



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**PHOENIX PRIDE TO AWARD MORE THAN \$82,000**  
**IN COMMUNITY GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AT ANNUAL AWARDS GALA THIS FRIDAY**

**Friday, June 23, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Phoenix Art Museum**

**PHOENIX — Phoenix Pride** will award more than \$82,000 in community grants and scholarships at the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Phoenix Pride Community Spirit Awards**, this Friday, June 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum (1625 North Central Avenue, Phoenix 85004; [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org) ). The event is presented by PetSmart ([www.petsmart.com](http://www.petsmart.com)).

The awards include \$35,000 in individual scholarship awards and \$47,418 in community grants to local organizations that work in, or in support of, the Arizona LGBTQ community. The event will also include presentation of the float and participation awards for the 2017 Phoenix Pride Parade, as well the presentation of the independent Community Spirit Awards to recipient businesses, organizations and individuals, as nominated by the community.

"This is one of the most exciting points in Phoenix Pride's year, as we have the opportunity to give back directly to the Arizona LGBTQ community, which is so supportive of our efforts year-round, including the Phoenix Pride Festival & Parade, the annual Rainbows Festival, and the yearly Miss and Mister Phoenix Pride Pageant," Phoenix Pride Executive Director Justin Owen said. "This year's Pride Festival was our most well-attended ever, with more than 37,000 community members present, and we're thrilled that this has enabled us to

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## PHOENIX PRIDE TO AWARD MORE THAN \$80,000 IN GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

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give back substantially to a number of vital agencies that support our community, as well as to provide academic scholarships to individuals of merit, to further their education and personal development.”

“I am extremely proud of the efforts of Phoenix Pride’s staff, volunteers and board, as we prepare to recognize and provide direct financial support to so many of the amazing agencies that serve as our partners, friends and family in helping Arizona’s LGBTQ community to continue to grow and thrive,” Phoenix Pride Board Chairman Mark Leeper added. “Phoenix Pride is committed to serving our entire community, and not only by producing the two largest annual LGBTQ events in Arizona. By providing both fiscal resources and public recognition to deserving agencies and individuals who serve our population, we continue to live our mission of uniting and engaging individuals and organizations to empower, educate and support the Arizona LGBTQ community.”

The Phoenix Pride Community Spirit Awards are open to the public, with advanced ticket purchase required. All tickets include access to the Phoenix Art Museum (which will be closed to the public during) throughout the evening, including full gallery tours, as well as heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and entertainment. Basic tickets for the event are priced at \$60.00. In addition, VIP tickets, which include hosted bar and exclusive access to the museum’s Samurai Exhibit, are priced at \$120.00. **All tickets to the event can be purchased online at <http://tinyurl.com/pride-spirit-2017>, or by calling Phoenix Pride directly at 602-27-PRIDE (602-277-7433).**

A complete list of award and scholarship recipients follows.

Additional information regarding Phoenix Pride is available online at [phoenixpride.org](http://phoenixpride.org). Specific information regarding the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Phoenix Pride Community Spirit Awards can be found at [phoenixpride.org/events/pride-awards](http://phoenixpride.org/events/pride-awards).

**ADVANCE AND ON-SITE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PHOENIX PRIDE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS IS WELCOME. FOR INTERVIEW OR ON-SITE COVERAGE REQUESTS, PLEASE CONTACT JEREMY HELFGOT, BY PHONE AT 310-413-3360, OR VIA E-MAIL TO [jm@helfgot.com](mailto:jm@helfgot.com).**

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# COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

BJ Bud Spirit Award

## GLSEN PHOENIX



The BJ Bud Spirit Award honors and celebrates a non-profit organization that has made a significant contribution to the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

Kirk Baxter Spirit Award

## IGNITE YOUR STATUS



The Kirk Baxter Spirit Award honors and celebrates an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution in the area of community health issues for the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

Howard & Patricia Fleischmann Spirit Award

## BANK OF AMERICA



The Howard & Patricia Fleischmann Spirit Award honors and celebrates a business that has made a significant contribution to the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

Mayor Phil Gordon Spirit Award

## CONGRESSMAN RUBEN GALLEGO



The Mayor Phil Gordon Spirit Award honors and celebrates an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution in the area of politics for the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

# COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS

John Bircumshaw Spirit Award

## BOBBY GORDON



The John Bircumshaw Spirit Award honors and celebrates an individual that has made a significant contribution to the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

Linda Hoffman Spirit Award

## STELLA KOWALCZYK



The Linda Hoffman Spirit Award honors and celebrates the Phoenix Pride Volunteer of the Year.

Tish Tanner Spirit Award

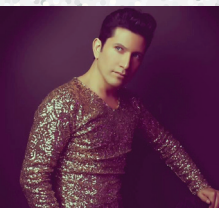
## NAOMI ST JAMES



The Tish Tanner Spirit Award honors and celebrates the outgoing Miss Phoenix Pride for their contributions of service and fundraising for the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.

Brandon Packer Spirit Award

## GEO JOHNSON



The Brandon Packer Spirit Award honors and celebrates the outgoing Mister Phoenix Pride for their contributions of service and fundraising for the metropolitan Phoenix LGBTQ community.



## Beverage Grant Recipients

Arizona Gay Rodeo Association  
Arizona Gay Volleyball Association  
Desert Overture Wind Symphony  
Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual  
Indulgence

Imperial Court of Arizona  
Grand Canyon Performing Arts  
Phoenix Phantomz  
Phoenix Storm Rugby

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## Scholarship Recipients



**BRETT ARMSTRONG**



**SIDNEY ARONSOHN**



**JUAN HINOJOS**



**CODY HOLT**



**TILLIE JONES**



**JIMMIE MUÑOZ**



**GABRIEL OGBONNAYA II**  
Dan Galloway Scholarship Recipient