

Billboard charting neo-soul and dance club musician Kaylan Marin will also be performing on Saturday, as will Seattle's folk-funk-pop rocker Camille Bloom, who has drawn comparisons to Ani DiFranco.

Sunday brings two dance hall divas—Deborah Cox, best known for her 14-week number one single, "Nobody's Supposed to Be Here" (1998), and Kristine W., a former Miss Washington (1981) and 15-time Billboard Dance Club Chart topper. Also featured on day two is southern soul singer Levi Kreis, winner of a Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical for his role in *Million Dollar Quartet*.

Also on Sunday, Pride NW will honor the recipients of its annual Spirit of Pride, Pride in Action and Youth Pride awards. Two of the three awards recognize, if indirectly, the role of Q Center in the community.

The 2011 Spirit of Pride Award, which recognizes leadership in and commitment to the LGBTQ community, was given to former Q Center board member Bob Speltz.

"As one of the original founders of the Q Center, ... Bob has been instrumental in bringing Portland's LGBTQ community together in ways that had not happened before, and giving us a home to call our own," said Pride NW board president Debra Porta.

This year's Pride in Action Award has two recipients, Joe LeBlanc and Belinda Carroll. Porta said both were selected because they exemplify a commitment to grassroots activism. LeBlanc and Carroll both played a vital role in

the creation of Q Patrol as well as participating in other community efforts.

"Whether organizing and giving voice to our diverse butch community, contributing their time and talents to benefit a myriad of LGBTQ organizations and causes, or bringing together and organizing the Q Patrol to support and help keep our community safe, both Joe and Belinda have contributed countless hours and effort, with little in return," Porta said. "Joe and Belinda, as our Pride in Action award recipients, exemplify Pride Northwest's strong commitment to the grassroots passion that drives our community."

Finally, the 2011 Youth Pride Award goes to Merlo Station High School Gay-Straight Alliance student leaders Samantha Tobey, Hayden Jefferson and Sarah Seashore.

The Merlo GSA student leaders were recognized for their role in organizing a packed calendar of events and projects designed to bring visibility to LGBTQ students.

"Pride NW is actively committed to celebrating and supporting the efforts of our LGBTQ youth, as we recognize them as the future and future leaders of our community," Porta said. "The Merlo Station High School GSA exemplifies the hope, commitment and potential that define our community; the pride that they bring to their school and to their community is changing lives and changing the future, for the better."

For more information, visit pridenw.org.

--Erin Rook



PHOTO COURTESY OF Q CENTER

LGBTQ Safety Initiatives See Success

Nearly a year after the community was shaken by reports of three apparent anti-LGBTQ assaults in the month before Pride, Bias Crimes Detective Kevin Warren reports the streets are safer, thanks in part to Q Patrol.

"I think the city is safer because of what happened here," Warren said at a May 10 Community Safety Conversation at Q Center. "I have tremendous respect and admiration for what you've done. This is not a one-hit wonder."

But it's not just the Q Patrol that's had an impact on community safety. The Oregon

Mayor Sam Adams at the Gay Bashing Discussion Forum last year at Q Center

Department of Justice's online hate crime reporting tool, created in response to concerns expressed by the LGBTQ community, has had 32 hits over the last year, according to DOJ Counsel Sean Riddell.

"One thing we took away [from last year's forum] was that many people in the audience did not like reporting crimes to the authorities, didn't like approaching officers in uniform, so we put together anonymous reporting," Riddell said.

Warren and Riddell spoke as part of a large safety panel including Lt. George Burke, Q

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