



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth

Youth Pride

Sponsored by the Friends of GLBT Youth
c/o MA DPH - 250 Washington Street - 4th floor
Boston MA 02108
(617) 624-5495
www.massyouthpride.org

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN M. HENRY
CHAIR

GERALD B. JAMES
VICE CHAIR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Kelly Lydon (617) 624-5495

"THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE YOUTH PRIDE!"

MASSACHUSETTS YOUTH PRIDE COMMITTEE TO TRANSFORM BOSTON COMMON
INTO "RAINBOW CITY" FOR 12TH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE CELEBRATION.

Boston, March 27, 2006 -- In celebration of their lives and diversity, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer (GLBTQ) youth and their supporters will gather by the thousands to kick off Massachusetts' 12th annual Youth Pride on Saturday, May 13th at noon on Boston Common.

"One of the goals of Youth Pride is to unite the very diverse youth from Massachusetts and beyond, and celebrate the wisdom, love and courage they have gained throughout their lives so far," says Massachusetts Youth Pride Committee (MAYPC) member Timothy James Gallant. Scheduled events-hosted by drag king Heywood Wakefield (Aliza Shapiro) - include a rally at the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common featuring speakers and the winner of the first ever Youth Pride "Words of Wizdom" contest, as well as three awards to those the youth feel have been an inspiration to the GLBTQ community. Following the rally, the Boston Women's Rainbow Chorus will perform numbers from *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Wiz* as our 'lollipop kids'

prepare to set off along the red-brick Freedom Trail, past the golden 'Oz-like' dome of the Massachusetts State House and through the streets of Downtown Boston. The celebration will conclude with a music and resource festival back 'home' at the Common. The festival will feature interactive games and activities as well as a chance to purchase goods from various vendors including some of our very own youth vendors. Admission to this event is free.

Youth Pride is the oldest and largest event for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer youth and their allies in the nation. A youth driven and youth organized event, this year's Youth Pride theme- "Rainbow City"- was chosen by the Massachusetts Youth Pride Committee to celebrate the diverse identities and shared spirit of GLBTQ youth. The MAYPC invites everyone to come and support GLBTQ youth while discovering that there is no place like Youth Pride!

For more information please contact Kelly Lydon at kelly.lydon@state.ma.us or visit the website for updates at www.massyouthpride.org.

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