

# MAKING SPACE FOR A TOBACCO FREE SPACE (GALLERY)

## Maine Tobacco Prevention Success Story

### AT A GLANCE

Every June, the celebration of Pride is an excellent opportunity for Portland Public Health to build connections with our local intentional lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans (LGBT) organizations and businesses. On June 25th, SPACE Gallery, a nonprofit gallery focused on providing intentionally inclusive and smoke-free spaces to exhibit art, adopted a more comprehensive tobacco policy that covers their gallery and all their community functions, reaching a whopping 32,000 patrons annually!

### PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

SPACE Gallery's focus on amplifying the voices of Portland's LGBT community, as well as the voices of Portland's black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) makes SPACE an especially meaningful partner for tobacco prevention. Although cigarette smoking has declined significantly since 1964, wide disparities in tobacco use have been documented among the largest U.S. racial/ethnic groups and within the LGBT community. According to the U.S. CDC, racial and ethnic minorities and LGBT individuals throughout the United States experience disproportionately higher rates of illness and death across a wide range of health conditions. To combat these disparities, community health workers must explicitly make the effort to engage BIPOC and LGBT organizations and businesses and involve them with promoting wellness promote through integrated approaches, evidence-based programs and best practices to reduce health disparities.

### APPROACH

In June 2021, Portland Public Health extended an invitation for SPACE Gallery to participate in our PPH Pride Passport Program, which highlights local tobacco-free LGBT spaces. After accepting the invitation to participate in our Pride celebrations, Jocelyn, the Office Manager at SPACE Gallery, opted to go a step further and adopt a more comprehensive tobacco policy for their brick-and-mortar gallery *and* all their events and exhibits throughout the community!



**"SPACE is happy to be part of the Pride Passport program. Adopting a tobacco policy sounds like a good next step!"**

*Jocelyn Leighton, Office and Studio Manager of SPACE Gallery*

### RESULTS

By adopting a more comprehensive tobacco policy for their studio and community programs, SPACE Gallery helps us expand the reach of our tobacco prevention programs and combat the normalization of tobacco use in the art community - especially for LGBTQA+ and BIPOC artists that use SPACE Gallery as a venue to gather and exchange ideas. The DTPP working with SPACE Gallery will work to maintain this partnership through offering professional trainings on tobacco prevention to SPACE Gallery staff and assisting their leadership team in selecting and placing signage for their location.



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**MAINE PREVENTION SERVICES**

Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention  
Department of Health and Human Services