

**May 26, 1996** - rain in the afternoon

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Day Inc.

Coordinator:

Location: Banneker Field, Georgia Avenue NW

Awards:

Entertainment: Gloria Hightower was the headline entertainer.

Estimated participants:

Letters to the *Washington Blade* complained of its lack of coverage of the event. Marion Barry hosted the kick-off reception at One Judiciary Square. Women in the Life held events at Diversite and Babylon. Profitability was undermined by \$15,000 in fines from the city and a \$6,500 charge for police officers who hadn't been requested. Speakout II and Black Gay Media events drew writers and journalists from around the country.

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**May 25, 1997**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Day Inc

Coordinator:

Location: Banneker Field, Georgia Avenue NW

Awards:

Entertainment: Inner Light Unity Fellowship presented Jennifer Holliday.

Estimated participants:

The *Washington Blade* devoted several full pages to the schedule and events surrounding Black Gay Pride Day. The kick-off reception was at the Radisson Barcelo.

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**May 24, 1998**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Day Inc

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr, Cheryl Head

Location: Banneker Field, Georgia Avenue NW

Awards:

Entertainment: Sweet Honey in the Rock, Michelle Parkerson, Reverb.

Estimated participants: 12,000

It DIDN'T rain! The kick-off party was at the Edge. The opening reception was at the Radisson Barcelo. Ruth Ellis made a much celebrated appearance. During the 1998 event, representatives from New York City, Detroit, Atlanta, and Washington, DC at a workshop at the Barcelo created a national organization of Black Prides.

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**May 30, 1999**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Day Inc

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr, Cheryl Head

Location: Banneker Field

Awards:

Entertainment: Cece Peniston, Crystal Waters

Estimated participants: 10,000

The weather was clear and hot. A Federation of Black Prides meeting was held simultaneously. Ruth Ellis's 100th birthday was celebrated at Club 2:k:9.

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**May 28, 2000 "Pride 2K"**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Day Inc.

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr, Cheryl Head

Location: Washington DC Convention Center

Awards:

Entertainment:

Estimated participants:

Black Gay Pride Day Inc moved the festival indoors to the Convention Center. Many events were held at the Renaissance Hotel. The Federation of Black Prides met during the festival.

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**May 27, 2001 Self Love = Black Pride**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Inc.

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr, Noel Sheperd

Location: Washington DC Convention Center

Awards:

Entertainment: Monifah, Delta Elite celebration of 25 years

Estimated participants:

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**May 26, 2002 A Time to Heal**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Inc.

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr.

Location: Washington DC Convention Center

Awards:

Entertainment: Crystal Waters, film festival, poetry slam

Estimated participants:

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**May 25, 2003 "Living Free in 2003"**

Organizers: Black Gay Pride Inc.

Coordinator: Earl Fowlkes Jr., Ronnie Foster,

Location: Washington DC Convention Center

Awards:

Entertainment: 702, Staceyann Chinn, film festival, wellness workshops

Estimated participants: 13,000

Opening reception at the Renaissance Hotel.