

# VISIT TAMPA GAY



**MAYOR JANE CASTOR & ANA CRUZ**

**TAMPA'S FIRST COUPLE**

**GAYBORHOODS • PROFILES • FOOD & FUN**

# VISIT TAMPA GAY

THE LGBTQ GUIDE TO TAMPA

**PUBLISHER**  
JAMES HOWARD

**EDITOR IN CHIEF**  
DAVID WARNER

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
JOEY NEILL

## CONTRIBUTORS

**RACHEL COVELLO\*, AARON DRAKE,  
EFFIE ORFANIDES, MIKE SALINERO**

Visit Tampa Gay is a joint publication of Visit Tampa Bay and Creative Loafing Tampa, in collaboration with the Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce.

**Santiago C. Corrada** is President and CEO of Visit Tampa Bay, the destination marketing organization for Tampa and Hillsborough County. Before arriving at Visit Tampa Bay in 2013, he spent a decade with the City of Tampa, first as parks and tourism director and later as chief of staff for then-Mayor Pam Iorio and her successor Mayor Bob Buckhorn. In his current position, Corrada guides a team tasked with tapping the adventurous, welcoming spirit of mythical pirate José Gaspar to build Tampa Bay's economy through tourism.

**Creative Loafing** is an award-winning alternative weekly newspaper and website committed to providing Tampa Bay with an independent perspective, up-to-the-minute local news, and a comprehensive listing of local happenings.

**The Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce** (formerly the Tampa Bay Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and the Tampa Bay Business Guild) was established over 35 years ago to provide an inclusive community for equality-minded business owners and professionals to connect and collaborate.

\*Rachel Covello is the CEO of OUTCOAST, an online LGBTQ travel website marketing the Gulf Coast of Florida as an LGBTQ-inclusive place to visit, celebrate and live. Rachel is also an avid event photographer and has captured photos for LGBT organizations around the world. Her latest venture, Marketing Mapper, focuses on navigating small to mid-size business through sales and marketing growth strategy, branding, and content creation.



## SEE YOU AT THE RIVERWALK

Tampa and environs are booming ..... 7  
By David Warner

## THEIR TOWN

An exclusive interview with  
Mayor Jane Castor and Ana Cruz ..... 8  
By David Warner

## LGBTQ PROFILES

Michael Tomor ..... 11  
Sheree L. Greer ..... 13  
Luke Blankenship ..... 15  
David Johnson ..... 17  
Larissa Pepe ..... 19  
Preston Scott ..... 21  
Justice Gennari ..... 23

## WELCOME TO THE GAYBORHOODS

Downtown Tampa ..... 27  
Seminole Heights/Tampa Heights ..... 28  
SoHo/Hyde Park ..... 29  
Ybor City ..... 31

## CRAZY FUN

Coasters, pirates, sharks and more ..... 32

## IT'S SHOWTIME!

The theater, arts and music scenes ..... 34

## TAMPA PRIDE

Celebrating in GaYbor and beyond ..... 35

## PRO TIPS

Have we got some teams for you! ..... 37

## BE ONE WITH NATURE

Experiencing Tampa's great outdoors ..... 38

## SHOP, GIRL!

You won't go home empty-handed ..... 40

## SIT PLAY FETCH

Where to hang with your pups ..... 41

## TAMPA BAY DIVERSITY

TBDCC info and directory ..... 42

Cover Photo by Rachel Covello



NEW



# FLORIDA'S THRILL RIDE LEADER



FOR BEST OFFERS VISIT  
[BuschGardens.com](http://BuschGardens.com)

© 2019 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.

Busch  
Gardens  
TAMPA BAY

# I live life proud because

---

Take pride in caring for yourself every day with  
Surterra Wellness.

We offer safe, high-quality products designed  
to help you feel your best and live life proud.

Visit [surterra.com](https://www.surterra.com) to learn more.

## LOCATIONS

### Tampa (Fowler)

2558 E Fowler Ave,  
Tampa, FL 33612

### Largo

10761 Ulmerton Road,  
Largo, FL 33778

### Brandon

1256 E Brandon Blvd.,  
Brandon, FL 33511

### South Tampa

4306 S. Dale Mabry Highway,  
Tampa, FL 33611

### New Port Richey

4219 US Highway 19,  
New Port Richey 34652

### Lakeland

1222 Florida Ave S,  
Lakeland, FL 33803









*Celebrating 44 Years of  
Business in Ybor City!*



*MEN'S and WOMEN'S FINERY  
for INDIVIDUALS with TIMELESS TASTE*



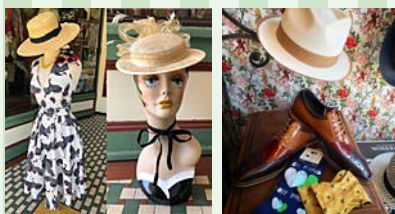
*Vintage and Vintage Inspired Clothing,  
Jewelry, Hats, Purses, Shoes*



*Suits, Dinner Jackets, Bow ties, Stacy Adams  
Shoes, Guayaberas, Hawaiian Shirts*



*Hats by Stetson, Dobbs, Bailey and More*



*La France*

1612 E 7TH AVE / HISTORIC YBOR CITY  
(813) 248-1381 / OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

 Tampa Museum of Art

Celebrate 15 years of





**Pride & Passion**

**April 18, 2020**

The LGBTQ community and their allies celebrate diversity with phenomenal flair to raise funds for engaging educational programming and world-class exhibitions at the Tampa Museum of Art.



@TampaMuseumofArt

**TampaMuseum.org**   

Event date subject to change. Visit [tampamuseum.org](http://tampamuseum.org) for the most accurate event listings and information.





*In Focus:* Visit Tampa Gay photographer Rachel Covello lines up her shot of the mayor and her partner

# SEE YOU AT THE RIVERWALK

TAMPA AND ENVIRONS ARE BOOMING — AND NOW WE'VE GOT MAYOR JANE.

By David Warner

If you're LGBTQ and new to Tampa, everything you need to know about this city, circa 2019, can be summed up in this vignette:

The newly elected lesbian mayor, Jane Castor, and her partner, Ana Cruz, posing for a photo and a kiss in a very public outdoor setting — and not a discouraging word or muttered epithet is heard from passersby, only “Congratulations!” and “I voted for you!” and “We love you, Jane!”

When Mayor Castor was elected in April 2019 by a whopping 73% over David Straz, a retired banker who outspent her by millions, the national and international press took notice. First out lesbian mayor of a major Southeastern city! Winning in a landslide! In Hillsborough County, of all places, where in 2005 a commissioner had successfully spearheaded a county ban on gay

pride celebrations — “little g, little p,” as the commissioner made a point of emphasizing.

So the world wanted to know: How did Jane Castor win? Did she have to combat veiled homophobia? Anti-gay mailers? “Family values” sermons?

The answer: None of the above. Because Jane Castor, and Tampa, had already crossed that rubicon. She'd been appointed the city's first female and first openly gay police chief in 2009 after 25 years on the force, and voters had come to like and respect her. She was Jane, and Jane was cool.

Still is cool. And her city right now is also cool, cooler than it's ever been, and not just because it elected a gay mayor. Truth be told, despite that gay pride “ban” (which was lifted through the leadership of the city's first openly gay county

commissioner, Kevin Beckner, in 2013), Tampa has been hospitable to gays for many years. The Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival is celebrating its 30th anniversary; the GaYbor Coalition supports gay-friendly businesses in the city's colorful historic district; and the Tampa Pride Parade, revived in 2015, is getting to be as big as the one across the bay in St. Petersburg, which throws the biggest Pride celebration in Florida.

But in addition to being a city with an active LGBTQ community (or maybe because of that?), Tampa is, simply, having a moment. Downtown has never been more vibrant. In Seminole Heights, a once desolate stretch of used car dealerships has become a hip arts and dining district. Tampa Heights is coming into its own, too, and the major entertainment districts,

Hyde Park/SoHo and Ybor, are as vital as ever.

Sowhere should a Tampa newbie begin? I asked Mayor Castor that question during our interview (p. 8) and she replied, without having to think very long, “The Riverwalk!” That was the site of our mayoral photo shoot: a 2.6-mile pedestrian path with access to parks and restaurants and museums along the way, not to mention stellar views of the river and the city — the University of Tampa minarets to the west, the ever-changing skyline to the east. You'll find a cross-section of Tampanians enjoying this waterfront amenity, which has been decades in the making — just one of the factors opening minds and hearts to the idea that Tampa is a pretty extraordinary place to be.

Start at the Riverwalk. Tell them Mayor Jane sent you.





# THEIR TOWN

TAMPA NATIVES JANE CASTOR AND ANA CRUZ ARE READY FOR THE CITY'S NEXT CHAPTER.

By **David Warner**

Photos by **Rachel Covello**

## POWER COUPLE: Mayor Jane Castor and Ana Cruz on the Riverwalk in downtown Tampa.

Jane Castor's backstory was already well-known when she was named police chief in 2009: born and raised in Tampa, worked in her family's cabinet business, graduated from Chamberlain High, won an athletic scholarship to the University of Tampa, joined the police force at 24. We knew about her relationship with St. Pete Assistant Police Chief Melanie Bevan (now police chief in Bradenton) and about the two sons they adopted, and we knew that she and Bevan had split up. We even knew Castor's height (6 feet) and her shoe size (11). Now, at the age of 59, her high-profile win means the world knows her, too — including people like Democratic presidential candidates Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren and Pete Buttigieg, all of whom called to congratulate her.

Her current partner of 11 years, Ana Cruz, 46, is also a familiar figure, particularly in Florida political circles. Like Castor she's

a Tampa native, and hails from a strong and supportive family (her mother, Janet Cruz, is a Democratic state senator). She's worked on multiple campaigns (including Hillary Clinton's, for which she was Florida spokesperson), she makes frequent TV appearances as a political analyst, and she is managing partner of a powerful Tampa lobbying firm, Ballard Partners. A key figure in the Castor campaign, she assembled what she calls a "foxhole team" to advise the candidate.

In short, the ultimate power couple.

So, during an interview in City Hall shortly after Castor's inauguration, I asked the power couple the ultimate question:

How'd you two meet?

**"I arrested Ana,"** Castor replied. "So that was the beginning."

Which is not true, but quintessential Jane: She's a master of the deadpan wisecrack.

The actual details: She was

running the intelligence bureau for the police department in 2000, with responsibilities that included "dignitary protection." It being an election year, "Gore and Bush were here on a *regular* basis," she recalls, and Cruz was working on the Gore campaign. "So I kept seeing Ana walking around with this clipboard, large and in charge, ordering everybody around. We would have conversations, mostly about logistics, because she was on the political side and I was on the security side."

"The Secret Service would always tell the campaign, 'No, you can't do this!' said Cruz, "and so the campaign would have to push back and say, 'Yes, we have to do this!'"

"She'll say that the campaign won," said Castor, "and I'll say that the Secret Service always won."

"Not with me, baby!" countered Cruz.

For years they were no more than passing acquaintances, until

one evening in late 2007 when they ran into each other at a Halcyon concert at Skipper's Smokehouse, the iconic Tampa music venue.

Who made the first move?

"Ana!" declared Castor as if the answer were self-evident, and they both exploded in laughter. "I mean, *please!* I think she gave me a direct order to call her."

They started dating on and off the following year, and now share a house in Seminole Heights with a dock and a boat (they both like to fish) and three dogs. Jane's two sons — Sergei and Seely, both turning 20 this year — are an integral part of the couple's lives, splitting time between the Bevan and Castor households and very visible on the mayoral campaign trail.

Ana is, according to Castor, an "amazing" cook (her spinach bread is the stuff of legend); Jane is a self-described "en masse cooker," specializing in big batches. ("I have a kickass chili



recipe, and I make vats of it.") Both are nevertheless rail thin — the benefits of morning workouts and non-stop campaigning — with markedly different but complementary style profiles.

Our photo shoot called for "business casual," which Castor interpreted as a dark tailored pantsuit, Cruz as a tight-fitting sheath and Louboutins.

There was a monogrammed makeup kit in the mayor's car, a Christmas gift from Janet Cruz. Castor likes it but says it's "way too big. I've got about three things of makeup. You know, there's not much to this girl."

**Castor easily handled** the congrats and waves of passersby that day, but her partner says that the new mayor is shy. She didn't fully realize how shy till close to the end of Castor's tenure as police chief, when Ana encouraged her to walk and hand out beads during the annual Christmas parade instead of riding in her car as she usually did.

"I just noticed it was hard for her," remembers Cruz. "We got home and I said, 'You're shy.' And she said, 'Hello? Where have you been?'"

Castor admits that living in the public eye can be a trial. "I can't go to Home Depot to buy parts for the sprinkler system, even in sunglasses and a baseball cap." But she respected the fact that as police chief "the community feels as if they own you, and they do, to a degree. So it's never really bothered me."

Shopping trips should prove even more challenging now that she's mayor. But part of Castor's appeal may be her shyness — the sense that she's not putting on a mask or glad-handing you.

"She has this calmness about her," says Cruz. "I call her my gentle giant. I've seen her in some of

the toughest times, and she is an absolute rock."

Tampa saw how Castor handled those tough times, including the night in 2010 that she says was "the worst night of my life"

**"I call her my gentle giant. I've seen her in some of the toughest times, and she is an absolute rock."**  
—Ana Cruz on her partner, the new mayor of Tampa.

— when she had to tell the wives of two young police officers, David Curtis and Jeffrey Kocab, that their husbands had been killed in the line of duty. Castor's quiet strength — and her determination to find the perpetrators

— is part of the city's collective memory.

So when she's asked, as she inevitably is, about the firsts she represents, particularly being the first out lesbian mayor of Tampa, she respects the significance and what it may say about Tampa, but allows that it wasn't just any gay politician who won, it was Jane Castor, a woman the city had come to know. "Everybody's had 31 years to test-drive me — that makes it a little more difficult to discriminate when you know an individual personally, you know their character."

One of Castor's most famous deadpan remarks was her response to *Times* columnist Sue Carlton in 2015, who asked her right before she retired about rumors that Castor might run for mayor. Her response: "It just makes me realize the drug problem in this city is much more dire than I anticipated." Nevertheless, after a year or two she began having conversations about a mayoral run with her family, and with the two mayors she'd worked for, Pam Iorio and Bob Buckhorn.

**Finally, she says,** her decision came down to the fact that "the city's going to change so much in the next decade." To be a part of that "was an incredible opportunity that I couldn't pass up."

For Cruz, the answer was always clear. "It wasn't difficult for

me," says Cruz, "because I know she can do it and I knew I could do it. This is not about a title for her — this is about the city that she loves."

And a city that, for now at least, loves her back.

"My favorite part of the swearing-in was looking out in the room," recalls Cruz about the mayor's inauguration. "People were so incredibly happy — and in politics lately people haven't felt that way. It was so refreshing, and kind of restored my faith in the political process."

It may help to do the same for

voters across the country — particularly if they're gay.

When I asked Mayor Castor why an LGBTQ person should visit or move here, she first gave the politician's standard answer: "Because it's the greatest city in the nation!"

But more to the point, she added, "One comment that I hear more than anything is how friendly this city is, and how accepting we are of everyone. I don't know if you could boil a city's reputation down to one sentence that would be better than that."



**ALMA MATER:** Castor never dreamed when she was a UT student that one day she'd be working on the other side of the river — in City Hall.



# Let's talk about sextants.

VISIT OUR NEWEST EXHIBITION GALLERY

**Treasure Seekers:**

Conquistadors, Pirates & Shipwrecks

Get your tickets at [tampabayhistorycenter.org](http://tampabayhistorycenter.org)

Downtown Tampa | 801 Old Water St., Tampa, FL 33602  
813.228.0097 | [tampabayhistorycenter.org](http://tampabayhistorycenter.org)



Smithsonian  
Affiliates



@tampabayhistory



TAMPA BAY  
**HISTORY  
CENTER**



CW<sup>s</sup>  
**GIN  
JOINT**

WHERE STYLE AND GRACE HAVE AN ATTITUDE

633 NORTH FRANKLIN ST, TAMPA  
[CWGINJOINT.COM](http://CWGINJOINT.COM)  
813.816.1446





TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART

# MICHAEL TOMOR: WARM WELCOME

**W**hen Michael Tomor first interviewed to be the Tampa Museum of Art’s executive director in 2015, he didn’t know much about the institution or the city. He’d been director of the El Paso Museum of Art in Texas since 2006, following a stint as director of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Pennsylvania, and wasn’t really desperate for a job. But once he met the members of TMA’s search committee led by Penny Vinik, he was sold.

“I thought, you know what? If these people are reflective of the people who support this institution, I wanna work for them.”

When the committee asked for his CV, he added a paragraph that was personal, making sure they knew that if he were to get the job, he’d be moving to Tampa

with his husband, Tom Trexler, a computer programmer. No problem for the committee; when they brought Tomor in for his second interview, they invited Trexler to come to town, too.

Tomor, 56, has been out since he took his first job in 1994 as chief curator at the Southern Alleghenies museum, where he worked after getting a doctorate from Penn State with a specialty in Baroque art. He believes that being out is a professional necessity. “I’m in a position of trust,” he says, “and if people feel that they don’t know you because you’re not being 100 percent

forthright, it will affect the way that they work with you.”

He has already made progress in fulfilling the goals set for him by the TMA board, which included expanding the museum’s education programs, community outreach and collections, with a recent coup being the donor purchase of the stunning “Laura with Bun” by the Spanish sculptor Jaime Plensa. In 2020 the museum will celebrate its 100th birthday.

But no matter the challenge, Tomor exudes a diplomatic calm.

He and his husband have come to love Tampa. Together 33 years (they married in 2013 as soon as DOMA was repealed), they live in

**“I thought, if these people are reflective of the people who support this institution, I wanna work for them.”**

the Ballast Point neighborhood with their 11-year-old schnauzer/terrier mix Petey, and appreciate the fact that so much of what they need is within easy driving distance — including Tampa International Airport. (“I love this airport!” says Michael.) While they enjoy restaurants like Donatello, Mise en Place and Nueva Cantina, they don’t dine out often because Tom’s a great cook (he’s a big fan of Ina Garten).

Fortunately, given the Florida climate, Michael is a self-described “warm weather guy.” His plants like the heat, too. An avid gardener, he’d always grown tropicals but had to keep them in a greenhouse or an atrium before; now he can grow his orchids outdoors.

“I think we live in this great little paradise.”

—David Warner



OUR

DIVERSITY

ALLOWS US


TO

DREAM

BIG

City of  
Tampa  
Florida



 @CityofTampa

 @CityofTampaFL

 @CityofTampa

Mayor Jane Castor





## SHEREE L. GREER: WOMAN OF WORDS

COURTESY SHEREE L. GREER

**S**heree L. Greer, 38, writer and professor, has called East Tampa home since 2009. She teaches full-time at St. Petersburg College, where her classes include creative writing, fiction, African American literature, and composition. She has had two novels published, self-published a short story collection, created a student writing guide, and her essays and short stories can be found in various print anthologies, literary journals, online magazines and blogs.

Along with teaching and writing, Sheree founded Kitchen Table Literary Arts, which works closely with the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum in St. Pete, and the literary organizations Wordier Than Thou and Keep St. Pete Lit. She's also regularly involved with

local orgs like Project No Labels, the Black Market Collective, Heard 'Em Say Teen Arts Collective, Art2Action, The Speak Tank and more.

"I used to run the only LGBTQ open mic in the area, Oral Fixation, which was sponsored by Nora Gupton and her GrownGurlz organization, which primarily served blacklesbian and bisexual women, but opened the door to a larger community of black queer individuals across all genders and sexualities," Sheree said. "We frequently partnered with community organizations across identities, such as supply and food drives for The Spring of Tampa Bay and open mic collaborations at the Community

Cafe and The Poets@USF. Being a host and organizer for that showed me there was a need for creating and holding space for LGBTQ people of color, who are sometimes marginalized in many LGBTQ events and initiatives.

**"I make it my business to show up as my whole self, every time."**

"I make it my business to show up as my whole self, every time, so that every thing I do advances, even in sometimes small ways, our broader LGBTQ community."

Sheree lives with her wife, Jasmine Smith. The two have been together for nine years and will celebrate their second wedding anniversary in July 2019. They hope to have an addition to their family soon. "We have a dog named Knight, who is

going to be both delighted and irritated to have a human baby around."

Sheree loves Tampa Bay because of the endless options. "There is always something to do. I am fortunate to know a lot of really cool people who do really amazing events: Christina Arenas does vegan food festivals and chakra workshops at Blue Sage Eco Boutique, London James hosts paint and sip parties featuring my favorite hip-hop, reggae, and R&B artists; Rah at Lector Wine and Social Club hosts really dope events.

"Then there's just being outside for a meal or conversation at a local restaurant or bar," she adds. "It's just always something to do and people to meet. I love it."

—Aaron Drake



# MEET YOUR NEW REAL ESTATE AGENT: I CAN HELP YOU SELL YOUR HOME!



**AskKelly.Realtor**

**813-454-7735**



Charles Rutenberg Realty, Inc.  
THE STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE





ST. PETE PRIDE

## LUKE BLANKENSHIP: PRIDE ABOVE ALL

**L**uke Blankenship, 25, helms the organization that puts together the state's largest LGBTQ Pride celebration, St. Pete Pride. He serves as executive director and has been involved with the organization for the last five years. "I handle the day-to-day operations, which include sponsorship sales, event planning and volunteer development," he says. "I started as a general volunteer and worked my way through every facet of the organization."

He lives in North St. Petersburg, giving him access to the best of both worlds, downtown St. Pete and Tampa. He has been in the Tampa Bay area for 20 years and counting — he grew up in Lutz, just outside of Tampa. "It's a quaint place and

very family-focused," he says. "It's grown so much in the last 20 years! Also, it's pronounced 'loots.' If you pronounce it like the pretzel brand Utz to a local, you will be laughed at!"

Besides St. Pete Pride, Luke is involved with the Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce, St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and InterPride, to name a few. "Every day I talk about putting on Florida's largest Pride — many discussions on how we can make our world-class events better and better with a variety of people and organizations," Luke says. "I'm a friendly acquaintance with hundreds of organizations throughout the area. Usually, when I'm meeting

with company representatives, they break away from their standard 9 a.m.-5 p.m. day jobs to talk about our colorful parade."

When he's not slaving away for the greater good of Tampa Bay's LGBTQ community, he finds fun in the usual activities other 20somethings do, like going out to local bars and clubs. "I'm a bit of a nerd, as I'm very much into fantasy football and following what's going on in the sports world," he says. "I am in a Dynasty Fantasy Football league that mimics the NFL, and it's a nice reprieve from daily life — heading into year six with the same group of folks. I also dabble in podcasting and am always

**"I'm a bit of a nerd."**

looking for the next great RPG to plug into my Xbox."

So why does the exec director of Florida's largest Pride organization think others will love Tampa Bay?

"Unlike so many places across the country, we are growing. Heck, we aren't just growing, we are exploding!" Luke says. "Something that is sometimes talked about as a negative, but really isn't, is how many people weren't raised here. It provides a variety of different backgrounds and creative ideas. The cost of living isn't absurd, and we are a top 15 media market with a small-town feel."

"Not to mention," he adds pragmatically, "no state or personal income tax."

—Aaron Drake





**SINCE 1988.**

**CULTURE. NEWS. EVENTS. MUSIC. FOOD AND DRINK.**

**CREATIVE LOAFING**

**[cltampa.com](http://cltampa.com)**





DYLAN TODD

# DAVID K. JOHNSON: MAKING HISTORY

**D**avid Johnson is an associate professor of history at the University of South Florida, which he calls “the greatest job in the world.” But back in the mid-1950s, he would have been booted off the job. The same fate would have awaited him if he’d worked for the U.S. State Department, even up through the 1970s.

Why? Because he’s gay. In his 2004 book, *The Lavender Scare* (basis for the acclaimed 2017 documentary), Johnson examined the Cold War paranoia that spawned witch hunts for gays and lesbians in federal employ. Similar anti-gay campaigns took place on the academic front; Johnson says that his graduate students have been exploring the shameful legacy of the Florida Legislature’s Johns Committee, which tried

to root out gay teachers from Florida schools. “One Florida legislator at the time,” says Johnson, “called USF ‘a veritable refuge for practicing homosexuals.’”

Well, practice makes perfect. Johnson says that the USF of 2019 has been “very supportive of me and my work.” (Although, he adds, “being at a public university in a purple state means I do get the occasional piece of hate mail accusing me of teaching ‘moral depravity,’ particularly recently, as such views have been emboldened.”)

His newest book, *Buying Gay*, explores the proliferation of so-called “physique” magazines in the 1950s and ‘60s and the role they played in gay liberation.

He and his students have also uncovered what they believe to have been the first act of collective LGBT civil disobedience in the city’s history, aka “Tampa’s Stonewall” — a sit-in protest organized by the Metropolitan Community Church in 1972 against a downtown Denny’s that refused to serve members of the community. A longtime supporter of Equality Florida and the Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, he helped launch a project to preserve both organizations’ records and memorabilia in the LGBT Collections at the USF Libraries.

History informs his private as well as his professional life. A New

Hampshire native and Georgetown grad with a Ph.D. from Northwestern, he lives in a renovated bungalow in the Seminole Heights neighborhood and loves the fact that Tampa has “a lot of historic architecture — especially compared to other cities in Florida.” His partner of three years, Tommy Voravong, has a family catering business specializing in Laotian and Thai food; the couple’s explorations around town often involve trying out “all the new restaurants, food halls, and craft cocktail bars that have been springing up like weeds.”

What would he tell LGBTQ folks considering a move to Tampa? “I would tell them to come here. It’s vibrant, diverse, and affordable. And it is in a purple state like Florida where the struggle continues.” —David Warner

**Tampa is “vibrant, diverse, and affordable,” says the professor.**



Save the Date

Oct. 4-12, 2019



Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

**tiglff**  
tiglff.com



**MICHAEL BRILL, CLU<sup>®</sup>, ChFC<sup>®</sup>**  
First Vice President, Investments

**MICHAEL RAGSDALE, CFP<sup>®</sup>**  
Financial Advisor

**SHARON DUNAWAY-ALT, FPQP<sup>™</sup>**  
Registered Service Associate

MICHAEL BRILL | MICHAEL RAGSDALE  
**M<sup>2</sup>** FINANCIAL ADVISORS GROUP  
OF

**RAYMOND JAMES**

100 North Tampa Street, Suite 2400 // Tampa, FL 33602  
T 813.202.1100 // T 800.237.8542 // m2financialadvisors.com

Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks CFP<sup>®</sup>, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>™</sup> and CFP in the U.S., which it awards to individuals who successfully complete CFP Board's initial and ongoing certification requirements.

© 2019 Raymond James & Associates, Inc., member New York Stock Exchange/SIPC. 19-BR33T-0192 TA 4/19

**GBY  
LAW**

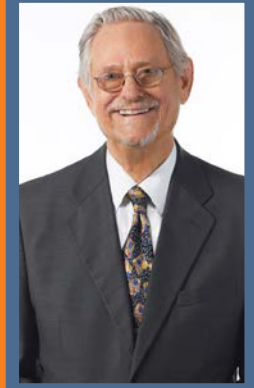
“LGBT ATTORNEYS SERVING THE LGBT COMMUNITY”



**Ian Gómez**



**Lindsey Sheppy**



**Robert W. Pope**

Main office St. Petersburg  
**727-895-7932**

**SPECIALIZING IN**  
PERSONAL INJURY • AUTO ACCIDENTS  
ESTATE PLANNING • CRIMINAL DEFENSE

**www.GBYAssociates.com**



COURTESY LARISSA PEPE

# LARISSA PEPE: RESTAURATEUR ABOUT TOWN

Larissa Pepe, 27, is one of those rare individuals who grew up in the Tampa Bay area. “I grew up in Tarpon Springs with my perfect mom, dad and sisters after they migrated from New York, moved to St. Pete for college nine years ago, and haven’t left since.”

She currently lives in downtown St. Pete with her wife, Bryce Anne, and works for Burton Holdings Restaurant Group in downtown Tampa. “I develop, design and run operations for a slew of restaurants in downtown. My current projects include Gen X Tavern, Flock & Stock inside Sparkman Wharf and Tampa Pizza Company. I’ve had the

pleasure of working alongside Dave Burton for almost 10 years and it’s been a wild ride.” She is proud to have spoken on panels at Tampa Bay Startup Week and the restaurant group’s partnerships with local organizations like Tampa Connection, Glazer Children’s Museum and Pride & Passion.

She’s a doggy stepmom to Big and Trixie (who combined, she notes, weigh 12 lbs.), and considers herself lucky to be acknowledged by them. When she’s not at work she says she loves 24-to-48-hour trips, camping with her wife at Fort De Soto, rock climbing, cooking

and drinking adult beverages at Room 901, Buya Ramen and Intermezzo.

Other involvement in Tampa’s LGBTQ community, she talks about her experience speaking on a panel at the University of South Florida about the coming-out process, gender identity and human sexuality. “For over nine years, I have led the discussion with varied guest speakers to help better educate, share a new viewpoint and encourage tolerance both on college campuses and in the community. I started the GSA in my high school in 2009, and when I got to USF I

**“It’s been a wild ride.”**

knew that I needed to be part of something more. The experience has led me to beautiful friendships, moments of self-realization and allowed me to touch the lives of thousands of people over the years.”

As for why she chooses Tampa Bay, there are many reasons. “It’s got great weather, a booming economy and it still manages to keep its own small-town identity while growing into something larger. We’re blessed with forward-thinking people, a great bar and restaurant scene and easy access to so many other great towns around us, too.”

—Aaron Drake





New Films • Classic Movies • Live Concerts • Theatre Tours  
[www.TAMPATHEATRE.org](http://www.TAMPATHEATRE.org)



# Catering special moments.

HISTORIC VENUE • IMPECCABLE FOOD • STELLAR SERVICE  
NOW CATERING ON AND OFF SITE • CALL TO SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR

**THE VAULT**  
Events & Catering

611 N Franklin Street Tampa, FL 33602 [info@TheVaultTampa.com](mailto:info@TheVaultTampa.com) 813.225.3450

[TheVaultTampa.com](http://TheVaultTampa.com)





DAVID WARNER

## PRESTON SCOTT: TAKING IT TO THE BANK

It seems safe to say that Preston Scott, 37, is the only bank executive in Tampa Bay whose resume includes “regional professional makeup artist.”

But it’s not as big a leap as it might seem. As Preston told an interviewer from Wells Fargo in Sarasota, where he began his banking career after jobs with Dillard’s and Lancome, “If I can sell a \$300 face cream to someone, I can sell a checking account.”

His self-confidence has always helped him stand out. Not that it was hard to stand out in Keokuk, Iowa, a “small white town,” he says, “where the 10 black people in my school were my cousins.”

But being bi-racial didn’t pose a problem; coming out as gay did. He was 19 and going to Bible college, and after he told a counselor he thought he might be attracted to men, he was subjected to conversion therapy and mandatory

prayer in the company of an “accountability partner” (who, fortuitously enough, was “the hottest guy on campus”).

He left college before he could be expelled and got a job at Dillard’s, eventually becoming one of the only two male managers of a cosmetic counter in Iowa. “I had never put makeup on anybody before, but I have three sisters, so I’d been around a lot of it.”

In 2007, needing a fresh start after a breakup, he moved to Orlando, where he landed department store jobs and a husband. The couple made several moves around Florida, and along the way Preston was hired by Lancome to be a roving ambassador for the brand. When the travel began to weary him, he leapt at

**“Every segment of the community has a place here.”**

the opportunity to apply to Wells Fargo. From there he moved to C1 Bank, whose CEO, Trevor Burgess, was an inspiration: “When Trevor came out as the first openly gay CEO of a publicly traded bank in the U.S., it was a big deal.” Preston went from personal banker to vice president at C1 (now Bank OZK) in four and a half years.

Two years ago he moved to Pilot Bank to work with its president, Rita Lowman, a former colleague from C1. He is now the bank’s vice president and marketing director. And somewhere in the midst of all these changes, he got a degree in psychology from USF (the first in his immediate family to get a BA), and he is finishing a Juris Master’s in financial regulation

and compliance through FSU.

Diversity is an ongoing concern for him. He sees few black or bi-racial leaders at national banking conferences, and he’s disappointed both in African-American gay men who feel they have to live “on the downlow” and in the anti-black biases in LGBT online dating ads. But overall he sees Tampa Bay as a tremendously “embracing” place for its LGBTQ residents. “Every segment of the community has a place here.”

He describes himself now as “very single.” (He and his husband divorced amicably a little more than a year ago.) He lives in the Westshore district of Tampa, and loves eating at Armature Works and Miguelito’s, patronizing the gay businesses in Ybor — and “just enjoying this beautiful city as much as I can.”

—David Warner



# EXPECT BETTER. EXPECT HILTON.

From warm embraces to going places, Hilton has you covered in Tampa Bay.



Hilton

Book now at [travel.hilton.com/tampa](https://travel.hilton.com/tampa)



LXR

CONRAD



MOTTO



© 2019 Hilton. All trademarks of the Hilton Portfolio are owned by Hilton or its subsidiaries.



COURTESY JUSTICE GENNARI

# JUSTICE GENNARI: LEADING WITH DIVERSITY

**J**ustice Gennari works and lives in Tampa's gayborhood, Ybor City. He was born in Sandusky, Ohio, but raised in Tampa. "[I have lived here] almost 20 years total, as I was raised here and moved back here three years ago from Aspen, Colorado."

Now going on his second year as president of the Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce, Justice works with many of the movers and shakers in Tampa Bay's LGBTQ community to make positive things happen. He is also plugged into the community as an Equality Means Business

Advisory Board member with Equality Florida, on the Pride & Passion Committee of the Tampa Museum of Art, board member of the Rays 2020 and Rays 100, as well as a board member with the Ybor City Development Corporation.

"I believe there is always room for improvement. My main focus this year is to showcase Tampa Bay as an LGBT destination," Justice says. "The TBDCC's

**"Both Tampa and St. Pete scored 100 on the HRC Equality Index!"**

International Business and Leadership Conference in August 2019 will put a spotlight on the Tampa Bay area. Tampa Bay is a growing region with the small-city feel. It has a historic charm, great local craft beer, distilleries, local food, and spectacular art and entertainment."

When not working passionately for his community, Justice can be found camping and hiking on the West Coast, preferably

Colorado or Montana. Locally, he plays volleyball once a week with a team in St. Pete and enjoys kayaking on the river, spending time with friends for dinner and drinks, and walking downtown with his 5-year old dog, Tucker.

"Tampa Bay has so much to offer, from great weather to the best beaches and active lifestyle," Justice says about his love for Tampa Bay. "We are one of the fastest-growing regions in the United States, and both Tampa and St. Pete scored 100 on the HRC Equality Index!"

—Aaron Drake



# Out@THE STRAZ

SING *Out*



SPEAK *Out*



STRAZCENTRE  
813.229.STAR  
DOWNTOWN TA



R.ORG  
(7827)  
AMPA, FL

STEP  
*Out*





Tampa International Airport  
takes



in serving  
Florida's  
West Coast



Visit us at [TampaAirport.com](http://TampaAirport.com) or follow us @FlyTPA



# WELCOME TO THE GAYBORHOODS

DISCOVER 4 OF THE CITY'S LIVELIEST DISTRICTS.



## DOWNTOWN

**N**o place exemplifies Tampa's buoyant contemporary spirit better than Downtown and its vibrant Riverwalk. LGBTQ singles and families alike can enjoy highrise living within walking distance of cultural attractions, sports events and all kinds of good eating — from the bustle of Sparkman Wharf, where standout local restaurateurs are serving up their wares food-truck style on the waterfront, to the new hot spots from *Top Chef* favorite Fabio Viviani.



Tampa Bay Lightning

Whatever your interest — yoga in Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, a Broadway show at the Straz or a Tampa Bay Lightning game at the Amalie, Tampa's got it going on around the clock. And there's no better way to catch a gorgeous Florida sunset than with the scenic skyline as a backdrop.

**MUST SEE**



The **Tampa Riverwalk** connects hotels, restaurants, parks and museums like gems on a string. Take advantage of the city's bike-share program to get you to any of the other downtown offerings.

**BY DAY**



Henry B. Plant Museum

**BY NIGHT**

**Oxford Exchange** is the place to be for brunch enthusiasts, while the **Tampa Museum of Art** is a bastion of culture, complemented by the University of Tampa's **Henry B. Plant Museum**, the **Glazer Children's Museum** and the **Florida Museum of Photographic Arts**.

The **David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts** is your place to catch the best in live entertainment, while **The Hotel Bar**, **Osteria**, **Mole y Abuela** and **Anise Gastropub** are trendy spots for a cocktail or quick bite.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING: SCOTT AUDETTE; HENRY B. PLANT MUSEUM: AMY PEZZIGARA; DOWNTOWN TAMPA: KIER MAGOULAS





*M.Bird at  
Armature Works*

**MUST SEE**

One spot you can't skip is the culinary paradise **Ulele**, adjacent to the fun and inviting **Water Works Park**. This hot spot serves innovative food and has its own on-site brewery, **Ulele Spring**.



Ulele

# SEMINOLE HEIGHTS/ TAMPA HEIGHTS

**T**he hits just keep on coming in the booming Seminole Heights and Tampa Heights districts. The boho-chic neighborhood's ongoing renaissance can be attributed in part to lots of you-know-who's having the vision to re-fab the area's historic bungalows, but it's also become a foodie destination, thanks to genius chefs like Ferrell Alvarez (#1-rated Rooster & the Till and the "elevated global street food" at Nebraska Mini-Mart). From rustic Angry Chair Brewing to popular Heights hangout The Independent to the amazing Armature Works, with its massive food hall and popular rooftop bar, you've got a world of fun at the ready.



Angry Chair Brewing

**GOOD FOOD**

**Rooster & The Till** serves up mouthwatering shareable plates and entrées with an array of beer and wines, while **Ella's Americana Folk Art Cafe** offers comfort food with a little Tampa Bay soul.



The Refinery

**GOOD FUN**

Shove some biscuits at **Shuffle**, Tampa's only indoor shuffleboard bar, and surprise your taste buds at **Ichicoro Ramen**.



Ichicoro Ramen

ANGRY CHAIR BREWING: @RACHELRIGHT; ROOSTER & THE TILL: BOB CROSLIN

 [VisitTampaBay.com/Dining](http://VisitTampaBay.com/Dining) is the ultimate resource for **GOOD EATS!**





Edge Rooftop Lounge



The Goody Goody™ dining room.

# SOHO/HYDE PARK

**T**he Soho/Hyde Park district is a colorful neighborhood that's full of charm and life — so of course it's a favorite of the LGBTQ community, many of whom were instrumental in renovating Hyde Park's gorgeous bungalows. On South Howard Avenue (aka SoHo), you'll find tons of old-school class in **Ciro's Speakeasy and Supper Club**, a Prohibition-style speakeasy with fantastic cocktails, while **Ava's** inspired fare draws from the timeless traditions of the rustic Italian countryside. South Howard's easy walkability makes it ideal for strolling, day or night, and Hyde Park boasts the same ease for foot traffic. Be sure to visit the newly refurbished Hyde Park Village, with its charming boutiques and destination restaurants like star chef Chris Ponte's **On Swann**. The proximity to Tampa Bay's exquisite Bayshore Boulevard adds even more class and luxury to this district.



Ava's

**MUST SEE**

The stylish **Epicurean Hotel**, a member of Marriott's Autograph Collection, features deluxe rooms and the incredible restaurant **Élevage**, **Edge**, the rooftop cocktail bar, and all the relaxation you can handle at **Spa Evangeline**.

**GOOD EATS**

In Hyde Park Village, try **Goody Goody™**, a throwback burger joint. **Roux**, just south of Hyde Park, serves up a fresh take on New Orleans cuisine, and **The Mill**, a new arrival on the edge of SoHo, marks the return to South Tampa of popular chef Ted Dorsey and his big, bold flavors.



Ciccio Water

**MUST TRY**

**Ciccio Water** offers California fusion fare, **717 South** serves up Italian and food from the Pacific Rim and **Bern's Steak House** is a Tampa Bay institution—the owner of which is also behind **Haven**, a mecca for cocktails and charcuterie.

HYDE PARK VILLAGE: KIER MACGILLAS; AVA'S: @SLEEPYWANTON

**SEE** what makes Tampa Bay special at [VisitTampaBay.com/TampaBayWay](http://VisitTampaBay.com/TampaBayWay).





**TRIBECA COLORSALONS** are celebrating 20 years of providing the Tampa Bay area with professional hair services. With 3 locations in Tampa and our Atelier in Montreal Quebec, we welcome you to be pampered and groomed by our expert team. Brandon Wagner, the Creative Director is proud to be the owner of Tampa's second largest LGBTQ business. We are open to everyone, and have a private service room for those who require modesty. Our wedding coordinator is available to help you organize your wedding day's services, and we provide hair and makeup services on site or in salon.



**TRIBECA**  
COLORSALONS

Locations:  
Centro Ybor 813-242-4080  
South Tampa 813-250-0208  
The Heights 813-765-3422  
Montreal: 514-543-8317  
@tribecacolorsalon  
TRIBECASALONS.com



## WELCOME TO THE GAYBORHOODS

# YBOR CITY



MUST SEE

LA SEGUNDA CENTRAL BAKERY

**Y**bor City, pronounced “EE-bore” and sometimes known as GaYbor, is the home of Tampa Bay’s historical and cultural roots — and also home to Tampa Pride, the annual parade and festival celebrating Tampa’s LGBTQ community. Many of the buildings bear the charming brick exteriors of converted cigar factories, owing to the Big Guava’s celebrated history as the Cigar Capital of the World. But cigar-making is also a part of this multi-faceted district’s present and future, with merchants such as **J.C. Newman Cigar Co.** keeping the tradition alive and craft brewers **Cigar City Cider & Mead** paying homage in their name. **Coppertail Brewing Co.** in East Ybor is not only one of Tampa’s most accomplished breweries (known for its Free Dive IPA), it’s also a great place to eat, thanks to its **S&V Kitchen**.



J.C. Newman Cigar Co.



Cigar City Cider & Mead



Jose Marti Park

Step foot on Cuban soil at **José Martí Park**. The .14-acre park is a tribute to the Cuban national hero and has been owned by Cuba since 1956.

.....



TAMPA SWEETHEARTS CIGARS

BY DAY

**Tampa Sweethearts Cigars**, owned and operated by direct descendants of the legendary Arturo Fuente, brings the pedigree of such a heritage, and **La Segunda Central Bakery** likewise brings Cuban authenticity.

.....



COLUMBIA RESTAURANT

BY NIGHT

The world-famous **Columbia Restaurant** is the perfect spot to dine before a night of laughs at the **Tampa Improv** or some live music at the **Ritz Ybor**.

 **EXPLORE** the sensations of Ybor City at [VisitTampaBay.com/Ybor](http://VisitTampaBay.com/Ybor).



# Crazy FUN

COASTERS, PIRATES,  
SHARKS AND MORE!

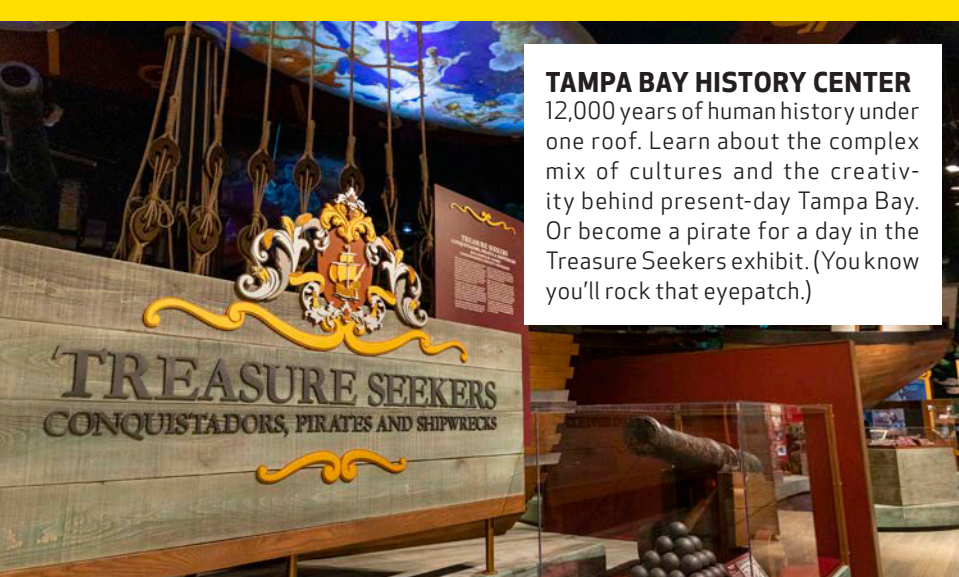
## RIDE TIGRIS

You'll roar with excitement when you climb aboard Florida's tallest triple-launch coaster for a heart-stopping heartline roll 150 feet above Busch Gardens® Tampa Bay. Scream queens, this one's for you.



## DAVE & BUSTERS

Bring your A game ('A' for arcade) and your favorite Dave or Buster to take on the bells and whistles of this outstanding entertainment center. Show your skills on hoops or have a four-way game on the air hockey table.



## TAMPA BAY HISTORY CENTER

12,000 years of human history under one roof. Learn about the complex mix of cultures and the creativity behind present-day Tampa Bay. Or become a pirate for a day in the Treasure Seekers exhibit. (You know you'll rock that eyepatch.)







### TAMPA E-BOATS

Captain your own adventure behind the wheel of these electric pleasure boats that can carry up to 10 passengers. Bring your own food and drink for fun on the water and lots of e-Pleasure.



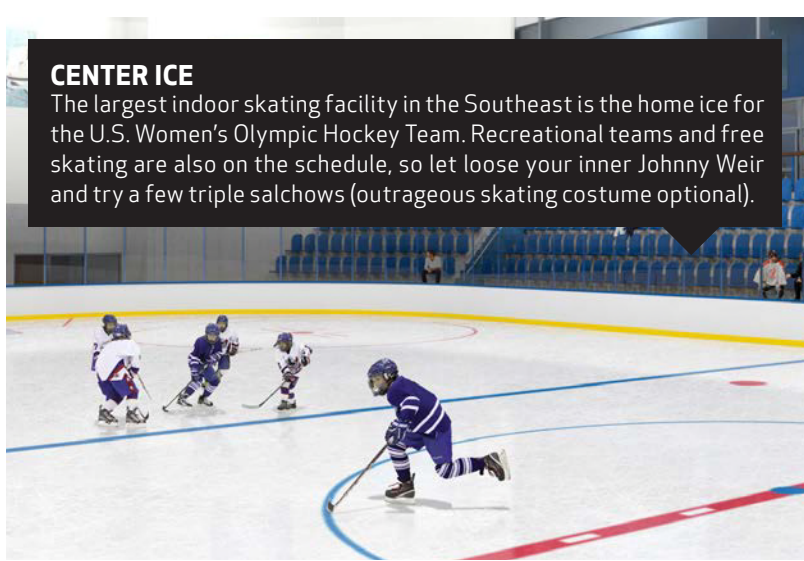
### ADVENTURE ISLAND

Take the plunge at Tampa Bay's favorite water park. Step into Van-ish Point® and moments later the floor falls away, sending you on a pulse-pounding water ride. (But first make sure the Speedo's secure.)



### URBAN KAI

Find your sea legs aboard a paddleboard as you explore the downtown waterfront and Tampa Riverwalk. Stand and deliver!



### CENTER ICE

The largest indoor skating facility in the Southeast is the home ice for the U.S. Women's Olympic Hockey Team. Recreational teams and free skating are also on the schedule, so let loose your inner Johnny Weir and try a few triple salchows (outrageous skating costume optional).

### ZOOTAMPA AT LOWRY PARK

Meet the neighbors face to face when you visit Florida manatees at the rehabilitation hospital or feed girafes and rhinos by hand. All together now: Awwwwwww....



### FLORIDA AQUARIUM

Explore Florida's delicate aquatic ecosystems, from the springs and wetlands to the deep blue of a Caribbean reef where sharks and sea turtles swim. You can even strap on a snorkel and swim fins (or a scuba tank if you're certified) and swim with them.







### BROADWAY, BABY!

Its full name — the **David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts** — may ring a bell. (If not, see p. 7.) But the main reason everyone knows the Straz, as it's called for short, is the huge variety of entertainment it offers — Broadway tours, top comics, Florida Orchestra, Opera Tampa, acoustic shows, cutting-edge contemporary theater — all in a beautiful waterfront multi-plex.

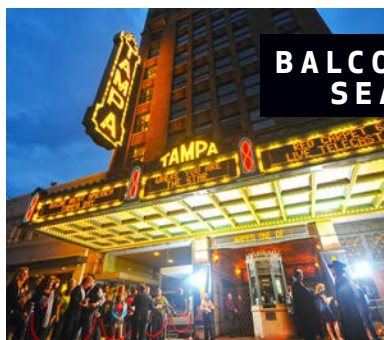
**ALADDIN LANDS  
AT THE STRAZ  
2019-2020**

### LIGHTNING STRIKES

Not only home to the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Tampa Bay Storm, **Amalie Arena** is also the spot to catch shows from world-class acts such as Bruno Mars, Paul McCartney and Billy



Joel. The energy felt in this downtown venue, which can accommodate 20,500 enthusiastic concert or sports fans, can't be beat.



### BALCONY SEATS

**Tampa Theatre** is a charming, old-timey movie palace in the heart of downtown. It's filled with lavish decor including gargoyles, statues and a 1,400-pipe Mighty Wurlitzer organ that rises from beneath the stage. See films, special events, comedy shows and more. Put the venue's annual movie-themed beer and wine fests on your calendar.

# IT'S SHOWTIME!

CHECK OUT THE BEST THEATER, ARTS AND LIVE MUSIC IN TAMPA BAY

by Effie Orfanides



### HISTORIC YBOR

Before Lady Gaga played sold-out arena shows all over the globe, she took the stage at Tampa's **Ritz Ybor** amphitheater. The no-frills club venue has played host to hundreds of touring acts all across the musical spectrum and is an ideal spot to catch a hot show with a cold drink.



### PROFESSIONAL THEATER

Theatre Tampa Bay promotes locally produced professional plays, musicals and operas in Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg. Visit their website ([TheatreTampaBay.org](http://TheatreTampaBay.org)) to discover what's playing and to purchase tickets.

### CREATIVE THEATER

Tampa's **Jobsite Theater** is the official theater company in residence at the Straz, with performances at the intimate 130-seat



### Shimberg Playhouse.

The performances are sometimes daring, always artistic and never dull. They always strive to be socially and politically relevant.

RITZ YBOR: DALSR; SKIPPER'S SMOKEHOUSE: LUIS SANTANA; TAMPA IMPROV: @NATEPRIBBLE





LUIS SANTANA

Tampa Pride Parade in Ybor City

# TAMPA PRIDE

By Mike Salinero and David Warner

## FESTIVALS, RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS WELCOME THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Kevin Beckner—the first openly gay elected official in Hillsborough County—stated, “We’ve torn barriers down and we’ve become known as a welcoming destination for the LGBTQ community.”

In fact, the Tampa Bay area has become the ultimate splash pad for gays and lesbians. The annual Tampa Pride Parade attracts tens of thousands, according to Carrie West. He and longtime partner Mark Bias were founding members of the GaYBOR District Coalition. The business group, based in Tampa’s Ybor City, includes hundreds of local and national gay-friendly businesses.

Just east of downtown, Ybor is Tampa’s ultimate LGBTQ hospitality and party area, with dozens of gay-friendly nightclubs, bars, restaurants and retail shops.

On 7th Avenue, Ybor’s main thoroughfare, bars with weekly drag shows include Bradley’s on 7th and Southern Nights Tampa. The Honey Pot throws two big dance parties every week, Steam Fridays (where

## THE ANNUAL TAMPA PRIDE PARADE ATTRACTS TENS OF THOUSANDS.

the boys are) and Tease Saturdays (girls girls girls).

Smaller gay-friendly bars and eateries include The Bricks, offering “eclectic bites, even late at night”; Tre Amici at The Bunker, a popular

spot for lunch, coffee and live music; Reservoir, a self-described “dive bar”; and prime live music venues Crowbar, Ritz Ybor, and Orpheum. Gay-friendly

“Once you attract somebody to a community, that can lead to longer stays and having people who want to move to your community,” Beckner



Tre Amici at the Bunker

shops in Ybor are as varied as the entertainment options, including the well-curated vintage wear of La France and the international flair of Agora. Ybor City (see p. 31) has a long history of welcoming diverse communities, and the businesses here and throughout Tampa embrace the diverse crowds that come to town.

Welcoming accommodations are also plentiful in Tampa Bay with at least 20 hotels that are TAG-approved as being LGBTQ-friendly.

said. “It all starts with tourism and having a reputation of being open and welcoming. In the long term, it grows our economy.”

**TAMPA BAY PRIDE**  
Discover more at [ConquerWithPride.com](http://ConquerWithPride.com)



# St. Pete

Home to the 2017 IGLTA World Conference and Florida's largest Pride celebration and nation's third LGBT Welcome Center. Scored a perfect 100 on HRC's Municipal Equality Index four years in a row.



361 days of sunshine every year is only the beginning. St. Pete also shines through its charming, bungalow-lined neighborhoods, original craft brew pubs, world-class restaurants led by award-winning chefs and a cultural fabric as diverse as its offerings. Come for a weekend. Make memories for a lifetime. Your sunshine is here.

**St. Pete**

#sunshinere

**YOU ARE MY SUN SHINE CITY**

Follow Us: @StPeteFL

stpete.org/LGBT



# PRO TIPS

SPORTS FAN? HAVE WE GOT SOME TEAMS FOR YOU!

## UPS & DOWNS

Being a fan of Tampa Bay's professional sports teams — the Lightning, the Rays, the Bucs or the Rowdies — can be more thrilling than a Tigris ride. Any given season can lead you on a roller-coaster whirl full of climbs and dips and unexpected twists. These teams can take you to the heights (the 2018-19 Lightning tying for most NHL wins in history!) or shatter your dreams (the same team making *more* history — by getting swept in the first round of the playoffs). As we write, the amazing Tampa Bay Rays — baseball's little-engine-that-could — are battling the Yankees for first place in the game's toughest division, and the rollickin' Rowdies have maintained the top slot in the United Soccer League conference for weeks. The Bucs — well, the Bucs won a Super Bowl once, so there's that.

And who knows what will happen

next? That's the beauty of it all. (And oh, by the way, if your main reason for going to games is the beauty of the *players*, not the game — we're lookin' at you, Kevin Kiermaier fans — don't worry, we won't judge.)

## PLAYING FOR PRIDE

By the way, every one of these teams hosts Pride events to cater to their LGBTQ fan base, and those games are often among the most well-attended of the season. The Rays in particular have been vocal supporters of our community; in the wake of the Pulse nightclub attacks in Orlando in 2016, the team turned its Pride Night into a fundraiser and a memorial, raising more than \$300,000 for the Pulse Victim Fund through ticket sales, raffles and donation centers. The Lightning's Community Hero program, founded in 2011 by team owner Jeff Vinik, has honored hundreds of



“grassroots heroes” with \$50,000 grants, including such LGBTQ leaders as Equality Florida's Nadine Smith and The Studio@620's Bob Devin Jones. The Bucs hired their first openly gay male cheerleader this year, and Ralph's Mob Charities, the fan group of the Rowdies, has announced a 2019 Prideraiser for the benefit of Metro Inclusive Health via ticket sales, donations and a fetching Rowdy and Proud scarf in the team's yellow and green plus the colors of the rainbow.

## NOT PRO... YET

College football is just as big

around here, if not bigger, than any pro sport. Word of warning to Tampa Bay newbies: You will hear a lot about the Gators (University of Florida) and the Seminoles (Florida State University). Know the difference or risk bodily injury (or at least a cold shoulder).

**Rays:** Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg, [raysbaseball.com](http://raysbaseball.com).

**Lightning:** Amalie Arena, Tampa, [nhl.com/lightning](http://nhl.com/lightning).

**Buccaneers:** Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, [buccaneers.com](http://buccaneers.com).

**Rowdies:** Al Lang Stadium, St. Petersburg, [rowdiessoccer.com](http://rowdiessoccer.com).



## DISCOVER A BRILLIANT HOTEL NESTLED ON THE TAMPA BAY WATERFRONT

Shimmering bay views, luxurious accommodations and inspired amenities combine for exceptional results at The Westin Tampa Bay. As a AAA Four Diamond hotel, we offer travelers to Tampa an inimitable luxury experience on Rocky Point Island.

- Free Airport Pick-Up and Drop-Off
- Free Shuttle Service within Surrounding Area (Limited)
- Complimentary 24-Hour Westin Workout Fitness Studio
- Indoor Heated Pool
- Indoor Whirlpool
- Complimentary Standard Wifi
- Multilingual Staff
- 100% Non-Smoking Rooms and Facilities
- VIP Floor
- 24-Hour In-room Dining Service

# THE WESTIN

## TAMPA BAY

7627 Courtney Campbell Causeway  
813-281-0000 | [www.westintampabay.com](http://www.westintampabay.com)







# BE ONE WITH NATURE

## TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Tampa Bay has some of Florida's best urban adventures, but it's also home to amazing outdoor experiences just minutes from downtown's glittering towers. Paddling, bird-watching, animal interactions — they're all waiting for you to discover when you unlock Tampa Bay.

## A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Slip silently through ancient cypress forests on a **Canoe Escape** along the wild upper reaches of the Hillsborough River. The same river that carries pleasure boats through the heart of downtown is a very different place a few miles upstream. There, in the dappled shade of towering trees, you can get in touch with the true Old Florida. Cast a line for a fish, spot migrating birds flitting among the leafy treetops, snap shots of basking turtles and dozing alligators.

## A WALK IN THE WOODS

Explore nature along the paths and boardwalks of major parks just minutes from the excitement of the city. Canoe Florida's only Class 2 rapids at **Hillsborough River State Park** (a big deal in a place that's pretty flat). Tackle challenging single-track on a mountain bike or in your trail runners at **Alafia River State Park**, which was built on a reclaimed phosphate mine. **Flatwoods Conservation Park** is a wild oasis surround by suburbia, with extensive bike and running trails. **Lettuce Lake Park** offers canoeing along the Hillsborough River as well as a boardwalk and tower for spotting wildlife.

## PROTECT THE EARTH

Leave things better than you found them by volunteering some time with one of our many environmental organizations, such as **Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful**, **Tampa Bay Waterkeeper**, or the Tampa Bay chapter of the **Sierra Club**. These and other groups welcome volunteers and regularly organize clean-ups and other project to improve the local environment.

You can also do your own part by making sure litter — especially plastic — goes into the trash instead into the bay. Our beautiful aquatic environment deserves the attention.

## MEET THE MANATEES

Maybe your idea of roughing it is room service and a cozy robe. We hear you. You can still get in touch with Mother Nature on your own terms at The Florida Aquarium, ZooTampa at Lowry Park, and Busch Garden Tampa Bay.

- **The Florida Aquarium** invests in the preservation of sharks and injured sea turtles, as well as breeding coral to replace wild coral disappearing from Florida's coast. You can even support their shark efforts when you order a Sand Tiger Stout by Coppertail Brewing.
- **ZooTampa** has the country's only non-profit hospital to treat injured West Indian manatees and return them to the wild.
- **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** is a leader in international efforts to preserve threatened and endangered species in the wild. By visiting each, you'll be supporting their work behind the scenes to conserve and preserve endangered species and other wildlife.



# bkn Creative

PASSIONATE • COLLABORATIVE • CREATIVE

BKN Creative is a full-service boutique creative and marketing agency that supports brands large and small navigate, create, and elevate their visual identity. Using techniques from a wide range of capabilities we create and produce authentic brand experiences that inspire, engage, and motivate their audience.



GRAPHIC  
DESIGN



PHOTOGRAPHY



MARKETING  
STRATEGY



VIDEOGRAPHY



BRANDING



WEB DESIGN



SOCIAL MEDIA  
MARKETING



COPYWRITING

[BKNCREATIVE.COM](http://BKNCREATIVE.COM) | 816.644.7443



## HEADSHOT DAY

Join us at one of our popular monthly BKN Creative Headshot Days. Visit [BKNCREATIVE.COM/HEADSHOTS](http://BKNCREATIVE.COM/HEADSHOTS) for more information!



# DISTRICT TAVERN

DRINK • EAT • GATHER

Channel District's  
Choice For Premium  
Cocktails & Great Food

- Open Daily 11am - 3am
- Happy Hour Monday - Friday 4pm - 7pm
- Gastropub Cuisine, Craft Cocktails, Craft Beer & Top-Quality Wines
- Kitchen Open Late
- UBER Eats
- On & Offsite Catering



[www.districttaverntampa.com](http://www.districttaverntampa.com)

814.252.3444



# SHOP, GIRL!

YOU CAN'T GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED, NOT WITH SO MANY SHOPPING OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM.

**R**etail therapy is right around the corner when you visit Tampa Bay. Whether you're looking for a unique boutique, big-name brands, or a special souvenir to remember your time here — we've got the shop for you.

## UNLOCK TAMPA BAY VISITORS CENTER

Drop in at this downtown spot to find a gift that's uniquely Tampa Bay — including jewelry made with bricks from historic Ybor City. You can also buy attraction tickets and get help navigating the region.

## HYDE PARK VILLAGE

Originally developed in 1905 as part of Tampa Bay's toniest community, this open-air plaza offers boutique shopping in a stylish environment filled with local favorites. Stop in for

a blackberry-and-clove popsicle, locally brewed coffee, or a treat for your favorite fur person.

## INTERNATIONAL PLAZA & BAY STREET

Tampa Bay's premier indoor shopping center gathers nearly 200 high-end shops under one roof. You'll find major names in luxury, including Hugo Boss, Tiffany's, Tesla, and Apple. Bay Street's collection of clubs and eateries is the perfect place to recharge and rest your credit card.

## WESTSHORE PLAZA

With superb shopping, great restaurants, and a multi-screen movie theater, this staple of Tampa Bay's retail landscape has everything you need for a low-key evening or a laid-back weekend.



Unlock Tampa Bay Visitors Center

## TAMPA PREMIUM OUTLETS

A quick trip out of downtown, you'll find nearly 100 brand names at bargain prices — Saks Off 5th, Michael Kors, Columbia: What better reason to visit the suburbs?

## SEVENTH AVENUE

Ybor City's main street has been a

shopping haven for more than 130 years. Today, you can take home a piece of true Tampa Bay from the boutiques where Cuban masters make hand-rolled cigars. You'll also find vintage shops and shops selling locally designed clothes.



## GET THIS CLOSE TO A SEA OF DIVERSITY

Here we welcome and celebrate everyone's refreshing individuality.



[flaquarium.org](http://flaquarium.org) | 813-273-4000



# SIT PLAY FETCH!

IT'S NO SECRET THAT WE GAY FOLKS LOVE OUR DOGGIES. BRING YOUR BUDDY ALONG TO THESE DOG-FRIENDLY HOTELS, PARKS & SOCIAL HUBS

CANCEL THE PET SITTER →

The Casita Suites at Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay offer serene and pet-friendly environments for both out-of-towners and staycationers looking for a waterfront getaway. Le Méridien Tampa caters to pooches



Le Méridien Tampa

Le Méridien Tampa caters to pooches who thrive in the city life and offers personal pet mats, water bowls and plenty of puppy treats in the heart of downtown Tampa. Nestled a little closer to where the thrill lies, Hyatt Place Tampa/Busch Gardens offers a home for up to two pets to stay and play, while you have an adventure of your own at Busch Gardens

DINE WITH DAISY →

Tampa Bay. Chow down with your four-legged buddies in **Sparkman Wharf's Dining Garden** and on the plaza surrounding the **Armature Works**, where you'll find plenty of outdoor fun and delicious food. If you're adventuring through the Tampa Riverwalk, stop at **The Sail Pavilion**—voted No. 1 dog-friendly bar in the United States by *USA Today*—to enjoy live music, drinks and snacks while watching the sunset. **Gaspar's Grotto** in Ybor City features a shaded outdoor lounge for enjoyment of drink specials and

live entertainment. If you're hitting the town, enjoy the town, enjoy **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Dog Park**, where your pup can test their agility skills and frolic alongside other



The Sail Pavilion

DROP THE LEASH →

happy canines. Water lovers can make a splash at **Davis Island Dog Beach** and **Picnic Island Dog Park**. Both offer fenced-in beach play areas accompanied by beautiful views of the bay.

live entertainment. If you're hitting the town, enjoy the town, enjoy **Curtis Hixon Waterfront Dog Park**, where your pup can test their agility skills and frolic alongside other

MAGGIANO'S  
# LITTLE ITALY #

MAGGIANO'S WEDDINGS

You cut the cake.  
Leave the rest to us.

CONTACT A BANQUET SALES MANAGER

TAMPA

203 Westshore Plaza | Tampa, FL 33609 | 813-288-9000

MAGGIANO'S  
# LITTLE ITALY #

MAGGIANO'S WEDDINGS

You cut the cake.  
Leave the rest to us.

CONTACT A BANQUET SALES MANAGER

TAMPA

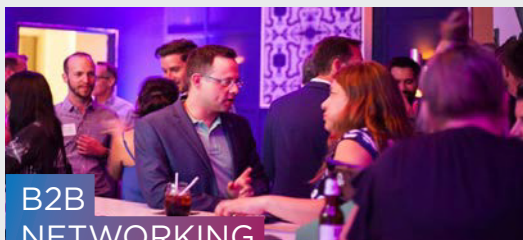
203 Westshore Plaza | Tampa, FL 33609 | 813-288-9000



EMPOWERING EQUALITY-MINDED  
PROFESSIONALS

# TAMPA BAY DIVERSITY

Chamber of Commerce



## B2B NETWORKING

Join our monthly B2B Networking events and meet like minded entrepreneurs, business owners, and business professionals. Every other month we cross the bay so everyone can join!



## BREAKFAST N' LEARN

Monthly we feature a sponsored Breakfast N' Learn where we feature a prominent leader in our community to present on various topics. Get a chance to learn more about a industry insights over an amazing breakfast. Each month is a different topic that will help grow your business while connecting you with other members.



## BECOME A PART OF A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The NGLCC is the business voice of the LGBT community, the largest advocacy organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunities and advancements for LGBT people, and the exclusive certifying body for LGBT-owned businesses.

**BECOME CETRIFITED!** The NGLCC is the exclusive, third-party certification body that verifies that eligible businesses are majority-owned by LGBT individuals, and subsequently grants LGBT Business Enterprise\* (LGBTBE\*) designation to such businesses as part of its LGBT Supplier Diversity Initiative.

Joining the Tampa Bay LGBT Chamber of Commerce you will get your NGLCC LGBTBE Certification fee waived (\$400 Value)!

## ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Each year we throw our signature Annual Luncheon that features a Marketplace Expo, Keynote Guest Speaker and a Delicious Lunch. All followed by an overview on the Chambers new initiatives and of course, networking.



## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Interested in joining the Tampa Bay Diversity Chamber of Commerce? Visit our website for more information about membership opportunities, events, and much more!

[diversitytampabay.org](http://diversitytampabay.org)





# LGBTBE® SHOWCASE

\*BUSINESSES THAT ARE MAJORITY-OWNED BY LGBT INDIVIDUALS

APEX ATTORNEY SEARCH, LLC

**LEGAL | APEXATTORNEYSEARCH.COM | 954.303.6131**

Apex Attorney Search works with top legal talent and connects them with employment opportunities at the nation's best law firms and corporations.

ADVANTAGE PRODUCT PIPELINE LLC

**MANUFACTURING | AUTOPROTECTION.DUPONT.COM | 813.249.2077**



Your vehicle is an expression of who you are. So don't you want to make sure you protect your car detailing from any bumps you might encounter along the unpredictable road of life?

BKN CREATIVE

**MARKETING | BKNCREATIVE.COM | 813.644.7443**



Passionate. Collaborative. Creative. BKN Creative is a full-service boutique creative and marketing agency that supports brands large and small navigate, create, and elevate their visual identity. Using techniques from a wide range of capabilities we create and produce authentic brand experiences that inspire, engage, and motivate their audience.

DIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER OF TAMPA BAY

**HEALTHCARE | DIVERSITYHEALTHCENTER.COM | 813.518.0881**



Committed to providing excellent, evidence-based patient care and to developing long-lasting relationships within our community. Our office believes in promoting compassion as well as a positive and safe environment for you and those important to you.

EMPOWERING DIFFERENCES INC.

**CONSULTING | ASHLEYBRUNDAGE.COM | 813.731.1302**

Ashley T Brundage is a well respected keynote speaker, diversity & inclusion educator, and corporate diversity leader. She frequently speaks on these topics, as well as sharing her personal leadership journey.

FETCH DATA LLC

**TECHNOLOGY | RUNHOUNDRUN.COM | 786.778.3796**



Fetch Data is a women owned company rooted in data and operations management consulting. With every client, our goal is to become a partner in success by streamlining data and processes to improve employee engagement and production.

KINGHAM SIGNATURE EVENTS

**CONSULTING | EVENTDESIGN.EXPERT | 813.340.4088**



Our founder, Trace Kingham, is an event planning expert producing events for 20+ years and author of STANDOUT: Place Your Business in the Spotlight with Results-Driven Events. Trace has transformed event experiences for Fortune 500 Companies and large non-profit organizations with dramatic results: out of the gate.

L5 EXPRESS

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | L5US.COM | 866.910.4004**



L5 a proud Business Alliance Partner of the USPS. We are an asset based Postal Qualified Wholesaler (PQW). L5 utilizes our ground and air fleet to provide full International service including PMI, PME1, E-Packet, and Domestic Zone Skip PM, PME. L5 offers cloud-based multi-carrier software ensuring Your Package Is Our Priority!

MICHELE WIERZGAC

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | MICHELEANDCO.COM | 708.710.7055**

Michele is a speaker and author who promises her audience will leave her solution-driven keynotes and workshops with at least one passionate, life transforming leadership tool - something that will change the way you seek out solutions and practically apply them without getting stuck.

OUTCOAST

**MEDIA | OUTCOAST.COM | 484.447.0089**



OUTCOAST is a travel and event concierge agency specializing in LGBTQ vacations, celebrations, and relocation. Our booking services make travel to Florida's Gulf Coast easy. We do the work for you!

SAVVY MORTGAGE LENDING

**FINANCE | SAVVYMORTGAGE.COM | 727.877. 5684**



At Savvy Mortgage Lending, we take pride in being there when our borrowers need us, day and night. Our business is based on uncompromised Value, Expertise, Integrity, Accountability, and a YES I CAN ATTITUDE.

SPARXOO

**MARKETING | SPARXOO.COM | 813.777.7858**



You have big goals, and we have big ideas—grounded in digital expertise. We're here to help you find solutions, reimagine your marketing strategy, and turn information and inspiration into results.

SPAULDING DECON

**COMMERCIAL SERVICES | SPAULDINGDECON.COM | 866.993.3266**



As one of the nation's leaders in the crime scene cleanup industry, we at Spaulding Decon are committed to providing a thorough, hassle-free clean up experience for individuals and businesses all across the country.

TOMCO SOLUTIONS, INC

**CONSTRUCTION | TOMCOSOLUTIONS.COM | 8813.505.6439**



From concept to completion, every step of a project is handled by our team of qualified construction professionals with over 3000 projects in experience. We are a one stop contractor for all your needs!

**JOIN THE TAMPA BAY DIVERSITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & BECOME A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LGBTBE! VISIT DIVERSITYTAMPABAY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.**





# nglcc tampa

**THE LARGEST LGBT  
BUSINESS EVENT  
ON THE PLANET!  
AUG 13-16, 2019**

- ❁ 3 DAYS OF LGBT BUSINESS SUCCESS
- ❁ OVER 1,300 ATTENDEES
- ❁ 200+ INCLUSIVE CORPORATIONS
- ❁ OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
- ❁ INCREDIBLE NETWORKING
- ❁ THE BEST BUSINESS DECISION YOU WILL MAKE ALL YEAR

**VISIT [NGLCC.ORG/NGLCC19](http://NGLCC.ORG/NGLCC19) TO  
LEARN MORE AND REGISTER**



## Accounting & Tax Services

- **Accounting Taxes & More, Inc.**  
ATMTaxPrep.com
- **H&R Block**  
hrblock.com
- **Tax Happens LLC (CPA)**  
taxhappens.com

## Advertising, Marketing & Media

- **BKN Creative**  
bkncreative.com
- **BuzzFish Marketing**  
buzzfishmarketing.com
- **C- Suite Promotions**  
csuitepromotions.proforma.com
- **Marketing Mapper™**  
marketingmapper.com
- **Nielsen**  
nielsen.com/us
- **OUTCOAST™**  
outcoast.com
- **InfiniPixels**  
InfiniPixels.com
- **Sparxoo**  
sparxoo.com

## Arts, Entertainment & Events

- **anABCEvent, Inc.**  
ABCEventplanning.com
- **DCE Productions**  
dcelive.com
- **Extravaganza Productions**  
extravanzaproductions.com
- **Equality Florida**  
eqfl.org
- **Florida Museum of Photographic Arts**  
fmopa.org
- **Italian Club of Tampa**  
italian-club.org
- **Kingham Signature Events**  
eventdesign.expert
- **Not Your Normal Entertainment, LLC**  
nyneshows.com
- **Pizzazz Production LLC**  
pizzazzproduction.com
- **Project No Labels**  
projectnolabels.org
- **St. Pete Pride, Inc.**  
stpetepride.com
- **Tampa GSWS, Inc.**  
TampaGSWS.com
- **TAMPA PRIDE, Inc**  
TampaPride.org
- **The Florida Aquarium**  
flaquarium.org
- **Woodfield Fine Art Gallery**  
woodfieldfineart.com

## Attorneys & Legal Services

- **Apex Attorney Search, LLC**  
apexattorneysearch.com
- **Brier Grieves Agency, Inc.**  
bgains.com
- **FordHarrison LLP**  
fordharrison.com
- **GBY & Associates, PLLC**  
gbyassociates.com
- **Law Offices of Richard Egozcue**  
bankruptcytaxestateplanning.attorney
- **Verras Law, P.A.**  
verras-law.com/

## Business Services

- **Fetch Data LLC**  
runhoundrun.com
- **Kennedy Franchise Consultants**  
yourfranchisepro.com

## Computer & Web Services

- **Tech Data Corporation**  
techdata.com
- **Trans - Database Solutions**  
tdatabases.com

## Construction & Renovation

- **Bay Area Solar Solutions**  
bayareasolarsolutions.com
- **TomCo Soutlions Inc.**  
tomcosolutions.com

## Consulting

- **L+C Creative Group**  
lccreativegroup.com
- **Keynote Speaker & Author**  
micheleandco.com
- **Zentech Consulting**  
zentechconsulting.com

## Crime Scene Clean Up

- **Spaulding Decon**  
spauldingdecon.com

## Dining & Nightlife

- **Anise Glocal Gastrobar**  
aniseglobal.com
- **Bellabrava**  
bellabrava.com
- **Cider Press Café**  
ciderpresscafe.com
- **District Tavern**  
districttavern.tampa.com
- **Punky's Bar & Grill**  
punkysbar.com
- **Quench Lounge**  
quenchlounge.com
- **Stillwaters Tavern**  
stillwaterstavern.com

## Financial

- **ABC Solutions, LLC**  
abcsolutionsfl.com
- **PNC**  
pnc.com
- **Regions Bank**  
regions.com
- **M2 Financial Advisors**  
of Raymond James & Associates  
m2financialadvisors.com
- **Seacoast Bank**  
seacoastbank.com
- **Thrive Financial Advisors**  
thrivent.com

## Foundation

- **S.T.A.N.O. Foundation**  
stano.org

## Health Services & Fitness

- **Bristol Myers Squibb**  
bms.com/ourcompany/Pages/home.aspx
- **Cryos International Sperm & Egg Bank**  
usa.cryosinternational.com
- **Diversity Health Center of Tampa Bay**  
DiversityHealthCenter.com
- **Florida Wellness Medical Group**  
floridawell.com
- **Love the Golden Rule**  
lovethegoldenrule.com
- **Metro Wellness & Community Centers**  
metrotampabay.org
- **Midtown Medical Center**  
dredwardbraun.com
- **Moffitt Cancer Center**  
moffitt.org
- **Spa Nirvana**  
spanirvana.com

## Hotels & Resorts

- **Embassy Suites**  
by Hilton Tampa Downtown  
Convention Center  
tampadowntown.embassysuites.com
- **Interstate Hotels & Resorts**  
interstatehotels.com
- **Marriott**  
marriott.com
- **The Godfrey Hotel & Cabanas Tampa**  
www.godfreyhoteltampa.com/

## Insurance

- **MidAmerica Administrative & Retirement Solutions LLC**  
transamerica.com
- **US HEALTH ADVISORS**  
ushagent.com/rjmartin
- **Scarr Insurance Group**  
scarrinsurance.com

## Mailing & Shipping

- **L5 Express**  
L5us.com

## Pet & Supplies

- **South Tampa Pet Resort**  
southtampapetresort.com

## Real Estate

- **Best of Tampa Bay Homes Team**  
bestoftampabayhomes.com
- **Buchanan Prtfolio Group**  
kw.com/kw/agent/  
buchananportfolio
- **Journey Partners**  
journeypartnersre.com
- **Mayo Mortgage Group, LLC**  
traciemayo.com
- **McBride Kelly & Associates Realty**  
CoolestRealtorInTampaBay.com
- **Smith & Associates Real Estate**  
SmithAndAssociates.com
- **The Hustle & Heart Group**  
at Keller Williams  
thehustleandheartgroup.com
- **WELLS FARGO**  
wellsfargo.com

## Sports

- **Tampa Bay Rays Baseball**  
raysbaseball.com
- **Tampa Bay Rowdies**  
rowdiessoccer.com

## Suppliers

- **Advantage Product Pipeline LLC**  
autoprotection.dupont.com
- **City-Wide Self Storage & Commercial Services**  
CityWideSelfStorageStPete.com

## INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

Head over to:

[diversitytampabay.org](http://diversitytampabay.org)

for more information  
on, membership,  
upcoming events, &  
reason to join!

### ● LGBTBE

- Majority (at least 51%) owned, operated, managed, and controlled by an LGBT person or persons who are either U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents





## At Bristol-Myers Squibb, we are working together for patients

To drive stronger business results, Bristol-Myers Squibb products and solutions must reflect the diverse experiences and views of our employees and our patients, who are at the center of everything we do.

Supplier diversity at Bristol-Myers Squibb helps us innovate, improve and better serve our patients. It aligns with our broadly inclusive and powerfully diverse culture, and it leverages the full complement of what our people and partners have to offer.

**WORKING  
TOGETHER**  
FOR *Patients*<sup>™</sup>

Bristol-Myers Squibb is proud to support the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce



**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

[bms.com](https://www.bms.com)

© 2019 Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.



# Get Inspired.

## Recommendations from One of Tampa's Most Creative Leaders.



DAVID CAPECE

David Capece is the CEO of Sparxoo, a Tampa-based digital marketing agency recognized by INC 5000 as one of the fastest growing companies. Sparxoo specializes in combining right-brain strategy with left-brain creativity to accelerate growth.

Building a successful business takes inspiration, which David finds across a diversity of Tampa Bay's treasures.

### His tips for visitors?



1

Stroll the Riverwalk

2

Paddle board on Weedon Island across the bay in St. Petersburg



3

Recharge with fresh açai at SweetSoul SoHo

4

Catch a show at the historic Tampa Theatre



5

Open your eyes and mind at the Tampa Museum of Art

6

Converse over a cup at Foundation Coffee in Tampa's new Sparkman Wharf





# FLORIDA'S MOST PROUD DESTINATION

When it comes to having fun, Tampa Bay has everything under the sun. From art festivals and culinary delights to dazzling dance clubs and outdoor adventures, there's a treasure trove of discoveries waiting for you.



[ConquerWithPride.com](http://ConquerWithPride.com)



VISIT  
**TAMPA BAY**  
TREASURE AWAITS