

“Progress sometimes comes in small increments. And sometimes it arrives like a thunderbolt.”

When President Obama shared these lines after the Supreme Court's historic same-sex marriage ruling in 2015, his words resonated deeply. From moving the once-immovable mountain to small improvements that make the world a better place, progress – in all its forms – is the foundation of the American ideal. It gives hope. It motivates action. It brings us together.

My path of progress – personally and as part of the LGBT community – has been long, but richly rewarding. The same can be said of the place I call home – Cincinnati, Ohio. The city has undergone a renaissance in both character and construction. It is warmly welcoming and forward-thinking – where big ideas can be shared, important dialogue actively encouraged and hearts freely worn on our sleeves in ways never thought possible. At the same time, its urban core has been revitalized in neighborhoods like Over-the-Rhine and The Banks, where top chefs and world-class arts attract high profile events and fun-seeking travelers from all over the globe. Progress – in small increments and thunderbolts – is everywhere!

In some circles, talk of diversity, equality and inclusiveness is just that – talk. In Cincinnati, those words have produced transformative action to create a special place. Many years ago, John Arthur and I fell in love in a city that we both loved. Now, there's even more to love about it. Even the Human Rights Campaign has awarded Cincinnati the maximum score of 100 on its Municipality Equality Index for three years in a row.”

I join the Cincinnati USA Convention & Visitors Bureau in inviting you to experience Cincinnati and all the magic it has to offer. You might just fall in love yourself.

Sincerely,



Jim Obergefell



Jim Obergefell
Supreme Court Plaintiff,
Cincinnatian

Credit: Emma Parker Photography