

HEY TOURISM PROS

Next month, I'm home to the first global LGBTQ Sports Festival, Sports Diversity Jubilee, hosted by Compete Sports Diversity. Score!

It could be because I was just crowned "All-Star" by the Human Rights Campaign. They say I'm "boldly leading the way to equality" with my 50-point jump on the Municipal Equality Index. Move over Ru.

Or maybe because Trivago says I'm "quickly emerging as the gay capital of the south." Perhaps this is because I was named a top destination at the British LGBT Awards. Those Brits have always had good taste.

The truth is, I've had some work done — I've been busy creating more inclusive non-discrimination laws, designating a policy advisor to serve as the Mayor's LGBTQ liaison, and offering transgender-inclusive health benefits for city employees.

Yes, I may not be the Richmond you think you knew, but this makeover didn't happen overnight. For nearly 25 years, I've been home to queer youth organizations, a nationally recognized LGBT community center, and the only LGBTfocused theater company in the mid-Atlantic.

Add on some riverfront views, a bustling dining scene, worldclass museums, and over 33 breweries (and counting), and you'll really see my pride shine.

So who is the fairest of them all? It's me dahling.

Always and forever, **RICHMOND, VIRGINIA**

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