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EXECUTIVE OFFICE



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

*"To enrich lives through
effective and caring service."*

October 14, 2026

Dear Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative Team:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission, we appreciate the opportunity to meet with the ARDI team regarding implementation of the Board of Supervisors' July 14, 2026, Care with Pride: Creating LGBTQ+ Third Spaces Across Los Angeles County motion. We recognize the significant work underway, the compressed timeline associated with the initial 90-day report-back, and ARDI's efforts to obtain input and feedback from LGBTQ+ community-based organizations and other stakeholders.

We are recommending that the ARDI team commit to including LGBTQ+ and TGI serving organizations or representatives as part of the foundational planning and ongoing implementation body.

Our discussion helped clarify an important consideration that the Commission encourages ARDI to incorporate as the initiative moves beyond the initial report-back and into subsequent phases of planning, design, and implementation: meaningful and sustained participation by LGBTQ+ community-based organizations and community stakeholders in shaping the development of LGBTQ+ Third Spaces.

The Board motion itself recognizes the importance of this partnership. In addition to directing the development of a Countywide LGBTQ+ Third Space Initiative, the motion calls for a plan for partnering with community-based organizations with established trust and cultural competency in LGBTQ+ communities to **co-design, co-facilitate, and, where appropriate, operate Third Space programming.**

The Commission believes that distinction is important. Community consultation and opportunities to provide feedback are valuable components of an inclusive planning process. Meaningful co-design, however, creates opportunities for organizations and individuals with direct community, lived, and service-delivery experience to help shape how Third Spaces are conceptualized, designed, implemented, and evaluated.

As the initiative proceeds beyond the initial report-back, we therefore encourage ARDI to develop a meaningful and sustained mechanism for

LGBTQ+ community-based organizations and community stakeholders to participate in subsequent planning and co-design activities, consistent with the direction established by the Board motion.

The Commission also recognizes the diversity and intersectionality of LGBTQ+ communities throughout Los Angeles County. The Board motion appropriately calls for particular attention to TGEI2S+ individuals, LGBTQ+ people of color, immigrants, people with disabilities, older adults, caregivers, youth, and residents in communities with limited access to LGBTQ+-specific organizations.

Within that framework, the Commission particularly encourages meaningful participation by TGEI2S+ residents and TGEI2S+-led and serving organizations. Creating spaces that are available to LGBTQ+ residents is not necessarily the same as creating spaces in which the full diversity of our communities' experiences safety, affirmation, accessibility, belonging, and inclusion. Community participation in the planning and co-design process can help identify considerations that might not otherwise be apparent and help ensure that the resulting spaces reflect the experiences and needs of the people they are intended to serve.

We appreciate ARDI's willingness to engage with the Commission and community stakeholders and recognize that the initial report-back represents one stage in a larger process. We look forward to continued collaboration as the Care with Pride initiative moves from initial planning into development and implementation.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission