

Fil-Am among Cuomo's 2019 WorldPride Ambassadors

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Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo with Chelle Lhuillier.

New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced the winners of the WorldPride 2019

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Ambassadors competition.

Filipino-American Chelle Lhuillier is among those selected to highlight the diversity of New York's LGBTQ community, who will participate in WorldPride and Stonewall 50 celebrations to promote the LGBTQ rights movement, including participating in the Pride March.

"I am humbled but so honored to be named as one of the 2019 WorldPride Ambassadors, the only Asian and Filipino finalists of this Statewide Competition and Social Media Campaign," posted Chelle.

"Thank you so much to all my friends who have extended their congratulations. Thank you to our beloved New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo for championing the Rights of the LGBTQ community and bringing us equality. WorldPride is about celebrating equality and being free from inequities."

This year's WorldPride — the largest international LGBTQ Pride celebration — marks the first time it has been held in the United States.

On June 1, Cuomo announced the grand opening of the New York State WorldPride Welcome Center, located in New York's West Village, just steps from the Stonewall National Monument.

On June 5, Cuomo announced the grand opening of the LGBTQ Pride Month exhibit at the Capitol.

"Pride month is a time to celebrate diversity and acceptance and the progress we've made in the fight for full equality, and there is no better place to host the United States' first WorldPride celebration than in New York," Cuomo said.

"Congratulations to our WorldPride Ambassadors who are leading the way for LGBTQ rights and showing others around the world what makes New York State so special."

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From Buffalo to the Adirondacks to Queens, the WorldPride Ambassadors demonstrate that LGBTQ communities are everywhere in New York State.

Joining Chelle, other WorldPride Ambassadors are Judith Kasen-Windsor (widow of Edie Windsor), Angelique Piwinski, Ari Moore, Audrey De Jesus, Cecilia Gentili, Drew Schiff, Kelly Metzgar, Mohamed Q. Amin, Taylor and Trenor Wilkins.

The WorldPride Ambassador competition is part of New York State's overall promotion of WorldPride 2019 and Stonewall 50.

In June 1969, LGBTQ community members held spontaneous demonstrations at the Stonewall Inn in New York, considered by many as the catalyst for the modern LGBTQ rights movement.

Throughout his time in office, Cuomo has been a national leader in championing LGBTQ rights.

In 2011, New York passed the historic Marriage Equality Act.

Earlier this year, Cuomo signed into law the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) and legislation banning the deplorable practice of conversion therapy.

Furthering protections and equality for New York's LGBTQ community, the passage of GENDA prohibits employers, educational institutions, landlords, creditors and others from discriminating against individuals based on gender identity or expression and makes offenses committed on the basis of gender identity or expression hate crimes under New York State law.