

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
To: [Libby Peterek](#); [Carrie Olson](#)
Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:44:27 PM

First name:

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Phone number:

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Group name (if applicable):

[REDACTED]

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

- Student (including undergraduate, graduate, professional)

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

The concept that we're aiming for is a multicultural hub for interaction, an open space that spurs discussions and exchange of ideas, a place that promotes diversity and creativity on campus. We want to address the need for a dedicated space where people of different backgrounds could come together, talk to one another and learn from each other, instead of sticking with and travelling in their respective groups. We also hope to provide an outlet to showcase various cultural talents and give them more exposure to students, in order to encourage everyone to see more, experience more, open their minds, and be assured that their stories are valuable to us.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

For one, it would increase the visibility of diversity on campus and promote interactions between people of different backgrounds, ethnicities and creeds, bringing them together to create a mutual understanding. We believe that every person on campus has a unique story, something to offer their peers. By creating such an environment, we hope to cultivate a more welcoming, accepting culture on campus. It is our hope that we can help further our peers' horizons from mere tolerance of others, to acceptance by allowing them to walk in others' shoes. In our experience, taking a course in ethnic studies and experiencing them firsthand are very different things, but combining those two together could create a more fulfilling and meaningful experience. Our space will ultimately function as a dedicated space, which will be known campuswide as a go-to spot for these kinds of interactions, a place to raise awareness, have fun learning about each other, and unite the students in a collective effort to tackle campuswide issues.

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?

[REDACTED] joint English/Business school challenge. [REDACTED] will have a measure of creative control over a space within the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery. We envision this space being used as a diversity center, a focal point on campus which can unite programs related to cultural exchange. The existence of a space dedicated to such events will help keep people informed as to where and when to find other ones, and the promotion of what's to come. The diversity center will also

serve as a showcase of various cultures consisting of individual talents (pictures, arts, crafts, memorabilia) and cultural contributions (figurines, small murals/paintings, wall rugs, and the like) which rotate on a regular basis. When it isn't being used for events, it can be a hangout for students between classes, equipped with projection equipment, table armchairs, round tables, small booths, board games for ice breaking, et cetera. It would have a cozy interior, which would open up people to having conversations with one another about global issues and cultures. Some programs we are currently considering include: a caffeine station, global conversation, lecture series, REACH presentations, documentary screenings.

We're seeking help from the Chancellor's Office in order to help fund the creation of the diversity center and more importantly, develop the programs so that they may fully integrate with the campus's overall scheme of promoting diversity.

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

We would be needing staffing for the renovation, planning of events, marketing to students, and overall maintenance and management following implementation. To make this a reality, we would also be needing funding from the Chancellor's Office.

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

This proposal is part of [REDACTED] - a collaborative program between Business School and L&S English Department. The International Students Services and Wisconsin Union Directorate also said that they'd be eager to help. The space (Rennie's Corner), however, belongs to Wisconsin Institute of Discovery and we would operate under their supervision.

Please use this space for any additional information about your proposal that you wish to share:

We are always trying to improve our proposal, any additional comments and support during the implementation process would be very appreciated.