

Compass

NAVIGATING OUR
FUTURE TOGETHER

PRESENTED BY  GILEAD

HOWARD BROWN HEALTH 2026 GALA
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026 | 6:00 PM | VENUE WEST



Howard Brown Health is Proud to Honor Austin Baidas as Our 2026 Friend for Life Honoree

Austin is being honored for his exceptional leadership, public service, and unwavering commitment to community impact. Austin has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to philanthropy and service. He has spent nearly nine years on the Board of Directors of Howard Brown Health, where as Treasurer he helped establish a \$65 million endowment. He led the efforts to construct and fundraise for two new facilities, the Broadway Youth Center and the new Halsted clinic.

He also guided the successful search for our new CEO. His generosity—both moral and financial—has helped position our organization as a leading healthcare provider.

A Chicago-based business owner, Austin's leadership during his career has spanned government, nonprofit, and private sector organizations, overseeing multi-billion-dollar budgets, and financing complex, multi-million-dollar construction projects.

Austin began his career in commercial lending before moving on to lead an environmental testing laboratory and several companies in the manufactured and modular housing industry. He later served in Illinois state government as Associate Budget Director under Governor Pat Quinn, managing approximately \$20 billion of the state's budget. During this time, he worked alongside legislators, advocates, and members of the LGBTQ community in support of the successful passage of civil unions and marriage equality. He also served with the U.S. Department of Transportation during the Obama Administration and remains active in Democratic politics.



Beyond his professional accomplishments and in addition to his service with Howard Brown Health, Austin is actively engaged in the Lakeview community and volunteers on several other non-profit boards focused on education, healthcare, and LGBTQ+ services, including serving as a past board member for eight years at Center on Halsted where he championed the senior apartments project. He is Treasurer of the Synergia Initiative for Human Rights, supporting LGBTQ rights globally. Austin was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees at his beloved alma mater, Albion College and will assume this role in June when he terms off the Howard Brown Health Board.

Continuing his commitment to education, Austin, along with his siblings, established a scholarship fund in honor of their late father. Over the past two decades, they have awarded more than \$1 million in scholarship support to deserving students. His leadership and dedication to advancing equity and opportunity continue to make a lasting difference in Chicago and beyond. We are honored to celebrate his contributions as our 2026 Friend for Life Honoree.

The award will be presented at **Howard Brown Health's Spring Gala, *Compass: Navigating Our Future Together*, presented by Gilead Sciences, on April 23 at Venue West.**

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