

McKnight “Vibrant & Equitable Communities” Grant Awarded to Queer Equity Institute

Advancing a vibrant future for all Minnesotans with shared power, prosperity, and participation

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA - The Queer Equity Institute [QEI] is thrilled to announce its success in securing a \$200,000 Vibrant & Equitable Communities grant from the McKnight Foundation. This significant grant, bestowed upon organizations demonstrating exceptional commitment to fostering vibrant and equitable communities, serves as a testament to QEI's unwavering dedication to advancing 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and social justice.

The funding acquired through this grant will be directed towards QEI's groundbreaking fellowship program, specifically designed to uplift and empower Minnesota Queer workers, artists, and individuals over the next two years. This initiative seeks to address the intersectionality of identities within the LGBTQIA+ community, with a focus on supporting and amplifying the vital work carried out by the larger community.

“We are beyond pleased to receive this funding,” Says Leigh Finke, Executive Director and State Representative. “To support Queer individuals actively working to make the Twin Cities a better place is the crux of this work. Being able to get started and support these incredible individuals during our first two years of operation is beyond incredible.”

The Fellowship Program is QEI's cornerstone initiative designed to uplift and empower queer artists, activists, and individuals. Through this Program, QEI provides essential resources, mentorship, and a platform for LGBTQIA+ individuals to pursue their creative and advocacy endeavors. By championing the diverse voices within the community, QEI seeks to create a more vibrant, equitable, and inclusive society. The Fellowship program will be instrumental in creating a platform for queer individuals to engage in community-driven projects, advocacy, and initiatives that directly impact their communities.

QEI extends its deepest appreciation to the McKnight Foundation for its continued support of organizations striving to make a positive impact on communities nationwide.

For media inquiries or to schedule an interview with Executive Director Leigh Finke, please contact: Queer Equity Institute (info@queerequityinstitute.org).

ABOUT QUEER EQUITY INSTITUTE

Queer Equity Institute (QEI) is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to advancing the rights and well-being of the LGBTQIA+ community. Committed to fostering inclusivity and social equity, QEI engages in impactful initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by queer individuals. QEI stands at the forefront of the fight for equality, aiming to reshape societal narratives and create lasting positive change for all members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

www.queerequityinstitute.org