



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2006

Contact: Lauri Hennessey
(206) 463-1388

ANNOUNCING '06 PRIDE EVENTS

Festival offers events, VIPs and fun at Seattle Center 23rd-25th

Seattle – The theme of this year's Seattle Pride Festival is "Out and Proud". The Lesbian/Gay/Bi-sexual/Transgender (LGBT) event is getting a new home this summer at the Seattle Center, and festivities will run both at the center and around Seattle from Friday, **June 23rd through Sunday, June 25th**. The famous parade and March is Sunday morning starting at 11:00 downtown, from Westlake Park to Seattle Center

"We see the Center as the anchor of a city full of Pride events this year," said Seattle Out and Proud President Dale Kershner. "We also feel that this move allows more people than ever before to participate in this wonderful event."

Among some of the details this year: The grand marshals are the Center for LGBT Health, Dragonsani "Drago" Renteria, King County Executive Ron Sims, and Lisa Love of the Seattle School District and the Safe Schools Coalition. The entertainment includes Jody Watley, Suzanne Palmer, Abigail, Levi Kreiss, Eric Himan, Reina and DJ Chris Cox. We are proud to offer many new educational activities this year including speakers like Dr. Leo Stamatatos with SBRI's HIV/AIDS Vaccine Program, Demonstrations by Home Alive and others. The Seattle Chapter of PFLAG will be hosting a local resource and information room where folks new to the area, just coming out, thinking about it or who just found out someone they know is LGBT, can stop by to talk and get information on community resources

The Festival kicks off Friday evening with a party, followed Saturday by music at the Seattle Center, a film festival, speakers, demonstrations and discussions in the Center House, and much more. Events will run through midnight Saturday.

Sunday there will be the Pride Parade along 4th Avenue downtown (the biggest parade ever), followed by more music, celebrations, classes, the film festival and other activities at the Center. It will all wrap up with a concert Sunday afternoon at Key Arena (tunes to be provided by KISS 106.1).

Sponsors this year are: Seattle Center, AM1090, UPN11, The Stranger, Tower Records, Comcast, Seattle Storm, the Seattle Chapter of PFLAG, Flexcar, and more.

The event is hosted by Seattle Out and Proud, a new Washington state non-profit corporation that recently filed for 501(c)(3) status. Although the corporate identity is new, the organization's roots run deep, as the long-time organizers of the 32-year old event. Seattle Out and Proud is directly descended from the Seattle Pride Committee and the Freedom Day Committee before that. Seattle Out and Proud is working with Seattle

Center to present a larger and more diversified program this year, including far more entertainment and educational options than in the past. There will still be plenty of vendors and local organizations with booths at the Festival to check out, as well as the parade.

KSTW-11 will air two hours of same-day coverage from the Pride parade on Sunday, June 25 from 6-8PM. This marks the first time the Seattle Pride parade has been made available to viewers via free, over-the-air television. The parade will be seen on KSTW in the Vancouver, B.C. market as well.

"KSTW is thrilled to be able to bring the viewers of Western Washington and Southern British Columbia coverage of what has become the second-largest annual parade in Seattle, behind only Seafair's Torchlight Parade," said Ryan Craig, Director of Programming for KSTW-11. "The Seattle Pride Parade is a community institution, and we are pleased to be able to showcase it to an extended television audience this year."

The public can get more information about the Pride festivities at <http://www.seattlepride.org/>.

For media looking for more information on the Seattle Pride festivities in the next coming months, the Media Contact is Lauri Hennessey at lauri@hennesseypr.com, 206.463.1388.

For information on KSTW-11, contact Ryan Craig, Director of Programming, at rcraig@cbs.com, 206.861.8911.

For information on Seattle Center, Contact: Perry Cooper, Media Relations Manager, at perry.cooper@seattle.gov, 206.386.1974.

For information on Seattle Out and Proud, Contact Dale Kershner at dale@seattlepride.org, 206.718.5848, <http://www.seattlepride.org/>.