



As part of creating community engagement and listening spaces, two focus groups were held for the Our LGBTQ Community Fund on July 18 and 27, 2022. In total, 20 members of the LGBTQ+ community were in attendance. The focus groups were held to listen more deeply to community members' wants, needs, and concerns; how GRCF can continue to build deeper relationships with community members, and find opportunities to support that are meaningful and relevant to the LGBTQ+ community.

HEARD WITHIN THE FOCUS GROUP:

Q: What concerns about your community keep you up at night?

"TIRED OF NOT BEING FULLY ACCEPTED in a manner that authentically embraces intersectional identities."

"PERFORMATIVE ALLYSHIP."

Q: What would you like to see more of?

"PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMMING TO REDUCE VIOLENCE in the Trans community, especially BIPOC trans folx + youth."

"MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT for undocumented + immigrant communities."

KEY THEMES

Below are key themes that surfaced across both focus groups and summarized individual responses to the questions in both sessions.



1.

PROVIDING A SAFETY NET + CREATING A SENSE OF BELONGING - BOTH IN PHYSICAL SPACES + THE ABILITY TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES WITH OTHERS OF SIMILAR IDENTITIES.

2.

CREATING MORE VISIBILITY FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AROUND KEY ISSUES THAT IMPACT THEM, SUCH AS INCLUDING MORE DATA + RESEARCH AROUND YOUTH, HOUSING, + HEALTH CARE.

3.

INVESTING IN + PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP + LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CREATED BY + FOR THE COMMUNITY.

4.

CENTERING, SUPPORTING, + ELEVATING THE VOICES + EXPERIENCES OF BIPOC QUEER + TRANS FOLX.

It's also important to recognize what people love and appreciate about their community, including meeting others with similar identities and lived experiences, building a family of communal care + relationships and a desire to support the arts and creativity.



OUR LGBTQ FUND CHARTER*:

In the absence of a charter for Our LGBTQ Fund, the following was used to ground the focus of the work:

*Provide a safe, welcoming and healthy environment for the LGBTQ community in West Michigan by increasing wellness and prosperity levels, visibility, acceptance, support and access to resources.

The North Star, Racial Equity Guideposts, and Charter acts as foundational elements of the grantmaking framework.

*Brigham Consulting, LLC was not scoped to undergo a chartering process with Our LGBTQ Fund, but recommends they, in fact, go through this process so their "why" is centered and threaded throughout their work.

BY THE NUMBERS

1
OPEN HOUSE
CO-HOSTED WITH
BLACK LEGACY FUND
+ SOMOS COMUNIDAD

2
FOCUS GROUPS

20
PARTICIPANTS

Flip over to READ MORE! ▶

WHAT DOES YOUR IDEAL COMMUNITY LOOK, FEEL, TASTE + SOUND LIKE?

*INCLUSIVENESS FROM THE BROADER COMMUNITY THAT FEELS INTENTIONAL, AUTHENTIC, + WELCOMING.

Abolishing the police + the prison industrial complex.

*EVERYONE HAS A SAFETY NET THAT MEETS THEIR RESPECTIVE NEEDS, INCLUDING SUPPORTING INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES.

***PRIORITIZING OPPORTUNITIES + SUPPORT FOR BLACK, QUEER, + TRANS FOLX.**

*DE-CENTERING WHITENESS + WHITE-BASED STANDARDS.

*MORE ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, + PROGRAMMING (INCLUDING DATA COLLECTION) FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH.

*PROVIDING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE FOR COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING MENTAL HEALTH.

1.

Asset vs. deficit-led approach to community building.

*THE ABILITY TO CONNECT + BUILD RELATIONSHIPS + COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS.

* MULTIPLE PEOPLE SHARED THIS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?

*MEETING OTHERS + CREATING A FAMILY WITH THOSE OF SIMILAR IDENTITIES.

*DESIRE + SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS + CREATIVITY - MUSIC, VISUAL, ETC.

*BEING INSPIRED BY YOUTH AND CREATING A FUTURE WHERE THEY CAN EXIST FREELY.

Laughter!

Willingness to have dreams + hope.

Our intersectionality.

Disruptors.

Young professional leaders.

Size of the community - not to big + not too small.

2.

* MULTIPLE PEOPLE SHARED THIS

WHAT CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY KEEP YOU UP AT NIGHT?

*TIRED OF NOT BEING FULLY ACCEPTED.

*PERFORMATIVE ALLYSHIP IS NOT ENOUGH.

*NEED FOR INVESTMENT + ELEVATING BIPOC QUEER PEOPLE.

*THE RIGHTS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY ARE UNDER ATTACK.

*FEARFUL FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUTH.

Religious institutions force their beliefs on others, particularly youth.

Local government is not showing up for our community.

*NONPROFIT + PHILANTHROPIC SECTOR CAN BE PERFORMATIVE.

Lack of civil rights for BIPOC + LGBTQ+ communities.

The business community not signing on to banning conversion therapy.

Trans people are being incarcerated.

3.

* MULTIPLE PEOPLE SHARED THIS

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

*SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ YOUTH IN HOUSING, ISOLATION, + PREVENTING SUBSTANCE ABUSE. (4)

Supporting incarcerated queer activists.

SUPPORTING LGBTQ+ ELDERLY, SO MANY FEEL ISOLATED + LONELY.

*EDUCATION + AWARENESS TO SUPPORT + ADVOCATE FOR BIPOC LGBTQ+ YOUTH. (2)

Support for advocacy for Patrick Lyoya case.

*CENTERING + PRIORITIZING GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS. (2)

The City of Grand Rapids supporting reparations + land back programs.

RESOURCES FOR PERPETRATORS OF HARM.

Mental health support for undocumented + immigrant communities.

PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMMING TO REDUCE VIOLENCE IN THE TRANS COMMUNITY.

SPACES FOR COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS.

4.

SAFE PLACES FOR DRUG USE + SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT.

* MULTIPLE PEOPLE SHARED THIS

CORE QUESTIONS

ASKED IN EACH FOCUS GROUP



2022 COMMUNITY LISTENING + ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

OUR LGBTQ FUND



STRATEGIC PLANNING PROVIDED BY:
Brigham Consulting

Go to: grfoundation.org/lgbtqfund to read the full report