



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- December 20, 2016

LGBTQ Center Announces 2017 Executive Board and New Governing Board Appointments

Contact:

Porter Gilberg

porterg@centerlb.org

562-434-4455 ext. 245

Long Beach, California- The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach has announced the election of a new executive team to lead the organization's 2017 Board of Directors. LaDawn Best will serve a second year as Board Chair, Justin Potier has been elected to the position of Vice Chair, Ron Nelson as Treasurer, and Sylvia Rodemeyer will continue on as the agency's Board Secretary. Additionally, local residents and community leaders Otis Hogan and Jay Hong have been elected to join The Center's governing Board of Directors.

Best currently works as the Executive Director at Peer Health Exchange Los Angeles, a national non-profit organization that provides health education and mentorship services to teenagers. Previously she worked at the Los Angeles LGBT Center where she provided support to LGBTQ victims of domestic violence. A graduate of the African American Board Leadership Institute, Best holds both a B.A. in Liberal Studies and M.A. in Education with an emphasis on Leadership and Change from Antioch University.

"I am incredibly honored to serve another year leading our incredibly dedicated Board of Directors" says Chair LaDawn Best. "I am equally thrilled we have voted on two new members who I know will serve our LGBTQ community faithfully and exceptionally well."

Potier is currently a Vice President at Boardwalk Properties in Long Beach and previously served as the President of the Pride Real Estate Professional Organization. Nelson currently serves as the Executive Director for the Long Beach Museum of Art. Rodemeyer works for CSULB providing digital and social media content for the University and is a co-founder of AMP Org, a non-profit serving queer and trans youth in Long Beach. This is her third term as secretary.

Hogan has lived in Long Beach for over three decades and serves on the Long Beach Human Relations Commission and is active in Long Beach neighborhood groups and committees. He lives in North Long Beach with his partner of over two decades Ralph Brooks. Hong, a recent transplant to Long Beach, retired from a career as a corporate executive and now spends time as the Executive Director for Art Exchange Long Beach. He lives with his longtime partner in Belmont Shore.

The new executive committee, along with the full Board of Directors, will provide strategic oversight and fundraising support to an organization that has tripled their budget and quadrupled staffing over the last five years. Center's annual budget, over \$1,500,000 for 2017, is the largest budget managed by the organization in over a decade.

"Our Board of Directors are truly dynamic, talented, and thoughtful leaders in our LGBTQ community." says The Center's Executive Director Porter Gilberg. "It is an honor and a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team of volunteers. I am thrilled to welcome Otis and Jay to our center."