

ICWDC REIGN XIII



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Their Most Imperial Majesty

Emprex XIII
Genocide Abrasax

Join us for the GALA OF THE AMERICAS



Coronation XIV

Saturday
September 13, 2025

Almas Temple in Washington, DC



THE IMPERIAL COURT OF
WASHINGTON, DC



www.icwdc.org

Court Purpose

The Imperial Court of Washington, DC is a 501(c)(3) organization that:

- Works in conjunction with the International Imperial Court System, founded in 1965, to perform noble deeds in the United States, Mexico, and Canada
- Provides and promotes safe and entertaining social and charitable events for all GLBT communities, straight friends and families in the Greater Washington DC area
- Promotes human rights and equality amongst the general public through performances, tea parties, social get-togethers, educational outreach projects and other worthwhile venues

Court Mission

The mission of The Imperial Court of Washington, DC (ICWDC) is to raise funds for organizations, including but not limited to those supporting just the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community: HIV/AIDS services organizations, social service organizations and youth enrichment programs. We seek to provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interest as those of the membership and to create and promote positive community awareness of the ideals of the International Court System.

Our members are dedicated to the causes and charities chosen by our organization. Our two-fold mission encompasses both social and philanthropic arenas. Moreover, as serious as we are about and our role in our community, we cannot deny that many of us also participate for the frivolity and creative outlet the Court encourages.

Reign XIII Charities



General Membership & Board Meetings

General Membership & Board Meetings are held monthly.

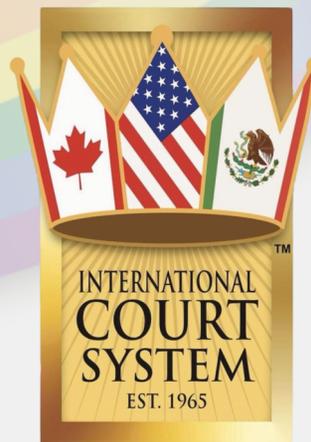
Visit www.icwdc.org for meeting dates and times.

Meetings are open to the public.

History of The Imperial Court of Washington, DC

The Imperial Court of Washington, DC was founded in 2010 and officially recognized in 2011. We are proud to be a part of the International Imperial Court System.

We strive to uphold the good deeds of our founder and pledge our allegiance to our State Head, Her Imperial Majesty, Empress I Nicole the Great, Queen Mother of the Americas.



69th Court admitted into the International Court System

History of The International Imperial Court System

The Court System began in San Francisco in 1965, which had been known for its outrageous personalities and colorful figures since it has been in existence; Jose Sarria was notorious in San Francisco. He was the first openly gay political candidate, when he ran for city supervisor in 1961. At the same time he was doing this, a group of gay bar owners were organizing the "Tavern Guild." This organization was designed to provide support in coping with an anti-gay political machine operating in San Francisco at that time.

Crowned Queen of the Beaux Arts Ball in 1964 by the Tavern Guild, Sarria, stating that he was "already a queen," proclaimed himself "Her Royal Majesty, Empress of San Francisco, José I, The Widow Norton." Sarria devised the name "Widow Norton" as a reference to the much-celebrated citizen of 19th century San Francisco, Joshua Norton, who had declared himself Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico in 1859.

Though Norton was considered insane, or at least highly eccentric, the citizens of San Francisco celebrated his regal presence and his proclamations, most famously, his "order" that the United States Congress be dissolved by force (which Congress and the U.S. Army ignored), that the Republican and Democratic parties should be banned for misleading the country, and his numerous decrees calling for a bridge and a tunnel to be built across San Francisco Bay (which both happened long after his death in the form of the San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge and the Transbay Tube). Norton's legacy has been immortalized in the literature of writers Mark Twain, Robert Louis Stevenson, Christopher Moore, and Neil Gaiman who based characters on him.

Sarria organized elaborate annual pilgrimages to lay flowers on Norton's grave in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Colma, California. He purchased a plot adjacent to Norton's and plans to be interred there. Sarria's assumption of the title of Empress led to the establishment of the International Court System, a network of non-profit charitable organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico that raise money for various beneficiaries. Sarria is much revered within the hierarchy of the International Court System and is affectionately and informally known as "Mama" or "Mama José" among Imperial Court members. The "José Honors Awards" are presented to Imperial Court dignitaries and others in a bi-annual banquet held in Sarria's honor.