
**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
FY23 COMPASS FUND PROJECT**

PROJECT LEADER(S):	Shannon Glover, Van Nhi Ho
PROJECT TITLE:	Stockton Pride Fest
DATE:	04/17/2023-04/21/2023

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to the Compass Fund Review Board: CompassFund@stockton.edu.*
- ***This form must be completed and submitted to be considered for a second year of funding, if applicable, or any future Compass Fund support.***

Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.

Stockton Pride Fest encompassed a week filled with engaging LGBTQ+ themed events held on campus to foster inclusivity and strengthen the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community within the Stockton community. The primary objective of this event was to raise awareness and promote acceptance, encouraging individuals within the LGBTQ+ community to confidently occupy spaces. The festivities commenced with an entertaining round of Queer Trivia, setting the tone for the week. Subsequently, participants gathered around a campfire for a special coming out session, providing a safe and supportive environment for personal stories and experiences. The highlight of the festivities was the exhilarating drag queen lip-sync smackdown, where talented performers showcased their skills and added an extra dose of excitement. As the week unfolded, the event continued to captivate attendees with the interactive Paint your Pride activity, allowing individuals to express their unique identities and experiences through art. The grand finale arrived in the form of a mini pride festival, concluding the vibrant week on a high note. The remarkable success of these events was evident through the overwhelming support and enthusiasm exhibited by the Stockton community having approximately 300+ students attending the week of events, solidifying its place as a significant milestone in promoting LGBTQ+ inclusivity and fostering unity on campus.

The experience I had with the event was truly remarkable. Above all, I must express my immense gratitude to the WGSC staff whose unwavering support played a pivotal role in bringing my vision to life. The overall preparation and organization of the events did pose some challenges, often leaving me feeling overwhelmed. However, witnessing the profound impact we were able to generate made every obstacle worthwhile. Throughout this journey, I gained invaluable insights into leadership, recognizing the significance of teamwork and the importance of seeking assistance when needed. This experience not only showcased my potential as a catalyst for change within the community but also reaffirmed my ability to envision the transformations I wish to see and actively work towards manifesting them. The project proved to be immensely transformative, imparting valuable life lessons and equipping me with skills that I can readily apply in future endeavors aimed at fostering positive change. I am filled with immense gratitude

for the opportunity to have made such a profound impact on Stockton's campus, and I eagerly look forward to future opportunities to continue cultivating change.

Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

The project unfolded remarkably well, although there were certain aspects that deviated from my initial vision. However, my primary focus and utmost concern were centered around the impact we could generate. Here is a more comprehensive understanding of each event.

Queer Trivia: Among all the events, this one had the lowest turnout in terms of attendees and participants of approximately 25 students. Nevertheless, the event's setup was excellent, and the hired host impressed the crowd with engaging trivia questions, keeping them entertained throughout. One notable obstacle we encountered was attracting participants to join the trivia game. However, once food was served, we managed to draw a larger crowd, albeit some of them left when the food supply ran out. If we were to organize this event again, I would suggest holding it at an earlier time. Since the event took place from 6 PM to 8 PM, foot traffic in the coffee house was limited, making it challenging to attract new attendees who were not already aware of the trivia event.

Coming Out Campfire: This event exceeded my expectations with approximately 30 students. We successfully filled all the chairs we had prepared for the campfire, and even had to bring in extra chairs to accommodate everyone who attended. Attendees shared personal stories and experiences in a judgment-free environment, fostering a safe space for heartfelt sharing. The food was delivered and set up flawlessly, meeting everyone's preferences. The only downside was the absence of a fire, which was beyond our control due to current fire regulations in New Jersey. Nonetheless, we made necessary adjustments to the plans and proceeded with the event. Despite the absence of a fire, all attendees had a wonderful time, and we were able to provide a platform for everyone who wished to share their stories.

Drag Queen Lip-Sync Smackdown: This event was highly anticipated, and the performances by the drag queens were truly amazing. We attracted a substantial crowd of approximately 75 students and staff who thoroughly enjoyed the show. The event itself ran smoothly; however, we encountered challenges in terms of miscommunications with the drag company. There were last-minute changes to the schedule on the day of the event, requiring us to handle additional work behind the scenes. Although the event started late due to the queen's delayed arrival, our well-planned schedule allowed us to complete all activities within the designated time frame. In future iterations, I would recommend exploring collaborations with a different drag company and enhancing promotional efforts to attract a larger audience. While the event managed to fill a significant portion of the venue, these adjustments could further enhance its success.

Paint Your Pride: This event required minimal adjustments and ran smoothly overall with a total attendance of approximately 30 students. Attendees were provided with canvases and painting supplies, allowing them to express their LGBTQ+ experiences and create meaningful artwork. It served as a stress-relieving activity that facilitated enjoyable interactions among community members and allies. Given the event's location at the WGSC, we had ample support if needed. I would not make any changes to this event or its execution, as it proved to be the most seamlessly organized of all the events.

Pride Fest: This event unfolded differently than originally envisioned. Our initial plan was to host the festival in Atlantic City, aiming to familiarize students with that campus and provide an opportunity for those residing in Galloway to visit the Atlantic City campus. We intended to hold the festival in O'Donnel Park, adjacent to the Academic Building, with various games taking

place in the Frannie Lou Hammer room. Additionally, we aspired to have food trucks present. However, several factors prevented this plan from materializing. Firstly, insufficient funding hindered the realization of this version of the event, despite securing additional funds. Secondly, the timing constraints prevented us from obtaining the necessary permits to hold the event in O'Donnel Park within the given timeframe. Consequently, we adapted by scaling down the event and relocating it to the field surrounding the TRLC. Despite not reaching the originally envisioned scale, the festival still attracted over 125 students and surpassed our expectations in terms of turnout and active engagement with the activities. If this project were to be pursued again, I would encourage another attempt at the original plan in Atlantic City. The evident support and success of the event, coupled with enhanced advertising, promotion, and funding, could lead to a triumphant outcome.

Overall, the Pride Fest week proved to be a resounding success garnering the support of approximately 300+ Stockton community members throughout the week. As the university is not in session during Pride Month and most students are away for the summer, our efforts aimed to bring the spirit of Pride to Stockton. Looking ahead, I envision this project continuing to enhance visibility and foster inclusion within the university. The profound impact it had on attendees exceeded my own expectations regarding the transformative change it could inspire.

Please explain and provide any University Relations & Marketing (URM) coverage of your project (social media posts, press releases, photos, videos, etc.) You may include these items as attachments or paste them at the bottom of this document.

There was minimal involvement of URM during this process, however we did get coverage from the Argo with two events we held during the week which was the Drag Queen Lip-sync Smackdown and the Pride Festival.

<https://stocktonargo.com/2023/04/24/pride-alliance-wraps-up-pride-week-celebration-with-outdoor-festival/>

<https://stocktonargo.com/2023/04/24/pride-week-2023-continues-with-drag-lip-sync-extravaganza/>

Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)

Followed up with Loukaia Taylor from the Argo to do a complete story on the week of events so they can be included on the Stockton LGBT website.

Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:

- What are the next steps you foresee or recommend?
- What are the expected budget requirements going forward?
- Please identify the program, department, or division you should be working with to secure continuation of funding for your project.

[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process. This report will not constitute a request for permanent funding.]

To continue the project described above and further its impact, there are several key elements you would need to consider:

1. **Sustained Funding:** Ensure ongoing financial support to sustain and expand the project. Explore opportunities for additional funding through sponsorships, partnerships, and fundraising efforts. This will allow you to enhance the scale and scope of future events, secure quality resources, and cover necessary expenses.
2. **Collaborative Partnerships:** Forge partnerships with campus organizations, local LGBTQ+ community groups, businesses, and relevant stakeholders. By collaborating with like-minded entities, you can pool resources, share expertise, and amplify the project's reach and impact.
3. **Continual Promotion and Marketing:** Develop a comprehensive promotional strategy to increase awareness and attract a wider audience to future events. Utilize various channels such as social media, email, posters, campus announcements, and collaborations with student groups to effectively communicate event details and build anticipation.
4. **Diverse and Engaging Programming:** Continuously strive to offer diverse programming that caters to various interests and needs within the LGBTQ+ community. Consider including educational workshops, panel discussions, film screenings, artistic performances, networking opportunities, etc.
5. **Emphasis on Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Ensure that all events are inclusive and accessible to individuals of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities. Choose venues that are wheelchair accessible and provide accommodation for attendees with specific needs. Foster a safe and welcoming environment where attendees can freely express themselves and participate without fear of discrimination or judgment.
6. **Documentation and Evaluation:** Establish a system to document each event, including capturing photographs, testimonials, and feedback from participants. Use this information to assess the impact of the project, identify areas of improvement, and make informed decisions for future iterations. Conduct post-event surveys or focus groups to gather feedback and incorporate suggestions into future planning

The future budget requirement for a future successful event is dependent upon the scope and size of the event. However, I can recommend an increase in funding so the event can be executed to the size and magnitude the community deserves. This will allow more resources for the event to succeed and become an annual event at the University. Ideally, as big as events such as University Weekend.

The Department in which this event should always be partnered with would be the Women's Gender and Sexuality Center at the University. They have been a huge support in the project from the time I brought the idea to them, into making the event a success.

Overall, I recommend this event to become an annual week every April to give the LGBTQ+ community at the University and all the other community members a version of Pride at the University. This event was highly impactful and was a great way to close the Spring Semester right before finals.

FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.		
	Amount	Notes/Comments
Beginning Budget Balance as of:	\$ 5911.18	
Salary Expenditures		
• TES salaries (613340)	\$ 0.00	
• Student worker (613345)	\$ 0.00	
• Grad student worker (613350)	\$ 0.00	

Total Salary Expenditures	\$ 0.00	
Non-Salary Expenditures (<i>supplies, travel, etc.</i>)		
• Printshop	\$ 1.38	Promotion & Advertising
• Office Supplies	\$ 11.55	Promotion & Advertising
• Other Supplies	\$ 471.61	Souvenirs/prizes & merchandise
• Chartwells	\$ 2591.56	Food & Drinks
• Contracted Services-Quizzoholics	\$ 429.00	Week of event & programming
• Contracted Services- What the Buzz Productions	\$ 1700.00	Week of event & programming
• Contracted Services- DJ KJ Butta	\$ 700.00	Week of event & programming
•	\$	
Total Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 5905.10	
Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 5905.10	
Ending Budget Balance as of:	\$ 6.08	

If your project was approved for multiple fiscal years, please itemize future expenditures.
IMPORTANT: *Unused funds revert to the general Compass Fund at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th).
Compass funds DO NOT rollover to the next FY.*

Item Description	Expected Amount	Expected Timing for Payment
Total		