



New York’s LGBTQ community has plenty to be proud of. A decade ago, the state legalized same-sex marriage. More recently, state lawmakers passed measures protecting transgender, gender nonconforming and non-binary New Yorkers, barring conversion therapy and repealing the “walking while trans” ban. Meanwhile, LGBTQ elected officials hold influential posts. In the past year, voters elected the first two openly gay Black men – Reps. Ritchie Torres and Mondaire Jones – to serve in Congress and New York City’s first two transgender district leaders. And while the four openly gay men in the New York City Council are term-limited, a larger and more diverse cohort of LGBTQ candidates are well positioned to win their races this year.

Of course, plenty of political and policy battles remain. New York leaders are battling back against anti-trans bills passed in state legislatures around the country while pushing for further protections here at home. While gay and lesbian individuals enjoy growing acceptance, transgender New Yorkers, including those of color, still confront prejudice and discrimination in their everyday lives.

To mark Pride Month, City & State’s 2021 Pride Power 100 – which was researched and written in partnership with freelance journalist Gabriel Arana – recognizes the LGBTQ leaders who are still striving for full equality.

92. Arthur Fitting & Shannon Whittington

LGBTQ+ Program Manager; Clinical Director, Gender Affirmation Program, Visiting Nurse Service of New York



Arthur Fitting (Submitted)



Shannon Whittington (Submitted)

Arthur Fitting, a registered nurse who was driven to serve LGBTQ New Yorkers after his partner died of AIDS-related illness, works with community-based organizations to deliver health care to the community through his position as LGBTQ+ program manager at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Shannon Whittington is clinical director of the VNSNY's Gender Affirmation Program, which advises clinicians in the care of transgender patients. Since 2016, the organization has helped hundreds of transgender individuals through their gender transitions.