



Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community at Oxy

Occidental College is proud to support an inclusive environment where all students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, can thrive. We believe that celebrating and honoring the diverse identities within our community is essential to creating a campus that is welcoming and supportive for everyone. We strive to create a community where past and present students can celebrate their identities, share their experiences, and support each other in their journey towards self-discovery and acceptance. Together, we celebrate the rich diversity of our community and work towards a future where all individuals are accepted and celebrated for who they are.

By supporting the giving opportunities listed below, you can directly contribute to creating belonging, promoting awareness, and empowering members of Oxy's LGBTQIA+ community.

Gift Opportunity Menu

Summary

- **SAGA Queer L.A. Track of L.A. Engage - \$4,000 annual need**
- **SAGA Queer Formal - \$6,000 annual need**
- **Lavender Lounge refurbishment - \$1,000 start-up funds need**
- **Out@Oxy Archives - \$5,000 annual need**
- **Out@Oxy Outreach - \$2,000 annual need**

Details

- **SAGA** (Sexuality and Gender Acceptance student club) provides various community-building opportunities, including the Queer L.A. track of L.A. Engage. L.A. Engage is an up-close introduction to the vibrant City of Los Angeles and allows students to experience culture, film, food, nature, the urban environment and more before New Student Orientation officially begins at the end of August. The **Queer L.A.** track focuses on site visits to introduce students to **queer spaces in Los Angeles** (cultural landmarks, galleries featuring the work of queer artists, etc.). These trips allow students to connect with their new peers, get to know their surroundings, and develop a sense of community and belonging. Each program lasts for two days, and past trips include: Feminist Center for Creative Work, Mazer Lesbian Archives, Hamburger Mary's Sunday Brunch Drag Show, *Les Misérables* at Hollywood Pantages Theater, The Wall: Las Memorias AIDS Monument, Tom of Finland House: Guided Tour, Out of the Closet, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at the Nuart Theatre.

A donation of \$4,000 would facilitate two or more such site visits for queer students (including transportation, tickets, parking, and refreshments), removing financial barriers to attendance and fostering inclusion and equity. However, a donation on any level would make an impact. Of their recent experience with Queer L.A., one student shared, "Getting to present as openly, publicly queer for the first time ever really has been unforgettable. It's also been incredible starting the school year already having people I recognize to talk to."

- Another avenue through which SAGA supports the LGBTQIA+ community is through its annual **Queer Formal**, which takes place in the spring. This event is perfect for engaging seniors who are about to graduate, offering an opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments and their identities. Each Queer Formal is open to all and draws about 150 students. This coming formal will take place Saturday, April 15 from 9 pm to midnight at Hot Shot Muffler with vegan food provided by Feed The People LA, a queer/trans Latina kitchen collective. **A donation of \$6,000 would underwrite expenses for the entire event for one year, including catering, entertainment, and transportation—providing a memorable experience for participants. Ongoing gifts will help fund the program in perpetuity.**
- **Refurbishment of the Lavender Lounge**—a community gathering space that hosts events and offers queer students a place to gather regularly. The Lavender Lounge opened on October 8th, 2019, as part of a collaborative effort between the student organization Sexuality and Gender Acceptance (SAGA), the Diversity and Equity Board (DEB) and the Intercultural Community Center (ICC). Located in Occidental College’s multicultural hall, Pauley, one of the main goals of the Lavender Lounge is to **foster conversation within Oxy’s queer community** on how to best support queer students from an intersectional lens. Students have indicated that the space lacks a welcoming physical presence. **This project will require \$1,000 in start up funds. Gifts of any size would sponsor improvements to the Lavender Lounge, including rugs, plants, new books, artwork for the walls, and additional seating.**
- **Out@Oxy** (our affinity group which supports lavender graduates) creates lasting ties with the queer community at Oxy. Currently, Out@Oxy is undertaking an exciting effort to establish the **definitive archive of queer life at Occidental**. Both special collections and Out@Oxy staff are very excited to see this project come to fruition, and Alanna Quan '16 in special collections is ready to begin efforts. This opportunity is of the highest priority. A recent **article** details the renewed mission of Out@Oxy, including the archive project, which would involve retaining a student worker (ideally, a member of SAGA) to conduct outreach and interviews with queer alumni in partnership with Special Collections. **The start up expenses for this special project are estimated to be approximately \$5,000. Gifts of any size make a difference, and funds would create a resource that would benefit the queer community for years to come.**
- **Out@Oxy Outreach** - Help support Out@Oxy student and alumni outreach efforts. Out@Oxy provides seniors who participate in the Lavender Graduation with swag bags to welcome them to the Out@Oxy alumni group. Additionally, Out@Oxy volunteers host events at Alumni Reunion Weekend and Homecoming and Family Weekend, and funds can help provide giveaway items and refreshments for hosted events. **A donation of \$2,000 will supplement the budget provided by Oxy each year and will help to provide giveaway items (lapel pins, fans, swag for the graduates, etc.) and refreshments for hosted events, such as the Out@Oxy Champagne Brunch over Alumni Reunion Weekend.**

