

One-Time Request

FY 23-24

LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER

Lavender Graduation

UH LGBTQ RESOURCE CENTER ONE TIME FUNDING REQUEST FY24

The UH 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 (L - Lesbian, G - Gay, B - Bisexual, T - Transgender, Q - Questioning or Queer) people on campus, and create a campus environment of LGBTQ acceptance and affirmation. The UH 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 (FY23) 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 LGBTQRC, which has increased substantially over the years, we are requesting these funds again.

The UH 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 at UH 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, doubling the number of ceremonies, and the shifts in economic resources around the country, our costs have more than tripled over the years.

Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses to honor lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students and to acknowledge their academic achievements and contributions to the University of Houston. 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.

Lavender Graduation is a celebration that recognizes LGBTQ students of all diverse backgrounds and abilities to help them cope with the adverse effects of prejudice against the LGBTQIA+ community and as students who survived the college experience. 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:

Program	Annual Funding
Lavender Graduation	\$ 8000
Subtotal	\$8,000
Admin Charge (6%)	\$ 480
Total	\$8,480

