



"Queer Music Night in the Underground"

Proposed Motions: *Approve Queer Music Night as a targeted program.*

Sponsor: *Mayra Guizar, VP for Diversity*

Persons of Contact: *Clinton Kvistad-Renaissance, Queer Resource Center Assistant Coordinator*

Guest Speaker: *Clinton Kvistad-Renaissance, Queer Resource Center Assistant Coordinator*

Date: 1/28/14

Attached Document

There are no supplementary documents for this proposal.

Background & Context

Queer Music Night in the Underground is an event to bring together various artists for a night of performances. We'll be including spoken word poetry in with the music to give even more variety to the event. This proposal is being brought to the board because the QRC would like to target auditions for Queer Music Night in the Underground to queer and trans identified people. Open mic events on campus are common, but these spaces aren't conducive to the building of a queer and trans community on campus, nor they do not highlight the experiences and works of queer and trans folks.

Summary of Proposal

The QRC believes that by making the auditions for the music night targeted to queer and trans folks we are better serving our mission of "building community among Western students of diverse backgrounds, advocating for and educating about the queer identity through events and resources, creating affirming positive self-identities...addressing relevant issues to the queer community." We feel it is important for queer and trans folks to speak for themselves through their art. Auditions would start immediately after board approval and last until February 27. Auditions will be quick meetings between participants and myself to talk about what they are going to perform along with a submission of a hard copy of their work before a decision is made. The event will be held March 3rd and people of all identities are encouraged to attend. Some people may feel excluded for being straight and cisgender, but there are many more opportunities for people of those identities to be heard, and the space is meant to speak to what it means to be a trans and/or queer artist.

Fiscally There is no financial implication.

Rationale

This is a way for the QRC to highlight students and other local artists who are queer and/or trans who often get looked over when it comes to exposure and performing. We want this opportunity for queer and trans people to speak for themselves through their art as a way to connect to the campus. Queer voices on queer lives. We feel by having only queer and trans artists those that attend will have a better experience of understanding where each artist is coming from. Again, the event is open to all identities, and we encourage people of all identities to attend.

Queer Music Night Submission Guide: Content should not isolate, marginalize, or hurt someone who may be in the audience; however, talking about how privilege and oppression have impacted your life is permissible, as it does not further marginalize a group of people, unless it targets an individual.

Examples of offensive content could include, but is not limited to: cultural appropriation, racism, cissexism, offensive language, sexism, heterosexism, and slurs. If content is deemed offensive the artist will have an opportunity to revise the problematic elements and resubmit.