



Dallas LGBT Fact Sheet

COMMUNITY

Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs

This vibrant gay neighborhood features establishments that reflect Dallas' diverse LGBT population: magazines, books and gifts at Crossroads Market; video rentals at Tapelender's; latest fashions at Skivvies or Union Jack; modern home décor at Nuvo; and many more. The nightlife in Oak Lawn is just as diverse with boot scootin' at The Roundup Saloon, dancing at Station 4, female impersonator shows at The Rose Room (inside Station 4), see-and-be-seen at JR's Dallas, lounge music at Alexandre's, live music and pool at Sue Ellen's, contemporary atmosphere with pool and top 40s music at Mickey's, and sports and karaoke at Woody's. Numerous gay-owned and targeted restaurants round out the neighborhood.

Diversity

Besides the larger, general interest gay clubs and bars, the diverse gay community has many options for gay-specific entertainment. There are clubs that cater to the majority of the community's varied tastes and backgrounds. Different bars have found their niche with lesbians, transgender people, Latinos and others – not to mention the many specific-interest clubs – mostly centered within the Downtown/Uptown area.

Quality of Nightlife

Nightlife in Dallas in general is energetic and diverse, no matter what neighborhood you visit. LGBT people are welcome in most upscale bars and clubs in the Downtown/Uptown areas (and even beyond). Besides being able to mix and mingle in non-gay-specific clubs, LGBT people have several gay pockets nestled throughout the city.

Station 4

At 25,000 square feet, Station 4 (S4) is the largest gay nightclub in Texas. The dance club includes the Rose Room, the premier female impersonator showroom in the southwest; six bars with 16 service wells; patio area, front balcony overlooking the Cedar Springs strip, and a non-smoking quiet lounge area.

Integration of Gay Community

With a well-integrated gay community, Dallas offers a variety of cultural options that are open to LGBT visitors inside and outside the gay neighborhood. Theater, museums, live music venues, dance clubs, restaurants and shops are all within close proximity to each other and the Oak Lawn/Cedar Springs area.



Monica's Aca y Alla

Monica's Aca y Alla, located in Deep Ellum, features Mexico City and Tex-Mex dishes. Owned and operated by Monica Greene, this transgender restaurateur ran for a seat on the Dallas City Council in 2005, losing by only a small margin.

Social and Support Groups

Dallas is home to numerous social and support groups for LGBT people with diverse backgrounds and interests. Groups meet on a regular basis that offer friendship and support for African Americans, Asians, Latinos, lesbians, parents and LGBT youth, among others.

Support from Public Officials

Dallas elected officials, ranging from Mayor Tom Leppert, former Mayor Laura Miller and Dallas Police Chief David Kunkle, have all participated in LGBT events, including the Gay Pride Parade. Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who is openly gay, is the only female sheriff in the state of Texas. Elected as the highest ranking law enforcement officer in the city of Dallas, this Hispanic lesbian is now up for re-election since her initial historical election in 2004.

The Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomes LGBT travelers to a richly diverse and liberal city. Travel packages that are focused on the LGBT traveler are being developed that will help guide LGBT like-minded individuals and families through the city. Soon, these packages will be rolled out with an advanced itinerary creation feature on the Dallas CVB's micro site, GLBTdallas.com. This Web site is also undergoing a major facelift, including further enhancements that offer additional sources of information for the Dallas LGBT community.

EVENTS

Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

Since 1982, the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade has been the pinnacle of gay pride celebrations in Dallas. Sponsored by the Dallas Tavern Guild, an organization of various LGBT bar owners, the parade winds through the Cedar Springs crossroads and ends with a celebration with live music from national artists and entertainers at Lee Park.

Gay Day at Six Flags

Scheduled to coincide with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, Gay Day at Six Flags is held the day before the parade each year.



Black Tie Dinner

The largest dinner event of its kind in the nation, the Black Tie Dinner raises funds for gay and lesbian organizations in North Texas. The event promotes empowerment, education and entertainment in partnership with the community. The Black Tie Dinner features celebrity keynote speakers, such as Goldie Hawn, Lily Tomlin, Martin Sheen and many more. Since 1982, Black Tie has distributed more than \$10.48 million to local gay and lesbian charities and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

Gay Day – State Fair

What started in 1995 as recognition by the Texas State Fair of National Coming Out Day by 1997 had turned into an annual "Gay Day." Keynote speakers have included Betty DeGeneres, Chastity Bono, Kate Bornstein, Keith Boykin and Peter Paige.

Out Takes Dallas Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

This completely volunteer-driven gay and lesbian film festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2008. Out Takes screens LGBT films and provides monetary support to North Texas charities.

Gay Bingo

hosted by Patti LePlaeSafe and Jenna Skyy, Gay Bingo Dallas has been held every month since 2001 and features the BVDs (Bingo Verifying Divas), drag queens who work the crowd from the floor. Each Gay Bingo features a theme to dress for, special guests, surprise entertainment, and 15 different bingo games with prizes and raffles.

ORGANIZATIONS

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce

Based in Dallas, the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce empowers, promotes and supports the economic and cultural development of its diverse membership, the North Texas GLBT community, and supportive businesses, through education and the creation of business opportunities.

Turtle Creek Chorale

The world's largest most-recorded all-male chorale, Turtle Creek Chorale boasts more than 200 singing members. The Chorale presents a full subscription concert series at its home, the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, performing annually to live audiences in excess of 50,000. The chorus has released 33 albums, one of which – Requiem – reached Billboard's Top Ten Classical Chart.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance

A non-profit organization that advocates full civil rights, dignity and self-respect for gay and lesbian individuals by educating, creating social and political change, and fighting



discrimination based on sexual orientation, in order to achieve the full participation of gay and lesbian people in society.

Youth First Texas

A non-profit organization committed to providing social services, educational opportunities, and recreational activities for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning youth through age 22. Youth First Texas provides group interaction and individual support by providing age appropriate activities, programs and resources that facilitate empowerment and self-acceptance.

Cathedral of Hope/Interfaith Peace Chapel

Dallas is home to the world's largest predominantly LGBT church, the Cathedral of Hope. The current Cathedral is the largest Christian building project ever undertaken and built completely by LGBT dollars. In November of 2007, the Cathedral broke ground on the much-anticipated Interfaith Peace Chapel. The chapel will serve as a common ground among members of the entire community to work together for peace and equality.

Lone Star Ride

Lone Star Ride is a two-day cycling adventure through scenic country roads and two great Texas cities. One hundred percent of proceeds benefit local AIDS charities.

Black Tie Dinner

The largest of its kind in the U.S., Black Tie Dinner, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that raises funds for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender supportive organizations serving North Texas through a premier event of empowerment, education, and entertainment in partnership with the community.

Resource Center of Dallas

The mission of the Resource Center of Dallas is to serve the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and North Texas communities by providing support to GLBT individuals and organizations; health, HIV and social services, and education and advocacy.

Out Takes Dallas

The mission of Out Takes Dallas is to enlighten, educate, enrich and entertain diverse communities about gays and lesbians through the medium of film and video and to contribute funds to organizations seeking to foster similar goals.

AIDS Arms

AIDS Arms, Inc. assists individuals in accessing the health care, resources and support necessary to successfully manage the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS.

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SHOPPING

Dallas offers the largest selection of shopping in the southwest and is rated one of the top shopping destinations in the United States. Home to Neiman Marcus, Dallas also boasts several malls with big name stores like Barneys New York, Nordstrom and Saks Fifth Avenue. Hundreds of unique boutique shops are also scattered across the city, in shopping centers like Highland Park Village. Named the first shopping center in America, Highland Park Village was a prototype for shopping centers across the country and was designated as a national historical landmark in March of 2000.

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Dallas
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



- The Dallas LGBT community offers an abundance of support, including LGBT youth groups and health awareness and support centers.

Support from City Officials

- The City of Dallas does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.
- The City of Dallas offers domestic partner benefits to its employees.
- Elected officials have attended and participated in LGBT events. Former Mayor Laura Miller and Mayor Tom Leppert have participated in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade during Dallas pride celebrations.
- Members of the LGBT community have served on our city council.
- Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez is the only female Sheriff in the state of Texas, and she is also openly lesbian.

Dallas LGBT Culture

- The Oak Lawn neighborhood is nationally recognized and has been the epicenter of the gay community for more than 25 years.
- Several gay-owned and gay-friendly shops, restaurants, bars and clubs line the Cedar Springs strip.
- Numerous community events are hosted each year that attract thousands of patrons and travelers.
 - Easter in the Park
 - Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade
 - Oak Lawn Halloween Street Party
 - AIDS Arms – Life Walk
 - Dallas Lesbian Festival
 - Dallas Southern Pride
 - Out Takes Dallas Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
 - Lone Star Ride
 - Dallas Black Tie Dinner
- The Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau participates in the annual diversity mixer that celebrates unity among the cultures that contribute to the richness of Dallas.
 - Members include the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- Dallas boasts the largest contiguous urban arts district in the nation, spanning a 19-block area totaling 68.4 acres.
- Dallas offers the largest selection of shopping malls, centers, stores and boutiques in the southwest, including Barney's New York, Nordstrom and Dallas-based Neiman Marcus.



Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau LGBT Niche Market – Talking Points

Why Dallas

- One of the core initiatives of the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) is to **support diversity among the community**. The City of Dallas recognizes there is a large and active LGBT community not only within the walls of our own city, but also abroad.
- **LGBT travelers significantly impact the economy**. LGBT buying power is estimated to be \$723 Billion in 2008, according to research by Witeck-Combs/Marketresearch.com. By 2011, the buying power of gays and lesbians is expected to exceed \$835 billion. The gay and lesbian population is expected to exceed 16.3 million people by 2011.
- Since the DCVB first pursued LGBT convention business in the fall of 2003, more than 28 LGBT conventions and events have been booked in the last four years with a total economic value of \$37 million.
- Dallas is an affordable travel destination. According to a recent release by Hotwire.com, Dallas ranks second in the top 10 U.S. places for value vacations in 2008.

Strategic Partnerships

- The DCVB proudly partners with the **North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce** to strengthen our ties in the LGBT travel and tourism community. Together, we have identified a series of tourism and convention tradeshow across the United States that help showcase Dallas as a gay-friendly destination with much to offer the LGBT traveler. We have also developed an LGBT visitor's guide that provides information about Dallas attractions, dining, night life and shopping.
- The DCVB has formed strategic partnerships with **American Airlines Team Rainbow** and Community Marketing Group's TAG program to help welcome the LGBT traveler. A partnership with Team Rainbow and TAG Approved® hotels helps get the word out that Dallas is an LGBT-friendly city.
- The DCVB has been a long-time member of the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA).
- Veronica Torres, Director of Diversity & Community Relations for the Dallas Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB), currently holds a seat on the board of directors for the International Gay and Lesbian Travel Association (IGLTA).

Resources

- The DCVB has designed a micro site on the Web that hosts LGBT-specific information. **GLBTdallas.com** includes a directory of gay-owned and gay-friendly businesses, restaurants, hotels, attractions and nightlife. The Web site also includes a dynamic travel itinerary program, a current calendar of events and other resources that will help the LGBT traveler become acquainted with Dallas. www.glbtdallas.com