

Dr. Delores A. Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Delores A. Jacobs is the chief executive officer of The San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center. She is nationally recognized as a skilled and powerful leader, responsible for managing one of the oldest, largest and most dynamic LGBT community centers in the country.

Jacobs is the longest-serving chief executive in The Center's history. She first joined The Center in 1998, and served as the director of The Center's Behavioral Health Services before being selected as its chief executive officer in 2001.

Under her direction, The Center has grown from a \$2 million dollar budget into a \$6 million dollar organization with 50 staff members and more than 1,000 volunteers. Last year, The Center served more than 25,000 people through 60,000 services visits. Her exemplary vision, leadership and commitment have increased and enhanced The Center's scope of services, its community collaborations and its influence within the larger San Diego community.

With Jacobs at the helm, The Center has expanded its programming to include: the Hillcrest Youth Center and the development of the 23-unit Sunburst Youth Housing program for formerly homeless LGBT youth; establishing the nation's first Latin@ Services Department at an LGBT community center; re-assuming the management of AIDS Walk San Diego; launching The Center's Project TRANS, designed to serve transgender community members and their families, and welcoming the civic engagement project, Engage San Diego, to the Center's programs.

She led the organization through the renovation of The Center's main building and a name change from the Gay and Lesbian Center to The San Diego LGBT Community Center. In addition, Jacobs led the successful transition of AIDS Walk San Diego to The Center and added the Dining Out for Life® event in order to ensure continued opportunities for local support of vital HIV/AIDS services and programs.

Jacobs also led a revitalized effort for The Center to realize its dual mission of providing much-needed services and programs for the LGBT community, while also advocating for improved public policies to improve and enhance the lives of LGBT community members, family members and allies. As part of this effort, she launched The Center's non-partisan Get Out The Vote (GOTV) and education campaign, "Equality Voters."

Jacobs has played a leading role in the fight for marriage equality at the local and state levels, including efforts to defeat California's discriminatory Proposition 8. She led The Center and the local community through that devastating loss to eventually celebrate the return of marriage equality in the state.

During that same time, as the nation faced a devastating economic crisis, Jacobs provided critical stability for The Center, providing calm, thoughtful, strategic and transparent leadership that allowed the organization to weather that crisis and come out of it even stronger.

Community Collaboration and Investment

Jacobs is best known and respected for her commitment to creating innovative collaborations between a variety of sectors -- health care, private, public, corporate and non-profit. She is looked to as a strong voice and committed partner for issues that intersect with HIV/AIDS and LGBT equality, including health care, safe schools, immigration reform, access to reproductive health care and more.

She has been actively involved with the San Diego LGBT Leadership Council and the County of San Diego's HIV Planning Council.

Jacobs also developed the Young Professionals Council (YPC), a diverse group of young LGBT professionals and allies who are dedicated to the preservation and future growth of the San Diego LGBT community and The Center. The group's mission is to develop and empower these individuals through

the YPC Academy, an intensive leadership development program that offers preparation for board service for a variety of agencies, not-for-profit organizations and government boards and commissions. The program also fosters a culture of leadership and camaraderie among the next generation of leaders.

Honors and Awards

For her dedication and leadership, Jacobs has been honored by several organizations, including the San Diego YMCA, the San Diego Metropolitan Community Church, the Tom Homann Law Association, the Lambda Archives, Bienestar, the Nicky's Board of Governors, the Stonewall Citizens Patrol and The Imperial Court de San Diego.

Jacobs was also recognized with LEAD San Diego's Visionary Award for Diversity and the Equality Leadership Award from Equality California. She was one of the inaugural recipients of the "Local Heroes" Award from KPBS and Union Bank in honor of LGBT Pride Month.

She has also received commendations and recognition from U.S. Congresswoman Susan Davis; State Senator, former Speaker of the California Assembly and former San Diego City Councilmember Toni Atkins, former State Senator, Assemblymember and San Diego City Councilmember Christine Kehoe; and former San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders.