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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS JULY 14, 2026

Care with Pride: Creating LGBTQ+ Third Spaces Across Los Angeles County

LGBTQ+ third spaces have been disappearing at the exact moment they are most needed. Third spaces are the libraries, community centers, parks, local businesses, and cultural venues where people gather outside of home and work to find a sense of community, acceptance, and belonging. Nationally, gay bars and other LGBTQ+ specific gathering spaces declined by more than 36.6% between 2007 and 2019, with further closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.[1] The County saw the permanent closure of multiple iconic LGBTQ+ venues during and after the pandemic, erasing decades of community infrastructure in West Hollywood and surrounding communities.[2] What were once hubs for peer support, cultural expression, political organizing, and mutual aid have largely disappeared.

This erosion is compounding a broader legal and political rollback facing LGBTQ+ individuals, and in particular transgender, gender-expansive, intersex, and Two-Spirit (TGEI2S+) people. In 2025 alone, more than 1,000 anti-transgender bills

[1]LGBTQ Nation (2022). "Gay bars are on the decline nationwide according to new study." https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2022/06/gay-bars-decline-nationwide-according-new-study/
[2]The Guardian (2021). "These are our homes: LA gay bars fight to stay afloat." https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/apr/09/los-angeles-gay-bars-closed-coronavirus

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were introduced across the United States,[3] of which 122 passed and 501 remain active; seven bills were introduced in California.[4] The federal government in particular, has issued numerous executive orders that directly rescind programs and policies that address the public health needs, and nondiscrimination protections in health care, education, and other sectors. These assaults are even coming from the highest Court in our nation as on June 30th, 2026, the Supreme Court ruled that states are allowed to ban trans people from participating in women and girls school athletic teams. As federal and state protections erode and funding for LGBTQ+ specific programs faces eliminations, Los Angeles County must draw on its legacy as a leader in affirming LGBTQ+ rights and act to fill the gap by helping to support and create third spaces were LGBTQ+ individuals can feel a sense of belonging. Third spaces are the libraries, community centers, parks, and cultural venues where people gather outside of home and work, are among the most powerful and cost-effective tools available to address the social isolation crisis facing LGBTQ+ residents across the County.

The need for intentional, County-supported third spaces is especially acute for LGBTQ+ youth and older adults. The Trevor Project's 2025 National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, drawing on responses from more than 16,000 young people ages 13 to 24, found that 39% seriously considered suicide in the past year, including 46% of transgender and nonbinary respondents.[5] The same survey

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[3] https://translegislation.com/
[4] https://translegislation.com/bills/2025/CA
[5] The Trevor Project. *2025 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People.* May 2026. https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2025/

found that LGBTQ+ youth with access to spaces that affirm their identity reported meaningfully lower rates of suicide attempts compared to those without such access, and that young people in highly accepting communities attempted suicide at nearly a third the rate of those in hostile environments.[6]

Meanwhile, LGBTQ+ elders face a parallel but distinct crisis: AARP's 2024 Dignity survey of more than 2,200 LGBTQ+ adults ages 45 and older found that 78% are concerned about having adequate social support as they age, 48% already feel socially isolated, and among transgender and nonbinary older adults, 63% report feeling isolated often or sometimes.[7] A burden compounded by the fact that LGBTQ+ elders are twice as likely to live alone and three to four times less likely to have children than their non-LGBTQ+ peers, meaning the informal care and social networks most people rely on as they age are structurally less available to this population.[8] Many LGBTQ+ elders, particularly those who came of age before marriage equality, during the AIDS crisis, or under criminalization of their identities, face the additional burden of re-closeting in institutional care settings where they fear discrimination.

These disparities are also disability disparities: 41% of LGBTQ adults[9] meet the U.S. Census Bureau's disability criteria, compared with 25% of non-LGBTQ adults. That

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[6] Id.
[7] AARP Research. *Dignity 2024: The Experience of LGBTQ+ Older Adults.* August 2024. https://www.aarp.org/pri/topics/social-leisure/relationships/lgbtq-dignity-series-2024/
[8] Human Rights Campaign Foundation, as cited in WOSU Public Media (July 2024). https://www.wosu.org/politics-government/2024-07-29/older-lgbtq-people-often-face-social-isolation-and-fear-but-groups-working-to-bring-inclusion
[9] Williams Institute, Communities of Resilience, June 2024.

figure rises to 58% among transgender and nonbinary adults, 54% among LGBTQ adults living below 200% of the federal poverty level,[10] and 53% among LBTQ Latinas.[11] This data demonstrate that LGBTQ+ third spaces must be designed not only as affirming spaces, but as accessible, age-friendly, culturally responsive, and service-connected spaces.

Third spaces must therefore be built as accessible, age-friendly, and service-connected infrastructure, not just affirming ones. Additionally, elders' need for connection and youths' need for role models and continuity of community history point to the same solution: shared physical spaces designed to bring these generations together, not separate programming that keeps them siloed. Meeting this need requires the County to act now by coordinating across the Chief Executive Office's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), and Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, Library, Arts and Culture, Aging and Disabilities, Children and Family Services, Youth Development, and others, to build a Countywide network of affirming LGBTQ+ third spaces that tells every LGBTQ+ resident, regardless of age, zip code, or immigration status, that they belong.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office's Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI), in partnership with the Departments of Public Health, Mental Health, Parks and Recreation, Library, Arts and Culture, Aging and Disabilities, Children and Family Services, Youth Development, and

[10] Williams Institute, Communities of Resilience, June 2024.
[11] Williams Institute, Una Fuerza Mas de Cien Mil, 2025.

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other relevant Departments, and in consultation with the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission, the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults, the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities, and the Los Angeles County Youth Commission, to establish a working group, and report back in writing in 60 days, with quarterly written updates thereafter, with:

1. Potential sustainable funding pathways for the LGBTQ+ Third Space Initiative, including assessment of available discretionary funds, departmental budget allocations, Community Based Organization (CBO) contract mechanisms, grant opportunities, philanthropic support and public-private partnership opportunities;
2. A Plan for a Countywide LGBTQ+ Third Space Initiative that would provide a sustained and coordinated effort for the identification and establishment of affirming community spaces for LGBTQ+ residents across Los Angeles County, with a priority focus on youth ages 12 to 26 and older adults ages 60 and above, and with particular attention to TGEI2S+ individuals, LGBTQ+ people of color, immigrants, and people with disabilities, including older adults with disabilities, caregivers and residents in communities with limited access to LGBTQ+ specific organizations, based on any available funding identified. The Plan should include the following:
    A. An analysis of existing County facilities, organized by Supervisorial District and Service Planning Areas (SPAs), including libraries, parks, recreation centers, senior and community centers, and arts and cultural spaces, that

can be designated or adapted to host recurring, pilot, mobile, pop-up, or permanent LGBTQ+-affirming third space programming, with priority given to underserved communities and geographic areas with limited access to existing LGBTQ+-specific organizations; and with analysis of transit access, paratransit access, parking, ADA accessibility, restroom access, language access, sensory considerations, and geographic distribution;

B. An LGBTQ+ Third Space Programming Framework that establishes minimum standards for affirming programming, staff competency and (including cultural humility and implicit bias training), physical accessibility (including gender-neutral restrooms), safety protocols, and multilingual outreach materials, as well as disability-access and age friendly standards including ADA accessibility, accessible transportation and paratransit access, ASL interpretation, captioning/CART where appropriate, plain-language materials, sensory-considerate programming, mobility-accessible seating and room layouts, caregiver access, virtual or hybrid options where feasible, participant safety protocols, anti-harassment standards, confidentiality and privacy expectations, trauma-informed de-escalation practices, and referral pathways to County and community service, applicable to any County facility or department operating third space programming under this initiative;

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C. A plan for partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs) with established trust and cultural competency in LGBTQ+ communities to co-design, co-facilitate, and where appropriate, operate third space programming, prioritizing CBOs serving LGBTQ+ communities of color, TGEI2S+ communities, and immigrant LGBTQ+ communities; as well as CBO's serving LGBTQ+ older adults, LGBTQ+ people with disabilities, caregivers, and residents outside traditional LGBTQ+ service hubs; and

D. A plan for implementing age-specific and intergenerational programming that can be offered in third spaces, either through County departments or CBOs, including:

i. Youth-focused programming for LGBTQ+ individuals ages 13 to 26 that is affirming of TGEI2S+ identities, trauma-informed, and responsive to the intersection of LGBTQ+ identity with race, immigration status, and disability; and

ii. Elder-focused programming for LGBTQ+ individuals ages 60 and older, including older adults with disabilities and caregivers, designed to reduce social isolation, provide peer connection, support culturally responsive aging-in-place, and create warm handoffs to County and community aging, disability, caregiver, transportation, nutrition, benefits, health, and behavioral health services. The plan should identify opportunities to integrate programming with existing senior and

community centers, Area Agency on Aging-funded services where legally allowable, the Aging and Disability Resource Connection/hub model, and trusted LGBTQ+ elder-serving and disability-serving community-based organizations.

a. The Department of Aging and Disabilities shall serve as the subject-matter lead for the initiative's older adult and disability-access components, including identifying opportunities to integrate LGBTQ+-affirming third-space programming into senior and community centers, aging and disability service navigation, caregiver supports, transportation linkages, benefits assistance, nutrition referrals, and Aging and Disability Resource Connection/hub-related pathways, where legally allowable and subject to available funding.

iii. Intergenerational programming that brings LGBTQ+ youth and elders together for mutual learning, mentorship, and community connection.

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