



Dear Potential Board Member,

Thank you for your interest in the Common Ground LGBT Center! We would like to invite you to take a hands-on role and become a member of our Board of Directors. We are looking for people of diverse backgrounds, skills and resources to create a strong board of directors to move this great project forward.

Athens lacks dedicated resources for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) youth, older adults, and anyone not affiliated with UGA. It is especially important that we welcome everyone as there are not many other places people can turn to in Northeast Georgia. Common Ground would work to serve the needs of the entire community.

Athens also needs LGBTQ social space. The local LGBTQ groups have nowhere to hold meetings and there is not even a gay bar in town for social events.

Our mission at Common Ground is to create a place where people can come together in a safe, judgment-free environment to socialize, access programs and services, and collaborate to build a vibrant, diverse community.

We want to accomplish this by having a physical multipurpose space that can be used for casual get-togethers, organization meetings, and events. We have already held several game nights and co-sponsored events with other local groups. We plan to have many more social events and could use your help in planning them!

This is a great opportunity to get in at the ground level of establishing a local resource, to learn about the running of a nonprofit, to celebrate the local LGBTQ community and to have fun!

We request your support in making Common Ground succeed and invite you to join us. Please contact Ricky Roberts (rickyroberts@uga.edu) if you have more questions.

Sincerely,

Ricky Roberts
Elise Stangle
Craig Page



VISION

The vision of Common Ground LGBT Center is to create a community free from discrimination, where every individual is welcomed and celebrated.

MISSION

The mission of Common Ground is to enhance the lives of the LGBTQ community and its allies through education, programs, advocacy and social opportunities to the LGBTQ community and their allies within a safe and inclusive environment.

VALUE STATEMENTS

The Common Ground believes and supports the following values:

Advocacy

We pursue change to advance the respect, dignity and equality of the LGBT community.

Diversity

We value and celebrate the diversity that each individual brings to the whole.

Empowerment

We foster the personal growth and skills of LGBTQ individuals in overcoming personal, professional and familial challenges, and to advocate for oneself.

Community

We seek to foster community development and to form agency partnerships.



Why Common Ground?

To assess the need for an LGBTQ community center in Athens, a survey was created and distributed. The survey asked respondents about their demographics; whether they would utilize an LGBTQ community center and if so, which services; and whether they would be willing to volunteer, or donate money to the center. The survey was then distributed through e-mail to the Athens Pride listserv, and the GLOBES listserv (an LGBTQ faculty and staff organization at the University of Georgia). The survey was completed by 141 individuals.

Of the respondents, 86% said they would utilize a community Center in Athens. In addition, 79% said they would be willing to volunteer at the Center, and 50% said they would be willing to donate monetarily. Participants were also asked which services they would utilize. The most popular responses were:

- ♣ Social Events 86%
- ♣ Arts & Culture Events 76%
- ♣ Coffee Shop 71%
- ♣ Library 55%
- ♣ LGBTQ Friendly Referrals 54%
- ♣ Mental Health Workshops 52%
- ♣ Support Groups 51%
- ♣ Counseling 46%
- ♣ Healthy Relationship Workshops 44%

The results demonstrate strong community support for an LGBTQ community center in Athens. The majority of respondents said they would utilize multiple services at a center, and most said they would be willing to donate time, talent, and monetary resources to support a center.



Basic Responsibilities, Common Ground Board of Directors

1. All activities, property, affairs and business of the Center shall be managed by the Board of Directors, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, the Certificate of Incorporation, or the Bylaws.
2. Members of the Board of Directors are expected to give annually at a level that is meaningful to them.
3. Each elected Director shall serve a term of two (2) years.
4. It is the board's responsibility to review the mission and help guide the organization towards its goals.
5. Select the chief executive. Boards must reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
6. The board must protect the assets of the center at all times. Providing financial oversight is essential.
7. The board must ensure adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
8. The Board of Directors shall make every effort to reflect the diversity of the community it serves. All Directors shall be voting members of the Board of Directors.
9. The board must ensure there is a system in place to evaluate itself to ensure that there is a competent board in place at all times.
10. Enhance the organization's public standing. The board should clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.

Basic Positions, Common Ground Board of Directors

Board positions include but are not necessarily limited to Board Chair, Board Secretary, Board Treasurer and Board Member(s). Board duties are comparable to other organizations. A complete list for each position will be provided at a later date.



Board Application Form

Candidate Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Current position/employer:

Please circle area(s) of expertise/contribution you feel you can make to further the mission of Common Ground:

Fundraising

Special Events

Technology

Capital Campaign

Legal Advice

Social Media

Public Policy Advocacy

Financial

Strategic Planning

Please list prior experience serving as a Board member for other non-profit organizations:

Why are you interested in serving as a Board member for Common Ground?

Please share any other information you feel important for consideration of your application to serve as a Common Ground Board member.