

## Diversity Thoughts: LGBTQIA Pride

June 26, 2018

Today Sunday 6/24 Seattleites with diverse gender identity and/or sexual preference celebrate the yearly Pride event and march. The date coincides with pride events in other major cities like Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, St. Louis, Toronto, St Petersburg (Florida), Oklahoma City, and Orange County. Other cities celebrated 6/23 or earlier in June, or will do so at a different time. Some smaller cities are celebrating a Pride event for the first time this year.

The article below explains that for smaller towns in rural areas or in the "Bible belt," marchers balance fear of being targeted with an affirming that there are LGBTQIA people everywhere and one should not have to leave to be true to one's identity.

'Pride parades occupy a unique civic role, she says, because political "asks" are not their primary reason for being. In one Southern town she studied, Bruce said the message was: "We want cultural respect. We want to be part of this culture, and demand that the culture treats us better."'

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/06/new-lgbtq-pride-parades-2018/563513/https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/06/new-lgbtq-pride-parades-2018/563513/>

It is still recent and far from universal for the diversity of humans identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Gender-Queer, Intersex or Asexual to feel respected, safe, and fully part of the fabric of society.

Parents of trans children go in support, allies of sexual minority friends go, and it is a vibrant and colorful party.



Happy Pride Week to all!