

Pride at Exponents

June was a month full of Pride at Exponents. With COVID-19's appearance in early 2020, our annual Pride events were all cancelled. Our peers were out across the city in spaces known to be areas socialized by community members, engaging in conversations and providing information. After 15 months, staff and community members were excited to learn of the return of the Kiki Lounge! Kiki Lounge is a low-threshold entree to programming for community members between the ages of 18 & 28. On Wednesday, the 23rd, all were excited to attend our Pride celebration. After being provided an overview of the Stonewall Uprisings, attendees virtually engaged with spokesmodels from the NYS HIV Stops With Me campaign in a discussion. We focused on continuing the work of ending the HIV epidemic in NYC Queer, Trans and Non-Binary communities by addressing stigma, misinformation and the scarcity of cultural respon-

sive spaces and services. Performers amazed the audience by blending years worth of show experience while addressing the racial injustices and indomitable spirit of womxn and communities of color. While it was necessary to cap the number of attendees accessing our space, we were excited to welcome the 120 individuals who participated virtually. Thank you to the members of our Queer Youth Advisory Board (Q-YAB) who recommended panelists and performers, shared the promotional materials with friends and family and even helped decorate the space. To our wonderful Director of Health Services, thanks for utilizing your role as a HSWM spokesmodel to arrange the panel, to our Director of Training & Recruitment, Victor Velazquez, thank you for keeping our virtual attendees connected and engaged. Finally, a special thank you to our Assistant Director, RWC, Shayra Vega for coordinating the decorations and Leta Carlyle, Project InFORM Coordinator for hosting.

The final event for our Pride commemoration/celebration was a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the state of health in Queer, Trans and Non-Binary communities. Our panelists for the event were Bruce Richman, Founding Director of Prevention Access Campaign and long-time community advocate, Co-Founder & Director of Community Kinship Life and LGBT Coordinator for the NYC Public Advocate's Office, Kim Watson.

On behalf of Exponents Board, staff and community members, we thank all of our contributors and look forward to continuing our work with and in Queer spaces.

As we move deeper into the summer, we do so with a renewed vigor to fearlessly address privilege, the effects of 'othering' and the need for more accessible, culturally responsive spaces and services for our community.

Donald Powell, Sr. Director of Programs and Development



Lady Jasmine Wales



Egypt LaBeija

Jonathan Guzman GED Achievement

Jonathan Guzman has been enrolled in Exponents services for over 10 years. He went from a participant to peer, assisting with the ARRIVE & APGP, Recovery Wellness and Outpatient Drug Treatment programs, providing mentoring and support to individuals struggling with addiction, mental health and HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Guzman has been trying to obtain his high school equivalency, since the age of 18. He took the exam three times and finally passed on the 28th of April, 2021. He has worked diligently with the Adult Learning Peer Advisor, Mr. Derrick Foster, for over two years to get the educational support needed to pass the exam.

In May, he received an email from Community Impact from Columbia



University, stating that he had been granted his diploma and that it was in the mail. When he returned to Exponents the following day, he could not stop smiling, crying and expressing his excitement to everyone along the way, letting them know he finally past his exam. It has not been an easy process and on several occasions, he felt like giving up but continued forward and persevered. He and everyone at Exponents is thrilled that he achieved his lifelong goal.

He continues to work with Exponents Adult Education Program to give back what was so freely given to him. He volunteers with the program and helps students who are struggling with math. He is a shining example of how commitment and tenacity, pays off at the end, if you see it through. Congratulations, Jonathan, we are very proud of you!

Yvonne Soto, Director Transitional & Vocational Services

APGP Retreat

- Here is Dana Diamond, Director of Health Services with some of the participants who attended the ARRIVE Post Graduate Program (APGP) Retreat. The retreat is an additional two weeks of workshops and support groups.

- Some of the workshops included: Healthy Relationships & Addiction, Sex & Sexuality, HIV & Dating & Overcoming Procrastination.



EXPONENTS HEROES OF HEALTH 3rd Annual Benefit

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

We are so thankful to everyone who supported our virtual benefit on World Health Day. With over 100 ticketed guests in attendance, we raised over \$75,000! Your support of EXPONENTS means so much, and it was truly a pleasure to share this special evening with all of you.

The World Health Organization's campaign for World Health Day 2021 is to build a fairer, healthier world. COVID-19 has highlighted that our world is an unequal one, one where some people are able to live healthier lives and have better access to health services than others. Furthermore, the impact of COVID-19 has been harshest on communities which were already vulnerable, and it's been harshest on those who are more likely to experience adverse consequences as a result of measures implemented to contain the pandemic.

At EXPONENTS, our community has grown and thrived in spite of the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and we're ready to meet whatever the future may bring because of you. Your generosity will make it possible for EXPONENTS to provide over 32,000 services to over 2,700 participants, serving vulnerable New Yorkers with histories of HIV/AIDS, substance use, incarceration, and behavioral health challenges.

Thank you for making our benefit a success and our work possible.

With sincere gratitude,



EXECUTIVE TEAM

Joseph Turner
President & CEO

Regina Edwards
EVP & CFO

Samantha Lopez
EVP & COO

Heros of Health

THANK YOU TO OUR HONOREES

VISIONARY AWARD

KAI WRIGHT

Award-winning journalist, host/managing editor of WNYC's *United States of Anxiety*

EXPONENTS is honored to recognize Kai Wright for his visionary work raising awareness about the issues affecting the communities we serve.



INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

SAEEDA LESLEY DUNSTON

Executive Director, Elmcour Youth & Adult Activities

EXPONENTS is honored to recognize Saeeda Lesley Dunston for her trailblazing thought leadership and career of service to the underserved communities of New York City.



PEER LEADERSHIP AWARD

CORNELIA CARLYLE

EXPONENTS is honored to recognize Cornelia Carlyle for her exemplary leadership as one of our peers.



EXPONENTS HEROES OF HEALTH 3rd Annual Benefit

EXPONENTS hosted our first virtual benefit during World Health Day on Wednesday, April 7, 2021. The event featured a virtual cocktail party and a wonderful program showcasing the resilience of our community in the face of the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and substance use disorder. All proceeds from this celebration are going towards funding our programs delivering over 32,000 services to 2,700+ individuals throughout the year.

Alexandra Spinks,
Individual Giving & Fundraising Manager



Funders & Supporters

US Health Resources
Services Administration,
HIV Care Services

Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration
(SAMHSA)

Various Corporate Donors

US Center for Disease Control
(CDC)

Broadway Cares/Equity Fights
AIDS, Inc.

Judith L. Chiara
Charitable Fund

NYS Office of Alcoholism
and Substance Abuse Services
(OASAS)

NYS Department of Health,
AIDS Institute

Various Individual Donors

Department of Health and
Human Services

The Council of the City of
New York

OUR MISSION

We are a nonprofit organization located in the heart of New York City compassionately dedicated to serving those impacted by HIV/AIDS, substance use, incarceration and behavioral health challenges. We deliver these services through a client-centered, strength-based approach which greatly improves health outcomes and promotes overall wellness in our communities.

To Our Generous
Supporters

Thank you for helping us bring hope to those in need. Because of you our work will continue.