

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
To: [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)
Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016 3:47:29 PM

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Group name (if applicable):

Wheelhouse Studios and the Lubar Institute

What is your affiliation with UW-Madison? For group submissions, please respond for main contact.

- Academic Staff

Describe the concept. If already in use here or elsewhere, please indicate this.

Wheelhouse Studios of the Wisconsin Union in collaboration with the proposed Center for Religion and Global Citizenry (a continuation of the Lubar Institute for the Study of the Abrahamic Religions) will provide a three-part workshop around religious symbols. In Part 1, Dr. Rosenhagen of the Lubar will introduce the group to common religious symbols (the Christian cross, Jewish Star of David, etc.) and the complexity of use of these symbols. Students will then be prompted to think about symbols (religious or otherwise/ already in existence or invented) that they hold important in their lives. Facilitators from Wheelhouse and the Lubar will provide personal examples of their answer to this prompt modeling generative dialogue. In Part 2, students will be provided with Wheelhouse's range of art-making materials (mosaics, clay, glass, papers, paints and more) to create their symbol artistically sitting in community with one another. In Wheelhouse's three studio spaces, students will be art-making together, sharing materials, and encouraged to dialogue on why they chose the symbol they did with their peers as they create. Facilitators will help encourage dialogue during the art-making and answer any questions including how to work with different art medias. In Part 3, each piece will be displayed together in front of the group. Participants and facilitators will reflect through open dialogue on the displayed symbols, the importance of symbols in our lives, and how symbols foster identity and relationships. Each art piece may be displayed collectively for public view for a set amount of time but each piece will be returned to the individual creator after the exhibition closes.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

As we see at Wheelhouse Studios everyday, art-making brings people together and sparks thought processes in an under-utilized avenue in today's world. Difficult conversations and abstract concepts are improved when done over art-making, the simple working with ones hands while processing topics. Wheelhouse Studios and the Lubar Institute, both large proponents and participants of generative dialogue, aim to provide the space (Wheelhouse Studios) for students to openly dialogue with each other while creating a tangible representation of their efforts. Through this proposed workshop specifically, we aim to educate our campus on religious symbols while creating a personal connection in each student participant through their own art-making. The art-making process allows students to process new content and their own and their peers ideas on symbols. The exhibition allows the public to

visually reflect on student's experiences with symbols. The returned individual art pieces allow students a reminder to continually reflect on what was learned.

For new ideas, how would you propose piloting this idea to see if it would work? If the idea is already in use at UW-Madison, how would you propose expanding or altering this program for greater impact?

This is not the first collaboration between Wheelhouse Studios and the Lubar Institute. We held interfaith dialogue at Wheelhouse over similar topics in Fall of 2015 to great success and powerful feedback. We want to open this experience up to the larger campus especially in light of the current climate directly in response to this event: <http://www.channel3000.com/Racist-note-found-in-UW-Madison-dorm-room/38827280> We may discuss this event specifically as Bucky is a symbol.

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

We need enough art materials to satisfy student participants creative needs and a place to exhibit students' work. Wheelhouse Studios and the Memorial Union already have some capacity to supply these resources.

If this proposal was developed in partnership with any other organizations, please list them below.

Wheelhouse Studios of the Wisconsin Union
Lubar Institute