

Co-founder Michelle Tomallo named to Cleveland Special Events Group Corp. board of directors, which is overseeing the 2014 Gay Games IX in Cleveland



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Cleveland Special Events Group Corp. signs contract with Federation of Gay Games for Gay Games IX Cleveland 2014.

Cleveland Special Events Group Corp. set to lead 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland +Akron, OH, USA 9-16 August 2014

San Francisco, CA – (16 October 2010) - The Federation of Gay Games signed a contract on 30 September 2010 with Cleveland Special Events Corp. to hold the license to operate the 2014 Gay Games. Co-President of the Federation of Gay Games, Kurt Dahl and FGG Technology Officer Gene Dermody met with the new group in Cleveland on 16 October 2010.

The new organization represents the LGBT community and high profile civic leaders of Cleveland. The City of Cleveland will continue to be very involved in assisting the worlds largest sports and cultural event to come to Cleveland-Akron, Ohio. Local tourism representatives with local LGBT sports, cultural and community civic leaders have joined forces to organize the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland.

Federation of Gay Games Co-President, Kurt Dahl, is very pleased with the new organization. "The high caliber of people and organisations that are part of this group is incredible and will help ensure wide support in the state of Ohio. I am very impressed to see Mayor Frank G. Jackson's involvement. Gay Games VIII Cologne 2010 was helped greatly this year by the local city government and the German Foreign Prime Minister Guido Westerwelle."

"The Gay Games in 2014 will shine a national and international spotlight on the City of Cleveland. Our representatives either lead or are a part of some of Cleveland's and the region's most dynamic institutions and will help show the world our greatness," said Mayor Frank G. Jackson.

The Cities of Cleveland and Akron were awarded the games last year following a competitive bidding process. Cleveland City Council passed legislation in support of the Gay Games in 2014. The games will kick-off in Cleveland August 9-16, 2014.

Cleveland Special Events Corp. board member Nathaniel Tolliver is ready to work in this group. "As an openly gay African American young man who also happens to be a native Clevelander, it is truly an honour and a privilege to be involved in the world's largest sporting and cultural event organized by and specifically for LGBT athletes, musicians, artists. I am very excited about the impact this special event that brings together people from all over the world will have on the city of Cleveland and particularly our own LGBT community.

Board member Hollie Ksiezyk commented how current bully issues tie in to the importance of the 2014 event. "At a time where there is so much pain & grief surrounding LGBT youth, we look forward to reaching out to our schools and young people in the community to provide a safe outlet and environment among friends and family. It's reassuring to know Cleveland is a place where rich culture and diverse traditions welcome opportunities to collaborate on historic projects like the Gay Games."

CLEVELAND SPECIAL EVENTS CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Mayor Frank G. Jackson, Chair
- Mr. Dirk M. Breiding, Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Mr. Joe Cimperman, Cleveland City Council
- Mr. Jan Cline, LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
- Ms. Michelle R. DeLozier, WH2, Girl Jam Cleveland & HERricane Cleveland
- Ms. Susan M. Doerfer, Equality Ohio
- Mr. Scott Finerman, Second Generation, Ltd.
- Mr. David E. Gilbert, Greater Cleveland Sports Commission
- Ms. Hollie M. Ksiezzyk, LGBT Community Representative
- Ms. Valarie J. McCall, City of Cleveland
- Mr. Dennis J. Roche, Positively Cleveland, Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Mr. Joseph D. Roman, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Nathaniel Tolliver, LGBT Community Representative
- Ms. Michelle Tomallo, Executive Vice President of FIT Technologies (LGBT Business) & Plexus Chamber of Commerce

The delegation will consist of representatives from the following organisations:

- The LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
- The City of Cleveland
- G2H2
- Akron/Summit Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Positively Cleveland
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- WH2 and Girl Jam Cleveland
- The Greater Cleveland Sport's Commission
- Plexus
- LGBT & Business Leaders and Community Representatives

<http://www.gaygames.com/index.php?id=352>

