

Candidate Reference Information

Gabriel Jarquin (he/him)

Why are you interested in joining the Board of Pride Toronto?

Having previously served on a board, I understand the importance of giving back to the community. This work provides me with a strong sense of purpose and motivation to join the Pride Toronto Board. My experience with the Pride and Remembrance Association has equipped me with valuable skills in governance, strategic oversight, and financial management. These skills, along with my advocacy for 2SLGBTQI+ issues and lived experience as a person living with HIV, will allow me to help advance Pride Toronto's mission while continuing to celebrate and support the community.

How will your experience, talents, and skills contribute to advancing Pride Toronto's Mission, Vision, and Values?

My experience in event planning, governance, and fostering collaboration will contribute meaningfully to Pride Toronto's mission. As a former Pride and Remembrance Association President, I understand the significance of Pride as both a celebration and a symbol of resilience for the community. My advocacy for HIV awareness and my passion for inclusivity ensure I'll help amplify marginalized voices. Additionally, as a person of color living with HIV, I bring lived experience to board discussions that reflect and celebrate the diversity within the 2SLGBTQI+ community. I am committed to creating a space that celebrates all identities and expressions.

What is your experience in working against racism, particularly anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism? What is your vision for Pride Toronto's external work in combating racism?

My commitment to active allyship and systemic change informs my work against anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism. I envision Pride Toronto building stronger partnerships with Black and

Indigenous-led organizations, fostering culturally relevant programming, and providing platforms for these communities to share their stories. Representation matters, and Pride Toronto has made progress in amplifying Black and Indigenous voices, but there's room for growth. Pride Toronto should lead by example, continuously working to create spaces that dismantle racism through education, policy change, and accountability, setting a standard for other organizations.

What is your experience in addressing and combating transphobia, transmisogyny, and transmisandry?

My approach to combating transphobia, transmisogyny, and transmisandry is grounded in education, advocacy, and allyship. I recognize the unique challenges trans individuals face, particularly in sports. As a marathon runner, I am committed to learning about these issues and promoting equity for trans athletes and individuals. Serving on Pride Toronto's Board would allow me to listen, learn, and support initiatives that foster trans inclusion and amplify trans voices. I am dedicated to ensuring Pride Toronto continues to create spaces that actively combat discrimination and celebrate trans individuals' contributions and identities.

What experience, resources, and knowledge do you have in engaging and supporting accessibility for people with mobility issues, and the D/deaf and Hard of Hearing communities?

Accessibility is critical to Pride's celebrations. I believe listening to the voices of those affected is key to creating effective solutions. Providing resources like interpreters, captioning, and clear communication of available services are essential steps. While I've worked with individuals with diverse needs, I know this work requires ongoing learning and intentional efforts. By prioritizing accessibility in Pride's planning, we can ensure everyone, regardless of ability, feels welcome and valued. I am committed to advancing this effort, ensuring accessibility remains central to Pride Toronto's mission.

How would you ensure Pride Toronto upholds its commitment to banning instruments and symbols of policing?

To uphold the ban on instruments and symbols of policing, I would ensure the community's concerns are clearly communicated to law enforcement, emphasizing the need for a safer space for marginalized groups. Balancing community safety with inclusivity requires collaboration and trust. I would advocate for alternative security measures that align with Pride's values while fostering dialogue with law enforcement to maintain safety without compromising the community's well-being. This approach ensures Pride Toronto remains a welcoming and non-policing environment for all participants.