

# Overview of Background and Credentials for USA Ambassador - LGBT World Beside

## Background and Credentials

My name is Aaron Holloway, and I am honored to be the USA Ambassador for LGBT World Beside. I am a proud Black American gay man of Creole, Igbo, and Balanta ancestry. I am originally from Beaumont, Texas, approximately 85 miles from Houston and 19 miles from the Texas-Louisiana state border. My journey has been one of advocacy, resilience, and deep commitment to the LGBTQ+ community. I am passionate about global LGBTQIA+ human rights, HIV/AIDS, trans and women's healthcare, humanitarianism, and religious tolerance. I strive to create positive change through my involvement in political campaigns, nonprofit organizations, and artistic endeavors.

En route to completing my Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from Prairie View A&M University in 2009, a premier historically Black university, I survived AIDS and a terminal kidney failure diagnosis, and I did not look back. I soon relocated to Washington State to begin a civil service career in the Department of the Navy. During this time, I also earned a Master of Science in Technology Management from East Texas A&M University in 2013. After graduating, I moved to Los Angeles, California, where I would continue my civil service career, which I proudly call home today. I began volunteering for progressive political campaigns and served as an LGBTQIA+ Outreach coordinator for a Congressional campaign. I enjoy volunteering for the LA LGBT Center, and I hope to transition into professional work in the nonprofit sector soon.

## Connection to LGBT World Beside

I learned about the LGBT World Beside in 2018 through Harlem van Hayzer. The organization's mission resonated deeply with my humanistic values and aspirations. I am inspired by Harlem's journey, dedication, and passion for creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all members of the LGBT community. In 2019, I followed my heart and relocated to the Netherlands to reside and complete a Master of Art in European Studies on Society, Science, and Technology with a specialization in Science and Public Policy from Maastricht University, a United Nations University.

While living in the Netherlands, I sincerely appreciated the diverse immigrant and refugee communities I became connected to. These relationships greatly enriched my life. As a child, my peers often emphasized my differences, and I faced frequent antagonism because of them. Thus, I have usually felt a deep spiritual kinship and resonance with immigrant and refugee communities at home and abroad. Today, I embrace and celebrate my unique qualities along with others. We can make significant strides toward achieving equality and acceptance through collaboration, education, and advocacy. I am excited about continuing my journey with the LGBT World Beside and the impactful work we will accomplish together.

## Personal Story and Media Links

My personal journey and experiences have been shared on various platforms, where I have openly discussed my challenges, triumphs, and the importance of community support. For a deeper insight into my story, you can read my feature on The AIDS Memorial [With emotional Instagram memorial, AIDS victims' stories reach new generation](#) and listen to my podcast interview on Talk Easy with Sam Fragoso [The AIDS Memorial – Talk Easy with Sam Fragoso](#). These narratives highlight key moments that have shaped my perspective and fueled my dedication to the cause.