

Summary of Results

A Day of Dialogue, Direction, & Action For the Santa Cruz LGBTQ Community

**Sponsored by the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
and its Diversity Partnership Advisory Committee**

Seventy-five community members gathered at Cabrillo College on October 14, 2006 in order to reflect, discuss, and plan for a positive future for the LGBTQ Community of Santa Cruz County. Representation included veteran activists and newcomers, old and young, service providers and community leaders from throughout the County.

The day began with participants reviewing and interacting with numerous visual displays, including:

- a history wall and memorabilia table, tracking the history of the LGBTQ community locally and nationally since the 1950's
- a media wall with press headlines and clippings for the past six months
- data on the current reality facing the LGBTQ community in Santa Cruz County
- a map of the County showing where LGBTQ community resources exist

Complete documentation of the day is available at <http://www.cfsc.org/page30878.cfm>

Objectives for the Day:

Generate a shared practical vision for our community.

Identify and commit to key actions that will support the LGBTQ community guided by our vision.

Morning Focus: Reviewing history and current information about the community culminated in discussions that generated positive visions of the future.

The group created a 3-5 year vision of what it wants to see in place in the Santa Cruz LGBTQ community in 2011:

- ❖ **A Community Commons** – A LGBTQ community place with services, businesses, arts & culture
- ❖ **Financial Security and Sustainability** – Greater funding to support services
- ❖ **Enlightened Service Provision and Safe Schools** – Anti-bias education embedded in health and education systems
- ❖ **An Integrated, Collaborative Network** – Blossoming of LGBTQ service, business and education networks and deeper collaboration with non-queer groups
- ❖ **An Expanded Comprehensive Diversity Center** – Resource hubs in north and south county that include social services, political and cultural resources
- ❖ **A Queer Leadership Council** – Visible leadership body to keep an action focus, coordinate strategic and operational activity for the community
- ❖ **A Safe Community for All** – Safe places and transportation, particularly for youths and families
- ❖ **A Full Latino and South County Inclusion** – Watsonville Queer Pride in Watsonville.
- ❖ **A Vibrant Social and Cultural Community** – Deepened connections through innovative actions like a LGBTQ summer camp

Afternoon Focus: Generating ideas for a first year action agenda through discussion by the participants. Individuals participated in small groups on ideas of interest. Participants generated eight potential initiatives:

1. **Expanding the Diversity Center:** Identify ways to stabilize and expand the role of the Diversity Center, including more representative staff and establishing north and south county facilities.
2. **Anti-bias Education:** Develop a team of students to conduct peer based AB537 training; develop emotional safety plans for all schools and reach parents, teachers, and students.
3. **Communication & Coalition Building:** Increase community participation in LGBTQ issues by developing new communication mechanisms that promote awareness, participation, and reduce duplication.
4. **Leadership Council:** Establish a council to provide leadership to move on the vision, provide a forum for high level collaboration, bring visions back to interested groups and facilitate setting priorities as this work goes forward.
5. **Building Creative Fundraising Networks:** Initiate new efforts to raise funds through corporate matching gifts, e-scrip, an on-line giving web site and local business support.
6. **LGBTQ Competency Training Team:** A fully funded training team that will provide training and CEUs for attendance, tailored to needs of each organization.
7. **Organizing in Watsonville:** Implement Pride Parade in Watsonville.
8. **Latino LGBTQ Task Force:** Support strategic planning and staffing to enable growth and development of Watsonville LGBTQ resources and presence.

Next Steps: A follow-up planning meeting to discuss how to carry the agenda forward is scheduled for **November 8, 2006 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the County Office of Education.** Interested participants are encouraged to RSVP for this session by calling the Community Foundation at 477-0800.

Decisions will be made at this meeting about what projects can move forward most quickly and how the vision and overall momentum from the Day of Dialogue can be used to engage others and advance the goals of the community.