

# LGBTQ+ SUMMIT

**Disability Pride:**  
Power in Accessibility



**Friday, October 11**  
9 AM - 2:30 PM

**Holiday Inn**  
1350 N First Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

# SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct 11, 2024



**08:00 a.m. - 09:00 a.m.**

**Registration and breakfast**

**09:00 a.m. - 09:15 a.m.**

**Opening remarks**

OLGBTQA and ODA staff

**09:15 a.m. - 09:20 a.m.**

**Land acknowledgment**

Kanyon Sayers-Roods

**09:20 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.**

**Spill the Disabili-Tea**

Alex Locust

**10:20 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Break**

**10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**Empowering LGBTQ+ Autistic  
and Neurodiverse Communities**

Finn Gratton

**11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.**

**Cultural ceremony**

Kanyon Sayers-Roods

**11:50 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Break**

**12:00 p.m. - 01:00 p.m.**

**Lunch**

**01:00 p.m. - 02:00 p.m.**

**In Our Own Words: Celebrating  
Diverse-Abled Queer Journeys**

Le Toudjida Allara + Panel

**02:00 p.m. - 02:30 p.m.**

**Closing remarks**

OLGBTQA staff

# **Alex Locust Keynote Description and Learning Objectives**

## **LGBTQ+ Summit 2024 – Disability Pride: Power in Accessibility**

### **Module**

Spill the Disabili-Tea

### **Date and Time**

Friday, October 11, 2024, 9:20am – 10:20am

### **Presenter**

Facilitator: Alex Locust - Glamputee

### **Description**

Alex Locust (he/they/she) is a Black-white biracial, queer disability justice educator, activist, and "Glamputee" who uses their lived experience as an above-the-knee amputee to challenge ableist narratives and promote a disability justice framework. With an M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, they offer workshops and lectures that foster empathy, cultural humility, and intersectional analysis, empowering disabled communities and encouraging allies to disrupt oppression. Known for their charm, humor, and wit, Alex creates engaging spaces for exploring complex topics like disability justice, microaggressions, and cross-movement solidarity.

“Spill the Disabili-Tea” is an interactive workshop designed to elevate knowledge of disability justice and provide a space to

apply this lens to the inclusive practices of various community spaces.

## **Learning Objectives**

Drawing upon their lived experience, education, and advocacy skills, Alex will lead a candid conversation that will guide the audience through:

- 1) Understanding who is "disabled" and what creates that experience;
- 2) Defining "Disability Justice" within the context of the Summit theme;
- 3) Navigating the "right way" to interact with people with disabilities;
- 4) Avoiding microaggressions;
- 5) Distinguishing the differences between access and inclusion;
- 6) Understanding disability as a cultural experience and how disability can intersect with other cultural identities; and
- 7) Integrating skills and lessons learned within the community.

## **Reference**

Glamputee Website: <https://www.glamputee.com/>

SpeakOut Website:

<https://www.speakoutnow.org/speakers/alex-locust>

Alex Locust on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/glamputee/?hl=en>

Alex Locust on LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/glamputee/>

# **Finn Gratton Workshop Description and Learning Objectives**

## **LGBTQ+ Summit 2024 – Disability Pride: Power in Accessibility**

### **Module**

Empowering LGBTQ+ Autistic and Neurodiverse Communities

### **Date and Time**

Friday, October 11, 2024, 10:30am – 11:30am

### **Presenter**

Facilitator: Finn Gratton, LMFT, LPCC

### **Description**

Finn Gratton (they/them) is a somatic psychotherapist and consultant working in the San Francisco Bay Area. As an autistic person and family member of multiple neurodivergent loved ones, Finn brings decades of lived experience coupled with over 15 years as a mental health practitioner to their trainings, writing, consultation, and therapy practice. Finn's work is focused on the intersections of somatics, trauma, neurodiversity, and sexual and gender minorities. They are the author of *Supporting Transgender Autistic Youth and Adults: A Guide for Professionals and Families*. In addition to their private practice work with adults and teens, Finn provides neurodiversity-affirming consultation and training to groups and individuals in the U.S. and internationally. Finn identifies as white, autistic and non-binary.

In this “Empowering LGBTQ+ Autistic and Neurodiverse Communities: Affirmation and Support for VAST Individuals” workshop, participants will explore how ableism impacts LGBTQ+ autistic and variable attention stimulus trait (VAST) people, how universal access strategies support neurodivergent people and everyone, and how restoring and nourishing connection is the lifeblood of anti-ableist, liberatory care, play, and work.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1) Describe three universal access strategies that support autistic & VAST people.
- 2) Name three aspects of human experience and how they may differ between neurotypical and neurodivergent people.
- 3) Describe how connection and disconnection feel in the body, and how we can move towards more connection.

### **Reference**

Gratton Psychotherapy Website:

<https://www.grattonpsychotherapy.com/>

Supporting Transgender Autistic Youth and Adults book:

<https://us.jkp.com/products/supporting-transgender-autistic-youth-and-adults>

# **In Our Own Words Panel Description and Learning Objectives LGBTQ+ Summit 2024 – Disability Pride: Power in Accessibility**

## **Module**

In Our Own Words: Celebrating Diverse-Abled Queer Journeys

## **Date and Time**

Friday, October 11, 2024, 1:00pm – 2:00pm

## **Presenter**

Facilitator: Le Toudjida Allara M.S., M.P.A. – County of Santa Clara Office of Disability Affairs

## **Description**

Join us for an inspiring and transformative workshop that brings together a powerful panel of voices from diverse backgrounds, disabilities, and LGBTQ+ identities. "In Our Own Words: Celebrating Diverse-Abled Queer Journeys" will feature three remarkable community leaders and an insightful facilitator, each with their unique stories and perspectives. Be part of a movement that celebrates diversity, breaks down barriers, and amplifies the voices of strength within the LGBTQ+ and disabled communities!

## **Meet the Panelists**

Rosemary McDonnell-Horita

Rosemary McDonnell-Horita (she/her) is a disabled Japanese-American woman living in the East Bay of California. She's been

supporting, advocating, and fiercely fighting for disability inclusion for 10+ years. In 2018, Rosemary ran Colorado's inaugural Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities in partnership with local independent living centers. With a focus in youth transition and event accessibility, Rosemary has experience working with the California Youth Leadership Forum, the Impact Campaign for the Oscar-nominated documentary Crip Camp, Google, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, and numerous others. Her most recent work includes the Impact Producer for the film "Fire Through Dry Grass and Patrice: The Movie." She's currently an independent contractor and working on writing a cookbook. In her free time, she enjoys working in her vegetable garden, making playlists and cooking for people she loves.

### Lotus Boy

LOTUS BOY (ze/zir, he/him, or they/them) is a transgender, unapologetically disabled, neurodivergent, and chronically illUSTRIOUS, Chinese-American drag king based in occupied Lisjan Ohlone Land (aka Oakland, CA). As an anti-disciplinary artist, ze uses any medium which speaks to zir spirit to explore gender fluidity, accessibility, sustainability, joy, and healing from trauma. LOTUS BOY is on the Board of Directors for Oaklash, the Bay Area's drag festival, and the SPM Disability Justice Fund which supports projects led by disabled BIPOC. In 2023, LOTUS BOY won the 27th Annual San Francisco Drag King Contest. King LOTUS BOY's work has been featured at the SF Institute of Contemporary Art, SF MoMa, the Austin International Drag Festival, THEYFRIEND: Non-Binary



Performance Festival, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Palo Alto Art Center, Fresh Meat Festival of Transgender and Queer Performance, The Drag and Spirituality Summit, Queer Women of Color Film Festival, Disability After Dark podcast, UCLA, San Jose State University, UC Berkeley, and more. When not onstage, ze brings drag and gender exploration workshops to middle schools, high schools, and colleges in the Bay Area and beyond.

### Cesar Ayala

Hail Cesar Ayala (he/him), the Gold City of San Francisco, California. Cesar was named as Mr. Gay San Francisco 2017-2018. He was no small feat as he was the first Deaf winner in that pageant history since 1970's and the first Latino Deaf winner in a major-level Gay Pageant anywhere in America. Also, he finished eighth place out of 50 for Mr. Gay America pageant in Las Vegas 2021. Cesar was raised outside the bay in Riverside, California where he started his pageant career at the age six by performing moves in the first annual Mr. and Miss Pachappa Pageant. As a current he aims to showcase his talent combining dance and American Sign Language Songs. Cesar is a current tenth year cheerleader for CHEER San Francisco, Bare Chest Calendar as Mr. January 2025, activist for the LGBTQIA+ deaf community, people of color, disabilities, and he continues to inspire people all over in United States.

### Le Toudjida Allara (Facilitator)

Le Toudjida Allara, M.S., M.P.A. (he/him), popularly called as Allara, is the Program Manager for the County of Santa Clara

Office of Disability Affairs. In fact, he is polyglot, cosmopolitan and proudly deaf. He adores traveling around the world, involving in advocacy for people with disabilities, and engaging in global soccer community as manager, coaching educator, consultant and Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)-licensed soccer agent.

## **What To Expect**

- **Engaging Discussions:** Our panelists will share their personal stories, challenges, and triumphs, providing invaluable insights into the intersection of disability, queerness, and diversity.
- **Interactive Q&A:** Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage directly with the panelists, creating a lively and informative dialogue.
- **Actionable Takeaways:** Learn practical strategies for fostering inclusivity and supporting diverse-abled LGBTQ+ individuals in your own communities and workplaces.

## **Reference**

Rosemary McDonnell-Horita

Website: <https://www.rosemarymcdonnell-horita.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ricearosie/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/rmcdonnellhorita/>

Lotus Boy

Website:

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/kinglotusboy/?hl=en>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@kinglotusboy?lang=en>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@kinglotusboy/featured>

Cesar Ayala

Article:

[https://www.deafpeople.com/dp\\_of\\_month/CesarAyala.html](https://www.deafpeople.com/dp_of_month/CesarAyala.html)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mrgreen5/>

Office of Disability Affairs

Website: <https://desj.santaclaracounty.gov/offices/office-disability-affairs>

Disability Inclusion Equity Pledge:

<https://desj.santaclaracounty.gov/offices/office-disability-affairs/disability-inclusion-equity-pledge>

# **LGBTQ+ Summit. Disability Pride: Power in Accessibility**

## **ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT**

Santa Clara County Office of LGBTQ Affairs (OLGBTQA) and Office of Disability Affairs (ODA) are working together to enhance our efforts in ensuring that all participants feel safe, comfortable, and supported throughout summit sessions and activities. Please review the following details, which reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering access, inclusion, and a sense of belonging for all.

### **Where to Go for Assistance**

The Information Table is located on the 1st floor in the Registration area. You can visit this table for assistance with:

- Alternative large print formats of conference materials
- Interpreters, live captioning, and other communication support
- Location of accessible bathrooms
- Orientation and mobility assistance
- Reserved seating
- Other conference accommodations and needs
- Summit program and additional materials
- Guest and Visitor Passes

Please feel free to ask for help with anything you need. We aim to create a welcoming environment where everyone can enjoy learning together.

### **In Case of Emergency**

If you have specific access needs related to emergency situations, such as a fire, please visit the Information Table to discuss any access needs that can support your safety. For questions about the venue's evacuation procedures or emergency plans for guests with disabilities, please ask the information table or the hotel front desk.

### **Disability Accommodations**

Please submit requests for disability accommodations through the registration process by October 4th. Upon arrival at the summit, visit the Information Table to access your requested services.

### **CART Services / ASL Interpreting**

Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART) and / or American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting is provided at the summit.

### **Reserved Seating**

If you require accessible seating near the front for keynote presentations, please look for a 'reserved' sign on one of the

front chairs. For reserved seating during breakout sessions or mealtimes, please stop by the Information Table at least 30 minutes before the session to submit your request.

### **Location of Accessible Bathrooms**

Please visit the Information Table for assistance with locating accessible bathrooms, including maps or verbal directions based on your preference.

### **Service Animals**

The venue allows service animals to accompany their handlers in all areas where guests are allowed. Please ask the information table for any questions about service animals' accommodations.

### **Summit Program**

For assistance with the conference program, please visit the Information Table. Our volunteer staff will be happy to help with any questions or provide additional support.

### **Digital Summit Program**

The Summit Program will be available on the OLGBTQA website on October 9th, two days before the event, offering attendees an interactive way to explore the schedule. You can easily search the full conference agenda, browse speaker profiles, and learn about resource table participants.

## **The Sensory Room**

A quiet space will be available in Room XYZ for anyone who may need a calm, low-stimulation environment. The location is also listed in the program.

## **Photography and Fragrance Policy**

Please refrain from using flash photography during the conference. We also kindly ask all attendees to help maintain a fragrance-free environment to ensure the comfort and well-being of everyone.

## **COVID-19 POLICY**

With the US covid public health emergency having expired on May 11, 2023, the change in the availability of federally funded COVID-19 tests and vaccinations has led the Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs and Office of Disability Affairs team to decide that it is no longer feasible to require vaccinations or testing to attend the LGBTQ+ Summit 2024.

We are still committed to prioritizing the health and safety of all attendees, resource fair participants, and staff at our event. We have implemented the following guidelines and measures to help ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Please note that our COVID-19 policy is subject to change based on evolving circumstances and public health guidance. We will communicate any updates or revisions to the policy through our official channels.

By attending the event, you acknowledge and accept the inherent risks associated with public gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your understanding, cooperation, and commitment to keeping our community safe.

Here are some of the sources that helped us and can help you make a more informed decision:



- <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2023/02/09/fact-sheet-COVID-19-public-health-emergency-transition-roadmap.html>
- <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-COVID-19/issue-brief/commercialization-of-COVID-19-vaccines-treatments-and-tests-implications-for-access-and-coverage/>
- <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/bivalent-boosters-provide-better-protection-against-severe-COVID-19>
- <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/safety-communications/home-COVID-19-antigen-tests-take-steps-reduce-your-risk-false-negative-results-fda-safety>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9111734/>

## **Policy In Summary**

- Vaccinations are NOT required
- If you are sick, please stay home.
- Masks are required in:
  - Hotel Ballroom
  - Sensory room

## **Vaccination Encouragement**

- We strongly encourage all attendees, vendors, and staff to be up to date in their vaccinations against COVID-19 prior to attending the event. Vaccination is a crucial step in

preventing the spread of the virus and protecting yourself and others.

- We request that individuals who are eligible for vaccination and have not yet received it to consider doing so before attending the event.

## **Masking Guidelines**

- To provide an added layer of protection, we strongly encourage all attendees, vendors, and staff to wear masks or face coverings while inside the event venue.
- Masks will be available at designated stations throughout the event for those who may need them.
- While masking is strongly encouraged in all areas of the event, it will be mandatory in high traffic areas such as the hotel ballroom and sensory room. Everyone must be properly masked at all times while in designated masking required areas of the summit unless eating or drinking.
- Please ensure that masks or face coverings fully cover the nose and mouth.
- **COVID-19 statistics for San Jose, CA** See [Santa Clara County Public Health Dashboard](#)

## **Sanitation and Hygiene**

- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the event venue, and we encourage frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer.

- Enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols will be implemented for high-touch surfaces and common areas.

## **Social Distancing**

- Although social distancing guidelines may vary based on local regulations and health guidelines at the time of the event, we encourage participants to respect personal space and maintain a reasonable distance from others.
- Event organizers will monitor and implement any necessary adjustments to manage crowd density and flow.

## **Health Screening**

- We kindly ask all attendees, vendors, and staff to self-assess their health prior to attending the event. If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, we urge you to stay home and prioritize your well-being.

## **Compliance and Cooperation**

- All participants, including attendees, resource fair participants, and staff, are expected to comply with the event's COVID-19 policy and guidelines.
- Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the individual being asked to leave the event premises.

## **Exemptions**

- In the interest of maximizing safety, we are not accepting exemption requests. We will monitor changes in any official directions and update this policy as needed.
- If you have asthma or a related medical condition you can remove your mask if you have a medical episode. Once the episode is resolved we ask you to wear the mask again. Feel free to reach out to a staffer if you need assistance.

**While we strive for a more accessible event, please share with us improvements and suggestions. Please contact us at [lgbtq@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:lgbtq@ceo.sccgov.org) or (408) 678-2900**