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Short North Arts District Community Names Street After Nina West

COLUMBUS, OH -- Community members and community organizations have collaborated to commemorate a milestone year for the Short North Arts District's beloved drag queen, Nina West. Hull Alley at High Street will be renamed The Nina West Way starting June 11, 2019. The sign not only bears Nina West's name, but it also includes the message "be kind" and features colors from both the gay and trans pride flags.

A celebrated member of the community, Nina West, portrayed by Andrew Levitt, competed on season 11 of RuPaul’s Drag Race, placing sixth, but took the prize of Miss Congeniality, a title that many viewed as uniquely befitting West. Members of the Nina West fan group, with collaboration from Stonewall Columbus and the Short North Alliance, initiated the street naming. A crowdfunding campaign on social media paid for the $800 fee to install the sign. Additional proceeds from the campaign were donated to The Nina West Fund at The Columbus Foundation.

"Nina West is not only a pillar in the Short North Community, but a leader for equality and kindness," said Betsy Pandora, Executive Director of the Short North Alliance. "To those of us who have known her kindness for years, it is a joy to watch the nation discover it through her recent success. We join many in our community to celebrate her success and showcase her message with the renaming of Hull Alley as The Nina West West Way."

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West, who is the Grand Marshall of this year's Columbus Pride Parade stepping off on Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 am in the Short North Arts District, will also be honored at the annual Pride Brunch, on Sunday, June 16 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

“Nina embodies what Pride stands for,” said AJ Casey, Executive Director of Stonewall Columbus. "Through showing unbelievable kindness and leadership, Nina has shown Columbus what it means to uplift others. Her visibility has only grown, and will continue to grow, but we are so glad that we get to keep a little piece of Nina West’s kindness in our neighborhood. Go Big. Be Kind. Go West.”

Members of the media and the community are invited to the official unveiling of the sign ceremony with Nina West at 3:00pm on Friday, June 14 at the intersection of Hull Alley and High Street.

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About the Short North Arts District

The Short North Arts District is the most vibrant spot in the City of Columbus, and is home to more than 300 exciting businesses, the majority of which are locally-owned or headquartered. It has received numerous national accolades, is considered a model for urban revitalization, and is known as the art and soul of Columbus. The Short North Alliance (SNA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving both the property owners and business owners of the Short North Arts District. For more information, visit [www.shortnorth.org](http://www.shortnorth.org).