

SAFE SPACE NOVA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Safe Space NOVA | Quarterly Newsletter

VOL.1

WINTER 2022



Here's what's new in 2022!

We're excited to begin another year as we enter year six of supporting LGBTQ+ youth in the Northern Virginia area. None of what we do would be possible without you, our Safe Space NOVA supporters. As we embark on another year, we can't help but reflect on the past two years that have brought challenges, some of which we are still facing. Through it all, we have continued to be a resource to our youth by holding engaging virtual events and brand-new programming that you'll learn more about in this newsletter.

In the meantime, be on the lookout for our FY2021 Annual Report coming soon! We can't wait to get started on new initiatives in the coming year.

Let's recap! In 2021, we...

Held the following events:

- Drag Makeup Tutorial
- Merry Queermas
- Virtual Bingo
- Virtual Escape Room
- Virtual GSA Meetups/Social Support Groups
- "You + Me = We: Queer Sex Ed" Healthy Relationship Program

Participated in the following outreach events:

- Alexandria Community Cookouts
- ALX Pride Late Shift
- Growing Pride at the Garden
- Pride Liberation Project (FCPS Pride)
- Reston Pride
- Small Business Saturday at Torpedo Art Factory

Partnered with:

- Doorways
- Elizabeth's Counter
- Good Sweat
- Honest Soul Yoga
- Pride Liberation Project
- Shake Shack

Follow Us On Social Media!



@safespacenova

Message from the Executive Director



JORDAN COSTEN-SUMPTER, MSW

Hello all,

I am so glad that we are embarking on what will be our sixth year as of March 29th. The work we do has been truly humbling. Over the past year we have been able to add new programs to include the You + Me = We: Queer Sex Ed Program as well as the LGBTQ+ Social Support Groups. As we move forward into the first quarter of the year, we have set some lofty goals to include growing our youth attendance at activities, collecting more feedback from our target audience on how to improve our programming and increasing our volunteer pool. Additionally, the Safe Space NOVA Team will be adding a scholarship award to our programming.

I am really excited about these goals and the direction we are heading. With any luck we will be able to reach more youth-- especially since most of our programming is hosted online via zoom to ensure the safety during this time of high COVID-19 transmission rates. Speaking of that, my team and I are continually reviewing data from both the Virginia Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure we follow the proper protocol when hosting in-person activities.

As I always say, none of this would be possible without our wonderful staff, volunteers, and supporters like you. Thank you for believing in the work of Safe Space NOVA. Here is to a great year with a promise of more programming.

Cheerfully,
Jordan L. Costen-Sumpter
Founding Executive Director

New programming coming back by popular demand!



"You + Me = We: Queer Sex Ed" Healthy Relationship Program



LGBTQIA+ Youth Social Support Group



LGBTQIA+ Social Activities Group



WELCOME TO THE BOARD!

Todd Cimino-Johnson is the newest Board Member of Safe Space NOVA. He is excited to provide as much insight and guidance to an organization doing great things in our community. Todd is a graduate of Shepherd University with a B.S. in Economics/Accounting, an MBA from Shepherd University, an M.A. in History from American Public University, a certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Ph.D. from Old Dominion University. Todd lives in Leesburg, Virginia with his husband, Tony, and Doberman, Sophie.

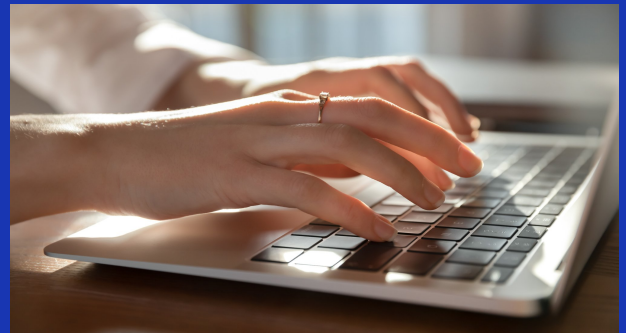
Safe Space NOVA News & Notables in 2021

Awards & Appearances:

- Awarded a Proclamation by the Alexandria Mayor and City Council
- Awarded a Proclamation by the Governor of Virginia
- Interviewed by Tommy McFLY
- Participated in the MUX Leadership Series
- Participated on a Panel with the Ryan Bartel Foundation

Media Coverage:

- June 1 - WJLA News Story: Draft Policy 8040 LCPS - Teacher won't call student by chosen name
- June 4 - WJLA News Story: Draft Policy 8040 LCPS - Rally supporting teacher
- June 9 - The Zebra Magazine: Here is How You Can Support Pride Month in Alexandria
- June 10 - The Washington Post: The best thing to do - virtually and in person - this week in the D.C. area



TELL YOUR STORY TUESDAY

Safe Space NOVA continues to expand its blog with a bi-weekly series, “#TellYourStoryTuesday” which provides community members an opportunity to share their experiences growing up as an LGBTQ+ youth. As our mission states, Safe Space NOVA is dedicated to providing a safe, accepting, and supportive environment to combat social stigmas, bullying, and other challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth, and this is one way to achieve that mission. Through storytelling, LGBTQ+ youth can see that they are not alone when they read about someone else’s shared experience and how they have been able to face some of the same challenges and essentially come through on the other side. [Check out the blog!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Follow our new student-run Instagram account [@safespacetohang](#) to stay up-to-date with upcoming events!

Save the date!

April 27, 2022

Spring2ACTION Fundraiser



Spring2ACTION

Alexandria's Giving Day
Presented by ACT for Alexandria

