WELCOME

It’s here! The event we’ve been crunching you all for (in array of calls, emails, and nagging lol) -- our 3rd annual bowlathon this year called “FaBOWLous Face/OFF!”

This years Bowlathon is especially important to us as we celebrate 10 years of organizing by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth of color. As allies, supporters, staff, and members, we raised money for three months asking our friends, family, and colleagues to support the work we do.

In our 10th year, not only has our organization grown but our Campaigns have achieved some amazing victories. As part of our Safe Space Saves Lives campaign, this summer we had 8 free programs hosted on the pier, an increase from the two we had last year. The programs included free movies, wellness programming, an artistic night and our 2nd annual MiniBall. What’s even more exciting is that these events were lead by our members.

This year as part of Education for Liberation Project, we’ve developed a new level of internships, our fellows. This year we had 5 fellows in addition to our ELP 1, 2, 3 cycles. (We represent 2 of the fellows, and we of course are fa-bowl-ous!) We’ve worked really hard to bring you this year’s bowlathon, which has reached multiple venues and people from all circles and we couldn’t have been as successful without your support. Tonight represents ours accomplishments as entire community coming together to support the work the LGBTQ youth of color at FIERCE.

Thank you so much for coming out today to bowl with us in celebration of FIERCE being 10, celebrating your fundraising efforts and simply having an amazing time as a community.

Thanks for being faBOWLous!!
Azriel & Francois
As the Base Building Fellow at FIERCE I experienced the challenges and the highlights of building FIERCE’s membership throughout the summer and into the fall of 2010. In an organization specifically targeting LGBTQ youth of color, I came to understand and love myself and my peers on a deeper level. Everyday LGBTQ youth of color are presented with a new challenge. We fight to get access to affordable housing and education, get access to citizenship and employment. In addition to it all, we struggle to try to find ourselves. Through one on ones, facilitating important member meetings, and constant outreach to community members, I was able to help build and develop my community. If there was one thing I learned throughout the fellowship is that base building is a key component to effective organizing. Base building is about listening, supporting, and connecting to an individual, to their roots, their community and their desires.

-Veronica

“Becoming the Bowlathon fellow has been an exciting move in building my leadership skills and learning more about grassroots fundraising. I had multiple ideas for the position and I was just genuinely excited at the possibility of becoming a fellow. After being the Major Donor Intern, this fellowship gave me the chance to communicate with people in FIERCE. The Bowlathon is truly a remarkable event! From beginning to end, the work, support and love put into it is overwhelming. There is an immense satisfaction I’ve received from seeing Bowlathon participants show up to the “Taking a Bat @ Fundraising Training” and members raise over a thousand dollars to continue the work they believe in. The Bowlathon builds community empowerment, and with FIERCE celebrating 10 years of organizing, there’s been no better way to get involved and get faBOWLous!”

-L. Francois

“Fellow queers and allies! The last couple of months have been a challenge trying to organize friends, business, and allies together for our Bowl-A-thon. We had goals set before us that at times honestly seemed unlikely, but thanks to the awesome leadership of Manny & Ash (our supervisors), and my fellow partner Francois, nothing seemed impossible. It has been an honor meeting new people, making new friendships, and overall working together as a community in support of the Leadership of Queer Youth of Color. Thank you for helping me build bridges and making this journey an unforgettable one.”

Love

Azriel

This summer I had the privilege of being the Youth Development fellow. I was in charge of coordinating our Wellness events at FIERCE which consist of Wellness Wednesdays that focus on anything from dealing with stress, healing, educating and ultimately empowering. Tabata Tuesdays is an hour workout session with FIERCE’s Executive Director Rickke Manazala and Future Fridays which are skill learning workshops that’ll help members in their daily life (cooking, resume writing & budgeting etc.) All of our youth development programs are targeted to what members say they need either through conversations or surveys we hand out. Doing the work that we do, it’s vital that we do take the time and focus on ourselves. We deal with a lot of different situations, stress, dealing with oppression on many different levels. It’s been really great to be a part of these workshops which help us manage what we go through, make us more aware, build our sustainability and also tackle the root causes of the situations we deal with. It helped me connect with the members more on a personal level and make them more aware of their own personal sustainability. I truly appreciated the experience I had this summer. I learned new skills built lasting relationships and most of all grew further love around FIERCE’s Youth Development Program.

Love,

Chey
Our names are Ari and Michelle and we’re the Major Donor interns for 2010. The Major Donor Campaign is an important grassroots fundraising campaign at FIERCE. Every year during the fall, FIERCE members meet with individual donors to ask for support for our campaigns and Education Liberation Programs. This year our goal is to raise $10,000.

How you can get involved: FIERCE’s Major Donor Campaign is a chance for members to meet face-to-face with our awesome supporters and ask them to sustain our work with a thoughtful annual gift of $250 or more (that’s about $22/month). Meetings are fun, fabulous, and last about 45 minutes. Members get to build their leadership skills by leading meetings and making all the “asks.” We also build stronger connections with supporters who believe in us and have a similar vision for the world to get better. We are extremely excited to be a part of making a great change and becoming better leaders for our community. If you’re interested in becoming a Major Donor this fall, please email mdcampaign@fiercenyc.org or sign up easily on our website www.fiercenyc.org. We would love your support!

"I believe that FIERCE is the safe haven that many LGBTQ youth of color yearn for and need; it is a space to walk into and feel proud of who you are. All judgments and stereotypes are left at the door; it is the sanctuary where we can experiment with our identities and feel supported throughout the adventures of adolescence and youth. As a Major Donor intern, I feel like it is my responsibility to maintain FIERCE as the home for our constituency. FIERCE has become a safe space for expressing myself and I enjoy spending my time here. The Major Donor Campaign is important to me because I want to help make a change for my community. In order for this to continue, we need to get help from our community."

-Ari

T

hank you for your love and commitment to FIERCE and LGBTQ youth of color!

"I believe that the Major Donor Campaign is important to me because it helps me build up my leadership skills; it gives me a great outlook on what society should look like. I have been through so much in my life and it is great to come into the FIERCE office and feel embraced by staff and members alike. Meeting our allies and supporters through the Major Donor Campaign has also inspired me. All I want is to help my community come together and defeat the odds we are pushed into. I’m extremely excited to be part of making a great change through this year’s Major Donor Campaign.

-Michelle
NEW MEMBER

My Experience as a FIERCE member!
By Cheryllynn Mena
Being a part of FIERCE means being welcomed with open arms into a space you could call your own. From the moment I walked in FIERCE I knew it would be my second home, a place I could be myself and engage in conversation with individuals who are also part of the LGBTQ community and share my struggles. My fellow members at FIERCE have become like a family to me whether it’d be working together on outreach or just engaging on fun activities you knew there was someone to give you a warm hug when needed. FIERCE provides a space for youth of color of the LGBTQ community to come together address the issues in our community and build towards a non oppressive world. Although I’m a fairly new member I feel like I have been part of the movement from the start.

“10 Years of Being FIERCE!”
by Ash Hammond, Former FIERCE member, current staff
This year, we celebrate 10 years of FIERCE, and as we look back, we recall the thousands of people who have been part of building this amazing organization. From our radical LGBTQ youth of color members and fabulous alumni, to die-hard allies, a super supportive staff, incredible donors, and amazing former and current board members: we have all played a part in making FIERCE a safe space where LGBTQ youth of color can build our power and exercise it... FIERCELY.

On behalf of the FIERCE Youth Members, Staff and Board, we thank you.

4th Annual Halloween Party!

If you are a Fabulous, Independent, Educated, Radical LGBTQ youth of color between the ages 13-24, I want to hear you make some noise. On October 29th, 2010 at 7pm FIERCE is holding our 4th Annual Halloween Party-- a FREE event open LGBTQ Youth of Color at Judson Memorial Church, located at 239 Thompson St. We will be serving free pizza from 7p - 8p and refreshments served all night. The night will also include a FIERCE presentation and Costume Runway Competition. 1st, 2nd & 3rd place competitors will receive special prizes. You don’t want to miss it! FIERCE’s Halloween Party is our annual base building event! Come through! Contact Base Building Fellow, Veronica for more info at veronica@fiercenyc.org.
**FIERCE** thanks all of our supporters!

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- Lorenzo Van Ness: Audre Lorde Project
  - Azriel Morales, Michelle Owens & Michael Rivera: Azriel's Team
  - Manny Vaz: Divas of the Decades
  - P Swan & Kel Morin: Drag Team Supreme
- Natalie Chin: FIERCE! Board
- Carrie Goodman: FIERCE Flappers
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Sylvia Rivera Law Project

SRLP works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination, or violence.

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The HOTT Program and Callen-Lorde would like to congratulate
FIERCE
on their 3rd Annual BOWLathon.

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Make Your School a Safe Space with the Safe Space Kit!

Designed to help educators create a safe space for LGBT youth in schools, the Safe Space Kit features the Guide to Being an Ally to LGBT Students, 10 Safe Space stickers, and 2 Safe Space posters.

This guide provides concrete strategies for supporting LGBT students, educating about anti-LGBT bias and advocating for changes in your school.

Download the guide for FREE at www.glsen.org or purchase the entire kit at www.glsenstore.org!
Congratulations to FIERCE on their inspiring work and annual Bowl-A-Thon! It has been and will continue to be a pleasure working with you in the struggle. - Community Voices Heard

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