



Esteemed Members of the Oakland City Council,

On behalf of the Oakland Lakeshore LGBTQ+ Cultural District, we write to express our strong support for this important legislation, which will allow us to continue expanding the vision of our Cultural District at a time when LGBTQ+ visibility is increasingly under threat.

Established in November 2023 with the steadfast support of the City, the Oakland Lakeshore LGBTQ+ Cultural District is proud to be the first LGBTQ+ Cultural District in the East Bay. Our goal is to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and family-friendly environment. The district is anchored by vital institutions such as the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center, The Town Youth Club, Glenn Burke Wellness Clinic, the Queer Arts Center, and more than a dozen LGBTQ-owned businesses. Together, we celebrate and uplift the vibrancy, resilience, and creativity of our community.

As you may know, the District recently collaborated with the City and local businesses to install new Pride flags throughout the corridor. Late last year, we also raised a new Pride Flag that now serves as a proud symbol of the district's presence and purpose. We are now excited to move into the next phase of our branding campaign: installing a rainbow crosswalk at the intersection of Lakeshore and Lake Park Avenue.

Our committee met with Director Josh Rowan and the Mayor's Office last year to discuss the necessary steps to bring this project to life, and this legislation is a critical part of that process. With the Council's support, we hope to pass this policy and begin fundraising, with the goal of unveiling the rainbow crosswalk in time for Oakland Pride.

We are deeply grateful to Councilmembers Rebecca Kaplan and Rowena Brown for writing and introducing this legislation and Director Josh Rowan for your enthusiasm for the project, and we warmly invite every member of the Council to join them in supporting this meaningful and celebratory project.

In community and solidarity,

The Oakland Lakeshore LGBTQ+ Cultural District Committee



Mock-up of potential crosswalk. Colors would be on all present crosswalks on the intersection.