

### **Alex Maresca**

Training, Advocacy, and Outreach Specialist

### **Kian Annus**

Opal Resident Services Coordinator

# About Elder Pride Services (EPS)

- A program of Friendly House, a nonprofit community center in northwest Portland
- Since 2001, we've worked to enhance the lives of LGBTQ+ older adults through education, advocacy, and social and community-building activities
- We primarily work in Multnomah and Washington Counties, but advocate for LGBTQ+ adults statewide



### LGBTQ+ Older Adults: An Underserved Population

- Experienced discrimination in employment and housing throughout their lives, leading to financial instability as they age
- Continue to experience discrimination in housing, health, and other services
- Often rely on peer networks rather than family of origin



### LGBTQ+ Older Adults: An Underserved Population



Karen Fredriksen Goldsen, Hyun-Jun Kim, Hailey H. Jung, Adam Davis, & Charles A. Emlet. 2021. "Oregon LGBTQ+ Older Adult Survey." *Goldsen Institute*. A 2021 survey of LGBTQ+ older adults in Oregon found that:

- Nearly one third (32%) reported a need for housing services
- Nearly 60% had experienced discrimination in the past year due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, age, or sex
- 21% of those living in a residential setting had experienced discrimination
- **19**% felt uncomfortable being "out" to housing service providers

## What We Do

Support	Community Building	Virtual Programming	Special Events	Training and Outreach	Advocacy
<ul> <li>Options         Counseling</li> <li>Information &amp;         Referral</li> <li>Case         management for         LGBTQ+ older         adults         (Multnomah         County only)</li> <li>Resident         Services (The</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Coffee socials</li> <li>Happy hour socials</li> <li>Museum visits and outings</li> <li>Affordable housing workshops</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Trans-specific socials</li> <li>"All are Welcome" socials</li> <li>Lectures</li> <li>Movie nights</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Resource fairs</li> <li>Pride events</li> <li>Holiday parties</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Elder Panels</li> <li>Trainings</li> <li>Tabling</li> <li>Partner events</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>LGBTQAI+         Housing         Collaborative</li> <li>LGBTQ+         Aging         Coalition</li> </ul>

Opal only)





### The Opal

- Independent living for LGBTQ+ adults with culturally specific programming and support
- First and only building of its kind in the state
- 54 Units, 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- All units are designated affordable housing
- Income restricted and age restricted
- 0-60% Area Median Income



### How it Works

- A collaboration between Christ United Methodist Church, Home First Development, and Elder Pride Services
- EPS:
  - Manages the interest list
  - Provides resident services and support
  - Provides social, educational, wellness, and cultural programming
  - Brings additional resources to the building, such as Meals on Wheels

# A Community Hub for LGBTQ+ Older Adults

 We encourage LGBTQ+ older adults in Washington County to participate in our programs, both at The Opal and around Portland!

# The Opal's regular programming includes:

- Conversations on Aging
- Meals on Wheels site
- Intergenerational lunches
- Crafting
- Tai Chi
- Writing workshops (forthcoming)



## **EPS Winter Party**

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, December 5 11-1PM
Friendly House Community Center
1737 NW 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.
Portland, OR 97210

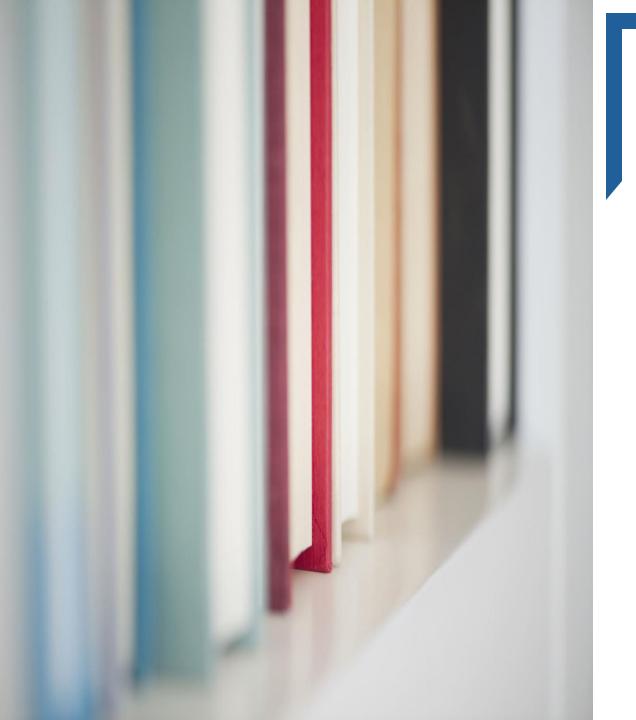
- An annual EPS tradition
- Join us for dancing, fun, raffle prizes, and food!

# Opal Art Show and Open Mic Night

SAVE THE DATE
Friday, December 19 3:30-5:30PM
The Opal Apartments
2691 NW Dogwood St.
Portland, Oregon 97229

- Featuring art, music, poetry, and more created by Opal residents and EPS participants
- All are welcome!





# End-of-Life Resource Fair

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, January 24 1-3PM
Friendly House Community Center
1737 NW 26<sup>th</sup> Ave.
Portland, OR 97210

- A resource fair for LGBTQ+ older adults to find supportive and affirming resources for end-of-life planning
- All are welcome!



### **Connect with Us!**

### The Opal

- Kian Annus (they/he)
  - Email: kian@fhpdx.org
- Echo Taylor (they/them)
  - Email: echo@fhpdx.org

### **EPS Training/Outreach**

- Alex Maresca (she/they)
  - Email: alex@fhpdx.org

### Online

- Web: fhpdx.org
- Facebook: Friendly House Elder Pride Services
- Instagram: fh\_elderprideservices