



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Step Right Up for an Unforgettable Night!

Empowering Our Future Gala: Under the Big Top to Benefit the Montrose Center

Houston, TX – March 26, 2025 – Get ready for an extraordinary evening of dazzling performances, vibrant costumes, and community celebration at the Empowering Our Future Gala: Under the Big Top, benefiting youth programs at the Montrose Center, empowering LGBTQ+ Houston since 1978.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at The Ballroom at Bayou Place, where an internationally acclaimed lineup of LGBTQ+ talent will take center stage in a spectacular, circus-themed show. This is not your average gala—it's an entertainment-packed event featuring a dynamic program and an incredible crowd of LGBTQ+ community leaders and allies, all for an inspiring cause.

“We are so excited to welcome Houston's philanthropic community to the 9th annual Empowering Our Future Gala,” said Avery Belyeu, CEO of the Montrose Center. “This event has raised more than \$1.5 million for LGBTQ+ Houston since 2017 for housing support, mental health services, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, youth and senior programs, and more.”

Event Details

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM (6:00 PM VIP Reception – Invitation only)

Venue: The Ballroom at Bayou Place, 500 Texas St, Houston, TX 77002



Theme & Attire

Step into a world of wonder and whimsy with a circus-themed spectacle like no other! Attendees are encouraged to dress in circus-inspired flair or cocktail attire. Costume and drag encouraged!

Tickets & Tables

Tables start at \$2,000 | Individual Tickets start at \$200.

Secure your seats today! To reserve online, visit montrosecenter.org/EOF25 or **contact Director of Development Meleah Jones at mjones@montrosecenter.org.**

Parking & Transportation

Guests are encouraged to carpool or use rideshare for convenience. On-site valet and underground parking are available for \$20, and street parking may also be available.

Supporting the Montrose Center and its Youth Services

Proceeds from this event benefit the Montrose Center's youth services, including housing assistance for LGBTQ+ youth who are experiencing homelessness, mental and behavioral health services, crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and much more.

Join the Celebration!

Experience a night of unforgettable performances, community connection, and impactful giving. Entertainers include: Ringmaster **Dessie Love-Blake** (Miss Gay America 2024), Singing Sensation **Amy Armstrong** with accompanist **Mark Hartman**, Aerialist and Drag Burlesque Superstar **Eddie Divas**, Siren Spectacular **Keymiyah Dupree**, 'The Doll' **Artemis Hunter**, and Vocal Virtuoso **Eric Michael Krop**. Reserve your seats today and be part of an event that empowers and uplifts Houston's LGBTQ+ youth!

For more details and to purchase tickets, visit montrosecenter.org/EOF25.

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About the Montrose Center (www.montrosecenter.org)

Established in 1978 as a safe place for LGBTQ+ Houstonians to receive quality, affirming mental health services, the Montrose Center has emerged as one of the nation's leading full-service LGBTQ+ centers. As the community's needs have evolved over the last 47 years, services have expanded to include: youth and senior services,



substance use disorder treatment, gender-affirming care, support and advocacy for survivors of violent crimes, and HIV prevention and care. The Montrose Center sits at the center of Houston's LGBTQ+ community and serves as a gathering place for LGBTQ+ organizations and activities. In 2021, the Center opened a second campus, the Law Harrington Senior Living Center, which is home to more than 114 seniors and is one of the nation's largest LGBTQ-affirming, affordable senior living center. The Montrose Center is a United Way Agency.