

Aging YOUR Way

Louise Chernin facilitated an Aging Your Way gathering on June 7, 2011 for the LGBT community to generate ideas for a community that would support people as they age. The participants' visions and ideas fell into two categories:

1. LGBT-only services, programs and centers such as nursing homes, assisted living, group homes, in-home home services, hospitals, community centers, transportation, etc.
 2. LGBT-integrated services, programs and centers with training for the mainstream providers and workers so they can better serve the LGBT community
- Transportation
 - Housing
 - Built Environment
 - Sustainability/Local Economy
 - Bridging Generations and Cultures
 - Communication-Connection
 - Physical Activity
 - Life-long Learning
 - Bumping Places
 - Health Care
 - Arts and Entertainment
 - Legal/Certifications
 - Service Ideas
 - Attitudes/Awareness

The following visions and ideas were generated for each theme:

- Transportation
 - Rainbow Access Bus
 - Increased transportation types
 - Transportation for all reasons – not only medical
 - Increased bus service
 - Senior-friendly and disability-friendly ride-share and all transpo services
- Housing
 - LGBT senior housing options
 - Puget Ridge co-housing concept
 - SHAG division called "FAG"
 - Affordable housing
 - Assistance for "borderline" eligibility for services
 - Home Sharing and co-housing
 - Micro neighborhood housing

- LGBT-only housing
- LGBT-integrated housing
- Gated communities
- Different kinds of home ownership

- Built Environment
 - Bicycle-friendly community
 - Mixed use building
 - Walkability – more and better sidewalks and walking paths.
 - Safe/well-lit neighborhoods

- Sustainability/Local Economy
 - LGBT clearing house for home and chore services
 - P-Patches

- Bridging Generations and Cultures
 - Multi-cultural, intergenerational block parties
 - Intergenerational services, events, groups
 - Integrated with hetero community

- Communication-Connection
 - Building community
 - Needs/skills bank (chore assistance, help with wills/legal, workshops, Five Wishes)
 - Balanced media around programs, services, events with all kinds of LGBT faces
 - Build an LGBT senior guide showing LGBT-friendly providers, locations, programs.
 - Gaytabase – to connect the community for advertising, outreach, networking, volunteer opportunities, ride-sharing, connections around any need/topic
 - More social connections; avoid social isolation
 - LGBT virtual village like NEST
 - Bring youth and elders together in social events
 - Define “family” as we wish
 - Community Resource Board
 - LGBT “city” council
 - Integrated social support networks
 - Creative connection opportunities
 - Capture LGBT history in Seattle and make available in new community museums and existing archives
 - Increase community news: print, radio, TV, online
 - Neighborhood Face books

- Physical Activity
 - Access to gyms

- Life-Long Learning
 - Access to varied options

- Bumping Places
 - LGBT Senior Centers with Rainbow Bingo
 - LGBT Community Centers

- Health Care
 - Trans Competent Memory Care Programs
 - Medical professionals trained in LGBT health and psych issues
 - LGBTQ – friendly medical and care along the continuum
 - Community Centers with health care/clinics in them
 - Urgent care and clinic care in neighborhoods

- Arts and Entertainment
 - Dining
 - Entertainment
 - Gardening
 - Discos
 - 40+ lesbian piano bar “Hot Flash”

- Legal/Certifications
 - Need Domestic Partnerships, marriages and civil unions recognized and legalized so seniors are better cared for and served
 - Certification program for service providers so they can better serve LGBT community
 - Housing and inheritance laws
 - Getting Social Security from partners

- Services/considerations
 - LGBT meals on wheels
 - LGBT pet care
 - LGBT Advocacy services
 - Affordable or sliding scale for all services
 - Service-dense communities with mixed-use and walkability
 - Financial planning and consulting
 - Financial Assistance for insurance and health care costs
 - Culturally competent and LGBT-friendly hospice and end of life care
 - Bring back Rainbow Train
 - Workshops on Death & Dying

- Attitudes
 - Lesbian acceptance of trans men
 - Mainstream acceptance of LGBT issues
 - Relationships within the community = feeling safe and appreciated

Divided into Three Categories from LGBTQ Elder Summit in Fall 2010

1. Organizing and Outreach

- Transportation
- Ask outlaws @UW Law School to conduct trainings on wills, POA, etc.
- Ask Sr. Services or SAGE-type groups to conduct “5 wishes” workshops
- Ask Sr. Services to take lead in development system to support LGBT visitation in hospitals & residential settings
- Ask Sr. Services to take lead on legal, training, investment options
- Initiate dialogue between UW Men’s group and Mature Friends group
- Financial Planning and Consulting
- OLOC (older Lesbians organizing....)
- Gaytabase
- Social connection opportunities
- LGBT-friendly, fun, exercise classes or groups for older adults – yoga, hiking, walking, enhance fitness, Zumba, etc.
- Gay Community Centers (physical buildings)
- Physical and social activities
- Gay History Museum and archives
- Linking existing programs and groups
- Mature Friends organization in Ballard
- Increase volunteer opportunities
- SEAMEC – candidate ratings for LGBT affinity, etc.
- Awareness Education & Competency Training Statewide: Media training (radio/TV, community newspapers to represent diversity – not just thin white gay males), providers, legal and financial professionals, represent balanced diversity, medical providers, current senior centers and community centers
- History catalogued and displayed in museums and archived

2. Housing

- Coop Housing opportunities
- Housing all inclusive, not exclusive
- Dining, entertainment to be LGBT friendly
- Intergenerational Communal living, garden court apartments
- Home Sharing
- Micro-neighborhood
- Affordability – more help for middle of the line folks

3. Service Providers

- Culturally Competent hospice and end of life care
- Connections to service providers
- Ask Senior Services to require that their service providers be LGBT friendly (transportation, minor home repair, meals on wheels, etc)