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LGBT Meeting Professionals Association Announces 2025 Board of Directors

Alexandria, VA. – The LGBT Meeting Professionals Association (LGBT MPA), the association representing planners, suppliers, educators, and students in the global events community, is pleased to announce their 2025 board of directors.

2025 OFFICERS

Gary Murakami, GTP, GLP, CMP-Fellow, CMM, DES (he/him), Chair
Vice President of Global Sales and Industry Relations
Teneo Hospitality Group

Charles Bello, CDS, (he/him) Chair-Elect
Senior Vice President/Team Director, ConferenceDirect

Ted Bradpiece (he/him), Treasurer
President, Explorer Travel Services

Kyle F. Jordan, CAE, CEM-AP, CMP, DES (he/him), Immediate Past Chair
Director of Meetings, INFORMS

2025 AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Rory Archibald (he/him)
Senior Business Events Manager – Strategy, Marketing, PR, Associations & Sectors
VisitScotland

Brian Crumby, MHM, CHIA, CED (he/him)
Director of Sales and National Events
Caesars Entertainment Meetings and Events

Sean Kirklen, CMP (he/him)
Director of Events and Outreach
Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
University of California, San Francisco

Kerry Kurowski, CMP (she/her)
Senior Manager, Meetings and Events
Rekhodia Events – Freelance

Joebert Opulencia (he/him)
President, USA & Orientours Co. Ltd.

Brecht Putman, CMP (he/him)
Senior Associations Manager North America
VISITFLANDERS Convention Bureau

Glenn Stress (he/him)
Vice President, Global B2B Events & Programs
Marriott International

Beth Surmont, FASAE, CMP-Fellow, CAE (she/they)
Vice President of Event Strategy & Design
360 Live Media

Trey Weaver, CMP CFMP, HMCC (he/him)
Senior Manager, Meetings & Education
American Academy of Forensic Sciences

"As we embark on 2025, I am honored to build upon the transformative work led by Kyle Jordan and the board during such a milestone year for LGBT MPA. In the year ahead, we will amplify our strategic priorities by championing innovative education, fostering authentic connections, and advocating for inclusion, while uplifting diverse and impactful voices across our community. Together, we will continue advancing toward an events industry where every individual is seen, valued, and empowered to succeed," stated Gary Murakami, GTP, GLP, CMP-Fellow, CMM, DES (he/him), LGBT MPA 2025 Chair.

The nominating committee was chaired by 2024 LGBT MPA immediate past chair Derrick Johnson, II, CMP, DES, and included Kyle Jordan CAE, CEM-AP, CMP, DES, David Kliman, CMM, Gary Murakami, GTP, GLP, CMP-Fellow, CMM, DES, and Leslie Zeck, CMP, CMM. The committee focused on several criteria to create a diverse slate from nineteen qualified applicants.

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Kyle F. Jordan, CAE, CEM-AP, CMP, DES (he/him), immediate past chair of LGBT MPA, stated "2024 was a pivotal year for LGBT MPA, marked by the launch of our new strategic priorities. These priorities have sharpened our focus and will position us to deliver impactful education while championing meaningful advocacy and advancing inclusion across the events industry. I have full confidence in Gary's leadership to build on the momentum we created in 2024. His passion and dedication to our mission of connecting, empowering, and advancing the LGBT+ events community will guide us as we continue striving toward a global events industry where all are accepted, equal, and belong."

"I'm eager to work alongside our 2025 board of directors to support LGBT MPA's continued growth and success," shared LGBT MPA's executive director Cameron Curtis, CMM, CAE (she/her). "2024 focused on building a strong foundation through a new mission, vision, and strategic priorities. I'm excited shift our focus in 2025 to fulfilling our mission and vision by achieving our strategic priorities of advocating for the LGBTQ+ global events community, educating diverse audiences, enhancing partner relations, and growing and engaging our membership."

LGBT MPA invites you to be a champion for the LGBTQIA2+ global events community–join us in creating a world where every events professional feels valued, empowered, and included. Visit https://www.thelgbtmpa.org to learn more, get involved, and make a lasting impact on our industry's future!

Together, we will build a global business events industry where all are accepted, equal, and belong.

About LGBT MPA
The LGBT Meeting Professionals Association (LGBT MPA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is the leading voice for the LGBTQIA2+ global events community. Established in 2018 to advocate for inclusivity in the meetings and events industry, LGBT MPA is committed to connecting, empowering, and advancing the global events community through LGBTQ+ advocacy, education, research, idea exchange, and networking to create a global events community where all are accepted, equal, and belong.

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