



by Tim Lattimore

What Is Pride?

"Pride" is a complex emotion in general, just like love, because it cannot be defined by or confined to a simple feeling or explanation. However, if asked to narrow it down a bit, Pride is dignity, self-esteem, and confidence. Yes, these are synonyms, but they each hold a different meaning in both their individual and collective meanings.

"Pride", in regards to LGBTQ+ Identity and Resilience or Pride Movements, "culturally represents the celebration and visibility of marginalized identities. For the LGBTQ+ community, it is an empowering response to historical shame, stigma, and oppression. It embodies authenticity, self-love, and the freedom to live openly without fear of judgment.(Wikipedia)"

Over the past week or so as we quickly approach Pride month, I asked several random people what Pride means to them. I received many different answers such as love, friendship, acceptance, togetherness, freedom... just to name a few. The most common answers I received, however, are 1) being who you are (authentically) and 2) celebrating who you are.

The whole point is that [we] define ourselves. No one has that power over us UNLESS we give them that power. It is your birthright to define

Interview with Tino Lopez, Designer of the Pride Guide Cover

Tim Lattimore spoke with Tino Lopez for an interview.

Tino's art was chosen for the cover of the 2026 Pride Guide.

Tim: How long have you lived in (or been a part of) Syracuse?

Tino: I was born in Utica and have lived there most my life. I've been involved with Syracuse art and the burlesque scene in Syracuse since around 2018.

Tim: What do you do for a living?

Tino: I am blessed to say that I am lucky enough that Art is how I make my living.

Tim: How long have you been creating artwork?

Tino: I've been creating artwork my whole life. I'm 42 now and have always created, but as I got older, it became my hyperfocus and my best coping skills for living life.

Tim: What is your creative drive or motivation?

Tino: Art is what keeps me alive and thriving. It's a way that I have built to survive. I have suffered from many different traumas and have a few mental illnesses, so Art really has been the very breath in my lungs.

Tim: What is the purpose of your artwork?

Tino: The purpose of my artwork is to show color and hope to the world, showing that you can

do anything no matter what, and I hope that my art can give people a reason to stay... through the way I can convey messages that I leave in my art for the world to see so they can find hope within and without.

Tim: How do you identify within the LGBTQ+ community?

Tino: I am a pansexual transgender human.

Tim: What are your future endeavors?

Tino: I hope someday to be able to help more people like me through my art, and I hope to someday be able to paint a mural in every state across the world.

Tim: What has been your greatest challenge in life, and how did you overcome it?

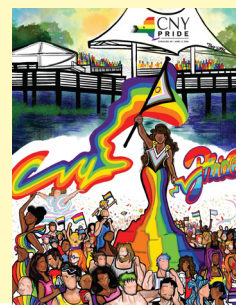
Tino: Losing my grandmother was my hardest challenge, and I've been getting through it one brush stroke at a time.

Tim: What is your greatest accomplishment or achievement?

Tino: Being a father is my greatest achievement in life.

Tim: What gives you peace or relaxes you?

Tino: Music is what brings me peace.



Pride as it expresses who you are and what you believe. Despite the judgment and hardships [we] have faced and continue to face, take pride in never giving up hope or giving into ignorance and fear. ALWAYS take pride in your Pride, and let Your

Light shine. In doing so, you are being true to yourself and a beacon of hope and strength for others.

HAPPY PRIDE EVERYONE! And remember... take care of yourself and BE KIND to one another.