

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

World AIDS Day
2020

In honor of the 32nd Anniversary of World AIDS Day.



THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD PRESENTS

WORLD AIDS DAY 2020

PROGRAM

CONGRESSMAN ADAM SCHIFF
Representing California's 28th District

LOS ANGELES CITY CONTROLLER
RON GALPERIN
Special Guest Speaker

AARON CELIOUS, Ph.D.
West Hollywood HIV Zero Initiative Update

PAUL STARKE WARRIOR AWARDS
Presented by West Hollywood City Council

Mayor Lindsey Horvath
Mayor Pro Tempore John Heilman
Councilmember John D'Amico
Councilmember John Duran
Councilmember Lauren Meister



World AIDS Day originated at the 1988 World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programs for AIDS Prevention. Since then, every year United Nations agencies, governments and civil society join together to campaign around specific themes related to AIDS.

This year's theme for World AIDS Day, which will be marking its 30th anniversary on December 1, will be "Know Your Status". Join us this World AIDS Day in raising awareness about the importance of knowing one's status and calling for the removal of all barriers to accessing HIV testing.

Learn more at unaids.org

RON GALPERIN **LOS ANGELES CITY CONTROLLER**



Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin serves as the elected watchdog for L.A.'s taxpayers. He oversees more than 160 employees conducting independent audits, managing the City's payroll and disbursements, preparing reports on the City's finances, pursuing waste and fraud, providing information about the City's finances and operations online, and focusing on modernization, management and metrics.

Galperin launched ControlPanel.LA, an open data portal featuring the City's checkbook, details on the goods and services the City buys, assets and liabilities, employee compensation, operating indicators and more. Under Galperin's leadership, the Controller's office has issued audits focused on improving the efficiency and accountability of City government and on delivering quality City services.

Galperin brings more than 20 years of experience as a transactional and litigation attorney and small business owner. He received his J.D. from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.



PAUL ANDREW STARKE WARRIOR AWARDS

are given to employees or volunteers of local agencies who have done exemplary work in providing prevention, education and/or direct HIV/AIDS services to West Hollywood community members. The awardees represent agencies that are funded by the City of West Hollywood and/or are part of the West Hollywood HIV & Substance Use Services Providers Consortium.

Paul Starke was a former member of the Consortium and an employee of Being Alive who died November 26, 2001. Paul worked in Social Services throughout his life, helping troubled youth, individuals with substance abuse problems and people with HIV/AIDS. He was an important part of Being Alive (an organization by and for people with HIV/AIDS) as a member, President of the Board of Directors, and finally as a staff member (West Hollywood Coordinator and Prevention Coordinator). Paul was also very involved in the medical updates sponsored by Being Alive, AIDS Project Los Angeles and the Positive Images Consortium.



Chris Aguilar
Los Angeles LGBT Center

Chris Aguilar truly cares about the mission at the Los Angeles LGBT Center and goes above and beyond for community members. He is very knowledgeable and always has so much to offer to the Addiction Recovery Program. He manages a successful harm reduction group and administers the anger management portion of the Intensive Outpatient Program, both receiving positive feedback.

It only takes a short time of working with Christopher, that you quickly realize that this is not just a job to him, but something he is passionate about and genuinely cares for. He appreciates his clients, the staff, and the community. You will never hear him say "I can't", he will always find a way to make something work. Christopher has made such a positive impact in the lives of his clients lives and the LGBT Center is lucky to have such a passionate, dedicated, genuine person as a part of their team.



Garry Bowie
Being Alive

Garry has been an HIV activist since he was diagnosed HIV+ in 1983 at the age of 22. Before becoming the executive director at Being Alive LA, he was the executive director of The Long Beach AIDS Foundation and was responsible for raising and distributing millions of dollars to HIV organizations. It has been said that the LGBT community learned how to take care of itself through Garry's innovative and tireless work.

During his tenure at Being Alive LA, Garry restructured the organization and increased client service deliveries by 180%. His visionary leadership was the catalyst for growing the mental health program and most recently by establishing The Syringe Exchange Program. But Garry's favorite thing at Being Alive was talking to clients and listening to their inspirational stories. He believed that our stories are our power.

Sadly Garry passed away due to complications from COVID-19 on April 7, 2020. His dedication, tenacity, and passion to serve others and educate and inspire young leaders will live on for generations to come. To say he is greatly missed is a gross understatement. But just as a pebble tossed in a pond, his impact will continue to ripple far beyond his aspirations—that legacy is the very model of the Paul Starke Warrior Award.



***Liza Marie Ceballos
Trans Latin@ Coalition***

Liza Marie Ceballos is a Trans woman born in the US and received her education at a private school in Mexico. She currently works as the Case Manager at the TransLatin@ Coalition, working to recruit Trans and non-binary people from across the West Hollywood area to receive services.

She has advocated for her community as a volunteer for TransLatin@ Coalition, Very Human, and currently Foot on Foot where she helps homeless people get a second chance at life through employment opportunities. Liza Marie has been recognized for her hard work and dedication to her community and ongoing commitment to the advancement of Trans, Gender Non-Conforming, and Intersex people.



***Cheryl Hoffman
Friends Research Institute***

Cheryl Hoffman works at Friends Community Center where she works as a Health Educator with trans women and MSM in an HIV risk reduction setting. She carries the message about HIV prevention and care through outreach, skill-building workshops, transitional life skills and support groups.

Cheryl has been working as a health educator and advocate for the trans community for 20 years. She has worked tirelessly to connect trans women to myriad services such as medically monitored hormone replacement therapy, HIV care, mental health services and housing. Cheryl's personal experiences have shaped who she is and have made her the dedicated community outreach worker that she is today.



Emmanuel Sanchez-Ramos ***APLA Health and Wellness***

Emmanuel Sanchez-Ramos has been working at APLA Health for five years. He began as a Site Coordinator for the Nutrition for the Necessities of Life Program and was quickly promoted to Program Coordinator for the HIV and Older Adults program, HIVE.

The program coordinator position allows him to develop and implement activities, workshops, social gatherings, and health education classes for MSM men of all ethnicities living with HIV/AIDS. Emmanuel lives by the motto “Si, Se Puede!” (“Yes, You Can!”), and this is a living testament of the positive influence that he has on the community that he serves.



Spencer Shelton ***AIDS Healthcare Foundation***

Spencer Shelton has been a long serving volunteer for AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF). Aside from his time volunteering with AHF, Spencer also finds time to volunteer for several other organizations within the greater Los Angeles area, including: Friends Research Institute, APLA Health, LA CADA, Black AIDS Institute, LGBTQ Center, and Project Engage. As a former homeless and meth addict he has become known as a father figure and role model for underserved youth in the Hollywood area, many of whom are going through the same issues he was able to overcome in his early years. Spencer prides himself in getting the youth connected to HIV services.

Whether it's walking someone in to get a test or taking another to get their ID, Spencer will go out of his way to help someone in need. Many of the youth call him “dad,” and he calls them his “kids, daughters, sons.” He is their unofficial relative, case manager, and counselor. Spencer's warm heart and life advice sheds light on the endless dark spiral he often finds them in. The amount of lives that Spencer has touched and saved are countless. Spencer's selflessness and dedication to serving his community is truly inspiring and deserving of the Paul Andrew Starke Warrior Award.