

Standing Our Ground

2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



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2025 Staff



**Erika Lorshbough,
B.A., J.D.**

they/she

**Executive
Director**



**Bria
Brown-King**

they/she

**Associate
Executive
Director**



**Sylvan Fraser
Anthony, J.D.**

they/them

**Legal & Policy
Director**



**Lindsay
Carter**

she/her

**Development
Manager**



**Maddie
Moran**

they/them

**Director of
Communications**



**Marissa
Adams**

she/her

**Program
Coordinator**



**Apollo
Robert**

he/him

**Youth Program
Manager**

2025 Board



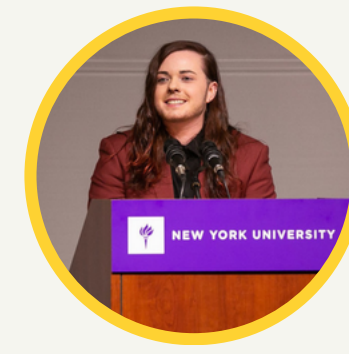
Niki Khanna, MA, MFT
she/her
Co-President



Catherine Clune-Taylor, PhD
she/her
Co-President



Keely Bosn
she/her
Vice President



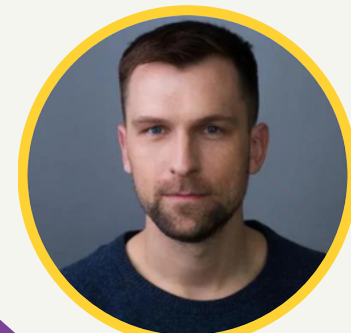
Axel
they/them
Secretary



Matthew Shack
he/him
Treasurer



I.W. Gregario, MD
she/her



Kyle Knight
he/him



Justin Tsang
he/him

Message from Executive Director Erika Lorshbough

Dear friends and supporters,

As I reflect on the extraordinary year behind us, I am filled with deep pride and resolve. In a time when human rights and dignity have come under unprecedented attack, **interACT has remained steadfast in our fight for intersex justice and bodily autonomy.**

In 2025, we experienced sobering setbacks, alongside so many others whose rights are hanging in the balance—but we countered with perseverance, determination, and a few healthy doses of intersex joy. In the first weeks of the year, we celebrated the release of the groundbreaking federal report on intersex health equity; days later, we defended the reality of human biodiversity against politicized distortion in the form of an executive order redefining sex in nonsensical terms.

As the spring bloomed, our advocacy helped secure the introduction of new intersex-affirming legislation in New York City and the U.S. Congress. We continued to expand our youth programming and brought even more intersex young people to our second annual Healing and Wellness Retreat. And throughout the year, our media and public engagement efforts broke new ground and educated new audiences.

I want to be clear: our commitment to holding our line and continuing to advance intersex rights is only growing stronger. **The road ahead demands courage, creativity, and collective power—and thanks to your support, we have all three.**

Neither our advances nor our ability to stand firm against aggression would be possible without the dedication of interACT's staff, youth advocates, partners, and supporters. Together, we are not just responding to the assault on our rights— **we are building toward a future where intersex joy, justice, and liberation are not negotiable.**

I am honored to stand with all of you.

In solidarity, and with hope,



2025

By The Numbers

6



New Youth Cohort Members

11



Youth advocacy projects published

23



Scholarships given to Youth to attend the Healing and Wellness Retreat

32



Talks, panels & presentations given by staff, board, and Youth Advocates

52

Partners who shared our Intersex Awareness Day toolkit



224

interSpace Members



290

Donors



391

Support Inquiries Answered



1,875

People attended our talks



66,575

Social media followers



2025 At A Glance

January

HHS Intersex Health Equity Report released!

Responded to Trump's Executive Orders in the press

Shared student athlete stories after sports ban introduced

“

Although my body works a little bit differently than most, sports are a place where I've learned inclusion, collaboration and teamwork and I don't know who I'd be without it.

—Natalie, an intersex high school athlete from Kentucky

February

interACT Board member Dr. Wong speaks about intersex biology on NewsNation



Erika briefed Congressmembers on protecting intersex people against policy attacks

interACT joins the Democracy 2025 coalition defending against authoritarianism

March

Responded to new World Athletics "sex testing" policies by raising awareness of women with XY chromosomes

Bria gave an Intersex 101 presentation to UC Davis sociology students

Sylvan shared legal and policy updates at InterConnect's Spring Conference

April

Erika debunked sex as a strict binary at the Williams Institute's Annual Update

Submitted comments highlighting intersex issues to the UN Universal Periodic Review of the US



2025 At A Glance

May



Erika and Maddie spoke to educators at NYC Out for Safe Spaces

Sylvan and A4TE's Sinéad Murano-Kinney published an intersectional op-ed in The Advocate

Maddie spoke on SLIM's Panel "Intersex Futures Beyond Law and Medicine"

June

New Pride Month resource: "The Fight Must Include Intersex Rights"

Rainii (& intersex cat Breezy) joins as our Summer Social Media Intern

interACT marches in and tables at World Pride



Bria speaks at the Human Rights Conference

July



Youth Cohort member Tendaji comes out as intersex

Staff presented on intersex rights and advocacy at Lavender Law and InterConnect

Apollo is featured on The I in Us podcast

August

Partnered with ACLU Delaware to screen Every Body and celebrate intersex filmmaker River Gallo

interACT and provider Dr. Kristine Coons trained APLA Health providers on intersex-affirming healthcare



interACT hosts its 2nd Annual Youth Healing & Wellness Retreat

2025 At A Glance



September

interACT celebrates its 19th birthday!

Erika spoke about intersex civil rights at Penn Dickinson Law for Constitution Day

Bria promoted to Associate Executive Director

October

Supported official recognition of Intersex Awareness Day in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Boston

Launched our Intersex Awareness Week campaign

Filed amicus brief in Perkins v. Montana (state restroom ban case)



Bria and Dr. Pooja Jayaprakash presented at GLMA

November

Shared Intersex Joy questions from men and mascs for International Men's Day

The Guardian features intersex advocates fighting IGM



Dr. Ilene Wong and Maddie present to Jefferson University Medical School

December

Maddie and Apollo trained staff & volunteers of Advocates for Transgender Equality (A4TE) on Intersex 101

interACT staff took a two-week holiday break!

interACT goes viral with a clapback to interphobic comments from Elon Musk



NATIONAL

Trump's passport policy leaves trans, intersex Americans in the lurch

FEBRUARY 21, 2025 · 6:38 PM ET

HEARD ON MORNING EDITION

by Jaclyn Diaz

3-Minute Listen TRANSCRIPT

"For folks in the intersex community, visibility has always been an issue. Every time you're trying to define sex in these perfectly binary terms, you're going to impact intersex people who, by definition, don't present with perfectly binary sex,' [Erika] Lorshbough says." Staff member Erika speaks to NPR.

NEWSLETTERS

Ohio State Budget Could Lead to More Forced Genital Surgeries on Intersex Infants

THE BUDGET COPIED PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DEFINITION OF GENDER AND SEX.

BY SAMANTHA REDEL

October 18, 2025

"The full scope of the harm that the state budget will cause to intersex Ohioans has yet to be determined, but one thing is clear: It will cause harm,' Felle wrote." them magazine reports on an op-ed by Youth Advocate Courtney Felle criticizing exceptions for intersex genital mutilation.

teenVOGUE

NEWSLETTER STYLE POLITICS CULTURE IDENTITY VIDEO SUMMIT SHOPPING

6 Intersex People on Why Gender-Affirming Care Bans Are Bad for Everyone

"A wave of legislation and executive actions have targeted transgender people, particularly teens, by stripping away gender-affirming care and other essential rights, but intersex people and anyone who doesn't conform to strict sex binaries also stand to lose something as a result." Staff member Maddie Moran interviews interACT Youth Spencer, Tendaji, Emory, Courtney, Nessa, and Elliott for Teen Vogue about why they need gender-affirming care, too.

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

The Philadelphia Inquirer

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS OPINION POLITICS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE FOOD HEALTH REAL ESTATE PHILLYFIRST OBITUARIES

For Philly's intersex community, Trump administration's focus on gender and sex is a threat

Intersex people are speaking out in the face of the administration's efforts to define sex as a biological binary.

Intersex people are speaking out in the face of the administration's efforts to define sex as a biological binary. interACT staff Maddie Moran and board member Bonnie Scranton are interviewed for the Philadelphia Inquirer. "It's important to be able to see intersex adults who are in their 40s, who have jobs and partners and are happy and healthy,' [Bonnie] said."



Youth Summer Social Media Intern Rainii Fletcher!

Today let's talk about intersex and disability!

Thank you for educating the public!💕

Meet Rainii & Breezy!

Interviewing an Intersex Person with PCOS!

Thank you! I have been trying to explain this for years, and you did it so much better. Also, that painting is fantastic! 🥰

Let's do a painting of my intersex kitten!

How can we better support intersex people?

Intersex kitten Breezy is 11 weeks old!

Awesome content. Thanks for sharing

Hi, I'm Rainii! I'm an intersex person with ovotesticular syndrome and autism. I'm also an artist and foster cat parent. I like to talk a lot about intersex & disability awareness! I'm excited to share positive, educational intersex content together with my cat Breezy, who is also intersex."

DID YOU KNOW THAT CATS CAN BE INTERSEX?

DID YOU KNOW THAT NOT EVERYONE IS BORN WITH 2 TESTES OR 2 OVARIES?

It's so generous of you to share your experience & thoughts. It's so important that we grow our understanding of the broad spectrum of how people experience gender, identity, chromosomal & physiological & hormonal differences. Thank you.

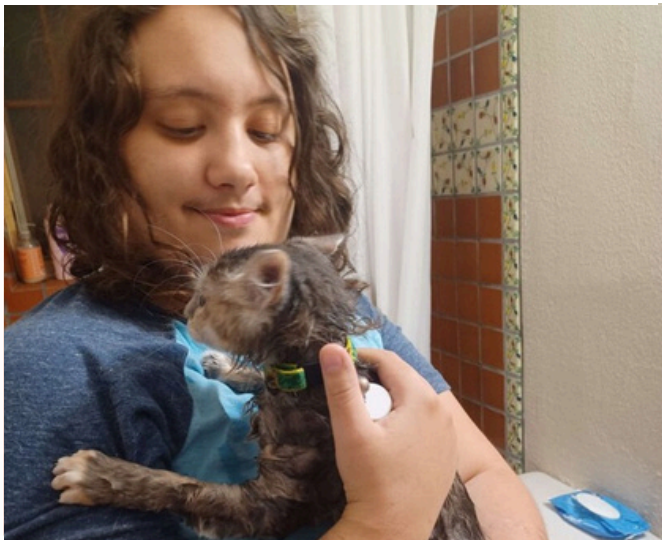


Youth Stories

interACT's Intersex Youth Stories series gives a platform to youth advocates to share their personal stories, experiences, and ideas on how to achieve intersex justice and belonging.



Intersex, Disabled, and Burnt Out by the Healthcare System



Rainii is an autistic and disabled intersex person who likes to make art and talk about intersex and disability awareness. They want people to support medical autonomy for all—for intersex people, those with disabilities, or those who are both!

“Intersex isn’t a disability or disorder by any means. But my own intersexuality is tied up in my disabilities and disorders. Talking about it can feel like betraying the community, because intersex traits themselves are natural, and looking different isn’t a disorder. But many of us, because of how our bodies developed, have health issues that matter, too.”

Tendaji Phoenix is an interACT Youth Advocacy cohort member with hyperandrogenic PCOS. She likes discussing the tech world and listening to lofi music. After starting to develop facial hair at 12, Tendaji describes growing up in a world that didn’t accept her body, and how she broke free.

“I refuse to change my body, just so I can fit within the rigid and restraining expectations of how you think a woman should be.”



“I Won’t Change My Body to Fit Your Expectations”: Reflections From a Masculine Woman with PCOS



Law & Policy



HHS Releases “Advancing Health Equity for Intersex Individuals”

In January, interACT marked a significant milestone with the release of the long-awaited intersex health equity report—a landmark document originally commissioned by President Biden as part of his 2022 Pride Month Executive Order, published in the final days of his administration.

The US Department of Health and Human Services consulted with interACT, intersex community members, and medical providers to develop the report (titled Advancing Health Equity for Intersex Individuals), which acknowledged the “well-documented medical harms to intersex people across their lifespan resulting from childhood medical interventions performed when the child was too young to participate in decision-making.”



Like all Americans, the over 5 million intersex people in our nation deserve to live healthy and fulfilling lives free from stigma and discrimination.



Crucially, HHS named this denial of bodily autonomy as a “key barrier” to health equity and well-being, and recommended legal and policy changes to “promote bodily autonomy and informed consent” by “ensuring all non-emergent care is guided by the expressed wishes of the intersex individual themselves.”

This landmark report represented the first time a US federal agency had undertaken an in-depth investigation into the experiences and needs of people with intersex variations—and clearly concluded that we deserve more from the policies and systems we rely on.



As a parting gift from the most intersex-friendly Presidential administration to date, the report’s release was bittersweet. Nevertheless, it stood as a meaningful victory and testament to how far interACT’s awareness-raising efforts and federal policy advocacy have brought us.

Facing a New Administration

The start of the second Trump administration brought an abrupt and dramatic shift in the federal policy landscape, with immediate consequences for all of our communities. Transgender people and access to gender-affirming care immediately became primary targets of the administration’s hateful rhetoric and policy attacks. The impacts on intersex people were often more insidious but no less real.

Trump’s Day One executive order sought to redefine sex based solely on a person’s production of ova or sperm. This sweeping attempt to deny recognition and rights to transgender people inaccurately claimed to be based on “biological truth” – while making reductive and unscientific assertions that denied the existence of intersex people as well.

Soon after, new HHS guidance tried to explain away the existence of intersex variations, “clarifying” the administration’s position that “rare disorders of sexual development” do not negate their worldview that biology is a strict binary.

Law & Policy



The contrast was stark. Within a matter of weeks, the same department that had championed intersex visibility and bodily autonomy was now characterizing intersex people as an 'anomaly,' a term that reflected a troubling reversal in federal recognition and respect. But we know the real reason this administration does not want to talk about intersex people: they are afraid of how intersex existence challenges the very foundation of their agenda.

We know that what the Trump administration refers to as "biological truth" is actually a regressive ideology designed to legitimize discrimination against transgender people by erasing people with intersex variations. interACT, and our allies, refused to let them get away with any part of it.



The real biological truth is that neither sex characteristics nor genders can be sorted into a rigid binary, and no bodily characteristic can be used to tell someone who they are or where they belong.

Legal Pushback

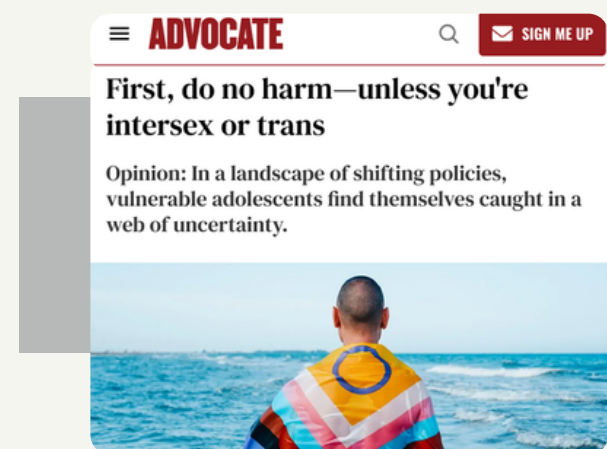
Throughout 2025, when Congress, courts, and federal agencies advanced or endorsed harmful policy attacks based on these same binary essentialist myths, interACT and our allies pushed back.

When the US Senate and House of Representatives considered legislation blocking transgender and intersex students' access to sports, interACT submitted a [letter of opposition](#) to members of Congress.

When the State Department began denying accurate passports to transgender, nonbinary, and intersex applicants, our intersex community members [joined the ACLU's lawsuit](#) to ensure the court won't neglect intersex individuals who are impacted by this discriminatory policy.



When hospitals rushed to cancel gender-affirming care in response to an unenforceable executive order, interACT and Advocates for Trans Equality [wrote in The Advocate](#) about the hypocrisy of "preemptive compliance," highlighting how many of the hospitals suddenly choosing to abandon their trans patients were the same hospitals that had refused for decades to cease non-consensual surgeries on young intersex children.



When the Federal Trade Commission abused its consumer protection authority, taking aim at gender-affirming care, interACT submitted comments opposing the FTC's disingenuous attacks on necessary care for trans youth, and highlighting the FTC's convenient indifference to the real and urgent consumer protection concerns in the context of IGM.

Law & Policy



US v. Skremetti

In advance of the Supreme Court’s decision in *US v. Skremetti*, the case challenging Tennessee’s legislative ban on gender-affirming care, interACT offered a refresher on the impact of the intersex genital mutilation (IGM) exceptions that appear in every similar law enacted to date. When we submitted our amicus brief in 2024, we argued that the IGM exception in the Tennessee gender-affirming care ban underscored the law’s blatant irrationality, making it unconstitutional under any standard of review. We argued that the IGM exception, based on the presence or absence of variations in sex characteristics, demanded heightened scrutiny.



In June, a majority of the Supreme Court disagreed with us on both points, allowing the law to stand. interACT criticized the Court’s cruel and illogical ruling, and mourned the devastating loss of autonomy for transgender and intersex youth alike. The Supreme Court had given its approval to the doubly discriminatory laws that represent the opposite of what we and our allies have worked for, at a time when far-right policymakers were already feeling more emboldened.

Opposition to H.R. 3492

Just days earlier, the House Judiciary Committee approved Marjorie Taylor Greene’s H.R. 3492, the most extreme gender-affirming care ban yet proposed. H.R. 3492 sought to use the federal law prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a vehicle to criminalize gender-affirming care, while specifying that it is not a violation to perform “genital or bodily mutilation” on a child with an intersex variation.

We’ve always known that these bills are not about “protecting children,” but our opponents had never said the quiet part this loudly before.

Promising Opportunities

While 2025 was a dire year in federal policy developments for the intersex community, promising opportunities at the state and local levels laid the groundwork for progress. With pro bono assistance from Beck, Amsden & Stalpes, interACT submitted an amicus brief to the Montana Supreme Court in Perkins v. Montana, detailing the impact of the state’s bathroom ban on intersex individuals and supporting the Plaintiffs’ state constitutional claims.



Wisconsin Proclamation



Esther Leidolf Morris at Boston’s Intersex Awareness Day

In Wisconsin, Governor Tony Evers issued a proclamation in honor of Intersex Awareness Day, and Governor Wes Moore did the same in Maryland. The Boston City Council also officially recognized Intersex Awareness Day, highlighting “troubling patterns of nonconsensual and medically unnecessary surgeries performed on infants and children to conform their bodies to binary norms” and calling on local healthcare institutions to “provide culturally and clinically competent care.”

INTERSEX AWARENESS WEEK

WE SHOW UP
WE SHOW UP
WE SHOW UP
WE SHOW UP



This year, we celebrated Intersex Awareness Week from October 26th to November 1st. Facing growing attacks on intersex rights, interACT asked partnered organizations and allies: why do you show up and speak out for intersex rights? Over 50 partners answered.

Stories from our Youth were featured in collaborations with major LGBTQIA+ organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD, The Trevor Project, GLSEN, and Transgender Law Center.



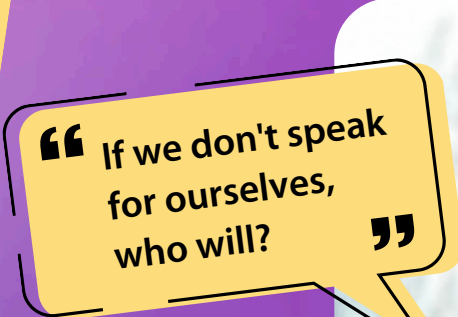
“Just because our bodies develop differently, doesn't mean our hearts don't beat the same.”

experience is like.



“I want to spread awareness of our needs, support our community better and bring about change.”

about being intersex —



“If we don't speak for ourselves, who will?”

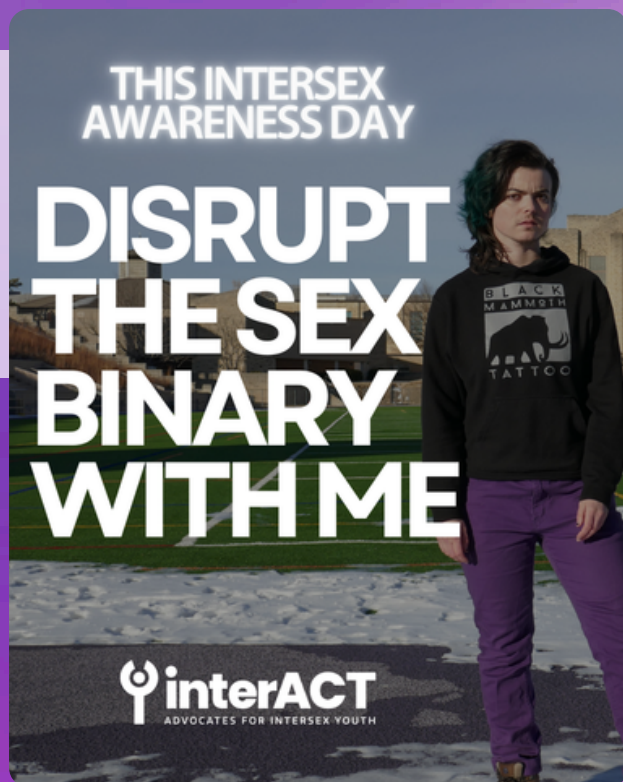
Many of you in the intersex community joined our campaign!

INTERSEX AWARENESS WEEK

Many of us are told a story our whole lives, one where the world has a neat sex and gender binary. This story oppresses intersex people—and to an extent—everyone subject to its strict expectations of being a man or woman. Sam Sharpe wrote, *“This Intersex Awareness Day, Disrupt the Sex Binary with Me.”*



I came into the world being told that I was a girl and that someday I would go through puberty and become a woman. I had a book with pictures of what the different stages of puberty would look like, and in 5th grade, they gave everyone sticks of deodorant. One scent for the girls, and a different scent for the boys. Everyone knew that the future of our bodies was already determined, neat and inevitable.



Intersex Awareness Day highlights a fight for rights that's far from over

From a Boston protest to global recognition, the history of Intersex Awareness Day shines a light on decades of work to preserve bodily autonomy.



interACT worked with The 19th, highlighting the history of protest that grounds Intersex Awareness Day. From October 26, 1996 to today, the day marks the legacy of intersex leaders and a vision for the future.



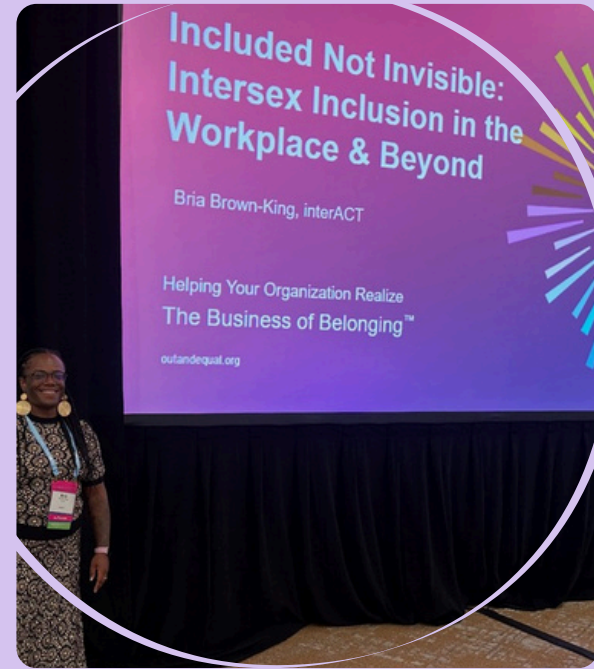
It's important to remember how much courage it took for intersex people, who had been burdened with crippling shame, to stand up and tell our stories, to demand that these harmful practices be stopped.



-Bo Laurent

Community Engagement

Bria gave a presentation on Supporting Intersex Inclusion in the Workplace at Out & Equal's annual Workplace Summit that took place in Seattle this year.



Bria also presented a workshop on Advancing Intersex Rights Globally: Moving From Medicalization to Human Rights at the International Human Rights Conference in Washington DC during World Pride.

This year, interACT released the Patient Self-Advocacy Toolkit, a powerful resource developed through the collective insight of intersex people, researchers, and affirming healthcare professionals. Designed to strengthen communication between patients and providers, the toolkit helps intersex people prepare for appointments, articulate boundaries, ask informed questions, and advocate for safe, respectful care.



WORLD PRIDE

In a historic moment of visibility, belonging and community connection, interACT participated in the 2025 World Pride events in Washington, D.C., joined by members of the community and allies.



We marched in the parade and set up a festival booth where intersex staff and youth led a creative and joyful approach to education, including a colorful prize wheel where visitors answered questions about intersex people.

Hundreds of people visited the booth —allies, medical professionals, activists, and intersex people encountering community for the first time.



interACT Youth

Youth Advocacy Program

interACT offered four dynamic trainings this year to help intersex youth step into advocacy with confidence, creativity, and care: Intersex Advocacy, Media Training, Pitching and Storytelling, and Safety in Intersex Advocacy. Youth strengthened their understanding of movement strategy, learned how to work with reporters, crafted and pitched powerful personal stories, and built the skills to navigate public advocacy safely—especially online. From delivering Intersex 101



presentations to landing op-eds and protecting their privacy on social media, participants gained real-world tools that empower them to share their stories and lead change.

interACT is a lifesaving organization for intersex young people who might otherwise grow up without access to any intersex community. Being able to connect with other intersex people online is a powerful experience that brings healing, learning, and so much joy!



interSpace

interSpace is our online community support group hosted on the messaging app, Discord.

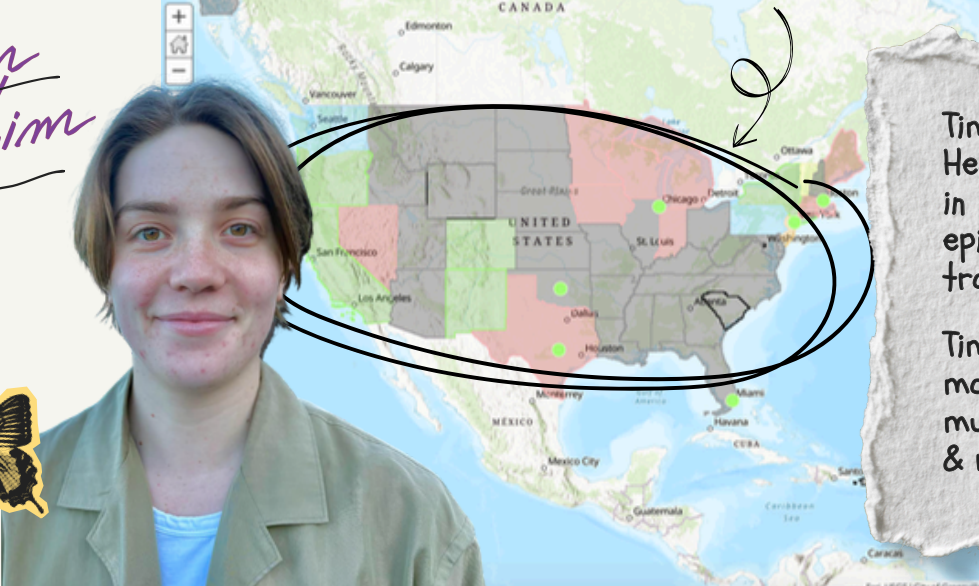
interSpace has hosted an array of discussions in the realms of intersectional experiences, advocacy opportunities, and community joy since its inception in 2024. May 30th was interSpace's one year anniversary, and a dozen youth attended a game night celebration!

Getting to connect with other intersex people has been amazing. It makes me feel understood in a way that isn't possible in my daily life. I feel like this community has helped me become more comfortable and proud of this part of my identity.

I love and appreciate the opportunities to discuss topics that have nothing to do with being intersex because I feel like that helps everyone remember that we're so much more than our bodies.

Youth Advocacy Cohort

*Tim
hels/him*



Tim is a Master's in Public Health student, specializing in maternal/child health and epidemiology, with a zeal for traveling the world.

Tim created an interactive map of all statewide and municipal intersex legislation & regulation across the US.

Misha is a Master's in Library & Information Science student with a love for drawing, cooking, and intersex-inclusive library systems.

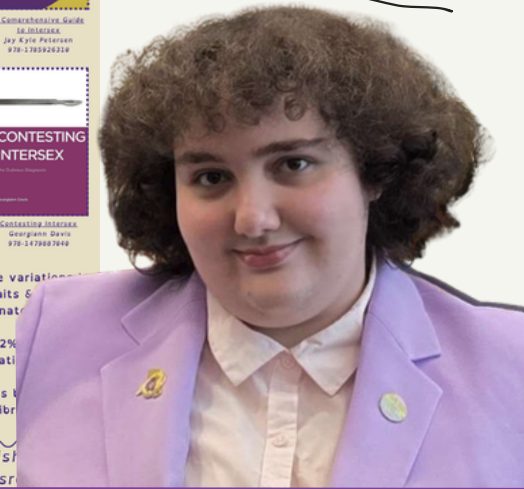
Misha created a guide to requesting intersex books for libraries, brought 10 new books into circulation, and presented to the New York Library Association!



Intersex Books!



*Misha
hels/him*



The Intersex Guide To MANAGING PERIODS



*Nessa Calvin
hels/hel/they/any*



Nessa Calvin is a genderqueer illustrator and videographer who is passionate about healthcare access for low-income and gender diverse populations.

Nessa Calvin created a new resource reviewed by a provider, "The Intersex Guide to Managing Periods."

Youth Advocacy Cohort

"I Won't Change My Body to Fit Your Expectations": Reflections From a Masculine Woman with PCOS



Tendaji is an aspiring cybersecurity analyst, video game player, and advocate for human rights.

Tendaji came out publicly as intersex in her piece on being a masculine woman with PCOS. He also joined Toastmasters to gain advocacy skills in public speaking.

*Tendaji
he/she*



*Spencer
they/them*



Spencer is a Deaf and disabled Master's in Social Work student who advocates for disability and queer rights.

Spencer created and translated a video about intersex people into ASL for TikTok and Instagram. We now have accessible intersex education in ASL!

INTERSEX 101



[Todo lo que necesitas saber]

"Intersexual" se refiere a personas que nacen con un rango de características que pueden no encajar en las concepciones tradicionales de cuerpos masculinos o femeninos.

Palabra intersex es un término paraguas que se refiere a personas que tienen una o más variaciones en sus características sexuales o anatómicas reproductivas.

Las personas intersexuales pueden tener variaciones en sus cromosomas, genitales, hormonas o en algunas interacciones biológicas o químicas. Algunas personas intersexuales se identifican al estar intersexuales que otras personas pueden no descubrir que les tienen hasta la pubertad o más adelante en la vida.

Las personas con rasgos intersexuales siempre han existido, pero ahora hay más conciencia sobre la diversidad de los cuerpos humanos.

Las personas con rasgos intersexuales, como cualquier otra persona, son individuos únicos y diferentes, a veces enfrentan discriminación, incluso en entornos de atención médica (síndrome de género).

Las personas intersexuales son más comunes de lo que piensas!

Los expertos estiman que hasta el 1.7% de la población mundial hace con rasgos intersexuales —aproximadamente la misma que toda la población de Rusia o México. No todas las personas intersexuales son iguales, y algunas ni siquiera saben que lo son hasta hacerse pruebas genéticas (que a menudo se realizan en niños pequeños) o hasta que la primera intersección puede decirle si el cuerpo no es adecuado para ella. En algunos casos, las personas intersexuales crecen sin haber sabido nunca que se les puede hacer procedimientos médicos en la infancia. Otros creen que los médicos que lo cirugía en la infancia, solo para descubrir después que no era así.

Cada año hay más evidencia de los daños que padecen estas cirugías cuando se realizan sin consentimiento informado. Los niños pueden incluir dolor físico, pérdida de sensibilidad genital, cáncer o a veces esterilidad, así como consecuencias psicológicas significativas y el riesgo de que el sexo asignado no coincida con la identidad de género de la persona. Debido a estos riesgos, hoy en día los cirujanos genitales intersexuales son cada vez más raros y se desaconseja a los médicos humanos por organizaciones como los Naciones Unidas, la Organización Mundial de la Salud, la Asociación Estadounidense de Pediatría y la Asociación Médica de Ginecología y Obstetricia, la asociación de profesionales de la salud LGBT más grande y antigua del mundo. Esto ha llevado a que algunos países, como Italia y Grecia, prohíban los intersexuales médicos no consentidos para reducir el daño a largo plazo. En Canadá, la opinión pública y profesional está cambiando, y una política permite permitir estos procedimientos en los hospitales públicos de la ciudad de Nueva York. Sin embargo, todavía no existe un mejor direccionamiento, y un pequeño grupo de especialistas continúa realizando procedimientos que no son para descubrir después que no era así.

Las personas intersexuales deben poder decidir sobre su propio cuerpo. Pero a veces los padres sienten presión por tomar decisiones prematuras antes de que el niño pueda opinar y elegir si quiere algún tratamiento médico.

Joe is working on his double major in Chemistry and Spanish with future plans for medical school to advance intersex health equity.

Joe translated our Intersex 101 pamphlet into Spanish to further education in the US and globally!

*Joe
he/him*



YOUTH HEALING AND WELLNESS RETREAT

Our second annual Youth Healing & Wellness Retreat brought 20 intersex youth together for in-person connection, rest, and healing at The Chaminade Resort & Spa in Santa Cruz, California. Many of the participants met other intersex people for the first time.



Youth members had the opportunity to explore the Redwoods, catch the ocean breeze, explore the botanical gardens, and show off their talents in our talent show.



YOUTH HEALING AND WELLNESS RETREAT



Sessions included conflict and self-compassion, using art and expression to explore self-identity, a disability skillshare, an activism skillshare, souvenirs 'n chill, and a generative somatics embodiment practice.



Major gratitude to our incredible team of facilitators who made this retreat possible, including Hans Lindahl and Scout Silverstein, as well as workshop practitioners Niki Khanna and Dr. Sean Saifa Wall.

Research Highlights



As the leading national intersex advocacy organization, interACT consults and advises on research projects, drawing on our expertise in data collection, community-based participatory research, and extensive experience working with community members.

Intersex Children in Schools

GLSEN National School Climate Youth Intersex Focus Group

We collaborated with GLSEN in leading a focus group of intersex youth to understand their academic experiences in K-12 schools. During this session, intersex youth shared what they loved about the past school year, whether they felt safe or unsafe, and what they envisioned their ideal school environment looking like. This information is incredibly informative for GLSEN and interACT to strategize ways to make K-12 schools safer and more affirming environments for intersex students.

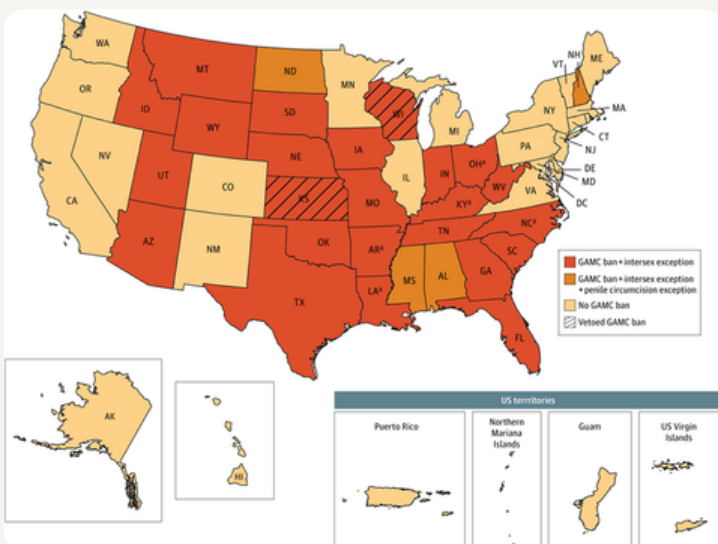
Intersex Bodily Autonomy

Bodily autonomy for intersex children and adults must be protected | The BMJ

In April, the British Medical Journal published an opinion piece by Sam Sharpe, PhD, and interACT staffers Marissa Adams and Erika Lorshbough. We highlighted the release of the HHS report on intersex health equity, underscoring its calls for intersex bodily autonomy and addressing health disparities. We also noted the lag in legal rights for intersex people, and issued an urgent call to action for researchers, providers, and policymakers to utilize and popularize the report in a climate where hostile government actors might not.

Intersex Mutilation Exceptions in Anti-Trans Bills

US Laws Restricting Medical Care for Transgender Minors: Statutory Inconsistencies Involving Intersex and Other Individuals | JAMA Health Forum



interACT Executive Director Erika joined several academics and intersex authors in an article exploring the concerning legal and medical ethics implications of the intersex mutilation exceptions that appear in all U.S. state bans on gender-affirming care. The piece’s final and foremost call is for enactment of laws and policies that “protect the moral and legal right of all individuals to seek or forgo care in a manner that respects their bodily sovereignty.”

Board Highlight: Axel

Axel (he/they) has been involved in LGBTQIA+ activism and community organizing, particularly in intersex, trans, non-binary, and bi+ communities, for nearly 15 years. He has been involved with interACT for over a decade, including serving as a board member for the past 9 years.

Axel has developed and facilitated trainings and workshops on sex characteristics, gender, sexuality, and disability at conferences and academic institutions for over a decade as well as has provided consultations on education policy, national and international reports, research studies, curriculum development, youth program strategies, comprehensive sexual health education programs, and sensitivity readings for individuals, schools, colleges and universities, non-profits, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and more.

Axel works in higher education disability student services and directs a disability cultural center. Axel is currently pursuing a Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling.

How did you come to be an interACT board member?

I joined the interACT Board in 2017, originally serving as the youth representative, after joining interACT Youth in 2015.

What roles have you held?

I have held a variety of different positions on the board, including Secretary and Vice President, and I've served on many different committees, including the Board Nominations and Development Committee, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, Accessibility, and Community (DEIBAC) Committee, the Governance Committee, and the Fundraising Committee. I have been part of two strategic planning processes and was a youth program development intern in 2017.

What excites you about serving on interACT's board?

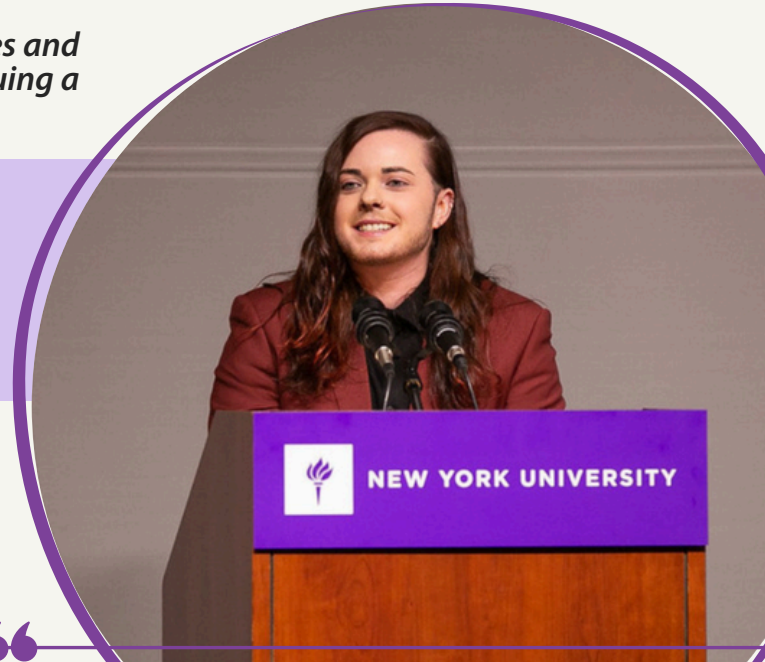
I have loved being a part of interACT in so many ways over the past decade. interACT has been a huge part of my life, and I love being able to still be part of it even after aging out of the youth program.

What do you love most about interACT's work?

I grew up in the interACT Youth program. It was foundational to my activism, community organizing, and growth as a person. I love seeing the next generation of youth activists and advocates. This has been in my bio on the interACT website for a decade, and it still rings true: "Intersex youth are the future. Through interACT, we can see the power of youth organizing and experiences. I'm proud to be working with interACT to fight for the legal and human rights of intersex young people."

What are your hopes and dreams for interACT over the next year?

I am excited to grow the board so that we can continue to support the organization. I appreciate the community I have on the interACT board, and I look forward to expanding it.

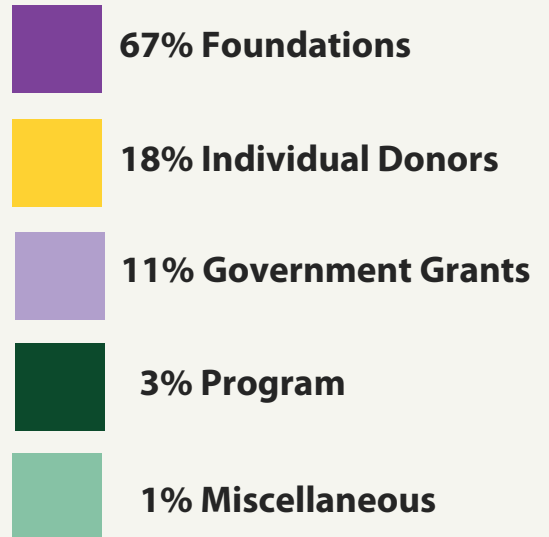
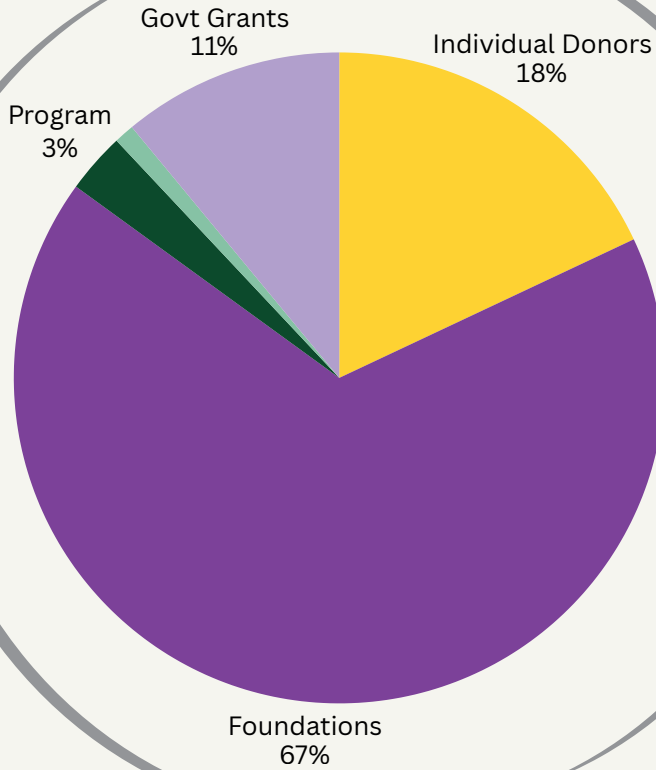


I'm proud to be working with interACT to fight for the legal and human rights of intersex young people.

Financials

Total 2025 Operating Revenue

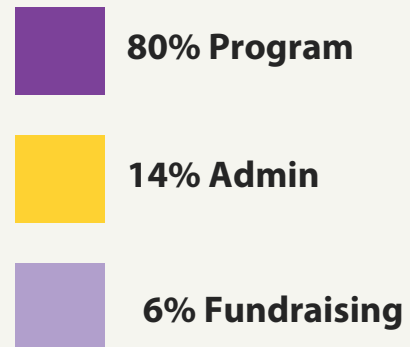
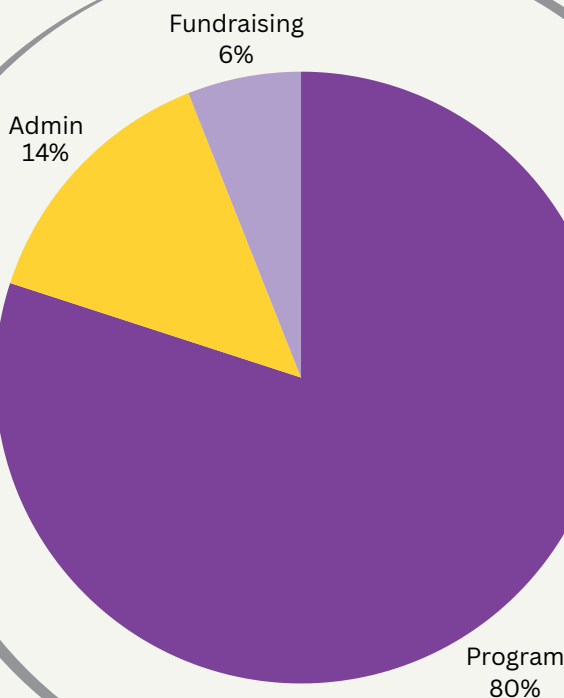
\$910,596*



*Includes \$150,000 from Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, received in Dec. 2025 as a final tie-off award to support 2026 programming.

Total 2025 Expenses

\$813,325



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*= Has given for the last 5+ years
 † = Board member



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Our Champion Donors make a fantastic commitment to interACT. Their gifts are \$1,000 or more each year and the difference that they make is immeasurable. Our sincerest gratitude goes out to our 2025 donors at this level.

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Our Guardian Donors keep our work going. We are thankful every day for those who put their trust and their gifts in our hands so that interACT can continue working toward joy and justice for intersex children and young people.

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* = Has given for the last 5+ years
 † = Board member

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Sustaining donors give monthly, understanding that interACT can achieve more if we know what funding we can depend upon. Their consistent support helps to keep our programs active and on track. A special thank you goes out to these 2025 donors for their sustaining gifts.

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