



# LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

ONE TIME REQUEST FOR FY 2023

## **LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER ONE TIME FUNDING REQUEST FY23**

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. This year (FY22) we will benefit greatly from the one-time funding that SFAC approved. Since, we are to the point where the donations do not reach the level of demand in programming and overall functioning of the Center, which has increased substantially over the years, we are requesting these funds again.

The LGBTQ Resource Center would like to request funding from SFAC for Lavender Graduation in the amount of \$5,000.

### **Lavender Graduation**

We began the Lavender Graduation event in 2015 and it was an overwhelming success. We expected about 50 attendees but over 65 people showed up and we had standing room only. By Spring 2019 the event had grown to over 200 and due to high demand, we had to add a December ceremony in 2018. With the large increase in participation and doubling the number of ceremonies our costs have more than tripled over the years. Although we did our best to make the virtual Lav Grad special in FY21, it did not compare to the in-person celebration our students deserve.

Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and ally students and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to the University. Because LGBTQ+ students commonly struggle with additional obstacles working their way through college, it is important to recognize their unique accomplishments. It is a symbol to them that UH recognizes and welcomes their existence on campus, and values them for who they are, building their confidence as they go out into the world. Also, some students are much more connected to the LGBTQ Resource Center or an LGBTQ+ student organization than with their college. The Lavender Graduation gives them a chance to celebrate and be recognized by the people that mean the most to them.

To the younger, less adjusted LGBTQ+ students on campus, the existence of this event can help them feel better about themselves and their future.

**Breakdown for One Time Funding FY23:**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Annual Funding</b>
Lavender Graduation	\$ 5000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
Admin Charge (6% )	\$ 300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,300</b>