



**EQUALITY LOUDOUN**

COMMUNITY | INCLUSION | EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EQLOCO.com**

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## **The Future of the Loudoun Pride Festival and the EQLOCO Mission**

*Ensuring focus and increasing impacts with a reimagined team*

**LEESBURG, VA** — Equality Loudoun is excited to announce the next step in its incredible growth and transformative tenure in Loudoun County as it has formed a new nonprofit organization — Cheerful Spaces, a sister organization whose mission is set to include increased legislative advocacy, events, and the Loudoun Pride Festival. The new organization is in the process of obtaining a 501(C)4 status and will continue to operate as a subsidiary of Equality Loudoun until officially confirmed.

Cheerful Spaces' inaugural Board of Directors will be headed by original festival planners and EQLOCO's former Community Director Jenny Parsons and former President Candice Tuck, joined by community leader Jamie Bost. Cheerful Spaces LLC is a non-profit organization that promotes inclusivity and the general welfare of the queer community through engagement, events, and advocacy. "It's incredibly exciting to see Equality Loudoun grow and evolve into two organizations, expanding our reach and impact." said Cheerful Spaces President Jenny Parsons. "This isn't just growth—it's a testament to the strength of our community, creating more spaces for support, advocacy, and celebration."

The Loudoun Pride Festival is also set for a revamp, with a new venue at the famed Ida Lee Park in Leesburg, Virginia. The Festival is set to return on May 31, 2025 with live music, activities, food, and a beer and wine garden to be enjoyed by 5,000 attendees. The festival will host over 150 businesses and organizations as well as over 100 volunteers to ensure a fun, family atmosphere and a renewed focus on the mission of Pride. "I'm thrilled to see Equality Loudoun bring the Pride Festival to Ida Lee Park. Leesburg is a welcoming and inclusive community, and this move highlights our commitment to celebrating diversity and equality for all," said Todd Cimino-Johnson, Leesburg's Vice Mayor.

Equality Loudoun is also undergoing a renaissance, with new President Leigh Guarinello and a Board infused with local business leaders, non-profit veterans, and community advocates. Candice Tuck will remain as the Executive Director, overseeing a team of volunteers and Mission Coordinators focused on a refined mission of Community, Education, and Inclusion. "This updated mission will create even more opportunities for our community to find connection, support, and joy here in Loudoun County," said Leigh Guarinello.

The next steps include a relaunch of the Equality Loudoun and Loudoun Pride websites, a call for festival sponsors, and a renewed appeal for volunteers wishing to support LGBTQIA+ equality, dignity, and respect in a time of unprecedented hostility and attacks on queer Americans. Equality Loudoun and Cheerful Spaces stand ready to work together to serve the people of Loudoun County and beyond.

*For information about Equality Loudoun, visit [www.eqloco.com](http://www.eqloco.com)*

*For information about the Loudoun Pride Festival, visit [www.loudounpride.org](http://www.loudounpride.org)*