



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

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THAT'S SO GAY: ART BY YOUTH WITH LGBT PARENTS

Exhibit Opening and Celebration

Organized by the COLAGE Youth Leadership and Action Program

SAN FRANCISCO, July 10, 2003 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: The members of the COLAGE Youth Leadership and Action Program proudly invite you to *That's So Gay: Art by Youth with LGBT Parents*, the opening reception for their new art exhibit of the same name. On Monday, June 23rd from 6:30-8:30 PM the community is invited to the Cellspace Gallery at 2050 Bryant Street in San Francisco to experience the first ever art exhibit and awareness poster campaign created entirely by youth with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents and families.

"*That's So Gay: Art by Youth with LGBT Parents* provides a powerful, beautiful, and unique look into the lives of young people with LGBT parents and families--their challenges, hopes, triumphs and daily lives. You won't want to miss this very special exhibit opening and celebration," says Beth Teper, COLAGE Executive Director. COLAGE has a growing and thriving program that serves, and is served by, thousands of people with gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender parents. The YLAP project which piloted in the 2002-2003 school year brings youth ages 14 and up with LGBT parents together to gain leadership skills and to engage in activism projects that raise awareness in their community. This year the youth gave public presentations to hundreds of peers and adults in Bay Area schools, community groups and policy makers offices in addition to creating the educational posters and exhibit about gay families.

The 'That's So Gay' exhibit opening and celebration debuts the educational posters and features art, photos, music, food, and poetry. Attendees have the chance to view the exhibit, to meet the youth artists, to enjoy entertainment and food, and to support the Youth Leadership and Action Program and COLAGE. Attendees will also be treated to a silent auction featuring a wide variety of tantalizing prizes. All proceeds will help the youth take the exhibit to schools and centers across the Bay Area and to continue to participate in the COLAGE leadership and activism program next year.

Additionally, the *That's So Gay* event is an opportunity to meet one of the Grand Marshals of the 2003 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade, Marina Gatto who is one of the artists and an active participant in the YLAP Program of COLAGE. Marina shares, "the *That's So Gay* Exhibit is a wonderful opportunity for youth of LGBT families in our community like myself, to show our pride, and our expression of the special bond, the unconditional love and strength, and the uniqueness that makes up our families. I am excited to display my project that celebrates the love, strength, and commitment of my family. This is a chance for me to honor my two moms who have raised me to be strong, unafraid, and to make a difference."

Estimates suggest that there are millions of children under the age of 18 in the US today living with one or more transgender, bisexual, lesbian or gay parent. Growing up in a family that is perceived as "different" or "wrong" can pose many challenges for children and young people. COLAGE provides tools and peer support to help our members negotiate these challenges, as well as take pride in themselves and their families. COLAGE engages in support and advocacy, reaching millions of families through the Internet, publications, national conferences, regional events, and the work of numerous local chapters across the US. A significant portion of COLAGE's membership is located in the Bay Area.

For more information about *That's So Gay: Art by Youth with LGBT Parents*, this event, or COLAGE, please call Meredith Fenton at (415) 861-5437 x.102 or email her at Meredith@colage.org

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