



THE FOURTH ANNUAL  
**ATHLETE  
ALLY  
ACTION  
AWARDS  
2017**

**TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 3  
6-10 PM**

**THE GALLERY  
AT DREAM DOWNTOWN**  
355 W 16TH STREET  
(BETWEEN 8TH AND 9TH AVENUES)

**WWW.ACTIONAWARDS.ORG**

## HOST COMMITTEE INFORMATION

**“WE CAN CHANGE THINGS.** Small things. One at a time. We start by not remaining silent in the presence of misogyny, not tolerating violence as a form of communication, and demanding gender equality in education, sports and jobs.”

— **KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR**

**SIX-TIME NBA CHAMPION, LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AND 2016 ACTION AWARDS HONOREE**

### WHY

**We are witnessing the greatest expansion of athlete activism in modern history.** Never have we seen athletes, teams and leagues using their influence so regularly to champion equality for marginalized communities around the country. Yet it's clear that with the current political climate, LGBT rights remain under attack and there's much work left to do. Leveraging the sports community, Athlete Ally will be there to fight back.

### WHEN

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 6 – 10 PM**

6 PM VIP Reception  
7 PM Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres  
8 PM Awards Presentation (includes Silent Auction)

### WHERE

**The Gallery at Dream Downtown**

355 W 16th Street between 8th and 9th Avenues

### LEADERSHIP

**Gala Co-Chairs:** Rob Smith and Ward Simmons

**Event Leadership (to date):** Fran Boller, Joy Bunson, Brian Ellner, Lia Parifax and Brian Rice

### WHAT

**Athlete Ally's Fourth Annual Action Awards recognizes the important contributions individuals and institutions play in championing equality and inclusion for all – on and off the playing field.** The event brings together over 400 individual and major corporate leaders to support Athlete Ally's mission of ending homophobia and transphobia in sports and using the cultural power of athletes and athletics for positive change in sports and society at large.

### PREVIOUS SPONSORS

Airbnb, Citi, Goldman Sachs, Haddad Brands, Pepsi, HBO, Hyatt Worldwide, Merrill Lynch, Miller Coors, NBA Cares, NFL, RBC Capital Markets, Steve Madden, and Tito's Handmade Vodka.

### PREVIOUS HONOREES & PRESENTERS

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Yogi Berra, Greg Louganis, Jason Collins, Lori Lindsey, HBO, Salesforce, the WNBA, James Blake, Grant Hill, KPMG, Brandon McCarthy, Martina Navratilova, Heather O'Reilly, Dr. Renee Richards, Michael Sam, and others.

### LEARN MORE

Visit the Action Awards at [www.actionawards.org](http://www.actionawards.org).

## JOIN US

**Athlete Ally is currently seeking new Host Committee members who are responsible for selling at least five (5) individual tickets (\$200 each) or securing or donating a \$1,000+ corporate or individual sponsorship.** In exchange, your name will be listed on the invitation and promotional materials and you'll be invited to participate in planning meetings.

To join the Host Committee or for more information, please contact Mitch Mathias, Development Director, at [mitch.mathias@athleteally.org](mailto:mitch.mathias@athleteally.org) or 917.301.8015. Please respond by Friday, June 30th to be included on the save the date.

## ABOUT ATHLETE ALLY

Athlete Ally is a 501-3 nonprofit organization that provides public awareness campaigns, educational programming and tools and resources to foster inclusive sports communities. Since its founding in 2011, Athlete Ally has attracted more than 150 professional athletes and Olympians, and teams at more than 50 U.S. colleges and universities to champion the inclusion of LGBT athletes and foster "allyship" in their athletic communities. Moreover, we are leveraging our partnerships with individual athletes and teams to advance our impact on LGBT public policy in states that lag in LGBT nondiscrimination protections. For more information, visit: [www.athleteally.org](http://www.athleteally.org)