

Why are you interested in joining the Board of Pride Toronto?:

I do believe I bring diversity and living experience that can be considered as asset to work with marginalized communities, but over all to inspire newcomers to believe we all belong somewhere.

How will your experience, talents, and skill contribute to advancing Pride Toronto's Mission, Vision, and Values?:

I have been working with marginalized communities for over 12 years, among those communities are, trans individuals, sex workers, people living with HIV, immigrants, refugees and more. I have sat a different committee, advisory board that have help to create spaces, give visibility to communities but overall to give them spaces to hear and the opportunity to work together to fix what has not been working.

Pride has had a history of anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism, and we are working to address and combat this. What is your experience in working against racism, particularly anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism? What is your vision for Pride Toronto's external work in combating racism?:

I myself I am person of born and raised with Indigenous traditions and culture. I have learned to stand up for what is right and always advocate for those who need support, the experience I am bringing is call living experience I know exactly what is like to be discriminated, targeted because of your background and skin color, this gives me the knowledge and skills to work with diverse community to address the challenges we face and show empathy to contribute one another to build stronger communities based on trust and respect.

What is your experience in addressing and combating transphobia, transmisogyny, and transmisandry?:

There could not be greater experience that survived as a trans woman for all my life, have the experience of work and support trans women incarcerated, sex workers and individuals living with HIV. I have been able to fund a non-profit organization that works with a diverse community that treasure respect, tolerance, and acceptance. In our organization we run a program call Trans-Checkando me! A program that supports educate and empower trans individuals to overcome different satiations in live, the program started as a direct support for trans individuals and now the same program is lead but trans folks that helps the rest of the LGBTQ community.

Accessibility is a crucial aspect for Pride Toronto's celebrations, but we still fall short in providing a completely accessible Festival, especially for people with mobility issues, and the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. What experience, resources, and knowledge do you have in engaging and supporting these communities?:

I myself when I talk about diversity and inclusion is not only about 2SLGBTQ+ community members but is to be able to recognize the capacity and abilities of all human beings given those who needs more help the support is needed to all have access to the same treatment and equity. Recognize our differences and understand our situations are the best tools we can have to make changes possible, life changes every and we need to adapt to those changes which means we have to plans based on our community needs, having an understanding and acknowledging our differences that will always help to do better for our communities, plus I do believe this is a team work effort, we need to do this together and too I am a great team player.

Pride Toronto's Membership has voted to ban instruments and symbols of policing, including uniforms, cars and weapons, from participating in the Pride Parade and StreetFair. If elected to the Board, how would you ensure that this commitment is upheld?:

My responsibilities as committee members will be to hear my community voices, demands and stay true to what make them feel safe and belong. Time have been tough, and we have got a long way but definitely there is still a lot of more work to do. Let's remember that we always should act on the best interest of the people we represent, and we are working for.