United States Association of Prides
Annual National Conference

Host City Request for Proposal

Founded in 2018, the United States Association of Prides (USA Prides) is a federation of pride organizations from across the United States. The organization's primary purpose is providing educational and networking opportunities for our member organizations and their leadership. At the heart of that purpose is the organization's annual National Conference.

First held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2023, the Conference annually brings together nearly 200 leaders from Pride organizations of all sizes and experience levels.

2023 – Minneapolis, Minnesota (hosted by Twin Cities Pride)
2024 – Las Vegas, Nevada (hosted by Henderson Equality Center)
2025 – Atlanta, Georgia (hosted by Atlanta Pride)
2026 – Milwaukee, Wisconsin (hosted by Milwaukee Pride)
2027 – Richmond, Virginia (hosted by Virginia Pride)

With an eye toward securing a multi-year hotel contract, USA Prides seeks member organizations to serve as co-hosts of the National Conference in 2028, 2029, and 2030.

USA Prides Responsibilities

- Hotel RFP process and contracting
- Coordinating registration
- Lodging, meeting space, audio/visual and meal functions at the hotel
- All financial contracts and transactions related to the conference
- Development and oversight of the conference program (workshops, general sessions, and receptions)
- Coordination of sponsorships

Host Organization Responsibilities

- Coordination with local visitors bureau
- Assist with securing sponsorships
- Assist with local speakers and entertainers
- Assist with local and regional people and organizations to submit workshop proposals
- Appoint at least three members to serve on the Conference Committee
- Assist with securing and coordination of volunteers
- [Optional] Securing sponsorship and location for off-site welcome reception

Proposal Requirements

In order to submit a proposal, organizations must be members in good standing of the US Association of Prides and must be committed to maintaining their membership status through the conference if their city is selected.

Organizations should indicate if they are open to hosting in any of the three years being considered in this proposal, or if they only wish to be considered for hosting in a specific year or years (organizations will not be penalized for only selecting certain years).

Proposals shall be submitted electronically via JotForm to ensure all applications are standardized for Committee review.

The proposal shall include the following information:

- The name and address of the bidding organization and the names of two board members in senior leadership positions who support the proposal.
- The name and contact information of the primary liaison between the bidding organization and USA Prides who will representing the organization during the proposal process.
- Information on the proposed city, which should include its history on LGBTQ+ equality, local queer history and activism, and queer attractions of note. It should also include information about the city more broadly including its diversity and demographics, cultural, industrial, or academic institutions of note, and/or other information that the committee may find of interest.
- Airport information, including a list of airlines serving the airport, information about the number of daily flights and average flight costs.
- The proposal may include letters of support from local elected officials, tourism bureaus, or cultural or business partners.
- If any, the proposal should include any potential or contingent funding commitments the organization has secured from local businesses, tourism bureaus, or other sources (including any funding commitments from the organization itself). *Please note: There is no sponsorship of funding requirement for host organizations to bid, and any such commitments would be given the same weight as sponsorships offered by other businesses or institutions in the consideration of any bid.*
- Information about local queer nightlife
- The proposal may choose to include information about hotels with which the organization has existing partnerships or relationships, keeping in mind that USA Prides will be conducting a separate hotel RFP once the host cities have been selected.

All proposals are due no later than 11:59pm on November 20, 2026.

Selection Process

- Once all proposals have been received, they will be distributed to the Conference Committee for their evaluation.
- The Committee shall hold the initial discussion on the proposals at their November or December meeting which will be held in closed session. Should members of the Conference Committee be party to a bid or live in the same city as the bidding organization, they will be asked to recuse themselves from this meeting to avoid a conflict of interest. In the event that a preponderance of the Committee are parties to hosting bids, and thus requiring their recusal, the Conference Co-Chairs reserve the right to invite members of the USA Prides Board of Directors and other members to join the meeting for the purposes of the discussion and initial evaluation of the proposals.
- The Committee shall narrow the proposals down to no more than six (with a target of two proposals for each year).
- The designated representative for each of the selected semi-final bids will be invited to make a 5-minute presentation at a specially scheduled Conference Committee meeting (to be held in advance of the January USA Prides Board of Directors meeting), which will also be held in closed session. Representatives will only be allowed in the room for the duration of their presentation and will not be allowed to hear the other presentations. Conference Committee members who are parties to presenting bids will again be asked to recuse themselves from the meeting to avoid a conflict of interest. Again, if a preponderance of the Committee are parties to hosting bids, members of the USA Prides of Directors and other members at-large may be invited to join the Committee's meeting for the purpose of evaluation and deliberation.
- Once the presentations have concluded, the Committee (minus any members involved in a bid) will continue the meeting in closed session to select the three hosting cities for 2028, 2029, 2030 for recommendation to the Board of Directors.
    - Notifications to the presenting bidders will be withheld until the next Board of Directors meets to ratify the Conference Committee's decision.

Board Approval Process

- Once the hosting cities have been selected, the Co-Chairs will provide a report to the USA Prides Board of Directors detailing the proposals received and the finalists recommended by the Committee.
- If any members of the Board of Directors are parties to a hosting bid, they will be required to recuse themselves from the Board's deliberations and subsequent vote to ratify the Committee's selection.
- It is expected that at its January meeting, the USA Prides Board of Directors shall receive the report of the Conference Committee Co-Chairs and vote to ratify the host city selected by the Conference Committee.

Announcement Process

All Conference Committee members, USA Prides Board Members, and Host City Member Prides must agree to abide by an embargo of the announcement of the host cities of the USA Prides conference until such time as the USA Prides Conference Committee releases the information publicly. In the case of the of the 2028 conference, such information will be made public at the closing banquet of the 2027 conference (2029 shall be announced at the end of the 2028 conference; 2030 will be announced at the end of the 2029 conference.)

- Once the Board of Directors has ratified the Conference Committee's host city selections, the Co-Chairs will notify the responsible parties for each six final bids to inform them of their selection or rejection.
- As noted above, all announcements are under embargo until the Conference Committee releases the information publicly. Host city prides may not share their selection or otherwise discuss it, except with those organizations and entities necessary for the purposes of planning and execution of their hosting duties (i.e., tourism bureaus, etc.)
- It is expected that representatives of the 2028 host city will be present at the 2027 Conference closing banquet for a "hand-off ceremony" with the 2027 hosts, where the embargo for 2028 will be lifted and the official announcement will be made. (Subsequent hosts will be expected to be present at the conference immediately prior to the one they will host for a similar hand-off ceremony.)

Questions about this proposal may be directed to the Conference Co-Chairs: Jonathan Balash (jonathan.balash@usaprides.org) and Derrick Jones (derrick.jones@usaprides.org)