

HAPPY PRIDE!



Pride In Business

AFTER PARTY!

Hosted by:
KIKI

Presenting Sponsor



2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

KiKi

2409 Grant, Houston, TX 77006



PRIDE IN BUSINESS

Greater Houston LGBT
Chamber of Commerce

PRESENTING SPONSOR



FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



1200 Louisiana Street, Houston, TX 77002

houstonprideinbusiness2023.lgbt

#PrideInBusiness



Greater Houston LGBT
Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce accelerates economic opportunity for the LGBTQ+ business community through a strong network of business allies, innovative programs, strategic partnerships and advance policies that foster economic inclusion and equality.

The overarching work of the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce is focused on economic empowerment for LGBTQ+ entrepreneurs and professionals. Our work focuses on supporting and growing a thriving LGBTQ+ and Allied Business Community to create economic opportunities for the LGBTQ+ community.

Learn more about the Chamber at
www.houstonlgbtchamber.com



WELCOME

Cheryl Mercedes (she/her)

Reporter & Anchor, KHOU 11

Tammi Wallace (she/her)

*Co-Founder, President & CEO,
Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce*

PRESENTING SPONSOR REMARKS



Aaron Slessinger (he/him)

*Senior Director, Personal Systems Displays and Docks, HP
Executive Sponsor, Houston Pride Business Impact Network (BIN)*

PRIDE IN BUSINESS AWARDS PRESENTATION FIRESIDE CHAT

Francisco Sánchez (he/him)

*Associate Administrator, Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience,
U.S. Small Business Administration*

CONCLUSION

Join us at the Pride In Business
After Party at KiKi!

THANK YOU TO OUR

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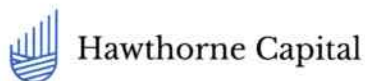
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AFTER PARTY CELEBRATE SPONSOR





Cheryl Mercedes
(she/her)

Reporter & Anchor



Cheryl Mercedes is an Emmy and Murrow Award-winning investigative reporter and anchor at KHOU 11 News. She came to the Lone Star State from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she spent 12 years as an anchor and investigative reporter at WAFB-TV.

Cheryl was born and raised in the New Orleans area. She grew up watching local news with her family every evening and knew at a very young age that she would become a journalist. She graduated from St. Francis Cabrini High School, where she won her first journalism award for her work as yearbook editor. She went on to study broadcast journalism at Southeastern Louisiana University.

After earning her bachelor's degree there, she went on to pursue a master's degree at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She was recently named "Alumna of the Year."

Cheryl has picked up several Associated Press awards including "Reporter of the Year." The highlight of news career was perhaps traveling to Miami, FL to cover the New Orleans Saints in Super Bowl XLIV.

When Cheryl is not chasing down the latest news tip, you'll likely find her running around the city, biking in the suburbs or swimming laps at a local pool.

As a triathlete, Cheryl has successfully raced Ironman Texas, Ironman Augusta, Ironman Memphis, and Ironman New Orleans twice. Her podium finishes at local races earned her spots at national championships in Omaha, Nebraska, Cleveland, Ohio, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



Francisco Sánchez, Jr.
(he/him)

*Associate Administrator,
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience*



U.S. Small Business
Administration

Francisco Sánchez Jr. is the Associate Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) where he oversees the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience (ODR&R). He was appointed by President Joseph R. Biden in January 2022, becoming the first non-banker and presidential appointee to hold this position. In his role, Francisco is helping to lead the nation's economic recovery from COVID and natural disasters by providing the necessary resources to America's 33 million small businesses, private non-profits, renters, and homeowners to weather any storm and emerge stronger than ever.

Before joining the SBA, Francisco served as the Deputy Homeland Security and Emergency Management Coordinator for the Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management in Texas, the third largest county in the United States. During his tenure, Francisco led strategic development, planning, public affairs, and community preparedness initiatives, making him an experienced leader in building resilient communities where small businesses can grow, local economies can thrive, and people can prosper.

Under Francisco's leadership, the SBA has been implementing bold new initiatives that for the first time in the agency's history are tying recovery to resilience. The SBA has placed a stronger emphasis on engagement with survivors, partners, and stakeholders, and is working more closely with local leaders than ever before.

He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and a master's degree in public administration from Sam Houston State University. He also received the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 and is the proud pup parent of Boston, Winston, and Quincy.

PRIDE IN BUSINESS AWARDS

PRIDE IN BUSINESS AWARDS



The Pride In Business Awards recognize the contributions made by Chamber members, Corporate Partners and other key stakeholders in building a more diverse and inclusive business community in Houston and the region.

The awards spotlight deserving companies and individuals and showcase the amazing work they are doing to support the LGBTQ+ community.



Nominate an individual or organization for a Pride In Business Award in 2024!

LGBTQ+ owned businesses contribute over
\$1.7 Trillion
to the U.S. Economy.

LGBTQ+ owned businesses are

- innovators
- job creators
- taxpayers

and providers of essential services that
benefit our entire society...

LGBTQ+ businesses owners are a **vibrant,**
essential part of the small business **engine**
that makes the U.S. economy run. They truly
deserve a place at the table.

The Chamber is focused on supporting LGBTQ+
businesses in the region and driving economic inclusion
for the LGBTQ+ community.



Tammi Wallace (she/her)
Co-Founder,
President & CEO



Jack Berger (he/him)
Director of
Programming & Events



T. Ray Purser (he/him)
Consultant,
Government Relations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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