

# SAFE SPACE NOVA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Safe Space NOVA | Quarterly Newsletter

VOL.5

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## What You Can Expect to See, in 2023!

As we embark on our seventh anniversary this March, we know our longstanding service in the Northern Virginia community would not exist without you, our Safe Space NOVA supporters.

We're excited to begin another year supporting LGBTQ+ youth through in-person and virtual programming, including our second annual pride prom in June! This year, we are also bringing back our You + Me = We: Queer Sex Ed healthy relationship program, LGBTQ+ social support groups, and more new programming launching in 2023!

In the meantime, be on the lookout for our FY2022 Annual Report coming soon! We can't wait to get started on new initiatives in the coming year. **As always, none of what we do would be possible without you.**

**Fun Fact:**  
Safe Space NOVA participated in nine events during Pride Month in 2022!

### Let's recap! In 2022, we...

#### Held the following programs and events:

- Love & Pride Panel
- LGBTQ+ Social Support Group
- You + Me = We: Queer Sex Ed
- Ask the Therapist
- Friendly Feud
- Once Upon a Prom

#### Participated in the following outreach events:

- Alexandria Cookout: West End
- Growing Pride at the Garden
- Rewine-ing The Week with K&J Podcast
- Portside in Old Town: Visit Alexandria
- Finding Safe Spaces: Reston Library
- When Boys Exhale: Caged Bird Productions, LLC
- Monarch International Mermaid Pageant
- William ObediaRobery High School
- Briar Woods High School
- Freestyle DanceFit
- YogaSix Kingstowne

#### Partnered with:

- Del Ray Business Association
- Rainbow Families
- YogaSix Kingstowne
- Good Sweat
- Honest Soul Yoga
- Monarch International

Follow Us On Social Media!



@safespacenova

## Message from the Founding Executive Director



*Jordan Costen-Sumpter, MSW*

Hello All,

It is winter, or barely so, from how the weather is shaping out. Regardless, as always, I am excited to share about the journey of Safe Space NOVA. More specifically, significant accomplishment wins and where we plan to go next. To that point, I have some good nuggets to share. They include continued growth in our current program offerings and increased event attendance. Plus we have some new staff members.

First, I want to thank our staff. The Safe Space NOVA Operations Team and Board of Directors have done a phenomenal job maintaining our focus and continuing the mission to support LGBTQ+ youth in Northern Virginia. This organization would not be what it is without the support of our team and faithful volunteers. Additionally, a few team members are rounding out our group, including Chantel Richardson as our Finance Coordinator and Antonio Torres-Pena as our Outreach Coordinator. Please welcome them when you see them out.

Our team is also continuing to offer social support groups to LGBTQ+ teens and allies every Saturday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. to provide a safe space for youth to be themselves and talk about what they want without the fear of discrimination or ridicule. Social activities for the fall have also been planned to include a Halloween movie night, a hiking trip, and a Christmas party. More details will be shared on our website shortly.

The Safe Space NOVA Team is also expanding. Over the last quarter, we have added Paul Andrews as a Program Manager of Social Activities and Matthew Parker as Executive Assistant. These additions will ensure the continuity of our programs. As I always say, none of this would be possible without our excellent staff, volunteers, and supporters like you. Thank you for believing in the work of Safe Space NOVA.

Thank you,  
Jordan L. Costen-Sumpter  
Founding Executive Director

**Save the date!**

**April 26, 2023**

**Spring2ACTION Fundraiser**



**Spring2ACTION**

**Alexandria's Giving Day**  
Presented by ACT for Alexandria

# Safe Space NOVA News & Notables in 2022

## Awards & Appearances:

- Fairfax County Public School Pride: October 6, 2022
- \*Recognition for dedicated work for LGBTQIA2S+ youth*

## Media Coverage:

- 11 Ways to Celebrate Pride Month - Arlington Magazine
- Your Guide to Pride Month in the DC Area: Capital Pride, Parades, Events, and More - NBC 4 Washington
- Inaugural prom effort focuses on LGBTQ students
- Celebrate Pride Month 2022 in Alexandria With These Events
- LGBTQ+ Pride Month Activities - Arlington Public Schools Website
- More Pride Events Welcome Families. These Celebrations are for All Ages - The Washington Post
- DCist/WAMU
- NBC 4 Washington DC
- WJLA Washington DC
- DCW 50
- Rayceen Productions



## 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!](#)

## FLASHBACK PHOTOS FROM 2022!



*Thank You*  
for your support

