2022 NOTABLE LGBTQ LEADERS

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Since the Stonewall Riots in 1969, New York has been the site of many milestones for the LGBTQ movement, including early organizing and activism in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and the 2011 signing of New York state’s Marriage Equality Act.

Today, New York City remains an epicenter of diversity, acceptance and activism. The metropolitan area is home to at least 750,000 LGBTQ adults—more than any other region in the nation, according to the nascent American LGBTQ+ Museum.

LGBTQ New Yorkers continue to fight for equality and against bigotry, a movement that takes center stage during June’s Pride Month.

Crain’s selected 95 such individuals for this year’s Notable LGBTQ Leaders list.

This year’s honorees are outstanding professionals in their respective industries. They are involved in mentoring programs, community activities and philanthropy. They invest their considerable energies in diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and ensure inclusive hiring practices. Hailing from disparate sectors and industries, they are united by their clarity of purpose, love of freedom, and appreciation for the LGBTQ activism of prior generations.

This list of honorees features executives for whom nominations were submitted and accepted after careful editorial review. To qualify for the list, the honorees had to self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or queer. They needed to serve in a senior-level role and be employed for at least a decade, and they had to have made significant strides in advancing diversity and inclusion. Ultimately, the individuals who made the list were selected for their professional achievements and their commitment to equality.

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NOTABLE LGBTQ LEADERS AND EXECUTIVES

Joe Pressley
Chief executive officer, Hetrick-Martin Institute

The Hetrick-Martin Institute provides LGBTQ youth—a majority of them people of color—with an array of services they need to flourish. As CEO of the organization, Pressley is responsible for leadership, planning, community interfaces, advocacy, development and board relations. He recently reimagined HMI’s annual gala to make it more diverse and inclusive, and he engaged in a five-month listening tour with staff and youth program members to learn about their challenges and experiences. Pressley formerly was as a mayoral appointee to the New York City HIV/AIDS Planning Council. He is a founding and current board member of the New Pride Agenda.