

Contact:

Martavius Hampton

mhampton@outmemphis.org

OUTMemphis

892 South Cooper

Memphis, TN 38104

www.outmemphis.org



OUTMemphis announces new executive director

Memphis, TN, March 1, 2019:

After a seven-month search, OUTMemphis announces today that Molly Rose Quinn will join the center as its new Executive Director, effective immediately. Quinn will serve as the organization's second Executive Director, following the bittersweet departure of the center's first ED, Will Batts, who left Memphis with his family in July 2018 after over a decade of gracious and committed leadership. Jonathan M. Ealy, current Chairperson of the Board of Directors, has generously served as Interim Executive Director since Will's departure. Founded in 1989 and previously called the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, OUTMemphis provides a range of programs, including sexual health services; services for trans people, youth, and seniors; the annual OUTflix Film Festival; and will break ground later this spring on the city's first LGBTQ youth-specific emergency shelter.

To this end, we believe that Quinn's history of leadership and community commitment will support the legacy, mission, and vision of OUTMemphis. Quinn is a native of Memphis and graduate of Occidental College and Sarah Lawrence College. From 2010-2017, she worked for many arts, cultural, and social service institutions in New York City, including as Director of Public Programs for Housing Works Bookstore Cafe, a cultural venue and community center for Housing Works, Inc., the largest provider of wraparound services for New Yorkers experiences the dual crises of homelessness and HIV/AIDS. In 2017, Ms. Quinn headed back to Memphis in pursuit of contributing her learned skills to her hometown. In 2017-2018, she supported the founding of the Center for Southern Literary Arts and its inaugural Memphis Literary Arts Festival, which made a splash in June 2018. A lifelong writer and reader, Molly holds in MFA in Poetry, and also currently leads the Literary Network, the nation's only advocacy coalition for literature.

"I am thrilled and humbled to take on stewardship of OUTMemphis in its next era," said Quinn. "I come to OUTMemphis because I am passionate about making a tangible difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ Mid-Southerners, including those who are marginalized by race, socioeconomic status, health and wellness barriers, gender presentation, citizenship, ability, and other factors. I look forward to being a strong public advocate for OUTMemphis' mission and agenda and empowering our tireless community. In 2019, I believe the singular mandate of LGBTQ+ leaders is celebrating our community's advances while relentlessly addressing the

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needs of our underserved intersections. The founders of OUTMemphis and Will Batts' tenure saw the implementation of a sustainable harbor for our community to gather. Our next task will be the dogged pursuit of engaging our community in every aspect of civic life and rapidly expanding our network of affirmative allies."

When asked about Quinn's hiring, Jonathan Ealy stated "Molly brings a sense of excitement and energy to the Executive Director position. OUTMemphis is experiencing major growth and opportunities, and we look forward to supporting her and the staff as they continue to provide valuable and vital programs and services to Memphis and the Mid-South."

The appointment marks a new era for OUTMemphis, which celebrates its 30th year of operations this year with a rejuvenated sense of leading and serving OUTMemphis and our local LGBTQ+ community. Please join us in welcoming Molly to the OUTMemphis family.

For more information about OUTMemphis, please contact Martavius Hampton as the media contact representative

OUR MISSION: OUTMemphis empowers, connects, educates and advocates for the LGBTQ community of the Mid-South.

OUR VISION: LGBTQ individuals live in a world where everyone has equal rights, and is safe, respected and celebrated.

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