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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Announces New Leadership

The newly expanded board of directors of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has elected Jennifer Morales and Paul Williams as board co-chairs. Sheldon Walker has stepped down as interim executive director.

The board has contracted with Karen Gotzler of Urban Strategies for executive and management services.

"I want to thank Sheldon Walker for his four months of service as interim executive director and we are grateful for him taking a leave from his culinary business to help the Center," says Williams.

Walker, who is returning to his true passion, commented, "The new Board of Directors really understands the leadership that is needed by selecting Karen Gotzler of Urban Strategies. This illustrates that they are serious about reorganizing the Center. I am thankful to the community for stepping up to ensure the success of the Center programs."

Ms. Gotzler was one of the founders of both the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and of Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee. For the last 15 years she has been working with businesses and nonprofits providing training and technical expertise.

Ms. Morales is a former elected board member of the Milwaukee Public Schools, where she led the movement for inclusive and fair treatment of the district's LGBT employees, students, and families. She is an editorial and grantwriting consultant, working mainly with nonprofits, academics, and political candidates on messaging and fundraising.

"I'm excited to help lead the Community Center board in its work. We have a challenging road ahead of us but this talented group of community leaders has already demonstrated their commitment and their ability to make the kinds of changes that will position the Center to thrive."

Mr. Williams manages communications for the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee and currently serves as a board director of the ACLU of Wisconsin, as a volunteer program and policy reviewer for the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and as a member of the Milwaukee LGBT History Project. He has previously served in leadership roles with PrideFest, the non-partisan Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC), and the Milwaukee Domestic Partnership Task Force. He also served as a board director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center in the early 2000's.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the Center's board, its staff, the advisory council and the community to support the center's vital programming and strengthen the center's responsiveness to community needs," said Williams.

The Board of Directors includes: Denise Cawley, Kass Hume, Halanna Lathon, Debbie Lang, Peter Larson, Jim Lautenbach, Valery Meyer, Jane Ottow, Tina Owen, Martin Palicki, and Anne Perry.

The governance Board committee has the list of interested community members who offered their name to the Board of Directors and will be contacting qualified candidates for interviews in early June. Some may be contacted before that to join committees of the board in order to assist with the Center's reorganization.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center programs include: Project Q Youth Services, HIV Risk Reduction & Prevention Services, LGBT Breast Health Programs, and the Anti-Violence Project, as well as financial literacy education, an art gallery, an LGBT lending library with over 2000 books, a cyber center and meeting spaces.

Numerous community partners are located at the Center, including Milwaukee PrideFest, FORGE, PFLAG Milwaukee, Lesbian Alliance, Veterans for Diversity (formerly Vets Do Ask Do Tell), Wisconsin Voices, Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf and the Center for Progressive Leadership.

The Center is calling out for help in terms of members, donations and committee members. Please call the Center today at **(414) 271-2656** today to offer your support. Use our online PayPal donation link to make contributions to the Center on our website: <http://www.mkelgbt.org>.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

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Funds are sought to continue to have a home for these vital programs for the LGBT community and its allies.