

It's my pleasure to be here this evening on behalf of Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez to welcome all of you to the Second Annual Community Reception for the 2017 World Outgames.

Miami-Dade County is the host to many sporting events – from Super Bowls and NBA Championships to top notch tennis and golf tournaments.

We even host the Mayor's Youth Cup which highlights the achievements of our young athletes...

We love sports, arts, and culture!

And we love them because they celebrate human expression, human achievement, and they are a way to bond with others, and overcome the barriers that we sometimes separate us as people.

We are proud to be the host for the 2017 World Outgames, because they represent the openness, inclusion, and diversity that Miami-Dade County is known for around the world.

In fact, this is the first time the World OutGames will be hosted in the United States...And we are honored that our community was chosen for this distinction.

The World Outgames is also more than just sports...

It brings a human rights conference, cultural activities, and an international and national array of speakers that will centralize on issues pertinent to the global LGBTQI community.

This is the type of ongoing engagement and understanding that we promote in Miami-Dade County.

We pride ourselves on the diversity of our community – we are place where people from all over the world come to, and we have learned to live and work together to create the community you see all around us.

The Fourth Annual World Outgames are part of this, and I want to thank the entire team who made it possible.

Finally, any undertaking of this magnitude relies on the effort and participation of those involved. This is why I urge you to get out there and participate. Join a committee. Register to participate in a sporting event. Or simply make a donation to help with the expenses it will take to put on this world-class event.

Let's show the world some of our famous Miami hospitality and love!

Thank you again for being here, and thank you for all you've done to bring the 2017 World Outgames to our community.