



# LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

BASE AUGMENTATION REQUEST FOR FY 2023

## **LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER BASE FUNDING REQUEST FY23**

### **Programming**

The LGBTQ Resource Center (LGBTQRC) at University of Houston is dedicated to offering services and programs that provide support, resources and a safe space for LGBTQ (Q – Questioning or Queer) people on campus, and create a campus environment of LGBTQ acceptance and affirmation. The LGBTQ Resource Center aims to contribute to student success for LGBTQ students at the University of Houston, working in partnership with other offices and departments across UH and in the surrounding community. According to UH Wellness's Annual Surveys approximately 7-8% of students identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBTQ).

Over the years SFAC funding allowed us to hire student employees, a Program Manager, and an Office Coordinator. That funding has allowed us to greatly increase our impact on campus and develop into one of the most comprehensive LGBTQRCs in the nation. In the past, we have depended heavily on inconsistent sources of funding from donations and grants. For the last three years (FY20, FY21, FY22) we have benefited greatly from the one-time funding that SFAC approved especially because our ledger 2 funding was cut due to the impacts from the pandemic and we have not receive any outside grants.

Now that students are back on campus, they are eager to participate in our programs. This year the LGBTQ Resource Center would like to request base funding from SFAC for programming and advertising in the amount of \$9,000. We would use these funds for our Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA) Squad, and Sexual Health / Sexual Violence Prevention and Education as we have done in previous years.

### **SAGA Squad – Ambassador/Leadership Program**

The SAGA Squad Program began five years ago with no additional funding. SAGA Squad is a student ambassador/leadership program for the LGBTQIA+ and ally students. Participants represent the Center, plan outreach initiatives and events, create a welcoming environment for all in the LGBTQRC, and learn leadership skills such as public speaking, facilitation, strategic planning, confidence, accountability and other skills beneficial for their future. The comradery and community built among members provides a support system, which contributes to personal well-being as they learn and grow in new directions.

Students set and demonstrate leadership development goals such as:

- Responding to homophobia/transphobia
- Facilitating discussion groups on topics of exploring identity and intersectionality

- Engaging in community building by collaborating with non-LGBTQ specific student organizations and academic departments
- Practicing conflict management between team members
- Speaking in public as an official representative of the Center
- Learning about issues outside of their personal backgrounds and experiences such as racism, disability, and HIV status

SAGA contributes significantly to the growth and outreach of the Center to the campus and Houston community. We estimate that their efforts amount to over 500 additional people annually that are educated about LGBTQ+ issues or supported by the programs of the LGBTQRC. They do this in many ways including events open to the public, tabling, classroom visits, student organization visits, and group discussions.

The SAGA program also propels students to expand their personal leadership roles and to advocate for LGBTQ+ issues campus wide. One SAGA member became an officer of the United Greek Council overseeing a total of six UH fraternities and sororities. This student advocated for and implemented LGBTQ+ ally training for the entire United Greek Council and used their (singular pronoun) platform to educate their peers on inclusive practices related to gender identity and expression.

Another SAGA member had a budding interest in politics and after some leadership training with SAGA, ran for Student Government Association (SGA). She became chief of staff and started an LGBTQ Task Force in SGA. The following year she was the president of SGA.

Finally, a SAGA member used his position to market and promote UH's new gender-inclusive housing community called Gender Diversity Living Learning Community. He increased the membership from two to over twenty in just one year. He also became Vice President for UH's LGBTQ inclusive student organization, GLOBAL.

In FY21, we were not able to run the SAGA Squad program due to vacant staff positions and the pause in hiring during the pandemic.

### **Sexual Health & Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Programming**

LGBTQRC has been committed to including sexual health programming as part of UH's overall commitment to abiding by Title IX requirements and doing widespread prevention and education throughout the campus. LGBTQ+ students simply do not receive adequate sexual health education so in the past, we have brought to campus inclusive and gender-diverse sex educator and the feedback from the students clearly indicates that they are hungry for this type of information. The programs were engaging, humorous, positive, educational, and included information about consent, communication, healthy

relationships, and risks of alcohol consumption. It is evident that the inclusive nature of the information, empowered students to make healthy decision resulting in a more positive well-being.

The student feedback for these events include:

As a result of this program...

94% stated they are better equipped to engage in conversations about sex,

95% stated they are better equipped to engage in conversations about consent,

100% were able to define “enthusiastic consent”,

Comments include: I feel more informed, glad you came to UH, much respect, make this an annual event, love the openness, appreciate the balance, forward and honest...

Since receiving such positive feedback and seeing first-hand how interested the students were in the information presented, the LGBTQRC has been committed to providing *effective* Sexual Health & Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Programming every year.

## Advertising

An FY19 survey and focus group indicated a need for more visibility on campus. We agree that there should be more LGBTQ representation on campus in general, and more students need to be aware of the LGBTQ Resource Center’s existence. We have done our best to promote our programs and services in many cost saving ways, but to be visible on a campus this size intentional use of funds is necessary. We rented campus bus-stop panels during one semester, and we would like to continue using various means of advertising to make sure students who need our services to promote their well-being are informed about them.

## Breakdown for Base Funding FY23:

Program	Annual Funding
SAGA Squad	\$3,500
Sexual Health & Violence Prevention	\$ 3,500
Advertising	\$ 2000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>
Admin Charge (6% )	\$ 540
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,540</b>

We continue to partner with other units, departments, and programs within the university community to offer our students and the UH community the best in terms of programming and services, and will demonstrate the utmost in fiscal responsibility upon the granting of our base funding request.