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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival Returns to Convention Center

The community faces a challenging time with unity, strength, and determination

Rehoboth Beach, Delaware: As the summer sun shines brightly over Rehoboth Beach, the annual Rehoboth Beach Pride festival prepares to welcome attendees, celebrating love, inclusion, and diversity amid an increasingly challenging landscape for LGBTQ+ individuals across the nation. This year's festivities take on added urgency and significance as we shine a light on recent struggles as well as the strength and determination of LGBTQ+ Delawareans and our allies to meet this moment. The annual event is organized by Sussex Pride.

Roxy Overbrooke will return to host the Festival. Roxy's infectious energy will engage and inspire festival-goers, setting the stage for an unforgettable day.. A variety of performers will be featured throughout the day including Ivy Blu Austin, Goldstar, The Cast of Clear Space Theatre, JC Pizzaz, and Kadet Kelly.

From healthcare access to legal protection, LGBTQ+ communities are confronting unprecedented challenges, leaving many feeling isolated and vulnerable. In particular, LGBTQ+ youth have found themselves increasingly targeted by harmful rhetoric and policies that seek to erase their identities and limit their access to essential resources.

In response, a number of educational panels and workshops will take place in the Conference Room Suite to create spaces where participants can learn, network, and become advocates for our community. Workshops include:

- [Supporting the LGBTQIA-Identified Latinx Community](#), 9:30 AM
- [Let's Talk About It: Suicide Prevention](#), 10:35 AM
- [Caregiving: Knowledge and Resources for Caregivers](#), 11:40 AM
- [ACLU Delaware Firewall for Freedom](#), 12:45 PM
- [I Can't Believe it's Me: Domestic Violence Workshop](#), 1:50 PM

Once again, funds raised from the raffle at Rehoboth Beach Pride will be used to support and advocate for unhoused LGBTQ+ Youth in Delaware. Nationwide an estimated 40% of unhoused youth, and 30% of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQ+. Last year the raffle raised \$1,000 which was donated to the Safeguards Housing Committee, a program of PFLAG Wilmington.

“Sussex Pride is proud to be a member of the Safeguards Housing Committee and to be able to support homeless LGBTQ+ youth in our state” stated David Mariner, Executive Director of Sussex Pride. ([learn more about Sussex Pride Housing here](#) | [learn more about Sussex Pride Youth here](#))

Sixty vendors will be exhibiting in the Convention Center, giving participants an opportunity to connect with businesses, healthcare providers, faith communities, and diverse organizations that stand with the LGBTQ+ community. In a year when many pride events have seen a decrease in corporate support, Rehoboth Beach Pride will have more vendors and more sponsors than in our first year.

"The challenges facing our community are real and cannot be ignored," said David Mariner, Executive Director of Sussex Pride. "But the strength that we exhibit as a united front is inspiring. Delaware has long been a place of acceptance and love, and we are committed to ensuring that every individual, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, feels valued and supported.

The festival takes place from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and is free and open to the public. An after-party will take place at Freddie's Beach Bar beginning at 3:00 PM. And in the evening, Gay Women of Rehoboth will host a ticketed event featuring a screening of the film Radical Harmonies, comic Karen Williams, and musician Erin McKeown ([more info about this event](#)).

For more information about the Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival, visit our website at sussexpride.org/rehobothbeach

About Rehoboth Beach Pride:

Rehoboth Beach Pride is an annual celebration in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, that seeks to promote acceptance, unity, and inclusivity within the LGBTQ+ community and its allies. Through a variety of events, including the Rehoboth Beach Pride Festival, Rehoboth Beach Pride Weekend aims to celebrate love, foster understanding, and address the unique issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community.

About Sussex Pride:

Sussex Pride works to celebrate, strengthen, and support the LGBTQ+ community in Sussex County and the state of Delaware, working through a social justice lens. We focus on arts & culture, health & wellness, social and support groups, and advocacy for our community.