

# Creating a Safe and Welcoming Low Barrier Shelter



 February 26–28, 2025  Los Angeles, CA  #NAEH2025

## Speaker- Jae Lange

*Chief Community Officer, The Base Foundation*

## Speaker- Amanda Saurber

*President, Our Community Resources, LLC*

## Speaker- Ariel Bustamante

*Senior Manager of Capacity Building, Los Angeles LGBT Center*

This session is a **learning circle**. A collaborative, peer-led workshop where participants will come together to learn about Creating a Safe and Welcoming Low Barrier Shelter.

By the end of this Learning Circle, participants will:

1. Understand the key principles of creating a safe and welcoming environment in shelters.
2. Learn actionable strategies to promote safety and inclusivity.
3. Recognize the importance of emotional and physical safety for diverse shelter populations.



*Bringing People Home.*

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Jae Lange  
Chief Community Organizer  
The Base Foundation

Jae Lange is a passionate advocate and social worker dedicated to addressing homelessness and supporting marginalized communities, particularly LGBTQ+ youth and families. Drawing from their own experiences with housing instability between the ages of 19 and 22, Jae has committed their career to empowering others and improving systems of care.

Jae is currently pursuing a degree in Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University, where they are also recognized for their advocacy and community work. They serve as a direct service specialist at Marsha and Marian's Neighbors, a program supporting young adults who are pregnant, parenting, and/or LGBTQ+, providing holistic care and promoting autonomy. Jae emphasizes listening to and uplifting individuals to help them navigate challenges and build stability.

Their leadership extends to co-founding the B.A.S.E. Foundation (Building A Safe Environment), which connects individuals with resources to foster long-term stability. Recognized as an Emerging Leader by the Virginia Housing Alliance, Jae's contributions have also included developing educational initiatives and participating in the BIPOC Leadership Institute, further solidifying their impact on policy and practice.

Jae's work highlights their belief in the power of lived experience and the necessity of centering the voices of those most affected by homelessness. They remain committed to fighting for systemic change while fostering inclusive and compassionate communities.



Ariel Bustamante  
Senior Manager of Capacity Building  
Los Angeles LGBT Center

Ariel Bustamante is a former Liberty Hill Leader to Watch and American Bar Association Panelist spanning over 15 years of volunteer and staff experience working with social justice and social service non-profits including GSA Network, Liberty Hill Foundation, ACLU of Southern California, and now the Los Angeles LGBT Center. As Senior Manager of Capacity Building, Ariel manages initiatives (training, coaching, technical assistance, consultation, and policy advocacy) focused on improving the safety, wellbeing, and permanency of LGBTQ+ youth.

For over 6 years, using an intergenerational model, she worked to support the leadership development of LGBTQ+ youth and community organizers. In her 8+-year tenure at the Center, she has lent her expertise in working with and serving LGBTQ+ BIPOC youth in foster care, juvenile probation settings, mental health treatment, survivors, experiencing homelessness and other systems of care to a variety of state and national groups including the California Department of Social Services, National Center for Youth Law, Interagency Taskforce on Child Abduction, and as a subject matter expert for State of California legal proceedings involving best practices in serving queer and trans youth.

In addition to broad LGBTQ+ youth issues subject matter expertise (SME), Ariel's expertise is in: Campaign Development | Coalition Building | Training & Education | Capacity Building | Technical Assistance & Consulting | Intersectional and Intergenerational Issues Work | Program & Project Management | Program/Curriculum Development & Evaluation Coaching | Public Policy



Amanda Saurber  
President  
Our Community Resources, LLC

Amanda Saurber is a passionate advocate with lived experience, dedicated to connecting individuals to critical resources and fostering community support. After earning her Peer Support Certification in January 2021, she joined one of Hamilton County's largest recovery housing providers as an Intake Coordinator and was later promoted to Operations Manager.

Recognizing gaps in resource awareness, Amanda launched Our Community Resources on Facebook in April 2021 to share local resource information with the community.

By June 2022, she joined the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio as a Peer Support Specialist for the Benefits Bridge Program, assisting families in achieving stability through financial literacy, education, and higher-paying job opportunities.

In February 2024, Amanda joined the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Community Strategic Team to advance lived experience-driven initiatives nationwide. That same year, she launched OurCommunityResources.org and established Our Community Resources, LLC, which provides individualized case management for justice-impacted and/or chronically unhoused individuals.

With a database of over 3,000 organizations that provide resources, Amanda has earned a reputation as a Resource Specialist. She is committed to connecting individuals to wrap-around services and believes a holistic approach to removing barriers is key to eliminating poverty and ending homelessness in her community.

In October 2024, Amanda started working part-time at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College as the Peer Support and Outreach Specialist where she provides peer support services to students and assists them with removing barriers that prevent them from focusing on their studies.

*Bringing People Home.*



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