

GRINDR 

SLATE NYC // 54 West 21st Street NYC 10010

UNDERGROUND

WELCOME UNDER





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WELCOME UNDER

Welcome to grindr underground. We gather at this conference to speak over important issues in the lgbtq community, getting educated on health and safety, and resolving social issues in the community. With over three million daily active users in every country in the world, Grindr is the world's largest all-male mobile social network in the world.

Since its launch in 2009, it has grown to become a fundamental part of users' daily lives across the globe. Grindr, a free, ad-supported app, and Grindr Xtra, its premium subscription service, use location technology in iOS and Android devices to instantly connect men with other men in their area who want to chat and meet up. It has the highest engagement out of every dating app available, with a daily average of 54 minutes spent per user. It has currently over 7 million downloads, 1 billion chat messages are sent a month, and 1 billion photos are sent every two months.

Now more than just a means to chat and meet, Grindr is providing a welcoming window into a passionate and progressive lifestyle. Our rapidly expanding content and collaborations in photography, fashion, social issues and more mark a bold and exciting new chapter in our evolution.

8-8:30am

Chris Mosier

First Transgender Man to Make Team USA, Transgender Advocate, Triathlete, and Speaker

8:30-9am

Jay Manuel

Former Judge on "America's Next Top Model", Host of Canada's "America's Next Top Model"

10-10:30am

Politics of Dissent

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Director of External Relations, National Center for Transgender Equality

10:30-11am

Randy Fenoli

Fashion Designer and Bridal Consultant; Star of TLC's "Say Yes To The Dress"

11:00-11:30pm

Faithful, Queer, and Not From Around Here

Angelica Terepka, Psychologist, New York Presbyterian Hospital

11:30-12pm

Gun Violence Prevention in the LGBTQ Community

John Paul Brammer, Associate Producer, NBC OUT

12-1pm

Break for Lunch

2-3pm

Healthcare for the LGBTQ Community in a Changing World

Daniel Penchina, President, Voices for Progress

4-5 pm

George Takei

Actor, Best Known for His Role in "Star Trek;" LGBT & Japanese-American Civil Rights Activist

6-7pm

Break for Dinner

8-9pm

Jason Collins

First Openly Gay Player In Major League Sports, NBA Player & Equality Advocate

8-8:30am

Nate Berkus

Designer TV Host

8:30-9am

The Shifting Trends of America in the LGBTQ Community

Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, President and CEO, Victory Fund & Institute

10-10:30am

Ending the Epidemic: The Struggle to End HIV/AIDS in America

Danielle Houston, Community Liaison DC/MD/VA, Gilead Sciences

10:30-11am

Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ Seniors

Nii-Quartelai Quartey, Sr. Advisor & National LGBT Liaison, AARP

11-12pm

Jim Obergefull

Lead Plaintiff in the US Supreme Court Same-Sex Marriage Case; ALS Awareness Advocate

12-1pm

Break for Lunch

2:00-2:30pm

Year of the Trans Candidate

Sarah McBride, National Press Secretary, HRC

2:30-3pm

Labor & Economic Security for the LGBTQ Community

Jeff Krehely, EVP, Roosevelt Institute

4:00-4:30pm

At the Intersections: Resisting Racism In Our Community

Aneesah Smith, Social Justice Educator, Aneesah Diversity Consulting Services

4:30-5 pm

Kye Allums

First Openly Transgender NCAA Division I College Athlete

6-7pm

Break for Dinner

8-9pm

Frank Bruni

First Openly Gay Op-Ed Columnist at The New York Times; Bestselling Author

A portrait of Jim Obergefell, a man with glasses and a suit, smiling. The image is partially obscured by a red and yellow graphic overlay on the left side of the page.

JIM OBERGEFELL

Lead Plaintiff in the US Supreme Court Same-Sex

Marriage Case; ALS Awareness Advocate

Seeking state recognition for his marriage, Jim Obergefell became the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that would legalize same-sex marriage across the United States.

Obergefell and Arthur met twice at a Cincinnati bar, but felt no sparks until they connected for a third time at a friend's party. They soon fell deeply in love and built a life together in Cincinnati. They lived and worked together as consultants, followed a passion for collecting art and surrounded themselves with an extensive network of friends and family. In 2011, Arthur began to have severe issues with mobility, and he was eventually diagnosed with the motor neuron disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), aka Lou Gehrig's disease. With the condition eventually taking away Arthur's ability to move, Obergefell stood by his side and served as his partner's primary caretaker. With Arthur's aunt Paulette Roberts officiating their ceremony, Obergefell and Arthur got married on the tarmac of Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport on July 11, 2013.

Not seeing himself as a traditional activist, an emotional Obergefell spoke of his love for his husband after the ruling and received calls of congratulations from President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden. That weekend, Obergefell took part in pride celebrations in his home city and San Francisco, and has continued to be embraced by a wave of people as an iconic hero.



CHRIS MOSIER

First Transgender Man to Make Team USA,

Transgender Advocate, Triathlete, and Speaker

Chris Mosier is an athlete, coach, and educator, and the founder of TransAthlete.com. In 2015, he became the first openly trans man to make a Men's US National Team. He is a consultant for various sports leagues, reviewing policies and procedures to help make them more trans* inclusive. He also creates bias response protocols for reporting of bias related incidents within sports leagues.

Chris is a nationally recognized three-time Ironman triathlete and coach. He qualified for the USA Triathlon National Championships in 2014. He has been featured in publications including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and The Advocate as an out transgender athlete, and has written about his experiences for publications including The Advocate, the Pride Network, OutSports, and Compete Magazine. He has spoken about LGBTQ inclusion in athletics and transgender topics at various companies and organizations, including ESPN & Disney, Deutsche Bank, NCAA, the LGBT Sports Summit, and more.

He won a silver medal in triathlon at the 2014 Gay Games. In 2014, Chris was inducted into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame. He was also named to The Advocate Magazine's 40 Under 40 and the Trans 100 list, and was named 2014's Best Personal Trainer in the Northeast by Competitor Magazine.



JAY MANUEL

Former Judge on “America’s Next Top Model”,

Host of Canada’s “America’s Next Top Model”

Jay has spent more than a decade in the world of high fashion and beauty, both in front of and behind the cameras. For 18 seasons, Jay was seen as Creative Director/Judge on the reality series “America’s Next Top Model” on The CW Network.

With an eye for creating stunning conceptual direction, Jay served as the host of The Style Network’s makeover series, “Style Her Famous,” Fashion Expert for E! Networks and its Red Carpet Team, host of Style Rocks the Red Carpet for New York Fashion Week and Host/Executive Producer of Canada’s Next Top Model.

He has appeared on “The Wendy Williams Show,” “106 and Park,” CBS “The Early Show,” “Access Hollywood Live” and “Chelsea Lately” among others.

A fashion and beauty expert who began his career as a makeup artist, his artistry and expertise has been seen on the covers of the world’s most celebrated fashion magazines and on the runways of the industry’s top designers. Having built a career on calculated risk-taking and an exquisite eye for what the public wants next, his counsel and talent is sought by celebrities, photographers and advertising executives the world over. He has worked with the world’s most celebrated photographers, and has created “the look” for a long list of stars and models.



RANDY FENOLI

Fashion Designer and Bridal Consultant;

Star of TLC's "Say Yes To The Dress"

Born on a cattle farm in Southern Illinois, Randy is the youngest of seven children. Driven by his fascination for design, Randy taught himself how to sew at the early age of 9. Randy's passion for fashion and design lead him to the prestigious Fashion Institute of Technology. While at FIT, Randy won a number of awards for design and achievement. Immediately after graduating, Randy launched two bridal industry collections: Randy Fenoli for the Diamond Collection and Randy Fenoli for Dressy Creations. Randy is the recipient of two DEBI awards (Design Excellence in the Bridal Industry), the most prestigious award for bridal designers. From 2007-2012 Randy worked as Fashion Director at New York's Kleinfeld Bridal Salon where he would consult with nearly 15,000 brides a year.

Randy has appeared as a guest on many television shows, including, The Today Show, The View, Rachel Ray, Extra, Get Married, and The Martha Stewart Show. He has also co-hosted on Toronto's number one rated talk show The Marilyn Denis Show and served as main correspondent during TLC's Royal Wedding live broadcast and event from Times Square. Stepping outside of the bridal arena, Randy served as a fashion commentator for The Associated Press on the red carpet of the 2010 Academy Awards.

As a writer and contributor, Randy is often featured and quoted in many publications such as People, Parade, and In Touch magazines and in nearly all of the bridal magazines, including, Brides, The Bridal Guide, Bride and Bloom, Southern Weddings, Destination Weddings and Honeymoons, and New Jersey Bride and Florida Bride magazines.



GEORGE TAKEI

Actor in “Star Trek;” LGBT and

Japanese-American Civil Rights Activist

Born in Los Angeles, California, George Takei overcame the racial barriers of his time to launch a successful acting career. He starred as Lieutenant Hikaru Sulu during the three-year television run of “Star Trek,” and later reprised the role for six movies. Prominently involved with gay rights and Japanese-American groups, Takei has become a highly popular social-media presence.

In 1966, Takei became one of the few Asian Americans to be featured prominently on TV when he starred as Lieutenant Hikaru Sulu on the science-fiction series “Star Trek.” He returned after taking time off during the second season to film “The Green Berets” (1968), but his role as Sulu was temporarily shelved when Star Trek was canceled in 1969.

Takei has remained a busy man away from show business. After narrowly losing his bid for a seat on the Los Angeles City Council in 1973, he joined the board of directors for the Southern California Transit District from 1973 to 1984.

Takei served on the board of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission for President Bill Clinton, and was conferred with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan in 2004. He is also chairman emeritus of the Japanese American National Museum’s board of trustees and serves as chair of the council of governors of East West Players, a renowned Asian-American theater organization.



JASON COLLINS

First Openly Gay Player In Major League Sports,

NBA Player & Equality Advocate

Jason Collins is an American professional basketball player of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Collins attended Stanford University, where he was an All-American in the 2000-2001 season. He was also named to the All Pac-10 First Team and awarded the NABC Pete Newell “Big Man of the Year” Award. He finished his college career ranked first in Stanford history for field goal percentage and third in blocked shots. Upon graduating with a B.A. from Stanford, Collins was selected in the first round of the 2001 NBA Draft with the 18th overall pick.

Doc Rivers, who coached Collins during his time with the Boston Celtics, said of Collins: “He’s the best. He literally is one of the best guys I’ve ever had in the locker room, player or coach.” In his 13 years in the league, Collins’ teams earned 10 trips to the playoffs including 2 NBA Finals appearances.

After the 2012-13 NBA season concluded, Collins publicly came out as gay in a cover story for Sports Illustrated, becoming the first male active player in any of the four major American professional sports to announce that he is gay. President Obama expressed his gratitude to Collins for his courageous announcement and said he “couldn’t be prouder” of Collins, recognizing this as a point of progress for the LGBT community, and one more step in America’s goal to treat everyone fairly and with respect.



NATE BERKUS

Designer TV Host

In 2002 Nate was invited to make over a small space for The Oprah Winfrey Show, after which he became a featured design expert for the show and continued to garner national press in publications such as Elle Decor, House Beautiful, US Weekly, People, O Magazine, Lucky, and InStyle.

Following the debut of his branded line of home products, Nate's first book, Home Rules (Hyperion) was released in 2005 and went on to become a New York Times Bestseller. The Nate Berkus Show, a daily syndicated first run talk show hosted by Nate, launched in September 2010 and returned for a second season in the fall of 2011. In 2011, Nate also enjoyed a new role as executive producer on the Disney and DreamWorks film, The Help.

Nate's Chicago-based design firm, Nate Berkus Associates, which he founded in 1995, continues to design interiors across the country and around the world. In Fall 2012, Nate brought his branded line of home goods and office products to Target stores nationwide. In addition, he published his second book, The Things That Matter (Spiegel & Grau). His fabric collection sold at Calico Corners launched in January 2013 and is also available through Fabricut.

In January 2014, Nate began a partnership with LG as the creative consultant for LG Studio, the brand's premium line of kitchen appliances. He will also be coming back to TV in Spring 2014 as host, judge and executive producer on a new primetime design competition show titled American Dream Builders on NBC.

A portrait of Frank Bruni, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a dark tie. The portrait is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow and red filter. The background behind the portrait is a solid red color.

FRANK BRUNI

First Openly Gay Op-Ed Columnist at

The New York Times; Bestselling Author

Frank Bruni is the author of three bestselling books and an op-ed columnist for the New York Times. Prior, he worked as the newspaper's chief restaurant critic, Rome bureau chief and White House correspondent.

Bruni graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986 with a B.A. in English. He was a Morehead Scholar and wrote for the student paper, The Daily Tar Heel. Bruni graduated second in his class with a master of science degree in journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where he also won a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship.

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be was published by Grand Central Publishing, an imprint of the Hachette Book Group, in March 2015 and was reissued in an expanded, updated paperback a year later. In a review of it in The Washington Post, Wesleyan University President Michael Roth called it "a humane, measured book" with "lessons for a very wide audience indeed." Grand Central is set to publish Bruni's first cookbook, written with his Times colleague Jennifer Steinhauer, in February 2017. Titled A Meatloaf in Every Oven: Two Chatty Cooks, One Iconic Dish and Dozens of Recipes from Mom's to Mario Batali's it includes recipes from such prominent chefs as Bobby Flay and April Bloomfield, in addition to Mario Batali.

In 2016, the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association gave him its Randy Shilts Award for his career-long contribution to LGBT Americans. He was previously awarded the GLAAD Media Award for Outstanding Newspaper Columnist in 2012 and 2013.

POLITICS OF DISSENT

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, Director of External Relations

Many Americans are fired up and determined to protest social injustices and inequality. From taking a knee during the national anthem to blocking the progress of a Pride parade, protesters are finding new ways to breakthrough and raise visibility. Elected officials are also trying to figure out effective ways to navigate these tough political issues and many times they must be strategic, nuanced, and have the political acumen to handle them with poise. Join an engaging discussion on protest strategies and tactics.

FAITHFUL, QUEER, AND NOT FROM AROUND HERE

Angelica Terepka, Psychologist, New York Presbyterian Hospital

What's a therapist to do when a client identifies as both religious, culturally and as a sexual minority, and finds these identities to be in conflict? This workshop focuses on utilizing values and acceptance and commitment therapy to help LGBT youth navigating the complex terrain of integrating religious, cultural, and sexual identities. An activity designed for clinical use with individuals seeking to explore values related to cultural, sexual, and religious identities will be presented.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

John Paul Brammer, Associate Producer, NBC OUT

The attack on Pulse nightclub in Orlando made gun violence prevention a priority issue for many LGBTQ elected officials – yet legislative progress remains largely elusive. Even after the Las Vegas massacre surpassed Pulse as the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history, action remains almost non-existent. Join a conversation about how LGBTQ elected officials can lead on this issue – and where there are opportunities for vast amounts of progress in modern day society.

HEALTHCARE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Daniel Penchina, President, Voices for Progress

Tens of millions of Americans depend on the Affordable Care Act, and they are disproportionately LGBTQ people, seniors, people of color and low-income Americans. Healthcare access for people living with HIV and trans people seeking medical care has improved drastically under the law – yet it remains under threat. This session will evaluate the benefits of the Affordable Care Act for LGBTQ Americans, as well as other health-related policy issues affecting the community.

LABOR AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

Jeff Krehely, EVP, Roosevelt Institute

Employment discrimination toward gay, lesbian and bisexual people remains legal in 20 states, and in 22 states for transgender people. LGBTQ people report high rates of discrimination in the workplace, yet unions and other labor groups are often on the forefront of combatting such treatment. Hear from social justice allies working to change workplace policies and non-discrimination legislation. Learn and educate yourself on more ways that you can work towards a better future.

THE SHIFTING TRENDS OF AMERICA

Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, President and CEO, Victory Fund & Institute

For years we were promised that demographic realities would bring a new era of inclusive policies and progressive government – yet here we are. As America becomes more diverse, why have our politics failed to embrace those communities whose numbers are on the rise? Hear from elected officials and advocates from various communities about their thoughts on what comes next – and the need to achieve more equitable representation in the government in society today.

ENDING *THE* EPIDEMIC: HIV/AIDS IN AMERICA

Danielle Houston, Community Liaison DC/MD/VA, Gilead Sciences

States across the country have continued to move the conversation forward and maintain the strides made by the previous administration around “Ending the Epidemic.” Join the conversation led by experts in the LGBTQ health community focused on what key steps can be taken to decrease the major spread of HIV/AIDS in the country. Some notable states such as AZ, OR, WA, TX, GA, and PA have taken key positions aimed at reducing the rate of HIV/AIDS infection throughout the whole population.

ADDRESSING *THE* NEEDS OF LGBTQ SENIORS

Nii-Quartelai Quartey, Sr. Advisor & National LGBT Liaison, AARP

LGBTQ seniors are frequently the victims of discrimination and harassment – and often must reenter the closet in private living facilities or nursing homes. Yet government and the private sector are paying increased attention to the needs of LGBTQ seniors – bringing to light many of the challenges they face. In this session learn about key issues facing LGBTQ seniors and the solutions for protecting our aging LGBTQ community. Learn how you can help LGBT seniors in your community.

YEAR *OF THE* TRANS CANDIDATE

Sarah McBride, National Press Secretary, HRC

The attack on Pulse nightclub in Orlando made gun violence prevention a priority issue for many LGBTQ elected officials – yet legislative progress remains largely elusive. Even after the Las Vegas massacre surpassed Pulse as the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history, action remains almost non-existent. Join a conversation about how LGBTQ elected officials can lead on this issue – and where there are opportunities for vast amounts of progress in society today.

LABOR & ECONOMIC SECURITY

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AT *THE* INTERSECTIONS: RESISTING RACISM

Aneesah Smith, Social Justice Educator

LGBT students of color face multiple forms of oppression in their lives and may feel isolated and/or invisible at school. Challenging all forms of oppression and empowering students and staff begins with recognizing existing issues of bias and facilitating open dialogue about how these biases affect others. In this workshop participants will gain a more in depth understanding of how to serve youth using an intersectional lens. Providing tools to help discuss issues of prejudice, discrimination, and oppression.



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