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May 16, 2016

### **Kayla Mulford Selected Honorary Grand Marshal of 2016 BR Pride**

The Baton Rouge Pride team has selected community leader Kayla Mulford to serve as the honorary grand marshal of the 2016 Baton Rouge pride festival.

Mulford, who serves as president of Capital City Alliance among many other community activities, was the unanimous selection of this year's Baton Rouge Pride team.

“We couldn't think of anyone better qualified to serve as the honorary grand marshal for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Baton Rouge Pride,” said John Deshotel, vice chairman of Baton Rouge Pride Inc. and head of the search committee for this year's grand marshal. “The things Kayla does in the community are certainly amazing.”

She joins a distinguished list of grand marshals of Baton Rouge Pride, which began recognizing community leaders as honorary grand marshals for the third year of its celebration in 2009. The former grand marshals include the late Richard Dykes, owner of George's, in 2009; Larry Fremin, founder of the Krewe of Apollo Baton Rouge, in 2010; James Chinn, also known as Trixxie LaRue, a longtime entertainer and activist, 2011; Daphne Mushatt, longtime entertainer and community supporter, 2012; Carol Frazier and Jody Huckaby, leaders of PFLAG locally and nationally, 2013; Cami Miller and Joe Traigle, early organizers and leaders of Capital City Alliance, 2014; and Rev. Keith Mozingo, pastor of MCC of Baton Rouge and one of the founders of Baton Rouge Pride, and Whitney Vann, TV personality and longtime community friend, 2015.

The Baton Rouge Pride festival is the largest indoor family friendly GLBTQ pride celebration in the South.

Mulford has been active in Capital City Alliance since 2012 and has served as its president for nearly three years. She helped to organize the first Louisiana Equality March in 2012 and continued that work for three years, as well as organizing CCA's holiday adoption project that has raised more than \$10,000 to provide gifts to children affected by HIV/AIDS over the past five years.

She also was a driving force behind the Louisiana Loves campaign last year that featured 100 iconic GLBTQ couples from across the state and was instrumental in CCA's publication of a GLBT wedding directory – all just in time for last summer's marriage equality decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to her rigorous schedule of service with CCA, Mulford also is active as a volunteer with a number of other community organizations and initiatives such as Baton Rouge Pride, Pride 1, Equality Louisiana (EQLA), Youth Oasis, Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge and

Chairman: Tom Merrill • 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair: John Deshotel • 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair: Rev. Keith Mozingo

Vice Chair (Resource Fair): Mike Smith • Vice Chair (Hospitality/Volunteers): Vicki Davis • Vice Chair (Fundraising): Angela Longstreet

Vice Chairs (Entertainment): Daryl Ingle and Gjvar Payne • Treasurer: Morris Welch

a host of other anti-bullying campaigns and various local and national platforms advocating for LGBTQ communities.

Recognized in 2014 as the Pride 1 Female Advocate of the Year, Mulford's professional life, in addition to her community service, includes serving as a paralegal for approximately 10 years.

She holds a bachelor's degree from LSU and has been with her "beautiful partner" for nine years and has four "furry kids that I am obsessed with." She also says she loves to travel, read, shop, attend concerts, binge-watch trash TV and occasionally enjoy a good bottle of wine.

Baton Rouge Pride is pleased to recognize Kayla Mulford as its honorary grand marshal for 2016.

To learn more about the Baton Rouge Pride festival from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Baton Rouge River Center Exhibition Halls, visit [BRPride.org](http://BRPride.org) or follow Baton Rouge Pride on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BRPride](https://www.facebook.com/BRPride).

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