



Frequently Asked Questions

- **Who are we?**

The GSB Foundation, Inc. is an *all-volunteer*, 501(c)(3) public benefit community organization (Federal EIN 77 – 0768755) based in Santa Barbara, California and formed to implement our Mission:

To foster Gay acceptance by transcending outdated social, political and religious ideas with our active and visible public presence; the promotion of diversity training and education via local, regional and international gay cultural exchange; and the encouragement of gay-friendly social and business practices, beginning in Santa Barbara.

The IRS has determined that, in accordance with our charitable and educational purposes, all contributions to GSB may be fully tax-deductible (according to current IRS guidelines) since the day California's Secretary of State originally endorsed our *Articles of Incorporation* on September 14th, 2000.

Part of who and what we are may be defined by what we are *not*. GSB is neither a social service agency nor a club, but we *are* a team and no one who concurs with our Mission is excluded from subscribing to GSB membership or participating in our public events. The Annual Santa Barbara Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Celebration and Festival is the largest community event we produce, as part of our Gay Santa Barbara project and other year-round OUTreach efforts, to promote awareness, acceptance and justice for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, questioning-people and our friends. We hope that through our efforts, more than a few of those who still don't accept GLBT people might learn that we aren't quite as bad as they thought, and one brick at a time will be removed from the wall of fear and ignorance that has separated us as a society for far too long.

- **How are we extending our efforts to make this a safe and comfortable event for all?**

One of the first things GSB did was to join CAPI www.CAPride.org and InterPride www.InterPride.org, the regional association and international consortium of Pride festival organizers. Since November of 2000, GSB Directors and Pride Committee members have attended dozens conferences and participated in countless workshops and seminars with hundreds of our fellow Pride organizers and others from around the world. Furthermore, many of us attend and volunteer at other Pride Festivals in California and beyond – all in an effort to learn how to produce and sustain a superior event, for you!

- **Where does the money go for GSB sponsored events?**

Throughout the year, GSB sponsors a series of community building events of cultural interest for LGBT folks and our friends in order to generate support for our efforts and raise funds for our programs and projects. Some of these are *free* to the public and others have small cover charges. They include:

- *Laugh OUT Loud!* a comedy cabaret, mixers, dinners and dances, etc.
- Raffles and Silent Auctions
- Co-operative services with like-minded organizations that wish to reach our constituent members with information about their events such as Margaret Cho & RENT @ the Arlington, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Contemporary Arts Forum, UCSB Art Museum, etc.
- The *Gay Café*, GSB's coffee & iced mocha/OUTreach booth at Summer Solstice Celebration, Fiesta, regional Pride festivals and other community events.
- Sponsor produced events like Gay Days @ Borders and dozens more.

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In all instances, any money raised is carefully tracked and used to help offset the cost of producing our programs, with Pride @ de la Guerra Plaza being the biggest and *FREE to everyone!* But a peripheral benefit to our community that is often overlooked is that dozens of businesses prosper and hundreds of people are employed, pay their bills, taxes and feed their families – directly as a result of *your* contributions and GSB's volunteer efforts.

- **Why did Pride move from the beach to down town?**

Shortly after GSB was established, the previous organizers of Santa Barbara's Pride event published their decision to end their future involvement with producing the Pride festival. Fortunately, GSB's Board of Directors recognized the event's importance and decided that producing Santa Barbara Pride fit perfectly with our Mission. We also understood that Pride Celebrations are part of a much bigger picture and serve a broader population than the immediate community and organization that produces one. Hundreds of family owned vendors and non-profit businesses – gay and straight – rely on them for their livelihoods as well. Also, thousands of people from throughout California and around the world have come to recognize Santa Barbara as a gay-friendly destination and look forward to joining us every year – and not just for Pride.

The reasons to move Pride closer to the heart of our beautiful city and into the autumn were many, but here are just a few:

- While being at the beach or off in a park was fun, many people felt trapped, but they now have the choice to wander in and OUT of the event to enjoy more of the other things Santa Barbara has to offer.
- Virtually every hotel in the area was already filled in mid-summer, forcing many visitors to leave town at the end of the day or, worse yet, not even join us for Santa Barbara Pride.
- Now more businesses are willing to sponsor SB Pride – an event still totally *FREE* to the public but very expensive to produce.
- The City of Santa Barbara has endorsed our efforts from the beginning and provides a small but growing financial grant – a first for any Santa Barbara Pride Celebration!
- Being in the heart of town means that thousands of new people (*10% of them gay?*) now have the opportunity to join our event, meet our families and celebrate our lives.

- **But I heard...**

As with every community, there is always an active rumor mill. Fortunately, the public eventually sees through such smokescreens. Below are just a few of the indisputable facts about GSB and what we are all about.

- GSB has followed every legally mandated, non-profit guideline and had an active Board of Directors since our inception.
- GSB is a locally organized and managed, *all-volunteer*, community based organization. Including our Executive, Director and Advisory Boards, there are currently more than 20 persons – men & women, gay & straight – helping to guide our programs.
- Gay Santa Barbara's Founder and Executive Director, Charles Rice, first moved to Santa Barbara in 1971 and has called the area home for well over 30 years.
- There is no "either/or" connected to GSB's position in the community nor should there be for anyone's decision to be involved with us. We formed to fill the gaps in services and values not provided by other local organizations, not to duplicate or compete with any. We literally created our own niche.
- If there were *ever* any question of our intentions, organizational legitimacy, financial accountability or the structure of our governance system, GSB would never have received our:
 - Business License from the City of Santa Barbara
 - Endorsement by the California Secretary of State
 - Non-profit registration with the California Franchise Tax Board

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- 501(c)(3) determination of *tax-exempt* status from the Federal Government
 - Events and Festivals grants from the City of Santa Barbara and the County Arts Commission.
 - Ongoing community support that has sustained our expanded our efforts since our inception.
 - The GSB Foundation has a number of projects and programs with different names – as do most non-profits. These are known as “*Fictitious Business Names*”(FBN) or “*Doing Business As*” (DBA) and though most people have no reason to know it, they are something that every business – including non-profits – must have and register them with the County Clerk Recorder in order to conduct business or even open a bank account. These names include the Santa Barbara Pride Festival, Get OUT in SB, Gay Santa Barbara, Gay Café, *Laugh OUT Loud!*, *Read OUT Loud!*, and others. We also have several domain names and extensions (.com, .net, .org, etc.) that lead to the same website. These efforts are standard business practice and simply common sense.
 - No funds have ever been raised or dispersed by GSB for any other purposes than what our Board of Directors – including our legal and fiscal advisors – approved in advance.
 - Had GSB not provided the leadership role and decided to rescue and continue production of Santa Barbara Pride in 2000, it would not have existed at all last year for thousands of people to enjoy.
- **Why did our first Pride Celebration seem so small?**
 - Last year’s Pride festival was the first effort for Team GSB and we faced more than a few hurdles. Many people were and still are very confused about who we are, why we were producing the event and why it was moved. Since 2001, that has changed for many people and continues to do so for more and more every day.
 - One of the largest challenges we faced was a lack of money, and without it, the ability to advertise. That has changed this year as well, and due to people like *you*, our budget continues to grow every year as do our promotional and collaborative efforts.
 - The broad reaching aftermath of September 11th caused cancellations and/or major losses for many Pride and other events. Even though SB Pride was scheduled barely a month after that tragic day, we decided to continue. Though we ended up nearly \$10,000 in the red, Team GSB succeeded in proving that we were capable of bringing nearly 2,500 people (police estimates) together, and we are a stronger organization for it. The attendance doubled in 2002 and only continues to grow.
 - Believe it or not, some local people even refused to attend, actively boycotted the event and convinced others to do so as well. Sadly, in most cases they never even met any of the Pride Committee members or knew anything about us except what they had heard through the *rumor mill*.

That too has changed, at least for many people. More and more of our LGBT community has begun to see through a smoke screen of negative propaganda and realize that if it were not for the hard work and dedication of a small but growing team of local volunteers, Santa Barbara would not have a Pride Festival at all.

Now we welcome you to *think OUTside the box* and join us too. As Margaret Mead said, “*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.*”

- **OK, how can I get involved?**

Ah, our favorite question!

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- We are all volunteers too and there are lots of areas that need help. From organizing the Children's Garden to selling soda's and folding chairs, even a two-hour shift can make a big difference.
Volunteer@SBPride.org
- Perhaps you are an artist who would like to participate in the upcoming Gay Identity art exhibit and reception? Last year saw the beginnings of a well received and attended event and is already turning into a superior show for all involved.
Art@SBPride.org
- Maybe you are involved with a business that wants to reach more members of the LGBT community and our friends?
Sponsor@SBPride.org
- Are you an entertainer and want to perform at a GSB event? Whether it's the Main Stage @ Pride or a Pride Soup fundraiser, everyone loves great entertainment.
Perform@GaySB.org
- Do you have a community group or business with a message for the thousands of people who attend Santa Barbara Pride each year?
Exhibit@SBPride.org
- Want to keep informed? Don't miss OUT on any of GSB's year-round calendar of cultural events with *Get OUT in SB* our FREE eBulletin.
Subscribe@OUTinSB.org
- Would you like to join Team GSB? Learn about the value that comes with *your* subscription membership. From singles and couples to students and businesses, we offer a variety of levels with just the right one for your interests.
Members@GaySB.org
- Pride may be FREE for the thousands who attend but it cost *lots* of money to produce. If you are able to make a *tax-deductible* (within current IRS guidelines) financial contribution – of any amount, it all adds up – your money will go to support the ongoing efforts of our *all-volunteer* group. With your continuing support Team GSB will be able to provide our community with the *best Pride celebrations Santa Barbara has ever seen!*
Friends@SBPride.org

Thank you for your continuing interest in the GSB Foundation and support of our projects like our Annual Santa Barbara LGBT Pride Celebration. You may have more questions about our organization and our efforts so please feel free to contact our Executive Director. He will do his best to answer them.

Peace.

Endorsed by unanimous consent by the Board of Directors, GSB Foundation, Inc.

***“...In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”
--Martin Luther King, Jr.***

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