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2025



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Welcome to the Heart of Massachusetts:

A Guide to Our Vibrant Commonwealth

On behalf of the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce, it is my immense pleasure to present this guide showcasing the diverse and dynamic landscape of our beloved Commonwealth. More than just a collection of historical sites and scenic beauty, Massachusetts thrives on the rich tapestry of its local economy, the entrepreneurial spirit of its small businesses, and the welcoming embrace of its tourism industry.

For the members of our Chamber – and indeed, for all who call Massachusetts home or visit our shores – these elements are not just economic indicators; they are the very threads that weave the fabric of our communities. A robust local economy ensures that our neighborhoods flourish, supporting the schools, services, and vibrant cultural institutions that define us. Small businesses, the backbone of this economy, are where innovation often sparks, where dreams take root, and where personalized experiences truly shine. They are the unique shops, the cozy cafes, the innovative startups, and the essential service providers that give Massachusetts its distinct character.

And then there's travel – the lifeblood that connects us to the world and invites others to experience the magic of Massachusetts. From the historic streets of Boston to the serene beauty of the Berkshires, from our stunning coastline to our charming small towns, visitors infuse our communities with energy, supporting local livelihoods and

enriching our shared cultural experience. For our LGBT businesses and allies, this influx of visitors represents not only economic opportunity but also a chance to showcase the inclusivity and warmth that Massachusetts proudly embodies.

This guide is designed to be your compass, leading you to the places, experiences, and businesses that make Massachusetts truly special. As you explore, remember that every purchase you make, every local establishment you support, and every journey you undertake directly contributes to the vitality and continued growth of our remarkable state. Thank you for being a part of this journey, and welcome to Massachusetts!



**ALEXANDRIA
EBERHARDT**
Executive Director

**SHE
HER**

Funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

Editorial: MALGBTCC Staff & Members
Digital Production & Design: CopyCat
Cover Illustration: Morgan Montalvo-Greene
Cover Layout: CopyCat

Disclaimer: This brochure provides information for visitors to Massachusetts. Every attempt has been made to assure accuracy of the information. The Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce, and its contractors, the North of Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts/Office of Travel & Tourism cannot guarantee the rates or other data herein or assume any liability for errors, omissions, or for damages which may result from reliance upon such information. Please contact individual organizations for the latest rates, dates, and other specifics.

Celebrate Pride, Build Power: Join the MA LGBT Chamber of Commerce

There's no better time to celebrate—and invest in—LGBTQ+ economic empowerment.

By joining the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce, you become part of a vibrant network of businesses and allies working together to create a more inclusive and equitable economy. Whether you're launching a startup or growing an established brand, the Chamber provides the tools, connections, and community to help your business thrive year-round.



ANGIE MONTALVO

Membership Engagement Director

**SHE
HER**

Key Advantages of Joining

COMPREHENSIVE BUSINESS SUPPORT

Get access to essential tools like marketing guidance, leadership training, financial planning, and strategic development—all designed to support your business growth.

VALUABLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Connect with fellow LGBTQ+ and allied business owners, along with major corporate partners, through member events and programs.

ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Be part of a collective voice that champions economic inclusion and influences policy for LGBTQ+ businesses across Massachusetts.

INCREASED VISIBILITY

Promote your brand through Chamber-sponsored events, digital platforms, and directories that showcase your business to a broader audience.

INCLUSIVE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY

Join a dynamic, welcoming network that embraces all identities and fosters meaningful connections and collaboration.



Become a MALGBTCC member today!

malgbtcc.org/membership/

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Training & Technical Assistance

The MA LGBT Chamber offers comprehensive training and technical assistance for partners and members on topics relating to LGBTQ+ inclusion, allyship, policies, procedures, and beyond.



MASON DUNN **HE**
THEY
Director of Education & Research



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR EDUCATION OFFERINGS AND RESOURCES:
malgbtcc.org/education-and-research/

Stronger Together: Advancing LGBTQ+ Inclusion Through Partnership

In addition to our hands-on support for LGBTQ-owned small businesses, the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with over 50 corporations across New England! Together, we're advancing LGBTQ+ inclusion in the workplace through targeted initiatives like job fairs, educational programs, and strategic support for Employee Resource Groups.

At a time where Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is under political attack, the Chamber stands firmly in support of this work, and greatly appreciates the efforts our corporate partners make to continue fighting the good fight. If your company is working to foster a more inclusive environment for the LGBTQ+ community, we invite you to connect with us. Let's explore how we can support and amplify that mission—together.

We serve as a vital connector between large corporations and our LGBTQ+ small business members—facilitating impactful partnerships in areas ranging from marketing and consulting to event services and design. These collaborations strengthen both communities and drive inclusive economic growth.



MICHAEL O'NEILL **HE**
HIM
Corporate Partners Engagement Director



EXPLORE YOUR PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL:
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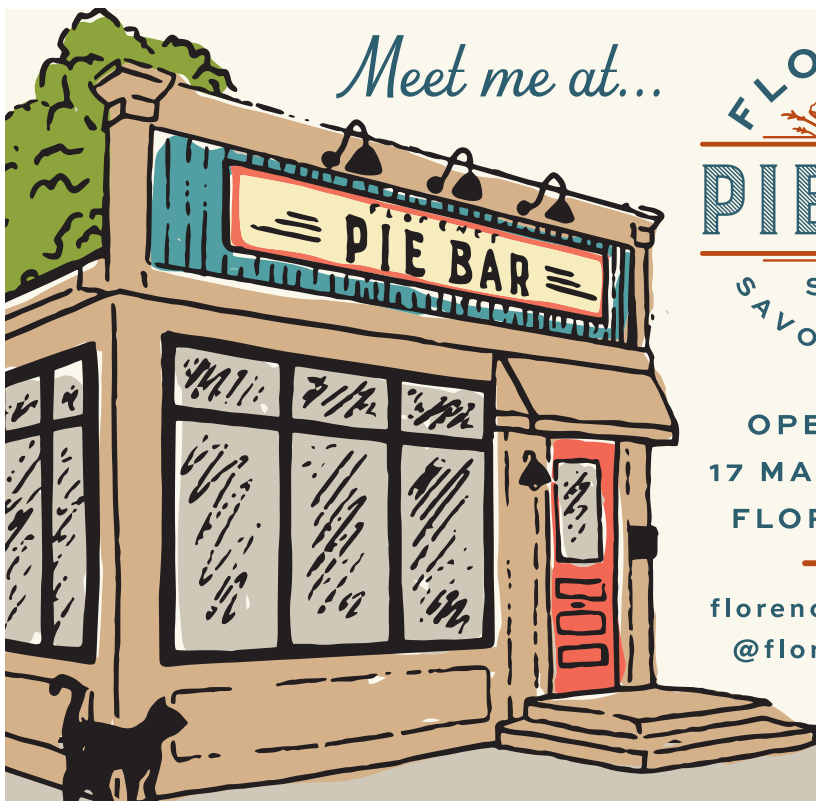
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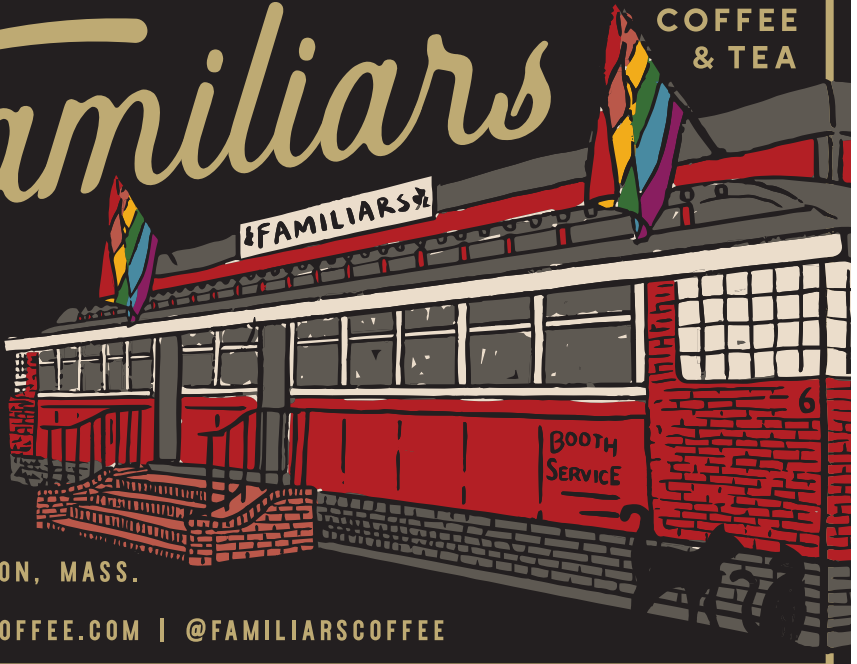
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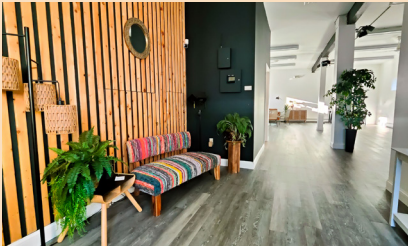


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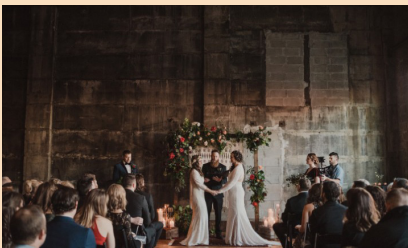
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The 90-mile Essex County Scenic Byway links 14 coastal communities with breathtaking views and hidden gems. Feast on summer favorites like lobster rolls and fried clams. In Beverly, enjoy craft beer, alfresco dining, Cabot Street shopping, and shows at North Shore Music Theatre. Stroll Lynn Shore Drive, then stop at a cozy taco joint or noodle bar.

Looking for romance? Enjoy a seaside concert at Rockport's Shalin Liu Center,



explore Bearskin Neck's shops, or visit Motif No. 1. Browse Gloucester's Rocky Neck art or join Marblehead's Festival of Arts and July 4th fireworks.

Cool off with ice cream from local dairies and hit beaches like Singing Beach in Manchester-by-the-Sea or Crane Beach in Ipswich. Take a schooner cruise or go whale watching.

Dine harborside in Salem or Marblehead, or enjoy Gloucester's iconic seafood. Sip cocktails and oysters at 1606 Restaurant & Oyster Bar, or feast on chowder and fried clams at Woodman's of Essex. Don't miss the Essex River Cruise.

Celebrate summer at local farms and markets. In Amesbury, Ipswich, and Andover, enjoy cider donuts, fruit wine, and berry picking. Appleton Farms hosts weekend pizza and brewery pop-ups—perfect for families. Bring a blanket, sip craft beer, and let the kids run free.

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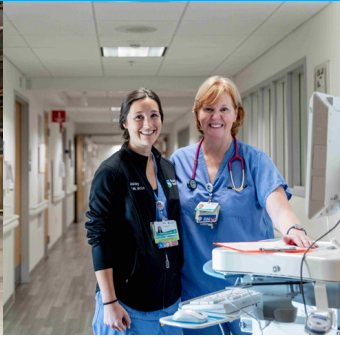
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Sources: [WalletHub](#), [ConsumerAffairs](#), [Milken Institute](#), [Realtor.com](#), [WalletHub](#), [Hire A Helper](#), [U.S. News](#), [SmileHub](#), and [Sharecare](#)

5 Super Gay Reasons to Move to Massachusetts

BY ERICA SWALLOW

We would love to welcome you! Here are five fabulous reasons to make the move:

1 Strong LGBTQ+ Rights

Massachusetts leads the nation in LGBTQ+ protections—from banning discrimination in 1989 to legalizing same-sex marriage first in 2004. Here, you're respected and protected.

2 Proud Queer Community

With 6.5% of residents identifying as LGBTQ+, Massachusetts is among the queerest states. Find your people in places like Northampton and Provincetown.

3 Urban to Rural to Shore—It’s All Here

Love city life? Try Boston, Worcester, or Springfield. Prefer nature? Head to the Berkshires or start a homestead in Western Mass. Crave the beach? North Shore, Cape Cod, and the Islands of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard offer over 1,500 miles of shorelines. Whatever your vibe, you’ll find your spot.

4 Top Healthcare & Education

Ranked the best state to live in (WalletHub, 2024), Massachusetts offers top schools, healthcare, and gender-affirming care to help you thrive.



A Vibrant Sole by Jeff Grassie (Sculpture in Haverhill, MA)



Boston Yacht Club

5 A Place to Blossom

Led by the nation’s first openly lesbian governor, the state’s “Massachusetts For Us All” campaign makes one thing clear: you belong here. Join a place where LGBTQ+ people are truly celebrated.



ERICA SWALLOW is a Springfield resident, queer REALTOR®, and MALGBTCC member who specializes in helping homebuyers relocate to Western & Central Massachusetts. With a background in technology marketing, she holds degrees from NYU, MIT, and Simmons University. She is a proud resident of Springfield, having relocated after graduate school to build a better life and stronger community.



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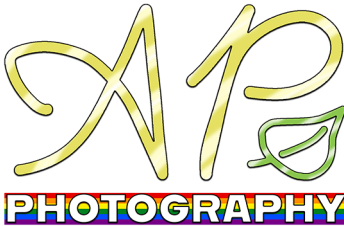
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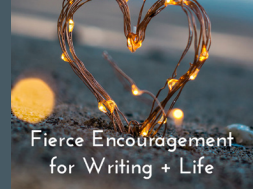


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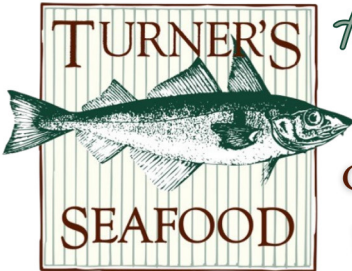
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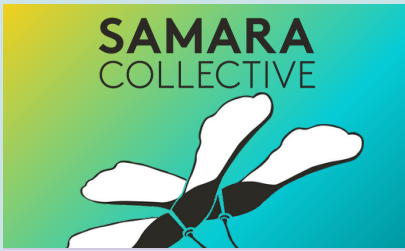
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Fri, October 3, 2025 | 6:30 PM

Leonardo!

A Wonderful Show About a Terrible Monster
By the Emmy Award-winning Manual Cinema
Inspired by the children's books by Mo Willems

Sat, November 15, 2025 | 7:30 PM

Hold On To Your Butts

By the critically-acclaimed Recent Cutbacks
Inspired by Jurassic Park

Fri, April 3, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Academy Regional Youth Poetry Slam

Hosted by Lyrical Faith

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Fri-Sun, April 10-12, 2026 | 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Andy Warhol in Iran

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Sat, April 25, 2026 | 7:30 PM

Best of Valley Voices Story Slam

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Sun, January 11, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Moonstruck

Sun, January 25, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Sense and Sensibility

Sun, February 8, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Groundhog Day

Sun, February 22, 2026 | 2:00 PM

Bridget Jones' Diary

academy youth productions

Fri, October 24, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Disney's 101 Dalmatians KIDS

Ages 6-9

Thu-Sat, March 19-21, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Disney's Frozen JR.

Ages 9 - 14

Fri & Sat, May 29 & 30, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Legally Blonde The Musical JR.

Ages 13 - 17

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The Meanings Carried by the Colors of the Progress Pride Flag

BLACK People living with and who have died from HIV/AIDS; its surrounding stigma

LIGHT BLUE trans-masculine

LIGHT PINK trans-feminine

WHITE trans-non-binary

BROWN Black/Indigenous/People of Color;
BLACK Refutation of racism within the LGBTQ+ community

RED life

ORANGE healing

YELLOW sunlight

GREEN nature

BLUE serenity

VIOLET spirit

Created in 1978 by artist and activist Gilbert Baker, the Pride Flag has become a lasting symbol of the LGBTQ+ community. More than just a rainbow, each stripe was chosen to reflect values that unite the movement.

Baker’s original design had eight colors, later simplified to six due to production issues. Each color still carries deep meaning:

- Red – Life**
- Orange – Healing**
- Yellow – Sunlight**
- Green – Nature**
- Blue – Serenity**
- Violet – Spirit**

Each stripe tells a story of struggle, resilience, and pride.

As Pride continues to evolve, new flags like Daniel Quasar’s Progress Pride Flag have emerged, adding stripes for trans individuals, People of Color, and those affected by HIV/AIDS—celebrating diversity and inclusion.

Yet, the original rainbow flag remains a powerful and universal symbol of love, unity, and hope—a reminder of the progress we’ve made and the work that still lies ahead in the fight for equality.

The pride flag illustration featured on the cover of this catalog was created by Morgan Montalvo-Greene.

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