

LGBTQ Power Players: Arthur Fitting LGBTQ+ Program Manager, VNS Health

LGBTQ+ Power Players

June 29, 2022

As June comes to an end, we take this opportunity to honor New York’s LGBTQ+ Power Players — leaders in government and policymaking, education, healthcare, corporate industry, and social and civic advocacy. These incredible individuals set a high bar for professional excellence, but they also demonstrate a deep commitment to their communities, encouraging local political engagement and cultivating networks of safe spaces and resources for those in need. Perhaps most importantly, they remind us that true support and solidarity must be practiced and reaffirmed every day, every month, all year long.

Arthur Fitting, LGBTQ+ Program Manager, VNS Health



Arthur Fitting (he/him) was working in home health as a nurse in New York when he found himself on the frontlines of the AIDS crisis, and decided he was going to use his health care experience to support others. Fitting realized there was a desperate need for informed care in the LGBTQ community, leading to his role today as the [VNS Health](#) LGBTQ+ program manager. Fitting's VNS Health team is dedicated to working with community-based organizations to identify gaps in care and develop better community access to home health.

What is your favorite Pride Month event or celebration?

It's always great seeing the community at large and meeting so many old and new friends who are there making a statement together. I feel, when I march, I am representing my friends and loved ones who passed during the AIDS pandemic and are no longer with us.

What LGBTQ+ icons or activists have inspired you?

Peter Ungvarski, clinical director of AIDS Service and director quality assurance and regulatory compliance at VNS Health during the AIDS crisis. He led collaborations on developing and integrating nursing care models to educate the staff and meet the needs of the AIDS community as the pandemic was unfolding before our eyes. In addition, I am inspired by the dedicated groups at ACT UP and GMHC who fought with their lives and answered the call to action for recognition of an entire population and were not afraid to report the lack of humanity, and dearth of healthcare for the community.

What can people and corporations do to support the LGBTQ+ community year-round, not just during Pride Month?

I believe much of the work needed involves inclusion, collaboration, and education. We need collaboration to be sure we are creating the building blocks of true resilience for all in the community. Resilience does not happen by itself or separate from the resources to sustain a community. To have healthy neighborhoods, communities, and cities we need to have healthy people. The first step is to understand cultural humility and recognize no matter how good the intention is, we first must ask the people we want to help and support, "What do you need help with?"

How can businesses create more inclusive environments for their employees and patrons?

The actions senior leadership have taken at VNS Health have been positive. One thing we did was create an LGBTQ+ employee resource group called Out@VNSHEALTH, providing a safe space where LGBTQ+ employees and allies talk freely about ensuring cultural integration across the company. Separately, the term "LGBTQ+" is used often, however within the community itself we still need to learn much more from each of the different groups each of those letters and symbols represent.

amNewYork METRO is a daily commuter newspaper serving New York, the result of a 2020 merger between amNewYork and Metro New York, reaching an audience of 684,287. The paper covers all things New York City, including news, commuting, entertainment, events and dining

Gay City News is America's largest circulation LGBTQ newspaper and the only such newspaper serving New York City. Founded as LGNY in 1994, Gay City News provides authoritative, comprehensive, and up-to-the minute coverage of local, national, and international news, politics, and health issues of interest to the LGBT community. The website received 14,640 unique visitors per month.

PoliticsNY is New York's leading news source on local politics, government, policy and the courts. We are one of the most influential voices of its kind reaching elected officials, those in the halls of government and the general public passionate about politics. PoliticsNY also is published in print throughout New York City in amNY Metro and other leading community news outlets. PoliticsNY's website reaches 59,6000 unique visitors.