

Quality Initiative Initial Proposal

The purpose of the initial proposal is to identify a problem or opportunity as it relates to one of the strategic framework priorities. It is not intended to outline a specific plan or solution.

Title (*Brief working title that captures the essence of the problem or opportunity.*)

* Makers Space

Problem/Opportunity Statement (*One or two sentence description of the problem or opportunity. Should focus on specific, observable indicators. Should not infer cause and should not include solutions.*)

* This proposal is inspired by Oodi, the public library in Helsinki, Finland. Oodi has three floors. The first floor is a meeting space for the community, the third is a traditional library. The second floor is where the magic happens. It is a creative, maker space with a variety of equipment and spaces to reserve, and collectively to use. All in one place, so that inspiration can spread like wildfire from one creator to the next. Washburn is in a period of transition, growth, and renovation which provides the perfect opportunity to create a modern inspirational educational makers space, like that in Oodi. This proposal addresses many problems, like:
It gives a space to turn theoretical learning into practice.
Current workspaces on campus are often in forgotten spaces, are uninspiring with leftover chairs and desks, spread all over campus, and may be restricted to particular majors/students and faculty.
Future workforce needs life-long learners, who can adapt/learn new technologies.
Students and faculty are limited in their potential by not seeing each other's work, by not knowing what others are doing, and not knowing how to use new technologies or modern creative tools.
We are all more than what we study. The historian is a lyricist, the nurse is an actress, and the business student has a sports podcast. This space allows for all of us to nurture our human potential.
It is not economical for individual departments to invest in limited use/expensive equipment purchases themselves. However, if these costs are shared by the university, then the 3-D printer isn't only available to art department, but, could be used by anthropologists to make replicas of historical artifacts or by biologists to make scientific models.

Proposal Themes (*Select one quality initiative theme for the proposal*)

- * Expand Learner Success Opportunities and Pathways
- Enhance our Environment to Learn, Work, and Thrive
- Accelerate Collaborative Partnerships to Grow the Community

(For more on Washburn's Strategic Framework, see the [Strategic Framework](#))

Description of how the problem or opportunity relates to the identified theme

* A maker/creative space on campus would bring together faculty, staff, and students from all over campus. A place to share their work, teach and learn from one another, and be inspired by one another's work. I imagine this space as a hive of activity. Leaving a strong positive impression on prospective students and faculty who visit Washburn, who will want to come here so that they can be part of this space.

Benefits (*Description of desired outcomes, both tangible, such as decreased costs or increased revenue, and intangible, that is those improvements that are important to control, protect or enhance but are difficult to quantify. Benefits should be realistic and measurable.*)

* Transforming our workplace and student learning environment. To build, maintain, and equip, beautiful inspirational makers space on campus. To collaborate and develop skills that can help students be successful in a diverse and everchanging work environment. To recruit and retain, talented students, faculty and staff.

Scope (*Description of the scope or impact on the institution as a whole. Specify if the scope is focused on specific areas, units or departments.*)

* This space would be for the benefit of the entire University, all students, faculty, and staff. And could also possibly be used as a bridge with WU Tech.

Stake Holders (*Identify all persons/groups that have an interest or position in the issue – both internal and external to the University.*)

* Libraries, student life, and possibly all the departments and schools at the University.

Team Members (*Individuals who will work on development of full proposal and/or may work towards project implementation.*)

* If selected, important team members could include Sean Bird, Alan Bearman, and chairs of Mass Media, Art, Music, Computer Science, Soci/Anthropology and Biology. I have sought feedback from these individuals, but I did not ask them to be part of a 'team' yet.

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Submitter Signature

11/01/2024

Date

After signing, click Submit Form below. Submitters will be contacted after committee review in late November 2024.