



**Contact:**

Cub Barrett, AIDS Walk San Francisco

[cub.barrett@gmail.com](mailto:cub.barrett@gmail.com)

c: (917) 385-2422

## THOUSANDS UNITE IN GOLDEN GATE PARK TO RAISE \$1.8 MILLION FOR AIDS WALK SAN FRANCISCO

*Community leaders, celebrities, and longtime supporters come together to raise critical funds and awareness*

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (July 15, 2018)** – Ten thousand people gathered together on Sunday in Golden Gate Park for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual AIDS Walk San Francisco (AWSF), both in support of people living with HIV/AIDS and to defend the dignity and equality of vulnerable populations everywhere.

Walkers raised \$1.814 million this year in support of **ACRIA**, **PRC**, and **Project Open Hand**, as well as dozens of other Bay Area HIV/AIDS service organizations.

“AIDS Walk San Francisco provides us with the opportunity to not only show our support for those affected by HIV/AIDS, but to bring attention to the fact that people living with HIV/AIDS need unique services—especially as they age,” said **Kelsey Louie**, Executive Director of ACRIA. “We’re grateful that so many Bay Area folks came out to support the Walk, and that they continue to support the dozens of organizations throughout the region that are helping people make real progress in their lives.”

The 10-kilometer Walk took place entirely within Golden Gate Park, with the start and finish lines at Robin Williams Meadow.

The day began with the **Macy’s** Star Walker and VIP Breakfast, followed by the Macy’s Aerobic Warm-Up from the main stage led by fitness celebrity **Bethany Meyers**. At the Opening Ceremony, celebrities included **Barrett Foa** (*NCIS: Los Angeles*), **Nico Tortorella** (*Younger*), **Dale Soules** (*Orange is the New Black*), and longtime supporter ABC-7 news anchor **Dan Ashley**. Mezzo-soprano **Alexandra Urquiola** performed “You’ll Never Walk Alone,” and Broadway veteran **Leslie McDonel** sang “Brave” and “Your Song” to inspire the participants before they stepped off.

At the Post-Walk Show, co-hosted by **Nico Tortorella**, **Bethany Meyers**, and *RuPaul’s Drag Race* star **Alexis Michelle**, participants were treated to performances by renowned R&B artist **Deborah Cox**; *RuPaul’s Drag Race* stars **The Vixen**, **Milk**, **Delta Work**, and **ChiChi DeVayne**; and **Dan Ashley**. Walk participants filled Robin Williams Meadow, and folks who raised \$200 or more enjoyed access to an exclusive VIP lounge.

Since 1987, AWSF has raised more than \$90 million for a variety of Bay Area HIV/AIDS care, prevention services, and advocacy organizations and has long been Northern California’s largest AIDS fundraising event.

The Walk's three lead beneficiaries are all working to end AIDS in the Bay Area and beyond. ACRIA's research and advocacy programs focus on older adults living with HIV, studying their unique needs and determining the services they need to thrive. PRC connects people affected by HIV/AIDS, substance use issues, or mental health issues to social and health services to help them live healthier lives. And Project Open Hand's mission is to nourish and engage the Bay Area community by providing meals to the sick and elderly.

The Premier Sponsor of AIDS Walk San Francisco 2018 is **Gilead**. The Walk's Grand Sponsors are **ABC7** and **Quest Diagnostics**. Major sponsors include **Gap**, **Kaiser Permanente**, **Levi Strauss**, **The Examiner**, and **SF Weekly**. Principal Sponsors are **BIO-RAD**, **Chevron**, **ViiV Healthcare**, **Team Cannabis**, and **Wells Fargo**. Supporting Sponsors are **Marriot San Francisco Marquis** and **Williams Sonoma California**. Event Sponsors are **A Black Tie Affair**, **Adobe**, **Ellie Mae**, **Jones Day**, **Recology**, and **Seyfarth Shaw**. The Co-Chair Supporting Sponsor is **Baker McKenzie**.

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**About AIDS Walk San Francisco:** Since 1987, AIDS Walk San Francisco has raised more than \$90 million for lifesaving HIV prevention, testing, and care programs and services, and has grown into the largest AIDS fundraising event in Northern California. AIDS Walk San Francisco has become a Bay Area tradition, bringing together tens of thousands of participants and volunteers; hundreds of corporate, community, and friends and family teams; and hundreds of thousands of donors from the Bay Area and across the country. year's event benefits [ACRIA](#), [PRC](#), [Project Open Hand](#), and many other Bay Area AIDS service organizations. The event was founded by Craig R. Miller and his organization of activists, MZA Events. For more information, visit [sf.aidswalk.net](http://sf.aidswalk.net).