

Timestamp	What does OPALGA+ represent to you?	What are the primary attributes you want OPALGA+ to convey to the community?	What concerns, if any, do you have with how OPALGA+ may be currently perceived in the community?	What concerns, if any, do you have with the name OPALGA+?	What does OPALGA+ need to do to attract 18-35 year olds to be involved?	Given there may be two organizations (a scholarship org and a member-social org), which organization, if any, should retain the name OPALGA+ and if so, why?	If you have any considerations or concerns with either renaming OPALGA+ or having a second organization with a different name please outline these concerns in the space below. For example, if there's any language or terms you feel should be avoided, please let us know. Or if there's any concerns you have based on the way other organizations present themselves, that would be helpful to know too.	If you have any other thoughts on OPALGA+'s image and representation in the community, please provide these in the space below.
5/1/2024 15:04:21	The primary LGBTQ+ organization in the western Cook County suburbs that is open to all adults (with or without kids). I personally would like to see us NOT be a "Member" organization because "Member" implies a division between those who are "in" and "out" .	Inclusive, welcoming, friendly, supportive, helpful, caring, active	I know it is perceived as a group for old white gay men. We've done a lot to bring cis-women into the group but not enough to bring queer, gender-fluid and other non-Gay/Lesbian into the group.	I don't live in Oak Park. It is the logical center of the group but it was the first thing that made me worry about how open it was to non-Oak Park. The "Area" is important because we don't want to be limited to one town. I had saying "Western Cook County" however and I don't have an alternative geography.		It would be nice if one of the two made reference to the old name.	I'm surprised the founders went with Association instead of "Alliance" (a stronger "A") word in my opinion. I like "Pride" for P. I'm still trying to keep as many of the letters as possible.	It clearly means different things to different people. We are not as well known as some people think we are, especially outside the Oak Park proper. Once this is done, we are prepared to invest in some marketing.
5/1/2024 16:12:42	An organization that supports and empowers queer people.	Inclusive, Progressive, Community/Supportive, Visibility, Advocacy, Education	I sadly still hear from others that OPALGA+ is viewed as the old gay white man's club. I don't think it's deserved, but that is the image that is hard to shake for people I talk to.	We are hoping people feel included in the "+" and that is just not good enough. It is embarrassing to say Lesbian and Gay Association because that represents only a sub-set of the queer community and feels like noninclusive language for an organization that should be on the progressive side of labels.		If people feel strongly the OPALGA+ name needs to stay, I think it would be more suited for the scholarship org to keep it as a legacy name.	Be great if we could avoid another Acronym. I also think it's best to not include any letters... so no LGBTQ+ or anything that can once again become dated as our language and labels change over time.	

5/1/2024 19:35:35	OPALGA+ represents many different things to me: it is a place to find connections, it is a way for me to give to my LGBTQ+ community and to broader community where I live and it is an avenue for participate in social change/awareness.	That we are PROUD of our diversity; we celebrate it and embrace it! We want to treat everyone with kindness and fairness.	I don't think I know enough about how we are perceived within the community to comment.	First of all, I am on the Board and I am confused about how to pronounce the name correctly; if that is the case, how can I feel comfortable telling others how to pronounce it?! Second, I have heard leaders within our group have heated discussions about the name - in front of new members! I think we (all) need to come together to find the right path forward. Figure out how to honor the legacy and lean into the future.	I would have a great answer if I were in this age range! My guess is that it needs to start with our marketing efforts; we need to meet them where they are.	I think we need to determine which organization will benefit MOST from retaining the name. For example, where do we have publicity attached? Where do we already have brand recognition?	I have come across this in business dealings; an organization that I currently deal with changed their name about 5 years ago and they are now know as PayTech Women, formerly WNET. We can always go that route in our advertising NEW ENTITY, formerly OPALGA+	I think we are being very thoughtful about this process, I don't have any other thoughts
5/1/2024 21:30:07	A place for friendly connections and support, plus community advocacy and education, and the opportunity to support next gen leaders through the scholarship program.	We are a welcoming, inclusive organization with many ways to feel and make connections.	Not inclusive enough, judging in part by the name and the inscrutable acronym.	See above	Consider a subgroup for youth	Maybe the scholarship or maybe retire the name entirely, with recognition in the history writeup.	Would favor a name that wasn't an acronym. Too many letters to fully describe who we are.	
5/3/2024 7:47:33	Community	Inclusivity, community, advocacy	OPALGA+ is very closed off to new members and many members can be very judgmental. I have found that this makes it difficult for new people to get involved.	My biggest issue with the name is the LG part. I do not think it is inclusive of all identities. I personally respect the OPA part and I would rather we find a way to keep it. It is important to respect the founding of the organization and think that is a way to do it while still moving to be more inclusive.	More social events that are tailored to younger audiences. Outings at local bars/music venues. Maybe an additional OPALGA+ thrown event that is more of a party.	Neither. I think that we should move on from the name entirely.		
5/3/2024 8:46:59	a community for all in the queer world	open, inclusive, community,	I'm concerned that we are perceived as a group of older gays and lesbians that dont understand or don't want to be inclusive of all in the queer world	pronunciation issues, does the Oak Park (and surrounding area) community understand what it means, do those that fall in the "+" feel represented by the name,	we need more of our younger members to be more involved in leadership and activities, and we should make an attempt to represent them in photos on social media		I am concerned that splitting the org in 2 could destroy much of the comradery and community that has formed within the group	
5/3/2024 10:55:49	Queer community/spaces/events in Oak Park	Pride and community	The name may be confusing or unclear to some people (and it can feel hard to remember/pronounce). I also feel that OPALGA+ is perceived as primarily white, as well as for people who are older/retired.	Already answered above. :) Overall, the name feels outdated.	Different kinds of events, and events that are at public places rather than at people's homes.	I think the name can be updated for both purposes, but if I *had* to pick, I would keep OPALGA+ for the scholarship org. Though even for the scholarship org, I feel it is outdated - and not as inclusive of a name as it could be, especially to young queer and trans people.	I think it would be helpful to move away from a name that has "Gay and Lesbian" in it, since that does not feel representative or inclusive of the entire queer community.	Perhaps I could help nominate some of our teens to be on the Board or to be more involved in some way to help plan more teen/young adult specific programming outside of school hours.

5/3/2024 14:00:51	A place to grow, become your full self, and connect with like minded folk.	It's a fun and friendly way to meet other members of the queer community.	Folks just think it's a place for older folks and doesn't value the trans/queer voices in the community.	None	Have more evening events, singles nights, etc. Also, I think the issue might be with the heteronormativity of Oak Park			
5/3/2024 16:57:29	A community organization which promotes inclusion as well as diversity in the area.	I want opalga+ to convey that all are welcome and that participation and/or involvement in our organization is not and should not be limited to the letters indicated in our acronym.	My concern is that opalga+ may be perceived as too old (members aging out) and too parochial in its activities and events.	I do not have any concerns about the name of opalga+. It represents our evolution as an organization.	As someone who is in his mid-sixties, I am not sure what is needed to attract younger members. Folks who are younger maybe more interested in participating in specific events or projects but are not inclined to join the organization per se.	I believe the member-social organization should retain the name, opalga+. If for nothing else, continuity for older and longstanding members of the organization. The scholarship organization would have the benefit from starting fresh with its name and brand.	I think it best to retain opalga+ for the social emphasis of our organization. It represents continuity with our history and our longstanding members. I think about the organization Pflag. It has retained its name but changed its emphasis about the community it represents and does advocacy work.	I think opalga+ does not do enough to reach out to an untapped resource -- our allies.
5/3/2024 17:04:21	Community	Inclusivity, Acceptance, Diversity, Respect	I worry there is a preconception about the group being for older members and lacking in diversity.	I worry it isn't inclusive enough. I worry it does not clearly identify who we are or why we exist as an organization (especially when abbreviated as such). The term "association" is stuffy and lacks the vibrancy of a social organization.	Broaden social offerings, market in ways that speak to those age ranges, get involved in activities that target those age ranges, capitalize on the desire to be part of a supportive, open community, find ways to get involved in surrounding areas	The scholarship org. It makes sense for that to be the lasting legacy for the original organization while the social organization rebrand itself in a modern, more inclusive way.	I have no current concerns with renaming or having a second organization.	
5/3/2024 17:28:31	community, safe space, advocacy, scholarships, friendships, support, activism	advocacy, community, volunteerism, social justice, equality for all, scholarships and youth development	perceived as mostly old/older people	"lesbian and gay" no longer represents the entire LGBTQ+ community; "Oak Park area" may be off-putting to our friends in neighboring towns like River Forest, Forest Park, etc.	rethink/expand social media presence/platforms; offer career mentorship opportunities; outreach to local college like-minded groups for collaboration and support; consider advertising some potlucks as "networking opportunities" especially the ones hosted at businesses and not homes	No strong opinion, but whichever org could be "NEW NAME, formerly OPALGA+"	I get the need to consider this, but there is a rich history and brand recognition with OPALGA+ and I would not want to see that lost and erased completely. Interesting Article: https://www.campuspride.org/resources/naming-your-lgbt-and-ally-organization/	

5/5/2024 18:23:18	LGBTQ support	support, activism, representation, official voice of the area's LGBTQ+ population	we're primarily men and older	it's not perfect but it is well known in town and that stands for something. I still think it is worth keeping—but maybe tweaking somehow may OPALGA+ adding Trans	use social media more--- who are these 18-35 year olds---living with their parents? young singles or couples? continue play dates and other specialty programs.	not sure	would be nice to not lose the OPALGA name—if there is a way incorporate it into the new name or a tag line----OPALGA+ Pride, Oak Park Area Pride, Pride of Oak Park Area	I know we started as an Oak Park group but we still can't be everything to everyone---we're still primarily Oak Park members. we may never get a young membership simply because of the demographics of the city. With a bunch of exceptions, gay couples and even singles likely can't afford to live here until they are a little older and established and can afford it.
5/6/2024 23:03:12	Being social, getting to know	Admired representatives in the community, so that folks can put faces to the LGBTQIA experience in this area, winning hearts and minds.	Only for older folks and resistant to newer or younger members.	Not inclusive of all areas, and folks are aware of what LGBTQIA stands for, But except for the rainbow colors they probably don't know what WE stand for. Needs to be a name that lasts into the future, not needing to change for either geographical area or populations that it encompasses	If possibly get involved with existing groups already targeted towards LGBTQIA younger people.. sort of like Brownies to Girl Scouts, giving them something to bridge over to. Provide activities that possibly are more based in bars etc. Change some imagery used in our advertising that depicts only younger people	Neither	I think we should pattern our naming after others in our region	
5/7/2024 8:59:03	When I think of OPALGA+, it feels like a safe haven. A place to be accepted and celebrated. It's an organization that cares about the LGBTQIA2S+ community and makes space for its amazing diversity. OPALGA+ represents being at the forefront of understanding about our community and inclusiveness and should be seen as a resource for others as they look for information or are exploring their sexual or gender identity. OPALGA+ advocates for queer folk on issues important to us locally and statewide. We support youth in the Chicagoland area who are queer or have supported the LGBTQIA2S+ community with college scholarships and other resources.	When I think of OPALGA+, it feels like a safe haven. A place to be accepted and celebrated. It's an organization that cares about the LGBTQIA2S+ community and makes space for its amazing diversity. OPALGA+ represents being at the forefront of understanding about our community and inclusiveness and should be seen as a resource for others as they look for information or are exploring their sexual or gender identity. OPALGA+ advocates for queer folk on issues important to us locally and statewide. We support youth in the Chicagoland area who are queer or have supported the LGBTQIA2S+ community with college scholarships and other resources.	That it's meant for an older population of the LGBTQIA+ in Oak Park. That it lacks understanding on current issues facing the queer community.	The name is not inclusive and actively turns off many parts of the queer community. The plus is not enough. We should be thinking through if we want to (or not) reach beyond the borders of Oak Park.	We need to actively and consistently recruit and talk to this age group to see what their needs are - whether it's meeting other families, events that have content curated to their interests, education that pushes the bounds of understanding and provides them with new insights, opportunities to leverage resources that OPALGA+ can provide to them, show up in spaces where they are.	I don't think either should retain the OPALGA+ name.	Can't think of any except to be as inclusive as possible and think of what can stand the test of time for at least a couple of decades.	

<p>5/8/2024 7:56:50</p>	<p>Social organization. Good way to make friends and meet new people in Oak Park area.</p>	<p>Dont understand the question.</p>	<p>I don't have any concerns. Haven't heard anything negative. Im supportive of people that want to see the organization represent something else getting involved and making the case for change. I don't like projecting how we can better represent others. Easiest way to make space is allow others to participate. Some people make excuses not to join simply because they don't want to join. Then why change to accomodate.</p>	<p>None until it was pointed out that most other organizations have moved beyond named gay and lesbian titles in favor of pride. Proud. Out. Etc.</p>	<p>Great question many organizations are trying to figure out. Best solution is to reach them and ask them. More volunteering may help. But there is a change in young people's mental health in today's social media day and age. And it plays out in many ways. I don't think it is unique to opalga. Im not saying we dont try to address it but it's a great question. And before now it's also the lowest voter participation. Other priorities and interests.</p>	<p>Id be supportive of the name cahnge impacting both organizations but maybe adding an opalga+ scholarship for 1 focused on the original mission of providing education to move forward the cause for rights and equality. Maybe something like that. Otherwise i think two names is confusing. If we are going to do it then do it. Otherwise expense of multiple logos brand consistency. Etc.</p>	<p>See above. Im open.</p>	
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