

SGV LGBTQ Youth Advocacy Coalition

SGV LGBTQ Center & Rainbow Labs

Empowering LGBTQ+ Youth and Ensuring Equity



THE CHALLENGE

Youth in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) are growing up in the most racially and culturally diverse region in California, yet few public institutions reflect that same diversity in their approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion. A lack of visible support systems, safe third spaces, and culturally relevant services—especially for transgender, nonbinary, and BIPOC LGBTQ+ youth—resulted in increased isolation, deep dissatisfaction with living in the SGV, and lower levels of safety among youth participants in the *Trans and Queer Voices of the San Gabriel Valley* research project.¹

WHY IT MATTERS

In 2023, the SGV (SPA 3) reported a 45% increase in reported hate crimes. That same year, Los Angeles County recorded the highest number of anti-LGBTQ+ crimes on record, a 48% increase from the previous year, making anti-LGBTQ+ bias the second most common motivation after race, ethnicity, and national origin. Anti-transgender crimes in Los Angeles County saw a dramatic 125% increase, with 97% of them categorized as violent.² The rise of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and policies underscores the urgent need to protect vulnerable youth.



THE SOLUTION

The SGV LGBTQ+ Youth Advocacy Coalition built a cross-sector coalition to advance safe and affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth across the San Gabriel Valley. Key actions include:

- **Building a Coalition** — Recruited and engaged 20 members, including diverse LGBTQ+ youth advocates and community mentors, and developed relationships with organizations and leaders, such as the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, City of Hope, and the SGV Mobilization Coalition.
- **Training Youth Leaders** — Completed trainings in policy advocacy, canvassing, community mapping, and trauma-informed services, strengthening skills in systems change and stakeholder engagement.
- **Conducting Community Research** — Reviewed local and regional data, including hate crime trends and mental health indicators, and participated in a City of Hope community health needs assessment focus group to support an evidence-informed case for affirming spaces.
- **Advancing Policy Advocacy** — Developed a Safe Third Space policy framework, engaged County decision makers, including the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and prepared for community outreach and partnerships.

1. San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center (2025). *Trans & Queer Voices of the San Gabriel Valley Report*. www.svglgbtq.org

2. County of Los Angeles Commission on Human Relations (2023). *2023 LA County Hate Crime Report: No More Silence*