

YEAR 11

ANNUAL
REPORT

**OFFICE OF
BGLTQ
STUDENT
LIFE AT
HARVARD
COLLEGE**

2022-2023

Harvard University is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusett, the original inhabitants of what is now known as Boston and Cambridge. We pay respect to the people of the Massachusett Tribe, past and present, and honor the land itself which remains sacred to the Massachusett People.

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Introduction

This year has been a challenging year of dualities. How can we better welcome all people into our space and affirm specific identities? How can we hold a space of community, stability, and peace, when the queer community is in a time of upheaval and unrest? How can we continue to work for the queer community when we are exhausted and drained ourselves? How do we acknowledge recent and distant histories so we can heal and learn from our pain?

In this report, we hope you see the effort and love we have put in to support and forefront the students and their work in this community. Much remains to be done, yet nothing happens if it does not first begin.



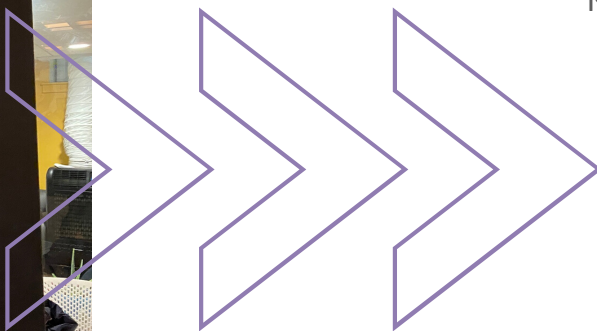
From our Interim Director

This work is challenging and it is difficult. It is also joyous and fulfilling.

I am so grateful to our queer community and allies for the kindness and support we have received this year. Many challenges occurred this year with little or no warning; many opportunities came together almost as spontaneously. We eased back into community gatherings and we will continue to build on these events in a thoughtful, kind way this upcoming year. Our path forward is bright with the opportunities seen and lessons we have learned this past year. I am looking forward to expanding our community's circles and reach this upcoming year, and I am excited to take this journey with all of you.

I came to the QuOffice in March 2022 as Assistant Director; transitioning into the Interim Director role has been one of the greatest challenges of my career thus far. It has pushed and pulled me in ways I could not foresee, and I cannot imagine any other work I would rather be doing. All of my success in this role is due to the amazing colleagues, collaborators, and co-conspirators I have been fortunate enough to lean on and learn with this year; there are far too many of you to name, but please know how much I adore every single one of you for the ear, hand, or shoulder you lent me this past year.

We do more and go farther together.
With deepest gratitude,
Meagan



(from left) Joseph Barretto ('97), President of HGSC, and Meagan von Rohr, Assistant/Interim Director of the BGLTQ Office of Student Life.

About Us

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life, also called "The BGLTQ Office" or the "QuOffice," serves as a central resource for bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, queer, and questioning (BGLTQ) students at Harvard College. We strive to create a community where BGLTQ students can thrive and where all students are equipped to engage knowledgeably and compassionately on issues related to gender and sexuality.

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life warmly welcomes and celebrates folks of all sexualities, gender identities, and gender expressions. Whether you're looking for a specific resource or just want to chat, students are welcome to stop by our office whenever we're open. Or, you can email us in advance to schedule a time to meet. You'll also find free coffee and tea, safer sex supplies, a BGLTQ library, comfortable study space, and other friendly faces. We look forward to getting to know you!

Why BGLTQ?

The Office of BGLTQ Student Life was founded in 2012 through the activism and support of faculty, students, and staff. One student group, the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Trans, Queer, and Questioning Student Alliance (BGLTQSA) participated in the advocacy that established our office. They alphabetized the community acronym, with Q for "queer" at the end as an umbrella term, so as to not prioritize any one gender or sexual orientation over another. As a nod to our shared history, our office uses the same acronym (BGLTQ). Today, the BGLTQSA is known as the Queer Student Association (QSA).



Gathering of the Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus (HGSC) at the QuOffice.

Our Staff

The BGLTQ Office team includes professional staff, a graduate assistant, and undergraduate interns who identify as BGLTQ, as allies, or both! Our interns ("Qulterns") are current Harvard undergraduates who are passionate about issues related to gender and sexuality. Qulterns ensure that students have accurate and timely information about BGLTQ programs and services and keep the staff abreast of emerging student needs. Qulterns also lead social and educational initiatives in partnership with students and staff across campus.

Qulterns, Fall 2022 and Spring 2023

Amado Candelario, '23
Steven Garcia-Machuca, '23
Sahar Khashayar, '22
Kris King, '23
Anisa Kneeland, '24

Alexis Logan, '25
Ilinca Mazureac, '23
Abby McElroy, '23
Kendall Shields, '24

Brit Shrader, '23
Bari Tuka, '25
Benjy Wall-Feng, '25
Jama Willis, '25

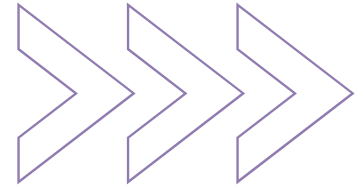
Graduate Assistant

Cassandra Montenegro, MDiv '24
Foxy Montenegro, QuOffice Dog

Professional Staff

Meagan von Rohr, Assistant/Interim Director
Jasmine Shevell, Part-Time Communications Assistant

A Year in Review



We love our community. Here are some of the ways we've been showing up:

We hold space, support student-lead initiatives and events, and get students the support and help that they need. Much of what we do at the QuOffice is hard to encapsulate in one report; here is how we've supported the queer community this past academic year.

Key Indicator	Activity / Project	Reflections
50+ Hours	Time staff spent in direct student support conversations and meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over fifteen resource referrals made for clinical support• Half of those students who got referrals came to the QuOffice at the suggestion of a peer
60+ Collaborations	Collaborations with departments, colleagues, community partners, and student organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborations ranged from events to policy reviews to trainings and informational campaigns• We look forward to expanding the number of collaborations we engage in moving forward
160+ Events	Events held, sponsored, or co-sponsored by the Office in AY22-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 138 of those events were held in the BGLTQ Office in Thayer Hall

Strategic Priorities

Some top contributions we've made to the community this year.

Served on the University-Wide LGBTQ+ Student Support Working Group

Led by the Office of the Associate Provost for Student Affairs, this working group convened members of the Harvard University community to assess what support is currently available for LGBTQ+ students and determine what other support will be beneficial. QuOffice staff served on the subcommittees for Dedicated Central Office/Staff and Affirmative Systems and Spaces.

Collaborated with HUHS and CAMHS on the BGLTQ+ Treatment Team

We met regularly with healthcare providers, patient advocates, counselors, and experts across the University system to create and advocate for the best gender affirming care for students during this fraught political moment. We helped spread the word about what care is available for students and how to access it, and provided referrals to students in need of assistance.

Deepened our relationship with University Chaplains

We facilitated relationships with the leadership of the Chaplains at multiple levels across the College. We created a Queer-Affirming Chaplains list, and invited Chaplains into our spaces for student-led events. We supported the creation of a new queer interfaith student organization, and facilitated their work with the Chaplains.

Select Projects from AY2022-2023

- Co-presented *Creating Communities of Care* session to the Class of 2028 during First Year Orientation
- Supported Peer Counseling groups by providing space and resources for counselors
- Hosted annual *BGLTQ in the Yard* and launched *BGLTQ in the Quad* (Fall 2022)
- Co-hosted a *Trans+ Ally Day of Action* with Harvard Undergraduate Queer Advocates
- Collaborated with the Office of Gender Equity (OGE) to update the Gender Neutral Restroom Map
- Co-hosted a *National Coming Out Day Panel* at the Institute of Politics and Faculty Club Dinner with the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Pride Caucus, the Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus (HGSC), and the Shorenstein Center
- Facilitated intergenerational affinity spaces for queer community members
- Held supportive spaces for the entire Harvard queer community during hard news cycles
- Collaborated on the Dean of Students Office (DSO) WinterSession panel *Cultivating Communities of Presence* for Resident Life staff
- Strengthened our relationship with the Office of Gender Equity (OGE) SHARE team to provide students with more queer-specific mental health supports and trainings on peer mutual support
- Hosted artist dinner for students in partnership with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Latinx Student Association *TransQuinceañera*
- Facilitated conversations on queer inclusion with campus-wide organizations and partner departments
- Welcomed prospective students into the College's queer community during *Visitas*
- Volunteered at Lavender Affinity Celebration during Commencement Week
- Hosted the Harvard Gender & Sexuality Caucus (HGSC) Annual Meet Up during Alumni Reunion Weekend
- Reinstated the QuOffice as a Field Education site with Harvard Divinity School (HDS)
- Celebrated LGBTQ+ Youth Pride with Governor Healey ('92) at the Massachusetts State House
- Supported the Harvard University Pride Taskforce

High Impact Programs

"The Queer Poetry event and the Queer Poetry Community Book are some of the most affirming spaces on campus! It feels wonderful to feel seen and heard."

-Queer Poetry Brunch participant, Spring 2023



- 2/8 BIPOC Queer Affinity Space
- 2/22 Black Queer Affinity Space
- 3/2 Disabled Queer Affinity Space
- 3/21 Non-monogamous/Poly Affinity Space
- 3/28 Trans/Gender Nonconforming Space
- 3/29 Sapphic Space (at the Women's Center)
- 4/5 Aromantic/Asexual Space
- 4/12 AAPI Queer Affinity Space
- 4/19 Larger-Bodied QTPOC



(from left) Steven Garcia-Machuca ('24), Meagan von Rohr, Bari Tuka ('25), Gov. Maura Healey ('92), Cassie Montenegro (MDiv, '24), Ilinca Mazureac ('23)

Community Support

The QuOffice provided funding to the community:

- The Queer Advisory Council Grants, distributed by peer assessment
- Made funding available for BGLTQ+ Proctors and Tutors to host events in residential communities
- Co-sponsored 160+ events

Affinity Spaces

We held or co-hosted over 20 Affinity Spaces for various identities in the community.

- Over 200 student participants across all events
- Collaborated with 15 other departments and organizations on these spaces

Lavender Graduation

- Celebrated over 50 BGLTQ+ College graduates
- This year's Papadopoulos Speaker: Governor Maura Healey, '92
- The annual HGSC Award winner: Ilinca Mazureac, '23

"I've never been in a room with this many other Ace [asexual] people before; it's so incredible!"

-Community member, Aro/Ace Coffee Chat

Student Programming Highlights

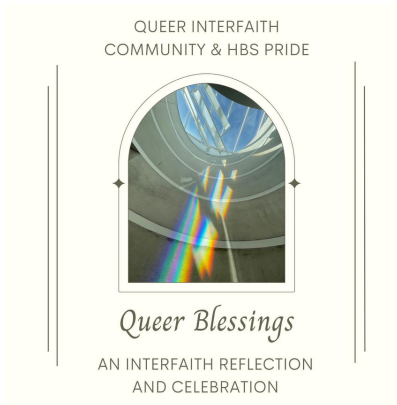
There is a vibrant ecosystem of BGLTQ+ Student Organizations at Harvard College. Here are some of the most impactful programs the student community facilitated this past year that the QuOffice co-sponsored.



Social Transition Fund

by the Queer Student Association and the Harvard Undergraduate Association (full-year)

- \$6,001 distributed directly to students for non-medical gender affirming expenses
- 84 students (94%) received funding
- 75% of recipients self-identified as POC
- 51% of recipients self-identified as FGLI



Queer Blessings

by Harvard Undergraduate Queer InteRfaith Community (QuIRC), December 3rd

- an afternoon of music, poetry, and community celebrating the religious, spiritual, and ethical diversity of Harvard's queer community



Trans+ Community Day

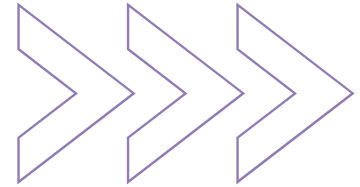
by Harvard Athlete Ally, October 12th

- Brought together 150+ Trans+ community members and allies
- Provided a Trans+ centered space for ally education, Trans+ resource distribution, and Trans+ community

"I was able to purchase gender affirming clothing to reflect my most authentic self on the outside. To some this seems like a simple thing, but being able to go to a store knowing that I have the opportunity and funds is freeing."

-Social Transition Fund Participant Feedback

Selected Media Mentions



- ['Evolving' Boston Pride Returns Under New Leadership](#)
- ['The First Event of Its Kind': Students Host Harvard Trans+ Community Event](#)
- ['An Act of Gratitude': Harvard Honors Trans Day of Visibility with Advocacy, Discussion, and Celebration](#)
- [Harvard Students Laud Social Transition Fund Designed to Support Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Students](#)

QuInterns in the press:

- [Queer Students Hold 'Dissenting' Display During Harvard College Faith and Action Event](#)
- [Escaping hurdles in conservative Eastern European homeland](#)



Student-initiated queer poetry book



QuOffice Library



Boston Pride for the People 2023

Press about the Community this year:

- [LGBTQ+ Harvard Affiliates Receive Homophobic Emails Threatening Violence](#)
- [Harvard Kennedy School Student Rodrigo Ventocilla Remembered as a 'Fighter' for Trans Rights](#)
- [Describing Gap in Current Activism, Harvard Undergraduates Form New Queer Advocacy Group](#)
- [Panelists Discuss LGBTQ+ Representation in Media at Shorenstein Center Event](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Advocates Discuss Activism at IOP National Coming Out Day Forum](#)

Next Steps

Annual reports are not just for reflecting, but also looking forward.

01 Broaden the intersections of identities represented in our work

Queerness is one set of identities among many; all who engage with us should see themselves represented and welcomed.

02 Forefront student-led work

Students are the future of our community. Giving them a space where their work is forefronted, encouraged, and supported is our best way forward.

03 Be loud, be proud

We will increase our visibility and reach across campus and alumni networks through thoughtful and inclusive communications work.

(from left) Cassie Montenegro, Graduate Assistant at the BGLTQ Office of Student Life; and Dr. Giang Nguyen, Associate Provost for Campus Health and Wellbeing, and Executive Director of Harvard University Health Services.



Acknowledgements

Our work is best done in and with our community. We would like to thank the following collaborators*:

Association of Black Women at Harvard	Harvard University Athletics
Athlete Ally National	Harvard University Chaplains
Boston Area Trans Support	Harvard University Global Support Services
Boston Children's Hospital	Harvard University Health Services
Chastity Bowick Consulting & Talent Group	Harvard University Information Technology
Contact Peer Counseling	Harvard University Mail Services
DSMS Gender and Sexuality Alliance	Harvard University Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging
Fenway Health	Harvard University Public Affairs and Communications
Governor Maura Healey's Office	Harvard University Recreation
Harvard Alumni Association	Houghton Library
Harvard Athlete Ally	Indigo Peer Counseling
Harvard College Communications	Members of the LGBTQ+ Student Support Working Group, The Office of the Assistant Provost for Student Affairs
Harvard College Dean of Students' Office	Members of the Office of BGLTQ Student Life Executive Committee
Harvard College Finance and Administration	Memorial Church
Harvard College Residence Life	Office for the Arts at Harvard
Harvard College Title IX	Office of Student Support
Harvard College Women's Center	Philips Brooks House Association
Harvard Divinity School Office of Ministry Studies	Queer Rites at Harvard Divinity School
Harvard Faculty Club	Queer Student Association
Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations	Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Harvard Gender and Sexuality Caucus	Schuyler Bailar, '19
Harvard Hillel	The Department of Women and Gender Studies
Harvard Islamic Society	The HUHS and CAMHS BGLTQ+ Treatment Team
Harvard Kennedy School Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging	The Office of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Harvard Kennedy School Pride Caucus	The Office of Gender Equity
Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Clinic	The Open Gate Foundation
Harvard Restorative Justice Collaborative	The Queer Advisory Council
Harvard SOGIE Health Equity Research Collaborative	The Queer Employee Resource Group
Harvard Undergraduate Association	The SHARE Team
Harvard Undergraduate Queer Advocates	The Shorenstein Center
Harvard Undergraduate Queer InteRfaith Community	
Harvard Undergraduate SHADES	

*"Collaborators" include those who co-sponsored events, helped to fund new initiatives, and/or served as thought partners.

Support our Community

Your support allows the Office of BGLTQ Student Life (QuOffice) to carry out our mission and to enrich students' experiences at Harvard. A portion of the QuOffice's annual budget comes from the support of alumni and friends in the form of individual gifts made to fund 331120 - The Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life Fund.

All donations to the Harvard College Office of BGLTQ Student Life are tax-deductible and eligible for Harvard College Fund class credit!

Donations by check should be made out to Harvard College, with the fund number 331120 written on the memo line if possible. Checks can be mailed to: The Office of BGLTQ Student Life, Thayer Hall, Basement, Cambridge MA 02138.

For credit card donations, please go to the [Harvard College Giving Page](#), and choose OTHER in the Select Fund pull down. Write 331120 in the Other Fund Name field to ensure that your gift is allocated to the QuOffice.



Harvard College students at Queer Prom 2023.

We thank you for your support!

Get in Touch with the QuOffice

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