

## The Q Must Go On

Q Center gears up for Pride season as search for director continues BY ERIN ROOK

When former Q Center executive director Kendall Clawson left her post in February for a position with Governor John Kitzhaber's office, the community hub was left with big shoes to fill, says Q Center administrative coordinator Logan Lynn. Still, thanks to a dedicated extended family, board member Mary Wheat says Q Center is "busier than ever," even as it searches for a new leader.

"Q Center has definitely continued to operate at full capacity since Kendall took her new position with Governor Kitzhaber," says Wheat, who joined the board six months ago and is also a member of the executive director search committee. "We have a full-time staff, a very involved board and almost 300 volunteers that keep everything running very smoothly. We have not put any projects or programs on hold."

The board of directors is currently in the second round of interviews in a national search. Wheat says they hope to make a decision in a matter of weeks.

"The Q Center board has taken its responsibility in selecting a new director very seriously," Wheat says. "We have conducted a very thor-

ough and thoughtful process and look forward to announcing a decision soon."

As that search continues, so do Q Center's summer plans. *The Vagina Monologues* and Market Q, a farmers market, open the weekend of May 6 and 7, respectively.

Q Center is also looking forward to Pride, with a planned presence during all three days of the festival. On Friday, June 17, Q Center will kick off its Pride festivities with a diverse second installment of its new concert series, featuring local queer performance artists, musicians and DJs. The center will also have a booth at Tom McCall Waterfront Park and a float in the parade.

Even as Q Center's Winter Gala in late January served as an unofficial bon voyage for Clawson, its Pride festivities may work out to be a welcome to the center's new director.

"All organizations change directors and managers throughout the years and Q Center is no different," Wheat points out. "Q Center has a strong foundation and it is run by a team that knows its first priority is to the community it serves. There have been no interruptions of

service and, in fact, there are more things going on at Q Center than ever before."

Wheat adds that while Clawson brought her own unique contributions to Q Center, the responsibilities of the director would remain essentially unchanged. Specifically, she says Q Center will continue to be involved in the organization and implementation of Q Patrol, the community foot patrol that began under Clawson's tenure.

"The Q Patrol is of course continuing and Q Center will continue in the same leadership capacity as it has in the past," Wheat says. "During our last board meeting, we discussed the upcoming summer months and how the Q Patrol will be involved in working with the Portland Police Bureau and neighborhood businesses to help keep our community safe."

Whoever steps in to take the reins at Q Center, Wheat says he or she will bring something fresh to the center's established mission.

"The role of the executive director will not change but we know that every person brings their own personality and new ideas to an organization, and we are very excited about con-



Former Q Center executive director Kendall Clawson speaks at the Q Center Library dedication party.

tinuing the role Q Center fills in the community," Wheat says.

For more on Q Patrol and community safety measures, see story on facing page. Visit [pdxqcenter.org](http://pdxqcenter.org) for a schedule of events.

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