

LGBTQIA+ Historical Milestones Timeline

The LGBTQIA+ movement is rooted in 1969's Stonewall uprising, but Seattle's rich queer history dates back to the late 1800s when downtown Seattle's Pioneer Square neighborhood – known also as “The Tenderloin,” “Skid Row,” and “Fairville” – was more welcoming to the burgeoning gay community than the surrounding area, and it saw establishments catering to them flourish. Here is a historical timeline of some important LGBTQIA+ milestones in Seattle, nationally, and beyond as our march continues.

NOTE: In several instances, the historical timeline includes verbiage from source material reflecting the era and which may imply bias, rather than our community's more evolved verbiage which we adhere to today.

Early 1900s

- In 1917, U.S. immigration law is modified to ban “persons with abnormal sexual instincts” from entering the country.
- From the early 1900's gay bars flourish in Seattle's Pioneer Square despite becoming victims to a police payoff system in which establishments owned by gay people and people of color are forced to pay money to police officers in exchange for “protection.” It isn't until the 1970s that some of the corrupt officers were put on trial and convicted of receiving bribes and payoffs, and legislation is passed aimed at stopping the harassment of queer bars.
- Harry Allen, a transgender man living in Seattle, is the subject of ongoing sensationalist local and national newspaper coverage from 1900 until his death in 1922.

The 20s

1924

- The Society for Human Rights is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago, the first gay rights organization in the U.S. The Society publishes the first American publication for homosexuals, *Friendship and Freedom*. Soon after being founded, it disbands due to political pressure.

The 30s

1933

- Seattle's first after-hours club, pool hall, and card room – The Casino – opens in Pioneer Square and later becomes Madame Peabody's Dancing Academy (or simply “The Dance”) which is known as one of the few places on the west coast where same-sex dancing is allowed.

1934

- Gay bars continue to flourish in Seattle's Pioneer Square with the end of prohibition, including the opening of The Double Header known for its drag shows and "The Cracker Barrel" oompah band; the bar eventually becomes the oldest continually operating gay bar on the West Coast until its closing in 2015.
- Hollywood adopts the so-called "Hayes Code" which stipulates, among other things, that "sex perversion or any interference to it is forbidden on the screen."

1935

- Sigmund Freud writes "Letter to an American Mother," urging compassion and tolerance for homosexuality.

The 40s

1946

- Seattle's first gay-owned bar, The Garden of Allah, opens in the basement of the Arlington Hotel located at Post Alley & Seneca featuring vaudeville, burlesque, and variety shows with female impersonators as its main attraction while fostering a sense of community among Seattle gays and lesbians throughout its 10-year run.

1948

- Biologist and sex researcher Alfred Kinsey publishes *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* which concludes homosexual behavior is not restricted to people who identify themselves as homosexual and that 37% of men have enjoyed homosexual activities at least once. While psychologists and psychiatrists in the 1940s consider homosexuality a form of illness, the findings surprise many conservative notions about sexuality.

The 50s

1950

- The Mattachine Society is formed by activist Harry Hay, and is one of the first sustained gay rights groups in the U.S. The Society focuses on social acceptance and other support for homosexuals.
- A Senate report titled, *Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government* is distributed to members of Congress after the federal government had covertly investigated employees' sexual orientation at the beginning of the Cold War. The report states since homosexuality is a mental illness, homosexuals "constitute security risks" to the nation because "those who engage in overt acts of perversion lack the emotional stability of normal persons." Over the previous few years, more than 4,300 gay men and women had been discharged from the military and around 500 fired from their jobs with the government. The purging became known as the "lavender scare."
- The first lesbian bar, The Hub, opens on Denny Way in Seattle, and is joined by the Grand Union, Sappho's Tavern, and the Silver Slipper.

1952

- Christine Jorgensen is the first American whose sex reassignment surgery became public. Her surgery causes an international sensation, and for many, she is the first visible transsexual in the media.
- The American Psychiatric Association lists homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance in its first publication of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Immediately following the manual's release many professionals in medicine, mental health, and social sciences criticize the categorization due to lack of empirical and scientific data.

1953

- President Eisenhower signs an executive order which bans homosexuals from working for the federal government, saying they are a security risk, along with alcoholics and neurotics.

1955

- Daughters of Bilitis, the first known lesbian rights organization in the U.S., forms in San Francisco.

1956

- African American novelist James Baldwin publishes *Giovanni's Room*, a male love story.

1958

- In a landmark case, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of *One: The Homosexual Magazine* following a suit filed after the U.S. Postal Service and FBI declared the magazine obscene material. The case marks the first time the U.S. Supreme Court rules in favor of homosexuals.

The 60s

1961

- Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality by repealing its sodomy laws.

1965

- On July 4 at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, picketers begin staging the first Reminder Day to call public attention to the lack of civil rights for LGBT people. The gatherings continue annually for five years.
- Members of the Mattachine Society stage a "sip-in" at the Julius Bar in NYC's Greenwich Village, where the New York Liquor Authority prohibits serving gay patrons in bars on the basis that homosexuals are "disorderly." Society members announce their homosexuality and are immediately refused service. Following the Sip-in, the society sues the liquor authority. While no laws are overturned, the NYC Commission on Human Rights declares that homosexuals have the right to be served.

1966

- After transgender customers become raucous in a 24-hour San Francisco cafeteria, management calls police. When a police officer mishandles one of the patrons, she throws coffee in his face and a riot ensues, eventually spilling out onto the street, destroying police and public property. Following the riot, activists established the National Transsexual Counseling Unit, the first peer-run support and advocacy organization in the world.

1967

- Seattle's first gay organization opens with the creation of the Dorian Society to spread awareness and advocacy. It leads to the creation in 1969 of The Seattle Counseling Services for Sexual Minorities, today known as Seattle Counseling Services.
- The *Los Angeles Advocate* is founded (renamed *The Advocate* in 1969) – it's considered the oldest continuing LGBTQIA+ publication which began as a newsletter published by the activist group Personal Rights in Defense of Education (PRIDE).
- The Student Homophile League at Columbia University becomes the first lesbian and gay campus group to receive official recognition.
- The Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, the first gay bookstore in the U.S., opens in Greenwich Village.

1969

- In late June bar patrons gathered at Stonewall Inn, a neighborhood bar which was a favorite gathering place for NYC's gay community – where police accepted bribes to ignore same-sex dancing and public displays of affection which were illegal at the time. However, this time the bar's patrons refused to pay bribe money resulting in a police raid and arrests – leading to rioting by the gay community and setting the stage for a greater liberation movement, including the start of Pride marches around the country which are held each year in late June to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion.

The 70s

1970

- On June 28, community members in NYC march through the local streets into Central Park to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The event is named Christopher Street Liberation Day, and it is considered the first Pride Parade.
- The Seattle chapter of the Gay Liberation Front is formed, one year after the Stonewall rebellion.
- The Lesbian Mothers Defense Fund is founded in Seattle.
- The House of LaBeija is established in NYC and serves as an inspiration for Kiki Balls across the country, including those in the Pacific Northwest.

- Pioneer Square is established as both a National Historic District and a local preservation district by the city which drove up costs. As young gay people begin to open bars, they are forced to do so in the cheaper neighborhood of Capitol Hill. As more new bars opened on Capitol Hill and the older generation is phased out of Pioneer Square, Capitol Hill becomes the new gay neighborhood. It is also around this time that young lesbian feminists begin to gather in the University District.

1971

- The first Gay Community Center opens near Pioneer Square.
- The Lesbian Resource Center opens in the University District.
- Washington state repeals its sodomy law.

1972

- Short-lived ABC sitcom *The Corner Bar* premieres featuring the first recurring gay character on American television, Peter Panama, played by Vincent Schiavelli.

1973

- City of Seattle ordinances ban discrimination in employment against sexual minorities.
- Lambda Legal becomes the first legal organization established to fight for the equal rights of gays and lesbians.
- The first meeting of “Parents and Friends of Gays” is held on March 26 – which later goes national as “Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays” (PFLAG) in 1982.
- The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from the DSM-II, where it had been listed as a mental illness alongside pedophilia and zoophilia.
- After losing her leg in a freak accident involving a cannon blast at a 1970 Bastille Day parade in Pioneer Square, Shelly Bauman uses part of her insurance windfall to open Seattle’s first unapologetically gay disco, aptly named Shelly’s Leg, quickly becoming one of Seattle’s most popular gay bars until its closing in 1977.

1974

- Seattle’s first Gay Pride Week – organized by gay rights activist David Neth – includes a picnic, street dance, and march (of approximately 200 people) in Pioneer Square’s Occidental Square Park (though not officially recognized by the city); as well as a “Gay-In” which features “zany dress, general frivolity, carousing, and a circle dance” around Seattle Center’s International Fountain; and a roller-skating sing-along at the top of the Volunteer Park Water Tower.
- *Seattle Gay News* (SGN) – the country’s third oldest LGBTQIA+ publication – is founded by providing an important voice reporting on issues within Seattle’s queer community.

- Kathy Kozachenko becomes the first openly LGBTQ American elected to any public office when she wins a seat on the Ann Arbor, Michigan City Council.

1975

- The first federal gay rights bill is introduced to address discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill later goes to the Judiciary Committee, but it is never brought into consideration.
- Technical Sergeant Leonard P. Matlovich reveals his sexual orientation to his commanding officer and is forcibly discharged from the U.S. Air Force six months later. Matlovich is a Vietnam War veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. In 1980, the U.S. Court of Appeals rules the dismissal was improper. Matlovich is awarded back pay and a retroactive promotion.
- After undergoing gender reassignment surgery, ophthalmologist and professional tennis player Renee Richards is banned from competing in the women's U.S. Open because of a "women-born-women" rule. Richards challenges the decision and in 1977, the New York Supreme Court rules in her favor. Richards competes in the 1977 U.S. Open, but she is defeated in the first round by Virginia Wade.

1976

- The first Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is held in Hart, Michigan. The festival is one of the largest and most visible lesbian events in the country.
- Gov. Dan Evans signs a bill to decriminalize anti-sodomy laws in Washington state.

1977

- Seattle Mayor Wes Uhlman declares the "first official Gay Pride Week." The Seattle Pride Parade – running from Occidental Square Park to Westlake Park by way of First Avenue – attracts more than 2,000 attendees. This parade route remains in place until the early 80s when it alternates years with Capitol Hill until it "permanently" moves to Broadway.
- Singer and conservative Southern Baptist Anita Bryant leads a successful campaign with the "Save Our Children" Crusade to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida. Bryant faces severe backlash from gay rights supporters across the U.S. The gay rights ordinance is not reinstated in Dade County until December 1, 1998, more than 20 years later.
- The Ingersoll Gender Center opens.
- Black and White Men Together, now called Men of All Colors and Cultures Together, is formed in Seattle to fight racism within the gay community.

1978

- Harvey Milk is inaugurated as San Francisco city supervisor, and he's the first openly gay man to be elected to political office in California. In November, Milk and Mayor George Moscone are murdered by Dan White, who recently resigned from his San Francisco board position and wanted Moscone to reappoint him. White serves just over five years in prison for involuntary manslaughter.
- Inspired by Harvey Milk to develop a symbol of pride and hope for the LGBTQ community, Gilbert Baker, an openly gay man and drag queen, as well queer artists Lynn Segerblom, James McNamara, and 30 volunteers design and unveil the first rainbow Pride flag at San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day on June 25.
- City of Seattle ordinances ban discrimination in housing against sexual minorities.
- Two Seattle police officers file Initiative 13 and call the organization *Save Our Moral Ethics*, to repeal anti-discrimination ordinances. The Seattle Committee Against Thirteen/Women Against Thirteen uses Occidental Square as its protest site against Initiative 13. Seattle voters reject the Initiative by 63 percent.

1979

- Seattle's PFLAG chapter is established.
- On October 14, the first National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights takes place. It draws an estimated 100,000 individuals marching for LGBTQ rights. The struggle had been a collection of local marches, but for the first time it garners national attention.

The 80s

1981

- *The New York Times* prints the first story of a rare pneumonia and skin cancer found in 41 gay men in New York and California. The CDC initially refers to the disease as GRID, *Gay Related Immune Deficiency Disorder*. When the symptoms are found outside the gay community, Bruce Voeller, biologist, and founder of the National Gay Task Force, successfully lobbies to change the name of the disease to AIDS.
- The Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA) is established to foster patronage of gay businesses.

1982

- The first case of AIDS is reported in Seattle. Over the next 10 years, more than 3,500 Seattle citizens will die from AIDS, with the vast majority being male and gay.
- Wisconsin becomes the first state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.

1983

- Seattle becomes the second municipality nationwide to set aside funds for AIDS research and treatment.

- King County adds sexual orientation protections to its open housing ordinance.
- Lambda Legal wins *People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.*, the first HIV/AIDS discrimination lawsuit. Neighbors attempt to evict Dr. Joseph Sonnabend from the building because he is treating HIV-positive patients.

1985

- Actor Rock Hudson acknowledges he has AIDS, prompting widespread public attention to the epidemic.

1987

- Hundreds of thousands of activists take part in the National March on Washington to demand that President Reagan address the AIDS crisis. Although AIDS had been reported first in 1981, it was not until the end of his presidency that Reagan speaks publicly about the epidemic.
- The AIDS advocacy group ACT UP (The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) forms in response to the devastating effects of the disease. The group holds demonstrations against pharmaceutical companies profiteering from AIDS-related drugs as well as the lack of AIDS policies protecting patients from outrageous prescription prices.
- Cal Anderson is appointed state representative from Seattle's 43rd District, becoming the first openly gay member of the Washington State Legislature.
- People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN) is founded in Seattle.

1988

- The CDC mails a brochure, *Understanding AIDS*, to every household in the U.S. – approximately 107 million brochures are mailed.
- The first National Coming Out Day is observed on October 11 to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the second Lesbian and Gay March on Washington.
- The World Health Organization organizes the first World AIDS Day in 1988 to raise awareness of the spreading epidemic.

The 90s

1990

- President George H.W. Bush signs the Ryan White Care Act, a federally funded program for people living with AIDS. Ryan White, an Indiana teenager, contracted AIDS in 1984 through a tainted hemophilia treatment. After being barred from attending school because of his HIV-positive status, White becomes a well-known activist for AIDS research and anti-discrimination.

1991

- Created by New York-based Visual AIDS, the red ribbon is adopted as a symbol of awareness and compassion for those living with HIV/AIDS.

- Sherry Harris becomes the first self-identified lesbian to be elected to the Seattle City Council.
- Lambert House is established as a drop-in center for gay youth in Seattle, the first of its kind in the U.S.
- Entre Hermanos is formed to promote the health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ Latinos.
- NBC TV's *L.A. Law* airs the first kiss between two people of the same sex on primetime television. It inadvertently starts a lamentable television craze known as "the lesbian kiss episode" where a character of little importance kisses another woman with little plot development.
- Basketball legend Magic Johnson stuns the world by announcing his sudden retirement from the Los Angeles Lakers, after testing positive for HIV. He is one of the first sports stars to go public about his HIV status.

1992

- For the first time, the Seattle Pride festivities expand to include bisexual and transgender identities (LGBT).
- Bailey-Boushay House, operated by Virginia Mason Medical Center, opens – becoming the country's first nursing care residence for people living with HIV/AIDS.

1993

- President Clinton signs a military policy directive that prohibits openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military, but also prohibits harassment from closeted homosexuals. The policy is known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

1995

- The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act goes into effect as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The law allows a judge to impose harsher sentences if there is evidence showing that a victim was selected because of the "actual or perceived race, color, religion national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person."

1997

- Activists gather outside Seattle Central Community College for a rally "in support of those crossing, having crossed, or challenging gender and biological borders" in the first Trans Pride in the nation.
- Trikone Northwest is formed to support LGBTQIA+ South Asians in Seattle.
- Comedian Ellen DeGeneres comes out as a lesbian on the cover of *Time* magazine, stating, "Yep, I'm Gay" while the character she plays on her self-titled TV series becomes the first leading character to come out on a primetime network television show.

1998

- On April 1, Coretta Scott King – the widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. – asks the civil rights community to help in the effort to extinguish homophobia. She receives criticism from members of the Black civil rights movement for comparing civil rights to gay rights.
- Matthew Shepard, a gay youth, is tied to a fence, beaten, and tortured near Laramie, Wyoming. He is found the next day by a cyclist who initially mistakes him for a scarecrow. He later dies due to his injuries sustained during the beating. Two days later Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney make their first court appearance after being arrested for the attempted murder of Shepard. Eventually, they each receive two life sentences for killing Shepard.

1999

- President Clinton designates June as National Pride Month to advance awareness of LGBTQIA+ issues, and to promote mutual respect and equal human rights for all.

The 2000s

2000

- Vermont becomes the first state to legalize civil-unions and registered partnerships between same-sex couples. It is one small step helping to pave the way for future policies.
- Camp Ten Trees is founded in Seattle as one of the first summer camps for children who are questioning or who identify as LGBTQIA+.

2003

- Capitol Hill's Lincoln Park is renamed Cal Anderson Park in honor of the state representative from Seattle's 43rd District, who was the first openly gay member of the Washington State Legislature.
- The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the "homosexual conduct" law, which decriminalizes same-sex sexual conduct., with their opinion in *Lawrence v. Texas*. The decision also reverses *Bowers v. Hardwick*, a 1986 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld Georgia's sodomy law.

2004

- On May 17, the first legal same-sex marriage in the U.S. takes place in Massachusetts.

2005

- The California State Legislature becomes the first to pass a bill allowing marriage between same-sex couples. California Governor Schwarzenegger vetoes the bill.

2006

- Seattle Pride Parade moves from Capitol Hill back to downtown where it originated.
- Gov. Chris Gregoire signs into law Washington state's first gay civil rights bill.

- Washington State Legislature passes first domestic partnership law focused on death and medical issues, including hospital visitation, funeral arrangements, inheritance, and insurance benefits for domestic partners.
- The New Jersey Supreme Court rules that state lawmakers must provide the rights and benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples.

2007

- Sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign, the Logo cable channel hosts the first American presidential forum focusing specifically on LGBTQ issues, inviting each presidential candidate. Six Democrats participate in the forum, including Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, while all Republican candidates decline.
- Domestic partnership becomes legal for same-sex couples in Washington state.
- After appearing in beloved queer films like *Wigstock* and *To Wong Foo*, Candis Cayne stars in the ABC series *Dirty Sexy Money*, making her the first transgender actor to play a recurring transgender character on primetime television.

2008

- The California Supreme Court rules that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples is unconstitutional.
- Washington state expands rights of domestic partners with recognition of community property.
- Voters approve Proposition 8 in California, which makes same-sex marriage illegal.

2009

- Harvey Milk is posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Obama.
- President Obama signs the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law.
- Washington State Legislature passes – and citizens approve – Referendum 71, the “Everything But Marriage” law, extending all rights and obligations of married couples to domestic partners (to the extent allowed by federal law).

The 2010s

2010

- The Space Needle flies the rainbow Pride flag for the first time.
- California’s Proposition 8 is found unconstitutional by a federal judge.

2011

- “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed, ending a ban on gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

2012

- President Obama becomes the first sitting U.S. president to publicly support the freedom for LGBTQIA+ couples to marry in an ABC News interview.
- The Democratic Party becomes the first major U.S. political party in history to officially support marriage equality on a national platform at its national convention.
- Washington State Legislature passes a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. Opponents quickly force a public vote after gathering signatures for a ballot referendum. The final vote of the public was 53.7% approving marriage equality.
- The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act, ruling that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits.
- Pride Asia is formed in Seattle.

2013

- Seattle elects Ed Murray as its first openly gay mayor.

2014

- The U.S. Supreme Court denies review in five different marriage cases, allowing lower court rulings to stand, and therefore allowing same-sex couples to marry in Utah, Oklahoma, Virginia, Indiana, and Wisconsin. The decision also opens the door for the right to marry in Colorado, Kansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

2015

- U.S. Secretary of Defense announces the Military Equal Opportunity policy has been adjusted to include gay and lesbian military members.
- The Boy Scouts of America announces, “the national executive board ratified a resolution removing the national restriction on openly gay leaders and employees.”
- The U.S. Supreme Court rules that same-sex couples can marry nationwide.

2016

- Seattle Children’s Gender Clinic opens as the region’s only multidisciplinary clinic serving transgender and gender diverse youth.
- The U.S. Senate confirms Eric Fanning to be secretary of the army, making him the first openly gay secretary of a U.S. military branch.
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announces President Obama’s designation of the first national monument to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. The Stonewall National Monument will encompass Christopher Park, the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding streets and sidewalks that were the sites of the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

- U.S. Secretary of Defense announces the Pentagon is lifting the ban on transgender people serving opening in the U.S. military.
- The Washington State Black Trans Task Force, now known as the Lavender Rights Project, is formed to address the crisis of violence against Black trans women and femmes.

2017

- Jenny Durkan is elected as Seattle's first self-identified lesbian mayor and just the second woman elected to the position.
- The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals rules that the Civil Rights Act prohibits workplace discrimination against LGBTQ employees after Kimberly Hively sues Ivy Tech Community College for violating Title VII of the act by denying her employment.
- District of Columbia residents can choose a gender-neutral option for their driver's license. Similar policies exist in Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Nepal, and New Zealand.
- The U.S. Department of Defense announces a six-month delay in allowing transgender individuals to enlist in the U.S. military. Defense Secretary Mattis writes that they "will use this additional time to evaluate more carefully the impact of such accessions on readiness and lethality.
- President Trump announces via Twitter that "after consultation with my generals and military experts, please be advised that the U.S. government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. military."
- A second federal judge rules against President Trump's prohibition on transgender individuals serving in the military. The Pentagon announces it will begin processing transgender applicants to the military on January first, while the Department of Justice continues to appeal the ruling.

2018

- Daniela Vega, the star of the Oscar-winning foreign film *A Fantastic Woman*, becomes the first openly transgender presenter in Academy Awards history when she introduces a performance by Sufjan Stevens, whose song *Mystery of Love* from the *Call Me By Your Name* soundtrack, is nominated for best original song.
- The U.S. Supreme Court allows President Trump's transgender military ban to go into effect. The policy blocks individuals diagnosed with a condition known as gender dysphoria from serving with limited exceptions and specifies that they can serve only according to the sex they were assigned at birth.

The 2020s

2020

- Gov. Jay Inslee signs the Nikki Kuhnhausen Act into law, eliminating the legal strategy known as “LGBTQ+ panic defense.”
- Seattle-area organizers – from Trans Women of Color Solidarity Network, Queer the Land, and Alphabet Alliance of Color – establish Taking B(I)ack Pride to empower BIPOC transgender, queer, and gender-diverse communities to take charge of their collective joy, grief, healing, anger, celebration, pride, and expression of culture and community.
- Seattle Pride, PrideFest, and Gender Justice League (TransPride) collaborated on Seattle’s first virtual Pride celebration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; a virtual Pride celebration is also held in 2021.

2021

- President Biden signs an executive order repealing the ban on transgender people serving openly in the U.S. military.
- DC comic book superhero *Superman* (aka Jon Kent, son of Clark Kent and Lois Lane) enters a queer relationship after falling for Jay Nakamura, a male reporter.
- Kataluna Enriquez becomes the first openly trans woman to compete in the Miss Universe Pageant, after being crowned Miss Nevada USA.

2023

- Seattle Pride Parade returns after a two-year hiatus as a result of the pandemic; the parade attracts an estimated 300,000 members of the LGBTQIA+ community, friends, and allies – Washington state’s largest parade and one of the largest Pride parades nationally.

2024

- Gov. Jay Inslee signs a bill mandating that Washington public schools statewide teach students about the contributions and history of LGBTQIA+ people.
- Seattle celebrates the 50th anniversary of Seattle’s Pride celebrations providing the entire community an opportunity to celebrate the present, envision the future, and honor our past.

Seattle Pride acknowledges the milestones in the timeline above are a mere snapshot of our community’s rich history, noting that many of our stories have not been adequately documented. We ask for your help in continuing to add to our timeline and welcome your contributions by emailing us additional LGBTQIA+ milestones (including the information source) at:

History@seattlepride.org

The timeline milestones above have been informed by a variety of trusted sources including ACLU, Cal Anderson Park Alliance, Camp Ten Trees, City of Seattle, CNN, HistoryLink, *Gay Seattle: Pioneer Square and the Making of Queer Seattle*, National Institutes of Health, NBC News, OutHistory.org, *Out of the Past: 400 Years of Lesbian and Gay History in America*, PBS, People, POCAAN, Seattle Children’s, State of Washington, *The Evergrey*, The History Channel, Today.com, United Way of King County, *USA Today*, Virginia Mason Medical Center