WELCOME, 2022!

It’s a new year which means new goals and new opportunities to look forward to. This month is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month which means this is the month to be aware of human trafficking and slavery that still happens today, and try to prevent it.

There is no doubt that people should work towards preventing it all year, but January is the month to officially recognize it. With that being said, I will briefly explain what these issues are. Human trafficking is the illegal transportation and forced labor (in many ways) of people and can be prevented by reporting any suspicions of it to the authorities. Slavery is the unlawful act of forced labor and captivity of people and can be prevented by doing community work such as volunteering in organizations that help prevent it or donating to other organizations.

Hello! My name is Apollo D’Amico and my pronouns are they/them. I am the historian for the Metro YAC. I am 14 and very happy to be working with Metro to support my peers.

Apollo (They/Them)
Youth Advisory Council Historian & Editor of the Metropolitan
New Year, New Us.

This New Year as the Youth Advisory Council changed hands, the editors of the METROpolitan have changed goals. In an effort to expand this publication and establish the METROpolitan as a magazine by the youth of the lgbtq+ community, for the lgbtq+ community.

In this effort, we are no longer just taking art submissions. We are looking for a story, particularly the story of our community.

How do we plan to tell this story?
By asking for it! The creators of the METROplitan are planning on conducting interview-based profiles on individuals and groups in this community. Features on local lgbtq+ events, local lgbtq+ artists, singers, business owners. But we need your help to do it to tell this story, we will need writers and people willing to be interviewed. All inquiries can be sent to youth@metrotampabay.org

Beau (He/Him)
Youth Advisory Council Secretary & Co-Editor of the Metropolitan

In fourth grade, I had the assignment to compose a short story and type it out on the computer. I was the final student to turn in a narrative, but typing five pages was a formidable task as a nine-year-old. That was the first memory of really authoring. I'm sixteen now and, I've spent years telling stories, paintings, poetry, costumes, scriptwriting, film, animation, and any other medium that sparked my interest. I always come back to two things though, people and words. Journalism is both, this year as co-editor of the METROpolitan, I want to tell the story of this community.

Beau (He/Him)
Youth Advisory Council Secretary & Co-Editor of the Metropolitan
When it comes to the LGBT+ community, intersectionality is something that is often glossed over. Whether it’s intersectionality between non-white people and their queer identities, or otherwise, it is often that LGBT+ spaces aren’t as safe as they advertise themselves to be. This is also shown in the way disabled people are often overlooked, mistreated, or excluded from spaces where they should feel comfortable. It can be in the way that buildings fail to include ramps or accessible means of entrance and travel. It can be in the way that people disrespect mobility aids and dehumanize disabled people. It seems to be a continuation of the vastly-ranging threshold of acceptance held by various queer activists and groups. Many stop their “activism” at promoting the rights of cis, white, able-bodied, gays, and if a group’s needs are even a little more specialized or nuanced, they are removed from the lense and their voices are silenced. This can create community-wide disregard for intersectionality.

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Mondo (He/Him)
Writer for the Metropolitan
YOUTH

Artist: Felix He/Him

ART

Artist: Felix He/Him
YOUTH

Artist: Beau He/Him

ART

Artist: Felix He/Him