

Membership Requirements



Photo by Hal Baim/Windy City Times

Mission: Rooted in LGBTQ+ liberation, Howard Brown Health provides affirming healthcare and mobilizes for social justice. We are agents of change for individual wellbeing and community empowerment.

The **Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy** (VGC) is composed of up to 25 influencers and innovators who want to help further the mission of Howard Brown. This auxiliary board specializes in fundraising, engagement, and outreach. Named after Vernita Gray, the VGC honors a longtime champion of the rights of LGBTQ+ people, African Americans, and women. She served as a community volunteer, donor, and advocate.

Meets in person on 2nd Tuesday of the month | 6-8pm

Agency champions raising money through:

- (1) Promoting public awareness of our services and [ways to support](#) the agency
- (2) Using creative fundraising strategies to bring in donations including peer-to-peer fundraising
- (3) Attending, promoting, and selling tickets for fundraising events
- (4) Providing support for general donor and outreach events.

Ideal Candidates

Someone who is:

1. Passionate about equity in healthcare
2. Able to commit to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive VGC which is vital to the long-term success of Howard Brown Health - we are committed to diversity as it relates to age, class, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, national origin, orientation, race, religion, and all marginalized identities
3. Able to commit to a two-year term
4. Attend at least two-thirds All Council Meetings.
5. Able to make an annual give/get commitment of \$500 (*excluding event tickets, in-kind donations, or other purchases*) during the fiscal year (*which runs July through June*)
6. Able to create [peer-to-peer online fundraisers](#), including AIDS Run & Walk.
7. Able to purchase a ticket, promote and sell tickets for fundraising events and help promote other agency events and community engagements.



AIDS Run & Walk | Team Howard Brown Health

Time Commitment

Each member should expect to spend five to six hours a month supporting the VGC through meetings, events, and engagement activities.

Activities

Development activities – Promote and support donor cultivation and fundraising events (i.e. in the past supported Big Orange Ball, ChiQ, Dish, Trans Media Fashion, etc.) Use Howard Brown and AIDS Run & Walk peer-to-peer fundraising pages to raise money for LGBTQ+ affirming patient care. Lead Broadway Youth Center holiday drive to help young people experiencing housing insecurity and poverty.

Membership activities – Recruit and onboard new members. Develop and lead membership engagement opportunities including socials. Guide diversity, equity, and inclusion work throughout all activities. Help to promote agency events, community engagements and healthcare services. Support external programs, volunteer, and represent the agency at community events (i.e. MidsommarFest, Market Days, Pride Fest, Pride Parade, Bud Billiken Parade, etc.)



Supporting People Living with HIV Event

Applying

Complete the [application](#) and upload your resume. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants are screened through a 30-minute meeting with [Steven Solomon](#) (Community Impact Officer) and a 30-minute meeting with VGC members.

Questions?

[Steven Solomon](#) (He/Him/His)

Community Impact Officer | Howard Brown Health
Staff Liaison for Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy

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Trans Media Fashion



Pride Parade