



Austin LGBT Chamber welcomes 2024 Board Members



Courtesy of Austin LGBT Chamber

(AUSTIN, TX) – The Austin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Austin’s leading resource for the LGBTQ+ and allied business community, is pleased to announce the appointment of a new boardchair, new members of the board, and extend heartfelt thanks to the outgoing board members for their dedicated service.

The Chamber is proud to welcome Emilie Kopp (Director of Strategic Partnerships at Deem, Inc), Liz Arreaga (Partner of MAKE Entertainment Group & the Arreaga Agency), Eve Molnar (Communication Designer & Strategist at Seventh Scout), and ex officio Emily Alley (Senior Vice President of the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce.) With a wealth of experience in the Austin business community, they bring valuable insights and a commitment to the

Chamber. Their addition strengthens our leadership team, and we are confident that their contributions will play a pivotal role in driving the organization’s success.

Andrew Peters (Global Marketing for Silicon Labs) will serve as the 2024 Board Chair. Emilie Kopp will serve as Vice Chair and Tim Packard (Taylor Morrison) as Secretary for 2024.

“We are thrilled to welcome Emilie, Liz, Eve, and Emily to our board. Their diverse expertise and passion for the LGBTQ+ and allied business community will undoubtedly enhance our strategic vision and impact. We look forward to working together to achieve new milestones,” said Chamber President & CEO Tina Cannon.

Continuing their service on the board is Andrew Peters, Richard

W Stipe (Dell Technologies), Gary Schumann (Savrick, Schumann), Rich Segal (KXAN), Roger Trinh (Trinh Solutions), and Tim Packard.

The organization extends its sincere gratitude to outgoing board members, Deirdre Walsh (IGC Impact), Valerie Salinas-Davis (University of Texas at Austin), Lynn Yelldell (Seventh Scout), Joshua Kettler (RSM), & Becky Arreaga (MAKE Entertainment Group & the Arreaga Agency). Their unwavering dedication and contributions have been instrumental in the success of the Chamber. We thank them for their exceptional service.

As the Austin LGBT Chamber enters 2024, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advocating for, supporting, and uplifting LGBTQ+ and allied businesses in the Greater Austin area.

Former Austin and Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo will no longer take job at Austin City Hall

Story by Jonathan Limehouse | HOUSTON CHRONICLE

(AUSTIN, TX) - Former Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo announced Tuesday he will not take the interim assistant city manager position in Austin, a job the 59-year-old was offered only a week ago.

In a social media post on X, formerly known as Twitter, Acevedo said the newly created position “has become a distraction from the critical work” he and other leaders intended to do in Austin.

“Unfortunately, politics and power struggles have hindered our efforts to create real positive improvements for the people of this city,” Acevedo said in the post. “I firmly believe that if we are to build a future together, we cannot afford to blame others or point fingers.”

MORE ON ART ACEVEDO: Who is Art Acevedo? What to know about his jobs, controversies and why he’s return-



Art Acevedo

ing to Texas

Instead of accepting the position, Acevedo said he would “pursue other opportunities” and continue to voice his “support for the men and women of the Austin Police Department,” according to the post on X.

Acevedo’s announcement comes after controversies in his past, particularly during his time as Houston police chief from 2016 to 2020, became a point of contention for many Texans.

While Houston’s chief of police, Acevedo saw an increase in crime,

backlash from a botched drug bust that led to two homeowners’ deaths, turmoil between his administration and rank-and-file officers and a lack of support from police reform advocates.

A federal lawsuit was also filed against Acevedo and the city claiming that George Floyd protesters were wrongly arrested.

Before coming back to Texas in January, Acevedo served in police leadership roles in Miami and Colorado. He also led the Austin Police Department as its chief in 2007.

Pooja Sethi Breaks New Ground as First AAPI Chair of Travis County Democratic Party

Courtesy Cynthia Van Maanen | TRAVIS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

AUSTIN, TX – In a significant and unanimous decision, the Travis County Democratic Party (TCDP) is proud to announce Pooja Sethi as its new Chair, the first Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) to occupy this position. This unanimous appointment by over 100 precinct chairs highlights the Party’s unwavering commitment to diversity and inclusivity as the nation prepares for the presidential election.

Pooja Sethi, an attorney and public servant, brings her rich experience and personal passion to TCDP. “My vision is clear and urgent: we are ramping up our fundraising, building a diverse leadership bench, and intensifying our Get Out The Vote (GOTV) initiatives. In this critical election year, these goals are absolutely essential,” Pooja states.

Just a week into her term, Pooja has hit the ground running. Her efforts are focused on amplifying fundraising activities, pushing coordinated campaign efforts to ensure outreach to every Democratic voter



Pooja Sethi

in Travis County, and actively participating in community events and club meetings.

“As the first AAPI Chair of the TCDP, I am deeply honored. This role reflects our Party’s dedication to creating a political environment where every voice, especially those historically sidelined, is a driving force for change,” says Pooja.

Pooja Sethi’s unanimous election and swift actions since taking office signal a new era of proactive and inclusive leadership for the Party. The Travis County Democratic Party invites its members and the wider community to join Pooja in this transformative journey towards a more inclusive, representative, and vibrant democracy.

Austin Light Rail is Moving Forward

Austin is growing, and so is the need for more transit options. Implementation of Austin Light Rail has begun, including the effort to secure federal funds. ATP is advancing environmental studies to support the federal process. Please join us to provide input on station location and other design options.

VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON FEEDBACK EVENTS

In-person: Feb. 1, 10, 12, 27 and 29
Virtual: Feb. 22

LOCATIONS AND SIGN-UP DETAILS AT: [ATPTX.ORG/EVENTS](https://atptx.org/events)

For translation in other languages, contact us by email at input@atptx.org or phone at 512-389-7590.