

Ideas Competition for the Basement of Meyerson Hall

January 24, 2020



COMPETITION SUMMARY

As designers, artists, planners, and preservationists, we share the recognition that space is essential to the health and productivity of any community. We also recognize the role that dialogue and chance encounters can play in building relationships and unlocking creativity. Yet, as our School has grown over the decades, one of our greatest practical challenges has been to program space within our buildings for informal gathering and conversation.

As we look for opportunities to remedy the situation, we're now focused on the basement-level commons in Meyerson Hall (see photo below). In an effort to optimize the use of this space—whose operation, like that of the basement-level classrooms, is governed by the University—the Weitzman School is holding an ideas competition to solicit student proposals to improve it. The goal is to implement minor renovations to the basement at Meyerson in order to:

- Create a more welcoming, comfortable atmosphere
- Provide more informal space for socializing
- Promote communal activities
- Better meet students' needs for study, convening, and dining

You're invited to submit a proposal that includes furniture, flooring, lighting, and paint finishes that will achieve the objectives above, taking into account the following parameters:

PARAMETERS

- Dimensions: See attached PDF and CAD Files highlighting the footprint of the proposed design area
- Budget: Not to exceed \$50K for materials, supplies, furniture, flooring, lighting, and labor
- Additional electrical/data supply is limited to the area between the four columns highlighted on the perimeter of the lounge area
- Please reach out to **Karl Wellman** for any questions or concerns regarding this process and for assistance with design parameters

ELIGIBILITY

All current Weitzman School of Design Students are eligible and encouraged to apply – as individuals or in teams.

APPLICATION & SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students interested in participating must submit the following:

1. A floor plan of the space and a section. The scale for submissions should be 1/4" = 1'
2. A 3D representation (including renders, axonometrics, or perspective collages) is welcome but not required.
3. Submissions should be no bigger than 11"x17" and files formatted as PDFs no bigger than 5MB.
4. A supporting statement under 400 words explaining the design and how it will achieve the objectives stated above.

Please do not include your name on the materials listed above so that submissions can be anonymous.

DEADLINE

Complete application materials, electronic or a hard copy, must be submitted to Arden Jordan, the Dean's Office Administrative Assistant, at Ardenj@design.upenn.edu, Office of the Dean, School of Design, Suite 102, Meyerson Hall, no later than 5 PM on **Wednesday, March 4, 2020.**

REVIEW & SELECTION PROCESS:

Ideas submitted in response to this competition will be reviewed by the Dean, Karl Wellman (Senior Director of Operations, Planning, Design & Construction), a representative from Student Council, and faculty representatives from the departments.

Students will have an opportunity to weigh in on all submissions at an upcoming happy hour in March. Stay tuned for details.

The winning proposals will be selected according to the following criteria:

- Design
- Innovation
- Feasibility
- Responsiveness to the objectives stated above
- Cost

AWARD

The winning proposal(s) will receive a cash honorarium of \$2,000, a feature story in Design Weekly (the School's publication of record) and on design.upenn.edu, and recognition on the School's social media channels. Two honorable mentions will receive \$1,000 prizes.

GOT QUESTIONS? Please direct them to Karl Wellman at kwellman@design.upenn.edu.