

## **Overview**

The mission of Howard Brown Health is to eliminate the disparities in healthcare experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people through research, education and the provision of services that promote health and wellness.



The *Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy* is a passionate and dynamic auxiliary board made up of influencers and innovators who want to help further the mission and vision of Howard Brown through fundraising, community engagement, and community representation. Named after Vernita Gray, the Council honors a longtime champion of the rights of LGBTQ people, African Americans, and women who served as a community volunteer, donor, and advocate.

The purpose of the Council is to increase public awareness of Howard Brown's work; expand event outreach and fundraising capacity; and create an exciting environment where members can grow in their understanding of the health disparities facing the LGBTQ+ community and the resilience of LGBTQ+ people.

As a group, the Vernita Gray Council will have the opportunity to engage with Howard Brown staff through learning and advocacy opportunities, champion and attend agency events, raise funds to support the agency's mission, and grow awareness of the work of the agency in the community.

## **Who is a candidate for the Council?**

Someone who is:

1. Passionate about equity in healthcare
2. Able to make a yearly annual give/get commitment of \$500, not including ticket and other purchases
3. Able to commit to a two-year term
4. Willing to attend at least four of six Council meetings each year AND willing to join one committee, and attend at least three committee meetings.
5. Excited to join Howard Brown donors, staff, and Council members at the Big Orange Ball as well as other agency fundraisers through the purchase of at least one ticket
6. Committed to the long-term success of the Vernita Gray Council and Howard Brown
7. Interested in an on-going relationship with the agency



## What committee(s) could I join?

*Executive committee* – setting fundraising goals for the group and monitoring overall engagement. This committee is made up of officers including the chair, vice chair, treasurer, and each committee chair.

*Outreach and community engagement committee* – supporting external programs, volunteering, and representing the agency at community events (such as MidsommarFest, Market Days, Bud Billiken Parade, and more).

*Development and social committee* – supporting the Big Orange Ball as host committee members and creating and running smaller fundraising events and opportunities for the agency as a whole.

*Engagement committee* – supporting the pulse of the group, this committee develops networking opportunities for Council member while also serving as the recruitment arm of the Council



## What is the time commitment?

Each member should expect to spend two to four hours a month supporting the Council through meetings, events, and engagement activities.

## How do I apply to the Vernita Gray Council?

Fill out the application document and submit, alongside resume, to Katie Metos, Associate Director of Development, at [KatieM@howardbrown.org](mailto:KatieM@howardbrown.org). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Questions? Reach out to Katie at the email above.