

---

**"Your silence will not protect you." - Audre Lorde**

---

## THE RAINBOW WAVE

By Edwin Roman, Rainbow Alliance Advisor

The LGBTQI+ Resource Room would like to congratulate Bronx-born Ritchie Torres who made history when he was elected as the first gay, Afro-Latinx congressman. Torres is representing New York's 15th congressional district. Torres, when he was a member of the New York City Council, participated in BCC's Coming Out Day on October 8, 2015, which commemorated the start of Safe Space training and education.

While an estimated 4.5% of the U.S. population identifies as LGBTQI+ (<https://bit.ly/3oyOyNR>), just 0.17% of elected officials throughout all levels of government are LGBTQI+ (<https://nbc-news.to/35vwYAT>). Better representation could help LGBTQI+ Americans uphold hard-won rights, which have been under attack during the past four years (<https://bit.ly/2Xw9Xtj>). According to the LGBTQ Victory Fund (<https://bit.ly/3ox2A07>), at least 1,006 LGBTQI+ candidates ran for office in 2020, up 41% from 2018. Detailed below are some of the LGBTQI+ individuals who were elected last November---one whose opponent is a member of the extremist Proud Boys group.



**Then NYC Council Member, Ritchie Torres, with Rainbow Alliance Advisor, Edwin Roman**

- **Jessica Benham**, Pennsylvania State House Representative (Benham, is the first out LGBTQ+ woman to hold office in the state.)
- **Jabari Brisport**, New York State Senate (Brisport is the first out Black LGBTQI+ member of the New York State legislature.)
- **Stephanie Byers**, Kansas State House (Byers is the first out trans person of color ever to be elected to a state legislature in the U.S.)
- **David Cicilline**, U.S. House of Representatives for Rhode Island.
- **Sharice Davids**, U.S. House of Representatives for Kansas (Davids, became the first out LGBTQI+ Native American elected to Congress in 2018. She was re-elected in 2020.)
- **Todd Gloria**, San Diego Mayor (Gloria is the first person of color to be elected mayor.)
- **Torrey Harris**, Tennessee State House (Harris is the first, alongside Eddie Mannis, LGBTQI+ member of the Tennessee state legislature).
- **Christy Holstege**, Palm Springs Mayor.
- **Kim Jackson**, Georgia State Senator.
- **Mondaire Jones**, U.S. House of Representatives for New York (Jones, like Ritchie Torres, became one of the first out Black LGBTQI+ members of Congress.)
- **Shevrin Jones**, Florida State Senator (Jones is the first

out LGBTQI+ person ever elected to the upper chamber of the Florida state Senate.)

- **Ann Johnson**, Texas State House.
- **Malcolm Kenyatta**, Pennsylvania State House of Representatives (Kenyatta became the first out LGBTQ+ person of color to be nominated by a major political party for a state office in Pennsylvania. In 2018, he won in a landslide and became one of the youngest elected State Representatives in Pennsylvania. He was re-elected in 2020.)
- **Greg Razer**, Missouri State Senate.
- **Ana Irma Rivera Lassén**, Puerto Rico State Senate (Rivera Lassén is the first out politician ever elected in Puerto Rico.)
- **Alex Lee**, California State Assembly (Lee is the first out bisexual member of the California state legislature.)
- **Tiara Mack**, Rhode Island State Senate (Mack is the first Black LGBTQI+ person to serve in Rhode Island's state legislature.)
- **Eddie Mannis**, Tennessee State House (Mannis, a Republican, joins Torrey Harris in making history with their elections to the Tennessee House.)
- **Sarah McBride**, Delaware State Senate (McBride became the first trans person ever elected to a state senate seat.)
- **Roger Montoya**, New Mexico's State House (Montoya, who is living with HIV, is the first out LGBTQI+ elected to the state's house.)
- **David Ortiz**, Colorado's State House (Ortiz, a veteran, is the first out bisexual lawmaker in Colorado)
- **Sam Park**, Georgia State House (Park is the first out gay man elected to the Georgia State legislature in 2016. He was reelected in 2018 and 2020.)
- **Michele Reyner**, Florida State House (Reyner is the first Black queer woman elected to the Florida legislature)
- **Taylor Small**, Vermont State House.
- **Brian Sims**, Pennsylvania State House.
- **Adrian Tam**, Hawaii State House Representative (Tam's opponent in was Nick Ochs, a member of the extremist group The Proud Boys. Tam is the only out LGBTQ+ member of Hawaii's House of Representatives.)
- **Mark Takano**, U.S. House of Representatives for California
- **Brianna Titone**, Colorado's State House (Titone, the first out trans lawmaker in the state's house, won re-election.)
- **Mauree Turner**, Oklahoma State House (Turner is the first nonbinary and Muslim to have won a seat in Oklahoma's House of Representatives.)

**ADVISORY BOARD**

- Nathan Aiken
- Carl Andrews
- Alicia Bralove
- Amar Dervisevic
- Joseph Donica
- Stephen Duncan
- Yvonne Erazo-Davila
- Marjorie Garrido
- Raymond Gonzalez
- Jay Gundacker
- Elizabeth Hardman
- Aimee Herman
- Yasmeen Joyner
- Manny Lopez
- Emalinda McSpadden
- Sergio Osoria
- Simran Pal-Kaur
- Jessenia Paoli
- Donna Paroff-Sherman
- Enelyn Ramirez
- Patricia Ramos
- Crystal Rodriguez
- Edwin Roman
- Jasmina Sinanovic
- Ayana Soto
- Daniela Tuda
- Wali Ullah
- Marie Varghese
- John Ziegler

**MISSION**

The LGBTQI + Resource Room at Bronx Community College works to foster an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. The LGBTQI + Resource Room aims to sustain visibility and a sense of community by providing education, programming, and support services on campus.

# Weekly [Remotely] !

- **The LGBTQI+ Resource Room meets virtually daily, Monday through Friday from 12-5 pm.**
- **Students, faculty and staff may enter the room without joining a specific group or club.**
- **Contact Dr. Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu for Zoom Information.**

## - MONDAYS !

### **Pride Slice 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**

A drop-in open discussion on LGBTQI+ current events Meets virtually through Zoom. To gain access please email [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)

### **Music Mondays on Facebook**

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lgbqti/>



## - TUESDAYS !

### **QueerLit Book Club 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Discussion and programming centered on LGBTQI+ literature and other media Meets virtually through Zoom. To gain access please email [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)

### **LGBTQI+ Support Group 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

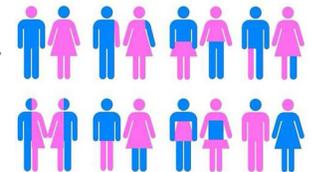
Share. Express. Support. Let's come together to express thoughts, hopes, and feelings with other like minded people. Meets virtually through Zoom. To gain access please email [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)



## - WEDNESDAYS !

### **Beyond the Binary Group 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

BCC's 1st and only transgender and non-conforming support group for transgender women and men, gender queer, gender fluid, gender non-conforming, non-binary and questioning students. We are experts, allies, and advocates ready to give support oriented speech and offer student to student led feedback. This group meets virtually via Zoom. Please contact [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)



## - THURSDAYS !

### **Black & Queer 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

A weekly roundtable where Black Queer-identified individuals can gather and discuss various issues in today's social climate. Please contact [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)



### **Rainbow Alliance Club 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

The Rainbow Alliance, the oldest LGBTQI+ club on campus, provides extracurricular activities that address the needs of LGBTQI+ students as well as the greater campus community. This group meets virtually via Zoom. Please contact [Edwin.Roman@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Edwin.Roman@bcc.cuny.edu) for information.



## - FRIDAYS !

**Connection Intersection:** Weekly information and programming focused on healthy practices in love, sex & relationships - made available each Friday

**College Compass:** Weekly information and programming focused on navigating college beyond BCC - made available each Friday

Please contact [Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu)