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**LOCAL LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR “VIRTUAL ARIZONA PRIDE”**

*Online events will happen April 4-5 due to postponement of Phoenix Pride*

**[Phoenix, Arizona, April 4]** -- With the coronavirus outbreak causing the annual Phoenix Pride Parade and Festival, originally scheduled for April 4-5, 2020, to be postponed until November this year, a coalition of Arizona LGBTQ+ organizations have come together to present the first Virtual Arizona Pride event, a weekend of livestream events featuring drag performances, comedy, and music as well as events focused on education, political advocacy, and mental health.

The first Pride Parade in Phoenix was held in June of 1981. In 2004, organizers moved the parade and festival to early April to avoid the Arizona summer. Since then, the first weekend in April has become a high point on the calendar for the LGBTQ+ community of the greater Phoenix area and this year's 40th anniversary was highly anticipated.

However, as with all other large gatherings around the country and the world, the festival was postponed on March 13 and rescheduled for November 7-8. Last week, a coalition of local organizations came together to organize a Virtual Arizona Pride event for the weekend of April 4-5. Participating organizations include Phoenix Pride, Flagstaff Pride, HRC Arizona, GLSEN Phoenix, Equality Arizona, Drag Story Hour Arizona and Free Mom Hugs Arizona. Performers include comedian Micheal Weakley, the Thinly Veiled Shadow Cast, and drag performers Patricia Mason, Rebecca Goodhead, Rosie Cheeks, Mister Phoenix Pride Owen Michael Parker, and Miss Phoenix Pride Tyra Marie.

Performers, nonprofit organizations, and others will present livestream events throughout the weekend across platforms including Facebook Live, Instagram Live, and YouTube. The events will be collected and promoted on the Virtual Arizona Pride website at [virtualazpride.org](http://virtualazpride.org) as well as on the Virtual Arizona Pride [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/VirtualAZPRide), (Facebook.com/VirtualAZPRide), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/PrideArizona) (@PrideArizona), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/VirtualAZPride) (@VirtualAZPride) and with the hashtag #VirtualAZPride. Currently, more than 20 events have already been planned, with more in the works. Events are free, but audience members are encouraged to donate online tips to performers and make online purchases from vendors to support our community in this difficult time. Organizations and performers who are interested in hosting events can register their event at the Virtual Arizona Pride website until Wednesday, April 1.