

## Membership Requirements

**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.



Photo by Hal Baim/Windy City Times

**Meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month | 6-8pm**

### **VGC Members are agency champions & raise money through:**

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

### **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, and share VGC's online fundraisers for Giving Tuesday and Give OUT Day
7. Able to purchase a ticket, promote and sell tickets for fundraising events and help promote other agency events and community engagements.



## 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 fundraising events (i.e. in the past supported Big Orange Ball, ChiQ, Dish, Trans Media Fashion, etc.)  
Lead individual and team online fundraisers (i.e. AIDS Run & Walk, Giving Tuesday, and Give OUT Day, etc.)  
Lead Broadway Youth Center (BYC) donation drives.

**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.)



## Applying to the Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy

Please fill out the [application](#) and submit along with your resume, to Steven Solomon at [StevensS@howardbrown.org](mailto:StevensS@howardbrown.org). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Applicants are screened through a 30-minute meeting with Steven. Once completed, your application status is determined after a 30-minute interview with VGC members.

## Questions?

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

Senior Individual Giving Officer | Howard Brown Health  
Staff Liaison for Vernita Gray Council for Philanthropy  
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