

On August 2, 2009, with big names like Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons and Latina Comedian Sandra Valls, Boston-based Queer Women of Color and Friends (QWOC+ Boston) launches it's second annual QWOC WEEK, a multicultural pride festival for people of all backgrounds.

True to its motto – "Diversity Speaks" - QWOC Week 2009 will provide a rare opportunity for the Boston LBGTO community to connect, collaborate, and "speak" on a variety of race-related issues such as inter-racial dating, queer friendships across the color line and the challenge of providing health services to culturally layered queer identities. With the diverse lineup of events, including the second-annual highly anticipated spoken-word/performance show, a boundary-pushing film screening, and a repeat of the hugely successful family day in the park, QWOC Week 2009 promises to be a fun and memorable celebration.

Intended to increase visibility for LBGTO people of color and be a rich celebration of pride and authentic diversity for all New Englanders, QWOC WEEK is open to all: from queer youth and students of Color to older African-American lesbians and middle-aged immigrant queers; from Black and Latino gay men to transgender Asian and Pacific Islanders; from political allies to open-minded friends QWOC+s; this festival is open to everyone.

Queer Women of Color and Allies, Boston (QWOC+) is best known as the heavy-hitting, New England leader in providing and promoting robust diverse queer community and as a key national leader in and model for authentic diversity in progressive organizing of all kinds. The organization's main leaders, Adaora Asala, Heidi Gonzalez, Nathalie Galindo and Tikesha Morgan take pride in the group's proactive year-round outreach to other local organizations that promote awareness of a variety of diversity issues. In a time when progressive, community, and nonprofit organizations need to work more closely, QWOC Week 2009 will bring together groups long isolated from one another and includes fresh collaborations with more heavy-hitting local diversity-aware organizations than any other event:

- ACT Roxbury
- Boston Gay Women's Group
- Boston LGBT Social Circle of Color
- Center for New Words
- Chubrub Productions
- Dorchester Arts Collaborative
- DykeNight Productions
- Emerson College Huret & Spector Gallery
- Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans Parents of Boston Meetup
- Greater Boston PFLAG
- MadFemmePride

- Massachusetts South Asian Lamba Association (MASALA)
- Men of Color Creating Change
- MIT Women's and Gender Studies Program
- Queer Asian Pacific Association (QAPA)
- Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change
- Somos Latinos
- The Progressive Project
- Truth Serum Productions/Cinematical
- Union of Minority Neighborhoods

Working to bolster the local community organization scene and provide friendly, authentic community for queer women of color and friends since 2006, Asala talks about the importance of multi-racial queer community:

"We are honored to bring together such a broad range of inspiring, change-making progressive, community and nonprofit organizations and individuals. In coming together, we're growing as organizations; we're learning more about each other's work and missions and we're increasing visibility for our groups at the same time. My biggest goal for QWOC Week 2009 is that people, from long-time organization leaders to first-time attendees, make the valuable, sustainable connections that QWOC+ Boston is known for."

Press opportunities: Press passes to events and interviews with members of QWOC+ Boston will be granted to a limited number of interested journalists and bloggers. Interested parties should contact Adaora Asala, (617) 848-9593, info@qwocboston.org or QWOC+ Boston's publicist, Emily Meghan Morrow Howe (617) 319-0005, pr@qwocboston.org

About QWOC+ Boston: Queer Women of Color and Friends (QWOC+ Boston) is a grassroots organization founded in 2006. Run by a diverse group of more than 15 Boston-area LGBTQ community members, Queer Women of Color and Friends is a volunteer-run, multicultural social group dedicated to creating safe spaces for LGBTQ women of color in the Greater Boston area and increasing consciousness of diversity, unity, and pride among queer people of Color, especially women and transpeople, as well as progressive, community and nonprofit organizations, through social-networking and community-building.

More information:

Founding Director Adaora Asala (617) 869-2138 or Publicist Emily Howe (617) 319-0005 pr@qwocboston.org
 QWOC Week: <http://www.facebook.com/ev>

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[f=ts&__a=1](#)

QWOC+ Boston:

- <http://www.qwocboston.org/>
- <http://www.myspace.com/qwc>

boston/

- <http://www.twitter.com/qwo>

cboston/

QWOC WEEK 2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday August 2nd at 3PM

QWOC+ Boston and DykeNight Productions present
the Official QWOC WEEK Kick-Off Event:

Uni-T Dance and Boat Cruise

In collaboration with Men of Color Creating Change, Boston LGBT Social Circle of Color, and Boston Gay Women's Group

MASSACHUSETTS BAY LINES, INC. 60 Rowes Wharf Boston MA 02110

Cost: \$20 Advanced, \$25 at the Dock, 21+

Monday August 3rd at 7PM

OUTside the Box: Opening Night for the LGBTQ People of Color Visual Art Exhibit

Co-sponsored by ACT Roxbury and Dorchester Arts Collaborative

HURET & SPECTOR GALLERY 10 Boylston Place Boston MA 02116

Cost: FREE, All Ages Welcome

Tuesday August 4th at 7PM

Diversity Speaks on Queer Multiculturalism: a Discussion about Coming Out to Different Cultures and Communities of Color

Hosted by the Center for New Words' "Feminism and Dessert" Program and

Co-Sponsored by Somos Latinos

YWCA 7 Temple Street Cambridge MA 02139

Cost: FREE (including dessert!), All Ages Welcome

Wednesday August 5th @ 6:30PM

QWOC+ Boston in Collaboration with Spectra Entertainment presents

OUTSPOKEN: A Queer People of Color Spoken Word and Performance Artist Showcase

Hosted by Latin Diva of Comedy Sandra Valls, Performances from London Bridgez, YaliniDream, Letta Neely, and Shawnee

Co-Sponsored by Truth Serum Productions and Chubrub Productions

Performances: 7PM, Dance Party: 10PM, DJ Hayze

CHOICES LOUNGE 379 Somerville Avenue

Somerville MA 02143

Cost: \$10, 21+

Thursday August 6th at 6PM

Call to Action: a Volunteer Drive and Community Organizing Fair

Hosted by Cambridge Mayor Denise Simmons

Summer Networking Social to Follow

Co-sponsored by Union of Minority Neighborhoods and The Progressive Project

CLUB CAFE 209 Columbus Ave Boston MA 02116

Cost: FREE, 21+

Friday August 7th at 7PM

Lights, Camera, Activism: Film Screenings of "City of Borders" and "Society"

Co-sponsored by MIT Women's & Gender Studies Program, MadFemmePride,

Truth Serum/Cinematical

MIT STATA Center, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139

Cost: FREE, All Ages Welcome

Saturday August 8th 10AM - 12:30PM

MIND, BODY, AND SOUL Mini-Conference

Hosted by Queer Women of Color and Friends and Simmons Institute for Leadership and Change

The Kotzen Room, Simmons College

Suggestion Donation: \$5, All Ages Welcome

Saturday August 8th 1PM - 5PM

Family Day at the Park

STONY BROOK PARK Jamaica Plain MA

Hosted by Greater Boston PFLAG, Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Trans Parents of Boston Meetup

Cost: FREE, All Ages Welcome

Saturday August 8th 9PM - 2AM

Official QWOC WEEK Pride Party for Men and Women of all Colors

Hosted by Queer Women of Color and Friends and Men of Color Creating Change

TAVERN IN THE SQUARE 730 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge MA 02139

Cost: \$10, 21+

Sunday August 9th 11AM-2PM

Soul Brunch

Hosted by Queer Women of Color and Friends (QWOC+ Boston), Massachusetts South Asian Lamba Association (MASALA), and Queer Asian Pacific Association (QAPA)

THE BEEHIVE 541 Tremont Street Boston MA 02116

COST: See Beehive's Menu, All Ages Welcome