



The Chamber of Commerce for the  
LGBT Community and Allies

GG9 LEAD COMMUNITY PARTNER



GAY  
GAMES™  
2014

CLEVELAND•AKRON USA

## 2014 Gay Games Week in Review

*What an amazing week for Cleveland and Akron!*

During the planning of the Games, it was evident that we, as a community—both as the LGBT community and as the Northeast Ohio community—collaborated in new and profound ways. To see the successful execution of that effort transform our cities during the week was a true inspiration. And what's more, the welcoming vibe radiated from sport venues, special events, parties, performances, and festival village.

Plexus is honored to have served in the role of

Lead Community Partner to GG9, along with the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland. As an organization, we are eager and committed to continue that collaboration with the many partners who endorsed GG9's celebration of diversity and human rights. We continue to work toward economic equality, workplace inclusion and fairness, and supplier diversity in our region.

- Michelle Tomallo, Plexus Board President



*"The venues are quiet. Festival Village has reverted to a field of green. The participants have returned home. The volunteers have gone back to their real jobs. The Terminal Tower has lost its rainbow sheen.*

*Gay Games 9 is over. Its impact is not. Its memorable moments will continue to inspire those who were there and those who heard about it. Its inspiration will reverberate for years to come.*

*It's two Clevelanders who, together for 25 years, felt comfortable enough to hold hands in public for the first time during Games Week.*

*It's the delegation from Russia, whose government is openly hostile to the LGBT community, which received a standing ovation as it marched into Opening Ceremony.*

*It's the hundreds of businesses and individuals who gave millions to make the Games happen.*

*It's the hundreds of community partners who worked on behalf of the Gay Games.*

*It's each and every Northeast Ohioan who volunteered, participated, welcomed, greeted and cheered the athletes.*

*Gay Games week is over, but it is not the end. A brighter future lie in store for Northeast Ohio – a region now recognized as one that not only tolerates but welcomes all." ([Read the entire article.](#))*

- Thomas Nobbe, GG9 Executive Director

## >> By the Numbers

8,000 participants

20,000+ spectators

200+ sponsors

120+ community partners

\$52M+ economic impact

3,000 volunteers

11,000 tickets distributed



## >> Media Highlights

- [ABC News: Gay Games Athletes Heartened by Cleveland Welcome](#)
- [The Advocate: Meet the first Trans Man to win a Gay Games Gold](#)
- [Akron Beacon Journal: Gay Games opening ceremony held at Quicken Loans Arena](#)
- [Cleveland Crain's Business: Gay Game generated \\$6.8 million in revenue, \\$147,000 in net profit, report says](#)
- [Cleveland Crain's Business: Editorial – The Colorful Legacy of the Gay Games](#)
- [CNN Video: Thousands attend Gay Games in Cleveland](#)
- [ESPN: Story of the man behind the Gay Games](#)
- [ESPN: Why Cleveland Needed the Gay Games](#)
- [Inside The Games: Cleveland and Akron 2014 most financially successful Gay Games in history](#)
- [The Dallas Voice: 'The Largest Sporting Event in the World'](#)
- [The Guardian: 'It's a huge human rights event. The Gay Games are changing the world'](#)
- [Huffington Post: Obama Offers Surprise Welcome at Gay Games Opening Ceremony](#)
- [LGBTQ Nation: Gay Games added \\$52 million to Northeast Ohio economy](#)
- [OutSports: Why a Gay Games silver medal means so much to straight man Kelly Lytle](#)
- [The Plain Dealer: Gay Games' great success -- take a bow, Cleveland: editorial](#)
- [The Plain Dealer: Northeast Ohio grabs a gold at the Gay Games: By: Tom Nobbe](#)
- [The Washington Post: The Gay Games are underway and they're winning Instagram and Twitter](#)

## >> President Obama Video Message and Other Videos

[Obama Message](#)

[Backstage at Opening Ceremony](#)

[Opening Ceremony Recap](#)

[AHA! Light Display](#)

[Week Recap](#)

## >> Social Media Highlights

### Total Reach

The number of people who were served any activity from your Page including posts, posts by other people, Page like ads, mentions and checkins.

Organic Paid

**Gay Games Cleveland**  
August 16 at 10:33am · 🌐

This was posted last night on the GG9 Twitter. It sums it up for a lot of us...thank you to the City of Cleveland and the City of Akron for their support and the outpouring of love and pride from the volunteers and citizens.

**David Jason** @DJ84 · 12h  
Wow. Group of gay games athletes just got on city bus wearing their medals and got applause from everyone on the bus. That is Cleveland.

39,792 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Unlike · Comment · Share · 👍 1,662 💬 41 ↻ 357

**Gay Games Cleveland**  
August 14 at 12:35pm · 🌐

We love this! 99-year-old Ida stole the show!



99-year-old record-breaking sprinter, Ida Keeling, steals the show in the 100 meters at Gay Games

Standing among a sea of sprinters, Ida Keeling captivated the crowd at Lee Jackson Field on the campus of the University of Akron. Her bright yellow Nike...

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27,328 people reached [Boost Post](#)

Like · Comment · Share · 👍 484 💬 14 ↻ 152

**Gay Games Cleveland**  
August 11 at 1:47pm · Edited [?] · 🌐

Congratulations to Blake Skjellerup who was engaged to his boyfriend Saul Carrasco last night in #Cleveland! #GoAllOut

Photo from Blake's Instagram.



8,948 people reached [Boost Post](#)

**Gay Games Cleveland** @GG9Cleveland · Aug 15

RT @cpott97613 This pic just about sums up my amazing experience at the 2014 Gay Games @GG9Cleveland



6 14

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**gg9cleveland** 4 weeks ago Following

Leo is pumped that PFLAG Cleveland made it to the #bowling finals! #Regram from CLE Greg. ##thisisCLE #cleveland #woof #akron #GG9 #dogsofinstagram

♥ lacaszatt, akronbest, michelle\_on\_ig and 74 others like this.

**gg9cleveland**  
@clegreg is the photographer!

**eventsincle**  
Nice!

Leave a comment...

>> Images





**#GoAllOut**