



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
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PRIDEFEST

Celebrate Gay and Lesbian Pride

New Orleans, LA – As the home of Southern Decadence, one of the largest gay and lesbian celebrations in the United States, New Orleans isn't shy about welcoming alternative lifestyles. There are more gay bars here than anywhere in the South and in neighborhoods with high concentrations of gay and lesbian residents, rainbow flags are flown in the front of many households. At the beginning of every summer, the GLBT community comes together to celebrate the city's gay and lesbian heritage at PrideFest.

“PrideFest is a celebration of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) lifestyles. The festival is important to New Orleans for a number of reasons starting with the fact that New Orleans is known as the ‘San Francisco of the Gulf South.’ It is a two-day event designed to celebrate Pride and is an educational tool to raise awareness of human rights for the GLBT communities locally and globally,” said co-chair Deanne “Miss Dee” Cooley.

Held in Washington Park in June, PrideFest celebrates and revels in New Orleans' gay culture with live music, entertainment and beautiful drag costumes. Past performers have included Charmaine Neville, Lisa Lynn, Leopard Zeppard and entertainers from a variety of GLBT theatrical shows. First held in 1969, the annual festival was first held in Washington Square and has since grown to serve as an important event for the gay and lesbian community.

More than 100 booths feature everything from arts and crafts to non-profit organizations such as the NO Aids Task Force, Belle Reve, St. Mark's United Methodist Church and the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the National Organization of Women. PrideFest holds a number of fundraisers throughout the year including silent auctions, raffles, concerts and theatrical performances.

PrideFest is hosted by the New Orleans Alliance of Pride Committee, Inc., an organization which serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and works to promote GLBT awareness, dignity and understanding. For more information, call (504) 906-5654 or visit www.nolapridefest.org.

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. Web sites: www.NewOrleansOnline.com; www.NewOrleansMuseums.com; www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com.

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