

Events, activities and activations happening across Parramatta during the Sydney WorldPride festival



Date(s)	Event Title	Location	Booking Requirements
16 February	Pride in Parramatta Afternoon Tea An afternoon tea event to launch Sydney WorldPride festival in Parramatta. Featuring a panel discussion with local residents, artists and workers.	PHIVE	Invitation only.
17 February – 5 March	PHIVE Lighting Display PHIVE, Parramatta's iconic new civic, cultural and community hub will transform throughout WorldPride into an immersion of colour, light and movement. Celebrating their local LGBTQIA+ communities, PHIVE will become the heart of Parramatta's celebration of WorldPride with the building being illuminated in the colours of the Pride Progress Flag. On the land of the Dharug people, Parramatta Square has been a gathering place for tens of thousands of years, a profound purpose that continues through PHIVE today.	PHIVE	No booking necessary. Illuminations happen at nighttime.
17 February – 5 March	PHIVE Lanterns and Inflatable Art Installation Collaborative art studio, Beautiful and Useful, have been working with the local Parramatta community through art workshops throughout January. The art pieces created in these workshops will be turned into textiles to create sculptural installations in the PHIVE foyer. An inspiration for the project is the metamorphosis of a butterfly. The installation will be a collection of cocoon lanterns suspended from the ceiling and illuminated chrysalis pods for the public to sit amongst and explore.	PHIVE	No booking necessary. The installation will be accessible during PHIVE business hours.

17 February –
5 March

Riverside Festival Gardens

Riverside

No booking necessary.

Bar open from 6pm 'til late on Riverside show nights, 1hr before & after Sunday performances. DJs and street food are on Fridays & Saturdays only. Themed for Sydney WorldPride with LGBTQI+ artists.

4 – 25 February

Creative Studio with Jordan Gogos

PHIVE

Free with bookings essential via PHIVE website

Make, create and design with Jordan Gogos, Powerhouse Creative Resident and founder of fashion label *Iordanes Spyridon Gogos*.

In this workshop participants will explore the principles of fashion design through experimentations with pattern, colour and texture to create a collective artwork that will feature in PHIVE's WorldPride 2023 program.

Iordanes Spyridon Gogos was founded by Jordan Gogos in 2019 to create 'wearables for the imaginative'. The brand is known for its experimental, non-gendered and innovative pieces as seen in the runway show for Afterpay Australian Fashion Week 2022 at Powerhouse Ultimo. Recommended for high school students in grades 7–12.

Presented by Powerhouse, PHIVE and TAFE NSW.

14 February –
6 March

Slippery Directions

Parramatta Square

Free installation. No bookings required.

Parramatta Artists' Studios artist Nadia Odum presents Slippery Directions, a new artwork that playfully pushes against the boundaries of urban space using coopted construction signage designed in collaboration with Parramatta communities. Take a walk through Parramatta Square and interpret for yourself new meaning of space via these signs and symbols.

14 February –
11 March

CHOIR BOY

Riverside

Tickets from \$63 booked via Riverside website

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta in association with Sydney WorldPride present CHOIR BOY, by Tarell Alvin McCraney

Determined to make his mark, Pharus Young is hell-bent on being the best choir leader in the 50 year history of Charles R. Drew Prep School for Boys. In a world built on dusty rites and rituals, how can he maintain his shine while trying to conform to masculine expectations and gain the respect of the choristers he leads?

Directors Dino Dimitriadis and Zindzi Okenyo lead a sensational Australian and International team, presenting Academy Award winner Tarell Alvin McCraney's (*Moonlight*) delicate, brutal script. Music Direction by Allen René Louis blends the language of high school hallways with the soulful sounds of gospel for an unforgettable night at the theatre.

14 February – Youth Networking Night. 17 February – Choral Night, audiences can stay post-show for a choir sing along, led by Allen René Louis.

17 February –
28 March

Activation of Lennox Bridge

Lennox Bridge

Free installation. No bookings required.

Transport for NSW will activate Lennox Bridge with a projected digital animation from 17 February to 28 March. This project was a winner of a City Revitalisation Innovation Challenge in 2022 and includes images of local Parramatta flora and fauna in a rainbow colour scheme, overlaid with elements that reflect Parramatta's diversity.

16 – 24 February

Matador

Riverside

Tickets from \$59-\$149 booked via Riverside website

Bass Fam Creative Presents MATADOR, presented as part of Sydney WorldPride Pride Amplified.

Inspired by a tale as old as time, MATADOR is a fiery fusion of burlesque, dance and jaw-dropping circus acts. Set across a fiery Spanish sunset, this is a thematic tale of forbidden love, carnal desires, passion and pain, a tale of a love torn bull & the seductive Matador! The show takes us on an emotionally charged journey through love and its many faces; from the first moments you lay your eyes on that someone special, the butterflies, the flirting and sometimes, the doubt.

This production contains partial nudity, adult content, smoke haze, strobe lighting, and loud noises. Recommended for ages 15+

18 February

STOP EVERYTHING! Podcast

Riverside

Bookings via Riverside website

Live recording of podcast with the cast and creatives of CHOIR BOY.

18 February &
5 March

Drink and Draw with a Drag Queen

Club Parramatta

Tickets from \$55 booked via <https://prideamplified.au>

Get creative with super-hero drag queen The Fabulous Wonder Mama's drawing class at Club Parramatta!

In this fun workshop you'll get the chance to sit back and relax as you learn to draw with Oil Pastels from part-time superhero, Glambassador and experienced artist, the Fabulous Wonder Mama. Having published 3 children's books and over 20 years of experience in art and design – Wonder Mama will share some of her best tips and tricks to drawing fabulous artworks every time!

This is a beginner-friendly class with room for more experienced students to use their skills too

21 February &
22 February

PRIDE Storytime @ Epping Library

Epping Library

No booking necessary.

Join us at Epping Library for a special story time to celebrate Pride! The story time, designed for children aged 2 to 5 years, will feature a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Pride by debut author Joanna McClintick. This picture book, which follows the journey of families as they prepare to partake in Pride, is a celebration of diversity and inclusion. It sends an important message about all-inclusive love, the beauty of all families, and the best thing of all about Pride - getting to be yourself! Storytime runs from 10:30am-11:30am.

21 February

Stories Out West

Club Parramatta

Free event with bookings essential via https://www.aconhealth.org.au/stories_out_west_launch

From stories about family, migration, love, and resilience, Stories Out West showcases the diversity of experience hidden within Western Sydney's community of LGBTQ+ people from multicultural backgrounds. Grab your copy of the anthology at our launch event and immerse yourself in a night of storytelling by amazing LGBTQ+ writers.

Event produced by ACON and SweatShop.

- 22 – 23 February** **Queen Displacements Conference** **WSU, Parramatta CBD** Bookings essential via www.fdpn.org.au
 The Queer Displacements is the first and only conference in the Asia Pacific designed to comprehensively foreground protection and settlement challenges of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) forcibly displaced people. It is created to champion the voices and the lived experience of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people.
 The theme of the 2023 conference is Leadership, Partnership and Belonging. The 2023 Queer Displacements will foreground the leadership of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people and best and emerging practices of supports of these communities, all with a common goal of achieving belonging and ending displacement.
 Conference hosted by the Forcibly Displaced People Network.
- 24 February** **Staging the Nation – live recording** **Riverside** Bookings via Riverside website
 Live podcast recording of conversation between Dino Dimitriadis and Tarell Alvin McCraney.
- 24 February; 5 March & 11 March** **Screening of *Moonlight*** **Riverside** Bookings via Riverside website
 Showing of Academy Award winning film, Moonlight. This ties in with our work with Tarell Alvin McCraney, who also wrote Choir Boy.
- 26 February** **WestWords - Silence Transformed** **PHIVE** \$12.50 tickets booked via <https://events.humanitix.com/silence-transformed>
 From one of the world's most diverse and multi-cultural regions the emerging voices of Sydney's West transform their silences through the stories they tell. Each work in the collection pushes the boundaries of cultural preconceptions and the literary form. Brave, challenging, tender and intimate, join us for the launch of the third anthology from WestWords' LGBTQIA+ writing group.
 WestWords' is dedicated to fostering the next generation of writers from Sydney's West, giving spaces for their creativity to flourish and platforms for their voices to be celebrated. The LGBTQIA+ group provides a space where queer writers safely share their vulnerabilities and explore childhood, teenage and adult perspectives of identity. With impressive risk taking they share stories of coming out, cultural heritage, sexual adventures, being alive and being proud.
 As convenor, writer Wilfred Roach facilitates the group's membership which is as diverse as the region's population. Western Sydney is home to over 10% of Australia's population and over half of the world's cultures. The racial and cultural backgrounds include Korean, Chinese, Central European, Scottish, Indian and the blend that is Australian. The age of the writers range from 21 to... well let's keep that to ourselves. Each writer and work is unique. Together they form a conversation that is the essence of contemporary Australia.
 WestWords LGBTQIA+ Writers' Group is proudly supported by the Aurora Foundation. This event is supported by PHIVE and the City of Parramatta Council.

2 – 4 March

THE LIFE OF BLANCO

Riverside

\$35 tickets booked via Riverside website

A creative first look supported through National Theatre of Parramatta's True West program. A tale of invisibility, rage and the uplifting power of survival by Vonne Patiag. Part monologue, part eulogy, and packing more than a punch, Blanco honours his dying creative ambitions with documentarian flair. An Asian character study with weights and floor work, movement and audience interaction, this fusion of verbatim and physical theatre explores the fractured mind of one man.

4 March

**HAFLA: Celebrating queer Western
Sydney Voices**

Riverside

\$10-\$15 tickets booked via Riverside website

Riverside's National Theatre of Parramatta presents True West, HAFLA: BANQUET, FEAST, CELEBRATORY PARTY.

A mezza of queer voices from Sydney's West. Celebrating Western Sydney artists, join us for our special salon that celebrates queer and middle eastern culture with music, storytelling, a gathering with a Lebanese inspired high tea, curated by Antony Makhlof.

4 March

QUEERSTORIES x WORLDPRIDE

Riverside

\$39 tickets via Riverside website

Riverside Theatres in association with Sydney WorldPride presents Maeve Marsden's QUEERSTORIES x WORLDPRIDE

There's more to being queer than coming out and getting married. Join host Maeve Marsden and an incredible line up of guests for an all-star edition of Australia's favourite queer storytelling night. Vulnerable and fierce, hilarious and heartbreaking, Queerstories celebrates the culture and creativity of the LGBTQI+ community one true story at a time, each guest is asked to share the story they want to tell, but are never asked to; unexpected tales of pride, prejudice, resilience and resistance.

This performance will be Auslan Interpreted

Performance Warning: This production may contain coarse language and is recommended for ages 15+