



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Councilwoman Mary Zendejas Announces the 2024 Inductees  
for the Harvey Milk Promenade Park Equality Plaza**

Long Beach, CA – Downtown Councilwoman Mary Zendejas and the Harvey Milk Promenade Equality Plaza Selection Committee invites the public to celebrate the inductions of this year’s 2024 honorees on Saturday, May 11th, 2024, 11AM-12:30PM at the Harvey Milk Promenade Park in Downtown Long Beach (212 East Third Street).

“Harvey Milk Equality Plaza serves to honor and recognize the contributions of our LGBTQ+ leaders who represent the values of public service,” said First District Councilwoman Mary Zendejas. “Our 2024 honorees have exemplified the dedication to their communities that Harvey Milk embodied, positively impacting the lives of the LGBTQ+ community.”

Each recipient will be honored with a plaque at Equality Plaza, the centerpiece of the park that commemorates Milk and local LGBTQ+ leaders. The plaza includes a concrete replica of the soapbox on which Milk stood to inspire crowds when he spoke, and a 20-foot flagpole flying the gay pride flag. Harvey Milk Promenade Park opened nearly 10 years ago and is the first park in the nation to be named after Milk.

“The Harvey Milk Equality wall has become a landmark for the LGBTQ+ community of Long Beach,” said the Harvey Milk Park Equality Plaza Selection Committee. “The selection committee is thrilled to induct these local leaders who continue to inspire and create change in their own lives and our communities.”

Four local LGBTQ community leaders will be inducted into the Equality Plaza portion of the park which was created to recognize local LGBTQ leaders in the community who have advocated for equal rights, AIDS research, entertainment, historic preservation, homelessness and other important issues.

The 2024 honorees are:



- Ricky D. Dockery – With over 4 decades of advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community, he has worked endlessly in ensuring that our community and City is accepting to all. He has dedicated his time and energy in implementing advocacy strategies of LGBTQ+ rights and promoting inclusive comprehensive sexuality education, while also serving on various boards and commissions.
- Sayon Syprasoeuth- A refugee from Cambodia, he is a strong advocate for equality and justice for the LGBTQ+ community. Specifically, he has advocated for issues impacting the community such as racial equity, reproductive justice, and mentoring youth with gender identity.
- Gina Smith: Gina Smith has devoted her time and energy to her beloved Long Beach LGBTQ community for decades. A recipient of multiple honors for public service, Gina was a Foundation Member of St Mary’s Hospital and has dedicated her service to advocate for the needs of HIV affected patients. She has served and influenced so many individuals in our local community and the City of Long Beach.
- Queen Linda Hollins: Queen Hollins is an elder queer Black Indigenous healer and the Founder and Director of the Earthlodge Center for Transformation. She has truly amplified power through centering her work towards different types of abusive preemption that target LGBTQ+ individuals.

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