism and capitalist exploitation.

I'm an organiser, law student and socialist, working and living on stolen Gadigal Land.

I began politically organising through the environmental movement, first as a fashion student organising within the industry, and later with Extinction Rebellion and ASEN. I went on to serve as National Education Officer of the National Union of Students, organising with thousands of students on campaigns around free education, climate justice, student poverty and religious discrimination.

Ultimately it is not an extensive CV or professional board experience that determines the value of a SGLMG board member - it is their politics and connection to community. I come to the AGM as a queer activist deeply connected with grassroots groups and left-wing organising. If you support a Mardi Gras that honours its activist history and uses its substantial cultural power to fight for our communities, I urge you to support the Pride in Protest ticket.

Luc has disclosed involvement with Pride in Protest and RAFFWU Queer Caucus

Kyriakos Gold he/they

Kyriakos was nominated by Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco and Meredith Jones

My long-standing commitment to SGLMG and my diverse background as an Autistic, non-binary, culturally and linguistically diverse individual underpins my decision to serve on the Board. By leveraging my lived experience, professional and academic skills, I am committed to meaningful engagement, inclusivity, transparency, and ethical sustainable growth for Mardi Gras.

I've been involved with SGLMG for over 20 years as a volunteer, researcher, consultant, and now an incumbent Board member. My drive is to foster a just and inclusive world, offering equal opportunities for all.

I advise various governments, NFP boards and corporates on social impact. I have produced major events, and my experience in navigating governmental relations and strategic communication is focused on smart planning, amplifying underrepresented voices, and connecting with stakeholders to enact change.

My PhD research included a case study on SGLMG, deepening my insight into our complexities and history and informs strategic decisions.

As a scholar of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a non-practising Australian lawyer with a Juris Doctor, an Executive MBA, and a BA in International Studies, I bring extensive knowledge and experience. My accolades and volunteer work further attest to my dedication to the equality movement. More: www.kyriakosgold.com.au

Kyriakos has disclosed involvement with Inclusive Rainbow Voices, Harbour City Bears, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association and GLOBE Victoria.

Leila Harris they/she

Leila was nominated by Mikhael Burnard and Antony Restifo

I am passionate about serving as a SGLMG board director as I am passionate about queer activism and queer liberation and hope that everyone who appreciates the historic role Mardi Gras has played in Sydney's queer community sees Pride in Protest's mission as one aligned with the vision of queer liberation the first Mardi Gras was organised around.

As activists, we hope to reinvigorate the spirit of protest at Mardi Gras. I am therefore very excited to be running with Pride in Protest Mardi Gras ticket:

1. Joel Fitzgibbons
2. Luc Javier Velez
3. Jesse Johnson
4. Leila Harris

Leila has disclosed involvement with Pride in Protest

Evan Gray they/them

Evan was nominated by Mikhael Burnard and Antony Restifo

Our pride isn't for sale, and it's time we reject the pinkwashing of police violence, corporations like Qantas that help deport refugees, and being a photoshoot for politicians who vote against our rights. As a director & Pride in Protest member I want to do something about that.

We've seen Nazis marching out the front of parliament to declare their hatred of trans people, white vigilantes viciously attacking Blak people, & politicians cheering on genocide in the Middle East. I believe it's time we do something about it.

We can say that cops shouldn't march in Mardi Gras, while recommendations from the Royal Commission into Black Deaths in Custody are unaddressed. We can tell our politicians that they need to stand up to transphobia & vote for the Equality Bill in full if they want to photobomb our parade. And by supporting BDS we can say no to pinkwashing of apartheid & genocide in occupied Palestine.

Join the Trans Day of Resistance rally on the 25th of November at the Pride Square, and vote for our motions at the Annual General Meeting. As director, I will fight for a Mardi Gras we can all be proud of.

Evan has disclosed involvement with Pride in Protest, Queer Unionists in Tertiary Education, CARR, RRC

Louis Hudson he/him

Louis was nominated by Adrian Hinder and Ruby Hudson

I am dedicated to fostering open dialogue with volunteers, members, and the broader community. It is my commitment that the Board actively supports staff in delivering a world-class festival that not only embraces but also proudly showcases our rich diversity.

With a background in construction management and a passion for festival production, my contribution to the SGLMG Board encompasses a strategic approach, problem-solving proficiency, and a deep commitment to community building. I offer adept leadership, effective communication, and strong interpersonal abilities, fostering collaboration and informed decision-making. My goal is to ensure the sustained prosperity of our community, utilising my diverse expertise and skills to propel SGLMG's mission forward and create an inclusive, vibrant space for all.

Paul Truscott JP he/him

Paul was nominated by Sam Duncan and Philip Stubbs

Firstly, I meet all the legal and regulatory requirements and standards to be a director of this company, and with a wealth of experience from over 30 years involvement with Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in several key voluntary and paid roles.

I have the time to put to this position, being a retired Computer Systems Analyst with a successful record in Qantas, when it was a Government Corporation. In 2022 I was honoured, and humbled, to be a recipient of Mardi Gras's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Now it is time to put those years of experience to use as we plan for our forthcoming 50th Anniversary. Amongst the Key Voluntary roles, I have undertaken, are Parade Route Manager (2 years), BGF/Mardi Gras Reserved Seating Manager (3 years Contractual Position) and many years as Front of House Team Leader at the Parade After Party, dealing with the myriad of matters that arise in that key area.

Kathy Pavlich she/her

Kathy was nominated by Fran Bowron and Paul Savage

I feel passionately about my community and the vital role that Mardi Gras plays in supporting, strengthening, amplifying and celebrating all that we are.

As an older lesbian identifying woman who has worked and volunteered in Mardi Gras for over 30 years I want to contribute to the future strategic direction and 50th anniversary celebrations.

As an active member of Mardi Gras and our community since 1989 and have many long-term respected community connections. I am also an industry respected security and risk management specialist and governance educator. This means I have a unique understanding of security and risk management in terms of events, community and the organisation.

I have strong relationships within NSW Government and experience with policy development in Industrial Relations, People and Culture and Workforce Development.

I support modernising of the Constitution while maintaining connection to our history and believe that my community experience and connections will support future discussions on Constitutional change and/or name change.

My length and breadth of industry and community involvement have provided me with an extensive experience of events and organisations at all levels. I look forward to sharing my experience and passion to contribute to the ongoing success of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Kathy has disclosed involvement with Pride in NSW, Dykes on Bikes, Sydney LGBTIQ Security

Rohen Snowball they/them

Rohen was nominated by Mikhael Burnard and Antony Restifo

As a full-time student, precarious retail worker, and active member of the queer community, my experiences resonate with countless queers in Sydney. With this, and my involvement in struggles for social justice in my community, I know I can bring perspective to the board that contributes towards making Mardi Gras as significant as it was, during its inception.

As Black peoples suffer monstrously high rates of brutality and incarceration, homeless Elders sleep on city streets, politicians proactively support genocide in the Middle East, and a rise in fascist harassment plays out in our communities. It is a farce to believe that it is right that the Mardi Gras Police Accords, which give sweeping authority to police to harass, demean and bully Mardi Gras attendees, still exist. That Mardi Gras choose to platform politicians, even those in the Labor party, that deny equal rights to queers. That police are allowed to march in the Mardi Gras parade as the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody remain unaddressed. And queers are discriminated against by Mardi Gras's own sponsors, such as the financial discrimination of sex workers by Amex.

If I were Board Director, I'd fight for a Mardi Gras that addresses these pressing issues, and more—remaining true to its historical foundation, rooted in solidarity, queer struggle and protest that defines its legacy.

Rohen has disclosed involvement with Pride in Protest and RAFFWU Queer Caucus

