

Project: Oasis Model

LGBTQ Connection, a program of On The Move



LOCATION

Four sites in **Napa** and **Sonoma** Counties:

- City of Napa
- Santa Rosa
- Calistoga
- Sonoma Valley



TARGET POPULATION

- LGBTQ youth ages 14-24
- Youth from rural and semi-rural communities
- Youth of color- especially Latino/a/x youth
- Youth involved with systems of care (foster care, probation, and mental health)
- Youth from lower socioeconomic backgrounds
- Providers who work with LGBTQ youth or seniors

CONTACTS

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LGBTQ Connection Sonoma



LGBTQ Connection Napa



OVERVIEW

- Napa and Sonoma Counties are home to an estimated 85,000 LGBTQ residents, many who remain disconnected or invisible for fear of rejection or for their safety.
- The North Bay Wine Country's reputation as a wealthy tourist destination has created some avenues for LGBTQ visibility and acceptance, although mostly for upper class, white tourists.
- The need for a stronger LGBTQ community is vital for the health and wellness of LGBTQ young people in the area.
- The Oasis Model seeks to transform the North Bay into a safe, welcoming, and vibrant hub for LGBTQ people of all ages through the following interventions:
 - **Connections to Peers & Resources:** LGBTQ Connection partners with a local, youth-focused, (non-LGBTQ) community center to establish regularly occurring youth social events while connecting youth to appropriate community resources as needed.
 - **Youth-led Advocacy Projects:** Youth leaders are recruited for a six month cycle to form a team, assess the needs of the local community, and implement an advocacy project to create systems change.
 - **Youth-Informed Workforce/Provider Training:** LGBTQ Connection and its youth leaders have developed a highly interactive training program that successfully increases staff and volunteer capacity to welcome and competently serve LGBTQ young people.



PAST YOUTH ADVOCACY PROJECTS



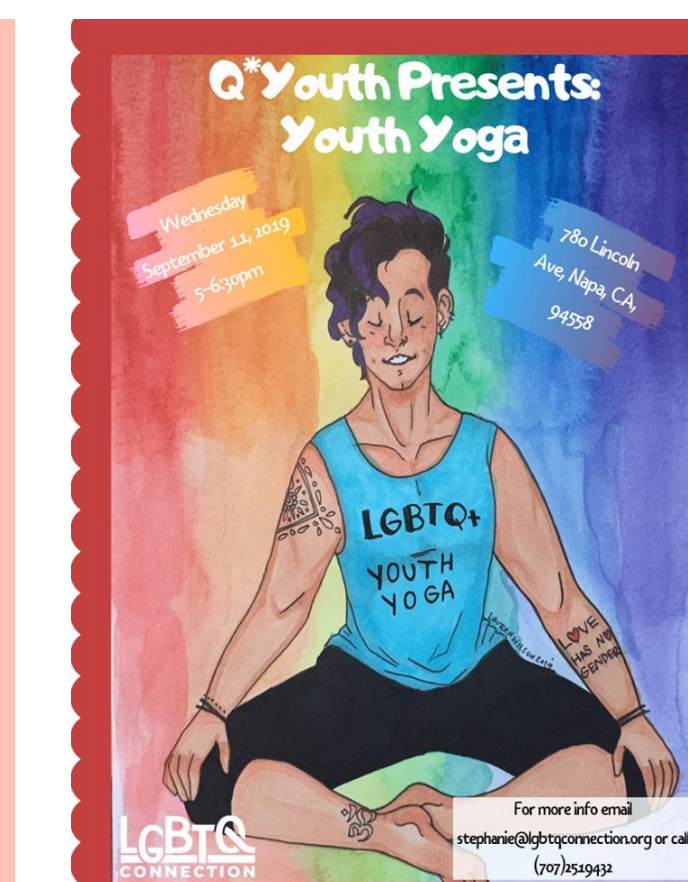
All youth advocacy projects are chosen by the youth leaders and include an element of public performance. Past projects include:

- Trans Community Fair
- Queer Rose Ball: 1st ever drag show and youth dance in Sonoma Valley
- Marching in the Sonoma County Pride Parade
- Heels for Healing: Drag show fundraiser and Zine raising awareness about sex trafficking in Sonoma County
- Campaign to raise a rainbow flag at Sonoma Valley High School
- LGBTQ competency training for teachers in Napa
- 1st ever Pride Family Picnic in Calistoga
- Happy HoliGays: Intergenerational holiday potluck and resource fair
- Recovering with Pride: Healing event for evacuated LGBT elders after the Sonoma County fires of 2017



PEER CONNECTIONS: YOUTH SOCIAL EVENTS

- **Named & co-planned with youth, youth-led social events are hosted 2x monthly at each site:**
 - Queerish in Sonoma Valley
 - Queer Café in Santa Rosa
 - Q*Youth & TRANScend in Napa
 - Rainbow Room in Calistoga



WORKFORCE/PROVIDER TRAINING IMPACT

- **When asked in a 3 month follow-up survey, 100% of attendees reported making a change as a result of the training (n=85)**
 - 73% use gender-neutral language
 - 59% ask and respect pronouns
 - 58% show visible displays of support for LGBTQ clients
 - 56% share LGBTQ-inclusive resources
 - 49% attend more trainings or seek more resources
 - 21% made forms more inclusive
- **Training attendee feedback:**
 - "I loved that I took the training in Spanish. Helped me greatly when talking to my family."
 - "Just want to acknowledge that this training was the best on the subject I've ever attended - and as a queer person over 50, that's saying something! Informative, clear, humorous -when needed, I really gained significant knowledge in a short period of time. Many, many thanks!"
 - "We've been wanting to make these changes for a while but didn't now how or what needed to change. The presentation provided us with helpful tools and a guide that could simply align with our process."
 - "A simple but impactful change that resulted in my co-workers being curious and asking questions was including my pronouns at the end of each email. It has been a positive change because I can educate them on the importance of using the correct pronouns or gender neutral language to be respectful to all."