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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / October 3, 2025



(High resolution images are available by request)

CLEVE JONES NAMED 2025 LEGENDS ARCHIVE INDUCTEE BY THE ACADEMY SF; WILL BE HONORED AT LEGENDS AWARDS ON NOVEMBER 7

The November 7 event at the Swedish American Hall, hosted by Donna Sachet, will also present community awards to Alex U. Inn, Suzanne Ford, Sara Yergovich, and Danielle Thoe.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 3 – [The Academy SF](http://TheAcademySF) is proud to announce that **Cleve Jones** will be the 2025 Legends Archive inductee, joining a distinguished lineage of trailblazers whose lives and work have indelibly shaped the LGBTQ+ community. The announcement also recognizes the 2025 honorees for The Academy's community awards: the Exemplar Award, the Diane Jones Solidarity Award, and the Architect Award.

Cleve Jones Named 2025 Legends Archive Inductee

Cleve Jones is a visionary activist and tireless champion for LGBTQ+ rights. As a San Francisco organizer and early leader in the queer liberation movement, he founded the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, turning grief into a global instrument for awareness, healing, and solidarity. He has also served in leadership roles with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, advancing care, prevention, and support for those affected by HIV/AIDS. His intersections with storied figures such as Harvey Milk, and his continued work—amplified through his memoir *When We Rise*—cement his legacy as a deeply influential figure.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving of 'Legend' status than Cleve Jones. His courage and vision have changed the course of our community's history, and his work has touched so many of our lives in deeply personal ways. For me, this isn't just about honoring an icon — it's about honoring someone whose legacy reminds us why we fight, why we gather, and why we continue to believe in the power of love and solidarity. To have Cleve join the Legends Archive feels profoundly meaningful, both for The Academy and for

everyone who calls this community home,” said Nate Bourg, co-founder of The Academy.

Each year since 2019, The Academy selects an individual who has become a legend, and invites them to contribute a personal artifact that symbolizes their impact to be enshrined in the permanent [Legends Archive](#) collection, located throughout the interior of The Academy’s social club at 2166 Market Street. Past honorees include Sister Roma (2019), Juanita More (2020), Dr. Tim Seelig (2021), Graylin Thornton (2022), Peter Berlin (2023), and Donna Sachet (2024).

2025 Community Award Honorees

In addition to the Legends Archive induction, the Academy will honor several members of its community with awards that recognize leadership, solidarity, and innovation:

- **Exemplar Award — Alex U. Inn**, activist, performer, and community leader
Recognizing individuals whose lived example inspires others—not just through achievements, but through character, integrity, and everyday leadership.
- **Diane Jones Solidarity Award — Suzanne Ford**, Executive Director, San Francisco Pride
Honoring those who demonstrate profound capacity for recognizing and nurturing shared humanity across differences—building bridges, fostering empathy, and strengthening community bonds.
- **Architect Award — Sara Yergovich & Danielle Thoe**, Co-Founders, Rikki’s Women’s Sports Bar
Celebrating those who have played key roles in building community: creating spaces, structures, institutions, or programs that uplift LGBTQ+ life.

Legends Awards Ceremony — November 7

The Academy will present these honors at their annual Legends Awards ceremony, scheduled for November 7, 2025 at the Swedish American Hall (2174 Market Street), hosted by **Donna Sachet**. The event will bring together community members, activists, and supporters to celebrate the inductee and honorees, and to deepen collective commitment to LGBTQ+ history, culture, and future. Entertainment will be led by Music Director, Russell Deason.

About The Academy

The Academy is a LGBTQ+ social club and event space, open to all, focused on promoting genuine social interactions while offering engaging programming in collaboration with nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and leading community members. The Club is located in San Francisco's Castro District and was founded in 2017 by Paul Miller and Nate Bourg. Membership in The Academy’s social club is open to anyone who wishes to apply – all are welcome – and aspires to be diverse in age, race, gender, and social standing, with all members sharing a common interest in engaging in the community and valuing in-person interactions.

Calendar editors, please note:

The Academy Presents: The 2025 Legends: Honoring Cleve Jones 🌟

[Friday, November 7, 2025](#) from 6-9pm

Swedish American Hall (after party to follow next door at The Academy ~8:30pm)
2174 Market Street, San Francisco, CA

Tickets: \$20-\$160

Connect with The Academy on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#):

