

#SFVPRIDE Press RELEASE

LGBTQ+ People of Color create movement towards Healing in San Fernando Valley Pride: The Reawakening

Somos Familia Valle & The Social Impact Center brings visibility to LGBTQ+ people of color on Juneteenth in an effort to create positive change for healing and racial and gender justice in the the San Fernando Valley

Contact: Kevin Perez - (818) 669-2535

North Hollywood, CA - On Saturday, June 19, 2021, the San Fernando Valley will be a gathering place for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, & Queer (LGBTQ) adults, youth and families for a day of celebration, community, and resources. The event, "San Fernando Valley Pride: The Reawakening," features local resources, Entertainment, Vendors, and an opportunity to build community in an area that does not have a lot of support for LGBTQ+ people. This year's theme "The Reawakening " will focus on the growth of our local movement and overcoming Covid-19.

Calypso Jete Balmain, a Black Transgender entertainer from North Hollywood shares, "This event is important to us because it is our first public celebration since the Covid-19 began. In this celebration, we celebrate our local Black and Brown LGBTQ+ community members to commemorate our survival and extend an invitation for others to be family with us. We know Pride is important to all of us, so this year we will commemorate Juneteenth. We will highlight local Black LGBTQ+ Entertainment & Healers who are local to the San Fernando Valley. This is important to us because we want to open the doors for new talent and visibility to show we exist."

Ethan Molina a trans youth, describes "Pride as an important day to learn about LGBTQ+ events in our history, I always think about the powerful activists during the AIDS epidemic. Today I still see the lack of resources within our Black and brown communities similar to these times, and seeing it happen again during Covid-19 pandemic. It is more of a reason to uplift our Black and Brown siblings in the movement. Now with Covid-19, I learned the importance of chosen family & community to keep me motivated. #SFVPride is celebrating Juneteenth which is rarely mentioned in schools. This is so important because it heals our communities and let's us reflect on the historical racial injustices of our country."

The San Fernando Valley is home to a diverse community of LGBTQ+ people. Despite the large population, the Valley does not have enough resources or community center to provide for the needs of the LGBTQ+ population, much less the LGBTQ people of color who live and work here.

"We hope to gather together as neighbors, families, friends, and loved ones to create a safe space of healing and action for the most vulnerable in our communities. We are finally making space in the San Fernando Valley community to embrace, respect, and invest in our LGBTQ+ leadership." said Kevin Al Perez, President of Somos Familia Valle.

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