

Contact: Kevin Clarke
Come Out With Pride
Marketing Director
kevin@comeoutwithpride.org



Come Out With Pride announces its 2011 theme, new Executive Director, recent win and its new board.

Orlando, Florida, November 11, 2011 – Come Out With Pride's 2010 Board of Directors made some recent changes to the organization's bylaws before clearing room for the 2011 Board of Directors. For the first time in its history, Come Out With Pride has an executive director making it a year round operation.

"I am very pleased to announce that Mikael Audebert will serve as COWP's first Executive Director & Senior Executive Producer. As Executive Producer of Event Development in 2010, Mikael took COWP to the next level in all areas. The event drew a record number of sponsors, vendors and record attendance with more than 70,000 people attending. Under his direction, Come Out with Pride continues to be one of the premier events for Greater Orlando's LGBT community. I am confident that with Mikael's leadership, Come Out With Pride 2011 will be bigger, better and more meaningful than last year," said Gina Duncan, new MBA Orlando President and COWP Board President.

Come Out With Pride's new organizational structure gives it the much needed tools to fulfill its main mission which is to *"produce the annual Come Out With Pride event, which serves as Central Florida's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) pride event and encourages the LGBT citizens and their allies of Central Florida and beyond to celebrate pride in themselves, their community, and their shared cultural history"*

"While I am excited to be leading the organization in a new direction, I am even more thrilled to be working, once again, with an extraordinary production team and board of directors. We have already laid out a plan to revamp certain areas as well as give COWP more significance throughout the year with the development of new and improved upon programs and grants. I am also looking forward to working hand in hand with the business community as well as reaching out to national sponsors and advertisers in an effort to make COWP one of the best celebrations in the country," Audebert said in a statement.

COWP also announced the 2011 theme which was selected by COWP's former Board President Dr. David Baker-Hargrove a few weeks ago:

PRIDE IS ALWAYS IN FASHION: OUT IS THE NEW IN.

“We are excited to be working with local talents in the area of Fashion, clothing or otherwise, all while celebrating the accomplishments of our community over the past years. While there is still a lot to do, it would seem that coming out has become the new trend and we applaud any initiatives that help members of the LGBT community coming out and celebrate who they are. The recent election of Come Out With Pride as Watermark’s 2010 WAVE Award winner for Best Annual Event is a testament to the work of a group of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to the making of a celebration to be proud of year after year,” Audebert added.

Last but not least, COWP elected its new board for the 2011 event. The following individuals will be leading the organization:

Gina Duncan, Board President

Mikael Audebert, Executive Director and Board Member

Freddie Erickson, Financial Director and Board Member

Beth George, Executive Secretary and Board Member

Rick Claggett, Executive Producer of Development and Board Member

Joshua Hoskins, Executive Producer of Operations and Board Member

Scott Garstka, Executive Producer of Entertainment and Board Member

Over the next few weeks, Come Out With Pride will announce the composition of its 2011 production team which will get to work a bit earlier this year, right as new year starts.

For questions about this Press Release, contact Kevin Clark, PR & Marketing Director at kevin@comeoutwithpride.org

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