

Boston Dyke March Proposal for Funding

• Some organizations will not give us funding until we get a fiscal agent.

Organization Name:

Boston Dyke March

Contact Name and Address:

Kath Poehler



IRS 501c3 Status:

We do not hold a 501c3 as we are a community based, grass-roots group. We also do not have 501c3 non-profit fiscal agent as yet. We are trying to identify an organization whose mission closely resembles our own.

Amount Requested: \$500.00

Organization Budget: \$1200.00

Organization's Mission:

The Dyke March primarily exists to empower lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women. We accomplish this by increasing the visibility of all women who identify as LBT, drawing focus to the political climate of all LGBT people, and encouraging the celebration of women in all areas of leadership.

The Dyke March is led by a committee of women from a variety of communities who are committed to our mission.

Organizational History and Goals:

To date, there have been six annual Dyke Marches. Each of these has been a culmination of the efforts of a small, but dedicated group of women who have come together for the purpose of empowering all women in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community. Each March has been increasingly well attended, with a record group last year of 600 plus LBT women and their allies.

As a result of The March's continued success, the committee is actively seeking ways to further increase our visibility and impact on the LGBT community. One of the methods that has been identified is our intention to more fully utilize the resources in Boston for advertising and promotion of the event, both before and during the March itself.

We also see the importance of making the March as inclusive an experience as possible. We have, in the past, had ASL and Spanish language interpreters available, but have had to rely on students to provide these services. Our goal would be to offer these as well as additional services at a level of quality suited to our mission.

In terms of our ability to communicate with the attendants, we are hoping to be able to provide a suitable sound system. The Dyke March is held in a heavily populated and urban area. In order to communicate the central message of the March a public address system is necessary.

Each year, the Dyke March has focused on a different theme that is relevant and timely to the Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community. Our themes have ranged from women's health issues to encouraging grassroots collaboration. This year we have chosen "Celebrating Our Bodies". Our goal is to continue to have this very visible event focus on an important aspect of our lives and we hope to develop strategies to aid in our dissemination of information.

Sustaining this Project:

Until this time the Dyke March has happened every year for the past six years with funding coming from unsolicited donations only. We have started to develop a plan for more intensive fund-raising in years to come so that we can reach our present goals and aspire to others. These plans include identifying a non-profit fiscal agent, developing a network of funders, and being more intentional around individual giving.

Summary:

The Dyke March has become an important event during the traditional Pride Week activities. Each year women travel from all over New England to attend this event. It is one of only a handful of women-focused Pride events in the country. Last year 600 + lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women and their allies participated. This year we are anticipating an increase in the numbers Marching. Funding for this project is critical at this point to stabilize our efforts to empower women in the LGBT community.