

CULTURE

RAFFLE

PRIZES



ENTERTAINMENT



Stanislaus Chinese Association

invites you to our **50th**
anniversary and Year of
the Tiger celebration.

Sat., Sept. 3, 2022 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Graceada Park, Mancini Bowl

401 Needham St. in Modesto

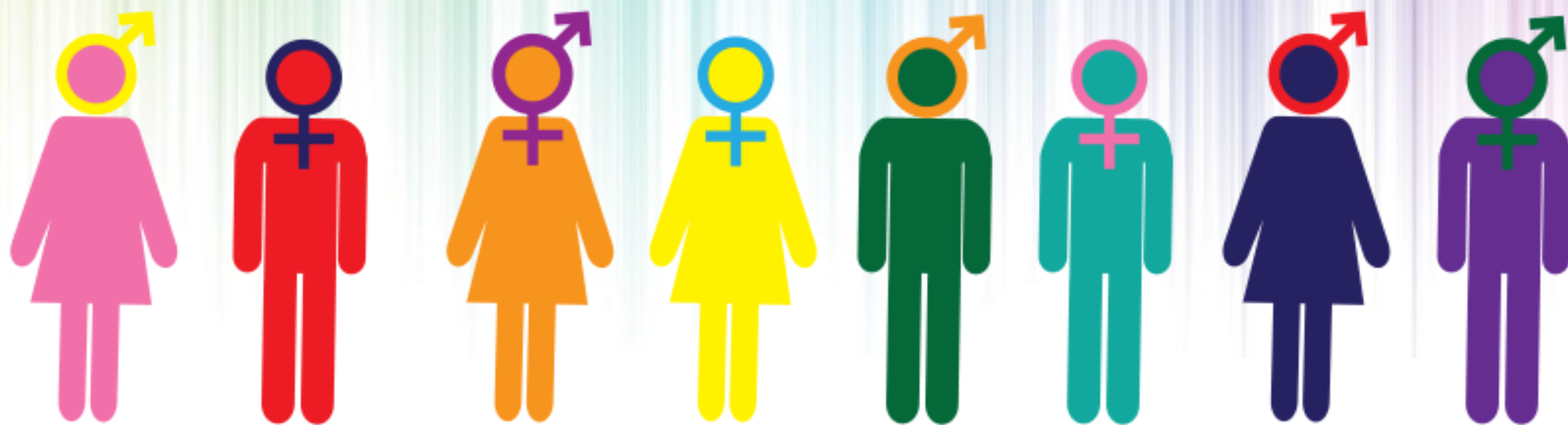
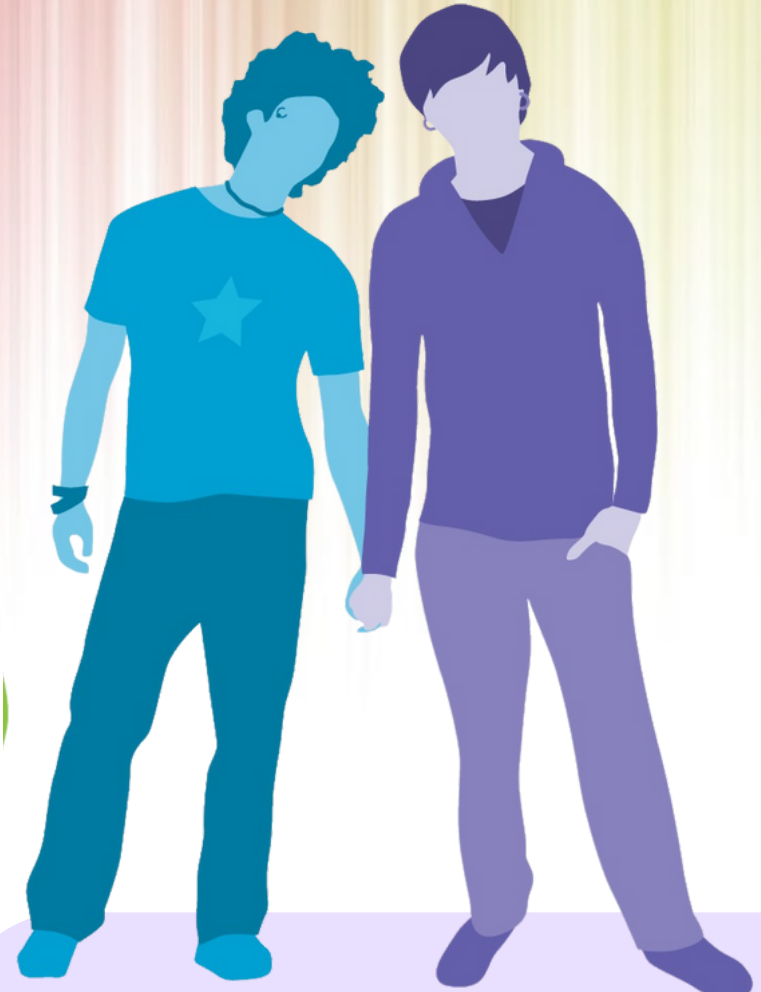
(3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Free Chinese Yoyo Class)

For more information:

(209) 651-0388

stanchineseassn@yahoo.com

2SLGBTQIA+ COLLABORATIVE



The Central California 2SLGBTQIA+ Collaborative is hosting a series of specialized groups for youth who identify as "queer." We provide a safe space that is non-judgemental, confidential, and hosted by peer support advocates with lived experience and specialized training.

1ST TUESDAY

LGBTQ+ AGES 12-14

Discussion and emotional support for Jr. High School age youths struggling with gender identity, orientation and life in general.



1ST, 2ND & 3RD TUESDAY
5:00 - 7:00 PM

2ND TUESDAY

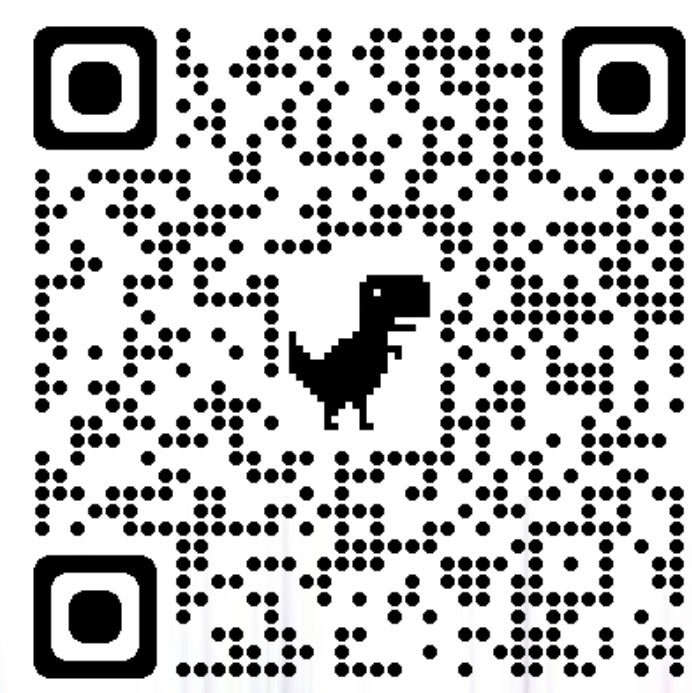
LGBTQ+ TEENS 15-17

A support group for late teens to meet with peers to discuss and encourage each other through struggles and serious topics of a queer teen.

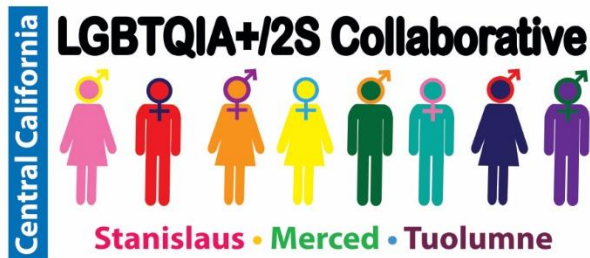
3RD TUESDAY

Friends & Family

Do you have a child or family member who is currently struggling with their identity, orientation, and the problems that come with it? This group is specifically for those close to LGBTQ+ persons.



1202 H STREET, SUITE D, MODESTO, CA
BIGRAINBOWFLAG.ORG



Tips and Strategies for Assessing Youth Programs and Agencies

To ensure a safe environment for LGBTQ youth, the first step is to assess the internal climate of your organization. Assessment will show whether the organization offers a safe space for all participants and especially for LGBTQ youth.

Do not evade any of the questions by asserting that there are no LGBTQ youth in your program. Answer all questions and assume that at least six to 10 percent of the youth in your program are LGBTQ.

If you can honestly answer yes to all the questions below, your agency is a welcoming and safe space for LGBTQ and straight youth. Congratulations! Any “no” answers indicate areas for improvement. Four or more “no” answers indicate a serious need for your organization to commit to serving all the young people in its programs and for staff and board to take steps to ensure that the agency’s mission, vision, planning, and operations create and maintain a safe space for LGBTQ youth.

For assistance in taking steps to assure safe space, please feel free to contact the Advocacy Director at the Collaborative; kzambrano@lgbtqcollaborative.org

1. Do the LGBTQ youth, staff, and volunteers in your organization or program know that you care about them—individually and as whole people?
2. Have you created a safe space where all youth can openly ask questions about and discuss issues like sexual health, body image, relationships, and gender?
3. Do you know the interests, abilities, hobbies, and skills of each young person in your program?
4. Do you offer any information about local LGBTQ communities and resources? Do you refer youth to these resources?
5. If you offer information about safer sex, HIV prevention, and/or pregnancy prevention, is it also LGBTQ friendly? Is the information appropriate for all the program’s youth? Is it culturally appropriate? How do you know?
6. Do you ask youth to fill out evaluation forms that measure the quality of your services—qualities such as youth friendliness, cultural appropriateness, and safety?
7. Do you employ youth as staff? Do any of these youth self-identify as LGBTQ?
8. Is staff of similar background and culture(s) to the youth served by the program? Does any staff self-identify as LGBTQ?

9. Do you involve youth in planning and evaluating the program? Do you involve LGBTQ youth?

10. Have you intentionally created a youth-friendly space? Is it friendly as well to LGBTQ youth? How do you know?

11. Does your program or organization have a broad commitment to social justice? Does this commitment include the human rights of LGBTQ people?

12. Do you initiate questions with youth in the program about racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of cultural oppression? Do you ask the youth to generate ways to solve, limit, or minimize the problems caused by cultural oppression?

LGBTQIA+/2S Collaborative

Stanislaus • Merced • Tuolumne

Tips and Strategies for Creating Inclusive Programs

Whether or not you know of any LGBTQ youth in your program, it is essential to create a safe space for young people who are, who believe that they might be, or who have friends or family members who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or

questioning. The organization's responsibility is to all the youth in the program. Even if some youth serving professionals feel uncomfortable about sexual orientation and gender identity, you owe it to the young people you serve to educate yourself and to help connect youth to the organizations, role models, and resources they need. Creating programs that are inclusive of and sensitive to LGBTQ youth is not difficult, but it does require conscientious attention.

The following suggestions will help.

- ❖ Assess your own values and beliefs regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. Taking stock will help you to address your own internal biases, recognize your personal limits, identify areas for personal growth, and enable you to serve all youth, including LGBTQ youth, in an open, honest, respectful manner.
- ❖ Make it clear that homophobic sentiments and actions have no place in the program. Develop a 'zero tolerance' policy regarding discriminatory words and behavior directed at LGBTQ youth, just as you would toward racist or sexist remarks. Post the policy in public areas and develop clear guidelines for disciplinary actions. When training youth or staff to lead or facilitate workshops, include opportunities to practice responding to unacceptable language and behaviors. At the same time, work proactively to address stereotypes and misperceptions that may exist among the youth in your program.
- ❖ Consider posting a LGBTQ symbol that shows you are an inclusive agency or provider, and all are welcome.
- ❖ Use inclusive language. Discuss 'partners' instead of always assuming a youth's prospective date or partner is of the opposite sex. If you are doing role-plays, use ambiguous names, such as Chris, Taylor, or Lee. This will allow LGBTQ youth to personalize the context to their lives rather than to reject the role-play scenario as being irrelevant.
- ❖ Schedule training sessions to debunk myths and stereotypes. Explain the differences between sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and gender identity and expression. Include information about sexual orientation and gender identity throughout a training or program. This will help to dispel myths about LGBTQ people.

- ❖ Provide peer support. Young people benefit by developing their leadership, communication, and other pro-social skills and by seeing role models with whom they can identify. Ensure that peer leaders include youth who identify as LGBTQ.
- ❖ Ask LGBTQ youth and adults to participate in panel discussions or as speakers to share some of their experiences. This will create a safe space and opportunity for youth to talk openly about homophobia, racism, sexism, and other forms of oppression.
- ❖ Build youth-adult partnerships into the program. Make sure that youth leaders include some who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. Programs are more effective and sustainable when youth are partners in the programs' design, development, operations, and evaluation.
- ❖ Consider working with students to begin gay/straight alliances in area schools if such alliances do not already exist.
- ❖ Hire adults who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender and who reflect the racial/ethnic make-up of the community being served to work in the program as full- or part-time staff or volunteers.
- ❖ Include local groups that serve LGBTQ people in referral and resource lists. Make sure your referral and resource lists are easily available to all program youth.
- ❖ Know when and where to seek help. Be aware of appropriate referral agencies for crisis intervention, mental and physical health services, etc. Be aware of your personal and organizational limits and accept that your organization may not always be the best one to assist a young person in some situations.
- ❖ Incorporate comprehensive sex education in a sex positive lens – sex is healthy and normal but can be practiced safely. If you offer sex education or address issues such as HIV or teen pregnancy, then your program should include information about both contraception and abstinence. When discussing abstinence, do not talk about 'abstinence-until-marriage.' Like heterosexual youth, LGBTQ youth search for intimacy and emotional closeness and may long for a committed relationship. In a society where same-gender marriages and same-gender committed relationships are ignored or frowned upon, the concept of 'abstinence only-until-marriage' completely ignores the needs of LGBTQ youth.



QUESTIONS AROUND LGBTQ INCLUSION

How would you describe your experience treating clients who are Queer?

What training/evidence-based treatment do you/your practice have for issues that may arise related to Queer health and wellness?

What is your position on so-called “conversion therapy” — attempts to change a client’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression?

What kind of resources/training do you/your practice have available to remain up-to-date with Queer issues so that the client can avoid having to educate the provider as much as possible?

How would you describe your experience using gender-neutral pronouns?

How would you describe your knowledge of safety risks and considerations related to clients identifying as Queer?

What training/evidence-based treatment do you/your practice have for trauma from rejection around Queer identity?

What is your/your practice’s position on the mental health impact of navigating anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination?

How would you describe your knowledge of stereotypes and/or common misconceptions of a person’s Queer identity — things that you might say in a session that could result in trauma/microaggression?