TROTTER MULTICULTURAL CENTER

A REPORT BY
MONICA SOSA
Resident Coordinator, Trotter
Research Assistant, Dr. Ishmail Conway
The mission.

The William Monroe Trotter Cultural Center's mission is:

   to promote a campus and community environment in which African American, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino and Native American students can prosper academically and socially and

   to promote and provide services to build a supportive environment in which all students can develop a better understanding and appreciation for the multicultural diversity represented at the University.¹

This report aims to give a realistic view of the current physical and social state of affairs at Trotter House, including the challenges it faces in fulfilling its stated mission. As Resident Coordinator and Research Assistant to Dr. Conway, I performed a basic analysis of Trotter's programming and interviewed staff and students affiliated with this multicultural center in order to gain a better understanding of what Trotter House brings to the University of Michigan community. What follows is a brief summary of my findings, with recommendations taken from interview responses; any questions about the material within this report may be directed to msosa@umich.edu.

¹ Taken from the Trotter House website, http://www.umich.edu/~mesamss/mainPage3.html.
Diversity of programming.

Trotter Multicultural Center has historically offered high quality programming that meets educational and social needs of University of Michigan students. This year, Trotter’s Resident Coordinators, graduate student resident staff, organized successful events for both undergraduate and graduate students.

- The Taste of Culture during Welcome week encouraged students to get back in the swing of things over samples of food from Ann Arbor and Detroit’s best ethnic restaurants.

- The Grad Bash provided graduate students from diverse disciplines and backgrounds a place to get to know each other over food and games.

- The Black History Month movie screening of an African-American film was filled to capacity, with the free tickets gone in just a few hours.

- Financial and academic planning workshops Time Management and Study Skills, Graduate/Undergraduate Forum, and the Financial Survival taught students about options for life after college and how to plan for the future. These workshops included information on how to make responsible decisions about saving and investing money, about handling credit, or about how to juggle life as a student and the ins and outs of applying to graduate school. The Graduate/Undergraduate Forum, in particular, opened up dialogue between these graduate and undergraduate students. A panel composed of students in medical, law, business, public policy, information, engineering, dental, and various academic fields answered questions about the application process for graduate-level education, financial aid, and more generally, about life as a graduate student.

- Trotter also co-sponsors events, often with MESA, the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs. MESAF, a series of discussions about diversity, stereotypes, and other difficult issues, is a popular and very interesting event for many students of all backgrounds. In addition, MESA also uses Trotter to host many of its events.

All of Trotter’s events are free and open to the University public, and true multicultural interaction from people of all races and ethnic groups is encouraged, holding true to the Trotter mission.
(Right) The Taste of Culture welcomes students back to campus.

(Below) A multi-ethnic dance group performs for the Taste of Culture audience.
(Left) Graduate students get ready to play musical chairs on the front lawn at the Grad Bash...

While (right) others watch the festivities from the steps of Trotter House.

Tene Kaduma, Resident Coordinator, discusses diversity with a UM student at a MESAF event.
Who uses Trotter?

In addition to hosting its own events, much of the traffic in and out of Trotter House on a daily basis is made up of the various student groups or UM departments who use the space for their events and meetings. As a result, it is very important to recognize the wide array of student groups and UM departments who utilize Trotter House as a resource:

ACCESS
Adventist's Students for Christ
African American Programming Task Force
African Students Association (ASA)
AIESEC
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi (AKDP)
Alpha Kappa Psi
Alpha Phi Alpha (APhiA)
Ann Arbor Capoiera Club
Ann Arbor Senegalese Association
Ann Arbor Tenants Union
Aquí Estamos Graduate Student Collective (AEGSC)
Argentine Tango Club
Asian American Association (AAA)
Asian American Christian Fellowship
Asian American Programming Task Force
Asian Business Association (ABA)
Asian Christian Fellowship
Asian Pacific American Women's Journal
Asociacion Latina Alcanzando Sueños (ALAS)
Association for Black Social Work Students (ABSWS)
Bangladesh Student Association (BSA)
Barber, Newberry, Fletcher, Oxford (BNFO)
Black Medical Association (BMA)
Black Pre-Medical Association
Black Student Psychological Association (BSPA)
Black Student Union (BSU)
Black Uplift
Black Volunteer Network (BVN)
Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC)
Campus Hope
Caribbean People's Association
Chinese Student Association
Chinese Students Scholars Association (CSSA)
Coalition of Asian American Social Work Students
Comprehensive Studies Program
Compulsive Lyres
Dance 2 XS
Dance Marathon
Delta Epsilon Iota National Honor Society
Delta Sigma Theta
Delta Theta Psi Sorority
Delta Upsilon
Detroit Initiatives
Detroit Project
Dialogues for Diversity
Encompass
European Student Association (ESA)
Exploration of Tantric Buddhism
Face to Face Campus Fellowship (F2F)
Filipino American Student Association (FASA)
Funkrion
Gamma Phi Beta
Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning
Glory Phi God
Good News
Gospel Chorale (UMGC)
Graduate Employees Organization (GEO)
Graduate Student Parents
Hearing Impaired Student Organization
Hellenic Student Association
Here Earning a Destiny through honesty, eagerness, and determination of Self (HEADS)
Hillel
Hip-Hop & Cultural Studies Collective
Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA)
Housing Residence Education
Huaren Cultural Association
Indian American Student Association (IASA)
Indian Student Association (ISA)
Indigo
Indonesian Christian Church (ICC)
Indonesian Student Association
Intellectual Minds Making a Difference (IMMAD)
Interfraternity Council (IFC)
Intergroup Relations (IGR)
International Business Club
International Center
International Center
International Hunger Project (IHP)
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship
Jack and Jill of America
Jewish Business Students (JBS)
Kappa Alpha Psi (KAPsi)
Kappa Kappa Psi Marching Band
Korean International Student Association (ISA)
Korean Students Association (KSA)
Krishna Bhakti Club
La Salud
La Voz Latina
Lacelebracion
Lambda Phi Epsilon (LPE)
Lambda Theta Alpha
Lambda Theta Phi
Lecturers Employee Organization (LEO)
Madrigals
Markley Hall
Markley Multicultural Affairs Council
MAYA
MI Argentine Tango Club
MI Sign Club
MI Sikh Study Circle (MSSC)
Michigan Student Assembly (MSA)
Midwest Asian American Student Union
Model United Nations (MUN)
MSA GLBT Commission
MSA Student Activities & Leadership
Multicultural Affairs of Dental School
Multicultural Greek Council
Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs (MESA)
Muslim Student Association (MSSA)
Mustard Seed
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
National Panhellenic Council (NPHC)
Native American Student Association (NASA)
NOIR
OAMI Posse Program
Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiative (OAMI)
Office of Equity and Diversity Services
Office of Greek Life
Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Affairs (LGBTQ)
Permias
Persian Student Association (PSA)
Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Phi Sigma Pi Honor Fraternity
Phoenix Honor Society
Pi Delta Theta Fraternity
Pi Iota Chi Christian Multicultural Sorority
Pipeline/Profiles for Success
Political Scientists of Color
Program of Multicultural Health
Project Serve Alternative Spring Break
Project Serve Alternative Weekends
Psychology Department
Public Health Students of African Descent (PHSAD)
Puerto Rican Association (PRA)
Punjabi Students Association (PSO)
Quran Study Group
Queer Public Health Alliance Against Bigotry
Rackham Student Interdisciplinary Group
Red Hot Productions - Mentorship Program
Residents Education
School of Public Health
School of Public Policy
School of Social Work
SERVE
Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness (SAPAC)
Shei Magazine
Sigma Delta Tau Sorority
Sigma Gamma Rho
Sigma Lambda Beta
Sigma Lambda Gamma
Sinaboro Korean Drum Group
Singapore Student Association (SSA)
Society of Minority Engineering Students (SMESC)
Southquad Resident Education
Student Organization of Latino/a Social Workers
Students Educating and Volunteering for Health Awareness (SEVHA)
Students for Pirigma
Students of Color of Rackham (SCOR)
Taiwan Student Association
Taiwanese American Student Association
Thai Student Association
The Bursley Family Multicultural Council
Thirty Hour Famine
Tour of the Middle East
Transforming Communities
Tree Town Singers
Tribal Afro-Bahiana Cahoera Angola Tradicio
Turkish Student Association (TkSA)
Undergraduate Admissions Department
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
United Asian American Medical Student Association (UAAMSA)
United Asian American Organizations (UAAO)
United Students for Christ
University Christian Outreach (UCO)
University Health Services
University Housing
University Mentorship Program
Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)
William Monroe Trotter House (WMTH)
Women of Color Symposium (WCS)
Women's Studies Department
Zeta Phi Beta (ZPB)
As you can see, the groups who have walked through Trotter's doors in recent years reflect the huge diversity of experience reflected in the larger university community. Diversity in this sense does not only apply to racial and/or ethnic background, but also to groups formed around identities based on religion, gender, occupation, interest, Greek membership, sexual orientation, or graduate/undergraduate status.

Moreover, the types of events held are wide-ranging as well. Examples of the programs held by student groups or UM departments over the past few years include retreats, dinners, sleepovers, prayer groups, drum practice, dance rehearsal, political action meetings, choir practice, tutoring, parties, and much more. Trotter is extremely multi-purpose, perhaps moreso than for which it was designed and moreso than it seems to be able at times.
The challenges.

How does Trotter meet the needs of all of these groups or all of these purposes? Here I refer to information learned in interviews with students who used Trotter for events to attempt to understand what Trotter House is and what Trotter House provides (and doesn’t) for the students who come through its doors.

When asked what draws them to Trotter or what they think is positive about the space, students and staff listed the computer lab, the ability to hold sleepovers or cook food in the kitchen, the nice front porch and yard good for barbecuing when the weather was nice, and, on a practical note, the fact that it was free. Overall, however, the main advantage of Trotter over other venues on campus is a feeling that Trotter House is (or at least should be) a “home away from home” for students, and particularly for students of color. In interview after interview, students indicated that in their ideal world, Trotter would act as a safe place, as a haven, for them, particularly in moments of conflict, a place where they could celebrate themselves and learn from others. But students were very cognizant of the challenges that Trotter faces, particularly in terms of funding. This is not surprising given the increased visibility of Trotter in terms of budget cuts, and the students I interviewed were passionate about this issue and angry about the lack of funding for Trotter and its current state of disrepair, particularly since it made using the center less attractive. In interview after interview, university students indicated that in the ideal world, Trotter House would be a home away from home.
PROBLEM: HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

The center is not very handicap accessible. On crutches for over two months, I personally know the difficulty of going up and down Trotter House's many stairs with a disability, since there is no elevator. Because the "easy" way, up the two flights of steps leading from basement to the first floor, was too difficult for him, a little boy coming to a party for disabled children on the first floor had to take this very lengthy and difficult path. Below (from left to right) is the path he was forced to take from the parking lot located behind the building to the ramp leading to the first floor at the front of the building.

![Path from parking lot to building](image1)

A wheelchair cannot fit through this door (shown left), the only bathroom on the first floor. Once on the first floor (a majority of events take place in the lobby on this level), to access a restroom one would have to be wheeled down the same path illustrated above—even in harsh Michigan weather.

![Bathroom doorway](image2)

The lack of an elevator creates other difficulties, as well, in particular in getting equipment or tables and chairs to any of the upper floors.
PROBLEM: POSSIBLE SAFETY CONCERNS

It has recently come to light that there is no fire escape on the third floor, where two of the Resident Coordinators usually live. Although this is an obvious fire hazard, given the hectic pace of the house and the thin walls that allow sound to travel up from the basement and first floors (and the much smaller room sizes) the second-floor is barely liveable. Since I have spent the past year in one of the second-floor rooms, I know that it would be difficult to convince most graduate students (and even most undergraduates) to live on the second floor. This makes it extremely difficult to recruit Resident Coordinators, who do much of the problem-solving and managing of everyday situations that crop up after normal business hours and on weekends. Below, resident coordinators have historically lived in the two bedrooms on the third floor on the right side of this picture, but as you can see, the fire escape stops on the second floor, leaving them no way to get out in the case of a fire or other emergency.

On the next page, other possible safety concerns include this back stairway (left) that is very steep and made out of hard concrete; fire doors are easily accessible but given the presence of young children in the house during tutoring sessions and other events, it is possible that they or others could easily lose their balance and fall down this staircase. Right, a window that opens from the bottom and pushes out between the second and third floor had to be screwed shut after children repeatedly opened it, dangerous because out this window is a two-story drop to a concrete walkway below.
Trotter House does the best it can with what it has, but pictures like these illustrate the negative conditions that consistent underfunding can cause.
PROBLEM: PARKING/TRANSPORTATION

Trotter is located in the middle of several fraternities in an area where it is difficult to find street parking. Yet attendees at events can number in the hundreds, or at least several dozen on an almost weekly basis, and this parking lot (shown above) only holds about 15 cars comfortably. Cars routinely double-park, park in the fire space, and park on the lawn, in the left of the picture.

Students suggest a campus bus route that includes Trotter Multicultural Center, something that would lessen the parking problem and make Trotter less difficult to access.
PROBLEM: DISREPAIR

Trotter House is old and much of the problems are from a lack of upkeep, and a lack of funding for that upkeep. Below, some of the walls that have crumbled, appear to have water or other damage.

Above, a cracked wall, and an office wall with severely chipped paint.

Below, a closet door with a hole in it, an exterior window with chipped paint and just inside, broken window blinds, and a bathroom window with a latch broken. Some of the windows are difficult to open and close, and broken latches are not uncommon.
Below, more chipped paint, on a wall, on a stairpost, and on a floorboard. Students interviewed dislike the paint color; the color and chipped paint are the number one most popular complaint and the number one suggestion for improvement.

Below, carpet stains in the lobby area.
Below, broken tile on the first-floor (left) and second-floor (right) bathrooms.
PROBLEM: OUTDATED, WORN FURNISHINGS

Students also suggest changing the curtains (top three photos, below), which are very much outdated.

This disco ball (above, middle) on the basement ceiling symbolizes the outdated furnishings for some students.
Where do we go from here?

When outlining the problems above, I did my best to provide some sort of prioritizing of obvious need and level of concern gained from my own experiences here and conversations from students and staff who are interested in seeing Trotter House become a more welcoming environment for students. Fixing safety and disability issues and doing basic repairs (painting – especially a change of color, new curtains, carpeting, etc.) would illustrate to students a dedication to make Trotter the multicultural center, and the “home away from home,” they need it to be. Students also gave some wonderful suggestions for other improvements to Trotter that I list below:

- Students felt that the walls were rather bare and that in addition to the few paintings and art displayed in the lobby area, more of the center could benefit from art that reflected the heritage of various cultures. Perhaps even a mural on the staircase from the basement to the first floor that would welcome visitors in and reflect on Trotter’s mission.

- Students proposed a library where one can find multimedia resources about culture. They would like to see books, videos, maps, even exercises that would allow them to gain more knowledge about various racial and ethnic groups, religions, sexual orientations, etc. This would be a place for both teachers and students, and would fill an academic need for people interested in these areas or just for those who want to learn.

- Students suggested (free or inexpensive) mini-courses that teach fine and performing arts and has enough resources to cover diverse areas like photography, drawing, painting, or dance and music lessons, but also focused on cultural learning and with an aim to advancing knowledge about their own or other groups.

Obviously, over the past few months, much of these needs have come to light in the intense discussions about Trotter House and its place in the University system. It’s important to note some of the special challenges in being such a multipurpose public (and extremely old) building. After decades of disrepair, the University will have to meet many challenges to
help Trotter fulfill its missions of providing a comfortable environment for students from all walks of life to learn from each other.
Appendix 4a.

RESPONSE TO
FACILITY CONDITION ANALYSIS OF
THE WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER HOUSE MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Section 1. GENERAL BUILDING INFORMATION

SITE
We agree and confirm the analysis of the existing condition of the site.

We do note, however, that the asphalt parking area described in the report is also a major pedestrian traffic pattern to the facility and is regularly used (weather permitting) for exterior programs (e.g., picnics, concerts, recreation, etc.). Suggested repair should be considered with those multiple uses in mind for safety reasons as well.

EXTERIOR
Soffit work and most work related to the roof have been completed. Other description of work needed is accurate.

Recently, foundation leaks have been discovered and exterior ground drainage (around entries) needs to serviced or improved. There has been at least five major floodings of the ground floor either in entirety or in areas this past semester.

INTERIOR / FINISH SYSTEMS
Description of interior applied finishes is accurate.

Carpeting for the main floor, second floor and stairwell up to the second floor is currently being replaced (at cost of risk management and WMTH). The cost incurred to WMTH (estimated at $4500) was unanticipated and not budgeted.

Kitchen appliances and fixtures are operable and in fair condition. However upon a recent OSEH inspection to renew the commercial license for the kitchen, it was noted that a new commercial range hood with appropriate grease traps, etc. is recommended. Additionally the ranges presently in use are for residential use and not commercial. Lastly the three-basin wash/prep sink should be fitted with an attached antibacterial soap dispenser and a commercial garbage disposal.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY
We confirm all of the descriptions of the facility's accessibility, with the exception of improved signage (with Braille) that has recently been purchased and installed. This area represents an area of great concern and priority for our unit. As an employer we cannot fully comply with generally accepted employment standards and could not extend offers of employment for some positions (residential coordinators) to those with various disabilities/physical challenges.

HEALTH
Problematic mold growth has satisfactorily been removed. We would recommend inspection for lead paint and asbestos.
FIRE / LIFE SAFETY
We agree with all descriptions. Like the area on “handicapped accessibility”, this represents a critical area of concern and priority for our unit.

HVAC
Condition descriptions are accurate. We identify the replacement of radiator and piping, separate from other heating upgrades, to be a critical need as these systems have been regularly failing and, in some cases, causing related damage and repairs (like leaking pipes, damaged ceiling tiles, scorched flooring and walls, etc.)

Present mechanical comfort cooling is insufficient and creates severe ambient noise in large meeting and public areas when in operation. The second and third floors have 1 moderate capacity window type units apiece. Living spaces (two apartments), and the ground floor recreation room and computer labs have no cooling at all. We strongly believe a long term and comprehensive solution to install central facility cooling be implemented as a priority.

ELECTRICAL
We agree with the assessment of current electrical service and systems.

PLUMBING
We agree with all descriptions of water/waste systems and fixtures. Current public restroom fixtures are not accessible, are in very poor condition, and are regularly in need of repair. We have identified their replacement as a critical need.

Section 3. DETAILED PROJECT SUMMARIES AND TOTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>0886FS01</td>
<td>emergency egress lights &amp; signage</td>
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<td>fire detection and alarm system</td>
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<td>heating system</td>
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</tr>
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<td>interior applied finish</td>
<td>routine maintenance, fund internally</td>
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<tr>
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<td>carpeting upgrade</td>
<td>complete started upgrade and reimburse unit for started work ($4500.00)</td>
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<td>landscaping</td>
<td>should be included into unit annual budget</td>
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<td>repave N. parking lot</td>
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<tr>
<td>0886HC01</td>
<td>lever action door hardware</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2, safety and access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC02</td>
<td>stair handrails and handrail extensions</td>
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<td>0886HC03</td>
<td>interior wheelchair stair climber</td>
<td>priority level should be upgraded to 1st, should consider elevator, see Addendum</td>
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<td>0886HC04</td>
<td>wheelchair access to restrooms</td>
<td>raise priority level to 1st, access and code</td>
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<tr>
<td>0886HC05</td>
<td>dual level drinking fountain</td>
<td>solved, bottled water dispenser on every floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>0886HC06</td>
<td>facility signage upgrades</td>
<td>partially done, complete internally</td>
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<td>0886HC07</td>
<td>telephone accessibility upgrades</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2nd, pay phone was removed</td>
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<tr>
<td>0886ES02</td>
<td>routine roof and gutter repairs</td>
<td>completed</td>
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<td>0886IS03</td>
<td>kitchen equipment upgrades</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2nd, see section 1: Interior / finish Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886PL01</td>
<td>replace restroom fixtures</td>
<td>raise priority level to 1st, see section 1: Plumbing</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Addendum – Other related considerations and current related projects

CARGO VAN
There presently isn't a dedicated facility vehicle for use by staff in making deliveries, picking up larger equipment or furniture or transporting borrowed equipment. This represents a significant deficiency and hardship for operations efficiency and staff. We strongly encourage the annual leasing of a cargo van for dedicated WMTH usage.

ELEVATOR
In addition to the critical accessibility issue related to movement between all floors within Trotter house, deliveries and movement of large equipment, furniture or catering is very difficult past the ground floor. Routine movement of facility equipment and furniture (tables and chairs) require staff to carry these items up and down stairwells with turns and landings, this represents a hardship for staff and a potential hazard. For all of the access and operations discussed here and in the assessment we encourage consideration of an installation of an elevator at Trotter House (an external addition was considered the most feasible and economical in a former architect's rendering).

CURRENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS
1) Repairing the leak in the computer lab & recreation room bathroom
2) Lock for the computer hub gate
3) Repairing the holes in the ceiling & repaint the wall near the NE ramp.
4) Replace the carpet
5) Swipe card installation
6) Fireplace gas line fitting, cleaning and inspection
7) Repair ceiling tiles in the computer lab & bathroom
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Prepared by R. Fisher, E. Burnett
Page 1, 1/5/01
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<td>carpeting upgrade</td>
<td>should be included into unit annual budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886SI01</td>
<td>landscaping</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2nd, pedestrian traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886SI02</td>
<td>repave N. parking lot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project#</td>
<td>title</td>
<td>notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC01</td>
<td>lever action door hardware</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2, safety and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC02</td>
<td>stair handrails and handrail extensions</td>
<td>agree with description and priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC01</td>
<td>inferior wheelchair stair climber</td>
<td>priority level should be upgraded to 1st, should consider elevator, see Addendum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC04</td>
<td>wheelchair access to restrooms</td>
<td>raise priority level to 1st, access and code solved, bottle water dispenser on every floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC05</td>
<td>dual level drinking fountain</td>
<td>partially gone, complete internally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC06</td>
<td>facility signage upgrades</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2nd, pay phone was removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886HC07</td>
<td>telephone accessibility upgrades</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886ES02</td>
<td>routine roof and gutter repairs</td>
<td>completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886IS03</td>
<td>kitchen equipment upgrades</td>
<td>raise priority level to 2nd, see section 1: Interior / finish Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0886PL01</td>
<td>replace restroom fixtures</td>
<td>raise priority level to 1st, see section 1: Plumbing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Addendum: Other related considerations and current related projects

ELEVATOR
In addition to the critical accessibility issue related to movement between all floors within Trotter house, deliveries and movement of large equipment, furniture or catering is very difficult past the ground floor. Routine movement of facility equipment and furniture (tables and chairs) require staff to carry these items up and down stairwells with turns and landings, this represents a hardship for staff and a potential hazard. For all of the access and operations discussed here and in the assessment we encourage consideration of an installation of an elevator at Trotter House (an external addition was considered the most feasible and economical in a former architect's rendering).
Appendix B.
Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs

William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center

Facility High Priority Needs

Submitted by:
Patricia Aqui Pacania and Ed Burnett
William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center
High Priority Needs

**Need Area:** Human Safety

**FIRE SAFETY**

- **Lack of updated fire alarm and sprinkler system.**
  
  - **Description:** Currently, we have an outdated fire alarm system in place without a sprinkler system throughout the whole building. Estimates to have a new one installed will cost $100K. This estimate does not include the cost to install a sprinkler system. An updated fire alarm WITH sprinkler system is needed.

- **Concern for the safety of resident coordinators who reside on the 3rd floor.**
  
  - **Description:** No fire escape currently exists on the 3rd floor. There is no fire ladder that can allow for someone to escape a fire through the window. The only egress is through the main staircase. Alternate and safe egresses are needed from the 3rd floor.
  
  - A decision needs to be made soon and in consultation with Ed and myself regarding where to house resident coordinators.

- **Lack of safe alternate exits in case of fire in the building.**
  
  - **Description:** On the second floor only one egress exists. No fire escape is available through the windows. We currently have smoke doors installed that close in case of a fire. This could present a difficulty in that people who are on the second floor will be trapped there with no ability to exit.

  - The main staircase that runs through the building was determined not safe enough by the fire inspector. The steps themselves are not wide enough to safely step down and walk down the stairs. Moreover, no handrails exist on the staircase from the 3rd to the 2nd floor.

  - The back staircase is not a safe exit either. The back staircase is steep and the width of each stair is too narrow to safely use.

- **Subbasement fire safety issues.**
  
  - **Description:** Boiler is outdate and not compliant. No firewalls currently exist that surround the boiler.

  - The staircase leading to the subbasement is made completely of wood. Staff regularly has to go down stairs to reset circuit breakers. Should a fire occur, there would be no opportunity to exit should the fire reach the stairs.
Moreover, firefighters would have no way to get to the subbasement without stair access.

**Uncertain if the parking lot is big enough to accommodate a fire truck.**

**Description:** If a fire occurs at Trotter, we are unsure as to whether or not the fire truck would be able to access the building through the parking lot. The only other place the fire truck could have access is by parking on Washtenaw Avenue.

**NEED AREA: Structural Issues**

**ELECTRICAL SYSTEM**

**Problems with the electrical system**

**Description:** The current electrical system is in need of an assessment. The circuit breakers often need to be reset because of frequent outages on particular floors when equipment is plugged in.

A revenue generating opportunity was missed this summer because of the lack of an adequate electrical system. A cybercamp wanted to host their event at the Trotter. Because the electrical system could not support their electrical needs, the cybercamp was held elsewhere.

**PLUMBING SYSTEM**

**Problems with the plumbing system**

**Description:** The pipes often have leaks and have caused flooding situations from the bathrooms. The antiquated pipes also emit unpleasant smells that one has to endure throughout the building. The bathrooms often have overflow or are backed up if used heavily by Center visitors. Moreover, the current system has old parts that are almost impossible to replace. The plumbing system needs updating.

**NEED AREA: Custodial Staff**

**Custodial Staff on Weekends**

**Lack of custodial staff support on weekends**

**Description:** Trotter has its heaviest usage on the weekends. We currently have no custodial staff support to clean the facility on a regular basis. Custodial staff support is needed to maintain the cleanliness in the building.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Replace refrigerator motor</td>
<td>$550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Microphones</td>
<td>$185.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVD/VCR</td>
<td>$149.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHELVING UNIT</td>
<td>$40.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New carpet shampoo</td>
<td>$330.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Table</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chafing dishes</td>
<td>$141.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangers &amp; Laundry Hamper</td>
<td>$57.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppression system</td>
<td>$889.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial Range</td>
<td>$2900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5393.76</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix .5
Institutional Perspectives and other references
Major University Studies and Reports Reviewed

To assure the planning work is grounded institutionally, there is a review and
continuing analysis of a body of University of Michigan works (ranging ten-years) that
directly focus on Trotter or provide facts, information and values important to this work.

categories of institutional planning, student involvement, faculty
involvement and external involvement provide very powerful values
for our planning.
They are:
• “Diversity efforts should change the institution not just students.”
• The entire University is a partner in diversity planning
• Link diversity planning to University priorities and other initiatives
• Academic units have to be a part of campus diversity initiatives
• We must assess and learn from students’ diversity initiatives;

A Profile of Selected Student Affairs Areas, SACUA Review 1995,
Division of Student Affairs, 1995.
• “Facility management” is the single focus of this report for Trotter
  House.”

Programmatic & Facility Enhancements, 1998. Provides a strategic plan for
the Trotter House as a multicultural center. Conceptualizes “...a
world class multicultural center.” Through focusing on:
• “The Trotter Initiative –focusing on influencing climate and character...”
• Developing an arts/cultural program
• Enhancing educational resources and support.”

Transforming Communities Project Report, 1999 – 2000. This report focuses
on five goals and creates major scenarios for future of Trotter as a
Center for Social Justice..
• Development of a Multicultural Center
• Enhancing resources and research on diversity matters

• This report provides an analysis of the physical plant.

- Conceptualizes “a five phased” comprehensive student leadership program spanning January 2002 to April 2005.


- “Improve academic and social support programs aimed at increasing the retention of historically underrepresented students”

Gathering of Voices Final Report – May 2003. This report’s analysis of ‘cultural support” speaks to the current limitations of the Trotter House.

- The “need for some sort of dedicated space and the “...The William Monroe Trotter House was viewed a sorely insufficient.”
Appendix .6

The following list of web-sites are provided to give a general idea of the scope, size and programming of some University Cultural Centers.

Indiana University
http://www.iub.edu/~nmbcc/

Purdue University
http://www.purdue.edu/BCC/

University of Minnesota
http://www.oma.umn.edu/academic.html

University of Maryland
http://www.inform.umd.edu/nyumburu/

Ohio State University
http://oma.ohio-state.edu/hale/home.html

University of North Carolina
http://ibiblio.org/shscbch/

Delaware State University
http://www.udel.edu/CBC/

Northwestern University
http://www.northwestern.edu/mcc/

Michigan State University
http://www.msu.edu/~mcc/
\[1\] SIS facilities report, November 1999
\[2\] Report from election results Spring 2004, Michigan Student Assembly