

AMANDA ARBOUR

Bio

Amanda is a queer feminist with a deep passion for social justice. She seeks to be continually developing self-awareness of her own identities, unlearning the ways that she is complicit in the oppression of others, and learning how to be in solidarity with communities who are marginalized.

Amanda currently serves as the Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central PA, where she has been leading the Center's efforts to provide safe spaces, quality programming and training and education for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in Central PA since September 2017. The Center played an important role in her own coming out process, so she knows first-hand the importance of creating safe spaces for queer people to be who they are.

Her previous work has spanned the nonprofit, state government and higher education fields, including facilitating students' service-learning experiences at Messiah College's Agape Center for Service & Learning, advocating for legislation to benefit older Pennsylvanians at the PA Department of Aging, and most recently creating and directing racial justice programs at the YWCA Greater Harrisburg.

During her five years as Racial Justice Program Coordinator for the YWCA Greater Harrisburg, Amanda developed and delivered educational programs including "Let's Talk: A Conversation about Race," the Diversity Forum and racial justice trainings. She also convened community partners to collaborate in advancing racial justice, including through the Community Responders Network - a grassroots coalition committed to confronting and preventing bias in Central PA.

During her time at the YWCA, she was recognized for her impactful racial justice and social justice work with awards from Life Esteem, Inc., the World Affairs Council and Interdenominational Ministers Conference. This summer, she was selected as one of the 2017 "Wonder Women" in Harrisburg Magazine, and since starting her new role at the LGBT Center she has been featured in The Burg, the Central Voice and the Philadelphia Gay News.

Amanda holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Sociology & Politics from Messiah College, and will complete her Master's of Education in Training & Development at Penn State Harrisburg in May of 2018. Always seeking to learn more and develop her leadership skills, Amanda completed Leadership Harrisburg Area's Community Leadership Series in 2016, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Development Institute in 2015.

Originally from Philadelphia, she has spent the last eight years in Harrisburg - and is a proud homeowner in the South Allison Hill neighborhood. Her hobbies include spending time with her close-knit circle of friends, catching up on her favorite TV shows with a glass of wine, and singing karaoke on occasion. Amanda can be reached at aarbour@centralpalgbtcenter.org or

(717) 920-9534.

The Office of Social Equity and affirmative action provides internal and external leadership, coordination and information to help the City of Harrisburg employees and citizens promote and sustain an environment of diversity, equity, respect and inclusiveness for all members of the City of Harrisburg through education, intervention, compliance, training, assessment, programming and support services.