

From: [Campus Climate Proposal form](#)
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Subject: New submission from Campus Climate Proposals
Date: Sunday, April 17, 2016 1:54:05 PM

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

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

I would like to offer one idea that may be useful to consider. If the goal is to promote understanding in the broader sense, between cultures, races, gender, and so on, we must train ourselves on valuing the diversity on a daily basis. And what is more daily and Madisonian than good food? Good food is not only a distinctive feature of Madison, but it is also a way of bringing people together to share life, perspectives, values. And we have at UW a richness of people from different countries and different cultural backgrounds, that we could celebrate. So I am thinking that some kind of activity (festival for a week, monthly lunch, or other format) where students from different countries and cultures would cook their own foods, share them on campus, and talk about their culture, would be great. You can add there guided discussions on the culture and values we want to promote on campus. The potential to reach a large population of students, and transform the ways we see each other, may be great. The MSC or Student Orgs might currently do this, but perhaps they could be given broader institutional support to expand their programming and have a broader impact.

How would this affect cultural change on campus?

Community building through sharing a meal allows for the breaking down of barriers - this will provide an opportunity to bring together people and provide a richness of the diversity of cultures and backgrounds on our campus.

What resources would be needed to implement your suggestion?

Resources would be needed to support existing programs doing this and scale them up, or if starting from scratch, the cost of the food, and space to house the event in as well as any marketing needs.