

# SAFE SPACE NOVA NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS



Safe Space NOVA | Quarterly Newsletter

VOL.6

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## Spring Into Action With Safe Space NOVA!

We are excited to participate once again in this year's Spring2ACTion campaign, and we need your help to reach our goal of \$5,000!

Spring2ACTion officially takes place on April 26, but you don't have to wait to give--early giving is currently underway! [Visit our fundraising page and be one of the first to give!](#) All giving will end at 11:59PM on April 26. Your donation of any amount will help support LGBTQ+ youth in the Northern Virginia area through programs, crisis services, education, and advocacy.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization as we continue to work to provide a safe, accepting, and supportive environment to combat social stigmas, bullying, and other challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth.



## Spring2ACTion

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

Follow Us On Social Media!



@safespacenova



## Message from the Executive Director

JORDAN  
COSTEN-SUMPTER, MSW

Hello All,

I hope everyone is well and ready for spring. Pride Month is around the corner, and per usual, we have so much planned. Additionally, we are continuing with our efforts to provide positive programming for LGTQ+ youth, including the latest iteration of the You + Me program, Pride Prom, and Social Support Groups. I am so happy to share our progress as we look toward the remainder of the quarter.

As I stated previously, Pride Month is almost upon us. To that point, Safe Space NOVA will be out and about tabling at the different pride fairs, including Reston Pride, Alexandria Pride, and Arlington Pride Festival, to name a few. Please follow us on our social media accounts (@safespacenova) to find out more about what events we plan to attend. The festivals provide an excellent opportunity for the Safe Space NOVA Team to share our mission with other aligned community organizations and businesses.

Regarding programs, we are continuing what we do best. On June 16, we are hosting the Pride Prom at the Alexandria Torpedo Factory with the New York State of Mind theme. We are so excited about this event. Please share the word. More details can be [found on our website](#).

Additionally, we have the next iteration of our You + Me = We: Queer Sex Education Series starting on April 23rd. Lastly, we have re-introduced the social support groups, with the next one scheduled for April 23. [Please check out our website for more information on how to register](#).

Safe Space NOVA continues the work because we view it as necessary and essential. In today's socio-political climate, where anti-LGBTQ+ policies are being pushed, we believe it is crucial to have a place where youth can come and feel supported and affirmed. Thank you for believing in the mission of Safe Space NOVA. If you ever have questions, please feel free to reach out.



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

The Safe Space NOVA healthy relationship program is designed specifically for Safe Space NOVA youth, using a hybrid virtual and in-person setting over the course of four sessions that will give participants the chance to learn and ask questions about body autonomy, consent, safer sex practices, communication and boundary-setting, and more. This program is more than just sex education, we'll offer tips and tools to help you feel safer and empowered in love, like, and anything in between. This four-part workshop series is designed specifically for Safe Space NOVA youth, using a hybrid virtual and in-person setting. [Complete the registration form to participate in the You + Me=We: Queer Sex Ed Program.](#)

Session	Date/Time	Location
Session 1	Saturday, May 6 10:30 am to 12:00 pm ET	Arlington
Session 2	Saturday, May 13 10:30 am to 12:00 pm ET	Arlington
Session 3	Saturday, May 20 10:30 am to 12:00 pm ET	Arlington
Session 4	Saturday, May 27 10:30 am to 12:00 pm ET	Arlington

## Social Support and Social Activities Happenings



High School students are invited to shop for new and gently used dresses for prom on Friday, May 19, from 5-7 PM at the Springfield Mosaic Lodge. Some suits and ties will also be available.



Safe Space NOVA is partnering with Kirby Creative Clinical Solutions in their production of the Trans Anthology Project. Heather Kirby is holding writing circles for trans teens who want to tell their story for publication in a forthcoming book. TAP into your voice! Check out @Trans\_anthology\_Project on Instagram for details!

**Walmart**  
**ROUND-UP**

1. Shop at [walmart.com/sparkgood](https://walmart.com/sparkgood)
2. Click "search for local charities"
3. Select "A Safe Space"
4. Click "Round Up"
5. Sign in to your Walmart account
6. Round-up your purchases to give back to Safe Space NOVA!

A SAFE SPACE INC  
Youth Services

Round Up

SAFE SPACE NOVA

Running a quick errand?  
Buying groceries? If you shop at [Walmart](https://walmart.com) and follow the above directions, you can “round up” your purchase cost which will result in a donation to Safe Space NOVA! It’s shopping with a cause that pays it forward!

## Safe Space NOVA's 2023 Pride Prom: NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

June 16, 2023, 7-11pm | Torpedo Factory Arts Center | 105 N. Union Street, Alexandria, VA, 22314

Safe Space NOVA is proud to sponsor Pride Prom 2023, a New York State of Mind, in partnership with The Torpedo Factory Arts Center on the Alexandria Waterfront. Pride Prom is an opportunity for gender diverse and sexual minority youth to attend a prom with pride, dress however they are most comfortable, and dance without fear with whomever they choose! Our LGBTQIA+ Student Ambassadors have selected this year's theme because nothing is more iconic than NYC Pride! From Broadway to Studio 54 to the Rockettes it's going to be gay-mazing! Attendees will enter The Torpedo Factory and be swept away into the NYC skyline with areas dedicated to Broadway, New Year's Eve in Times Square, and a rave complete with a body painting artist! Resident Artists will be on-hand showcasing their crafts, attendees will leave their mark on a collaborative painting which will become part of The Torpedo Factory's Pride Month display, and drag performers will be strutting their stuff!

- Venue: [The Torpedo Factory Arts Center](#)
- Catering: [Classic Catering](#)
- DJ: To Be Determined
- Artists: [Cinder M Creations](#) and TFAC Artists-in-Residence

The History of Pride Prom: Beginning in 2017, the first regional Pride Prom proudly hosted over 200 youth from nearly 35 high schools spanning 5 counties! Pride Prom provides the region's LGBTQIA+ youth (and their friends!) with a magical experience that rivals the traditional school-sponsored proms while ensuring a welcoming and safe atmosphere. We find it unacceptable that any youth feel excluded from the prom experience without compromising their true selves. Pride Prom is unique, in that it boasts education, compassion, action AND celebration. In addition to a traditional dance, we also provide:



- EDUCATION – Student have the unique opportunity to connect with LGBTQ-affirming organizations which provide social, medical, and mental health support to youth in Northern Virginia and beyond.
- COMPASSION – We ensure a quieter space for students who need to take a break or speak to our volunteer mental health professionals as anxiety has been reported by students attending their first dance or experiencing dysphoria.
- ACTION – Students apply to serve as Pride Prom Leaders who work from December through May creating their prom while learning advocacy skills which they are encouraged to turn into action within their communities.
- CELEBRATION – Pride Prom is fun! Students routinely report that it is their favorite day of the year and that they cannot wait for next year's event! Adult chaperones and volunteers are equally delighted watching the attendees have the time of their lives. And \*new\* this year will be featuring Torpedo Factory artists opening their studios with a NYC flair!

Safe Space NOVA’s Pride Prom is a non-profit event, fully supported by student fundraisers, ticket sales, community donations, and support from Safe Space NOVA and other sponsors. This event benefits LGBTQIA+ youth by providing a safe, affirming, and validating experience - showing that they are supported and valued by the Northern Virginia community at a time when many feel lost and scared. The letters we've received from students after attending are both heartwarming and heart-wrenching. Attendees describe Pride Prom as "life-changing," "life-saving," and "the best night of their lives," but also report the contrast between their day-to-day experiences of mistreatment and harassment faced outside the event compared to the instant validation within.

We welcome corporate sponsorship to offset costs and make this event affordable to all youth. Please contact [Amy@safespacenova.org](mailto:Amy@safespacenova.org) for information on how your business can support Pride Prom! Donations of [door prizes](#) are also accepted. If you’re interested in [volunteering](#), please complete this form to be considered. Finally, [non-profit organizations and affirming businesses](#) can apply to table at the event.

## LGBTQIA+ Virtual Hang Sunday Group



Join Safe Space NOVA every other Sunday for a regional Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) group which is open to all teens across the DMV! This group provides an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ youth to hang out in an adult-facilitated group to discuss school, coming out, dysphoria, making friends, dating, politics, family, and any other deserved topics!

Date/Time	Location
Sunday, April 23 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm ET	Zoom link provided with registration
Sunday, May 7 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm ET	Zoom link provided with registration
Sunday, May 21 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm ET	Zoom link provided with registration
Sunday, June 4 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm ET	Zoom link provided with registration

[Register](#)