

Proposal for Adding Aesthetics Committee to Facilities Cluster
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Background

Often I've been involved in discussions about a project that nobody knows how to pursue, where a topic or project belongs, and who makes the decision or recommendation to the board. Recent examples: 'No Parking' signs for driveway and parking lot, replacing the two faded flags, revisions to the overflowing nametag cabinet, possible construction of a "tiny free library" (junction of the Skyliners trail and trail to our building) in order to have our name on the street side and get around not being able to put an actual sign there and have a place to have UU information.

There is not a committee or team in the existing Facilities Cluster that is appropriate for addressing these questions or aesthetics in general. The most active is Facilities Systems which is comprised of engineers. The Interiors Committee no longer exists, but was to have dealt with aesthetics within the building, so its function would roll into this. Parker has taken over the role of replacing/repairing furniture. ART (Art Resources Team) is not part of the Facilities Cluster and is focused on rotating exhibits, art purchases, and art nights.

Since the Getting Involved brochure is being revised and reprinted, it is an appropriate time to review all committees. The Facilities Cluster has been without an active leader for some time. I've discussed the Facilities section of the brochure with Mark Hickman since he stood in to lead the committee for awhile. It is apparent that there is a necessity for a committee that can address aesthetics.

Several other UU congregations have an Aesthetics Committee or Team that is a component of a Facilities Committee. This proposal is based on what they have done. (See URLs and annotations at the end.)

Proposal

Create a board-appointed Aesthetics Committee or Team as part of the Facilities Cluster. Its mission would be to maintain and protect the vision for our building, to present an attractive, informative, and welcoming environment for members, friends and visitors, and to be visually and spiritually pleasing.

Mission/Purpose (DRAFT adapted from others)

To maintain the vision and integrity of our building and grounds, to ensure that the physical environment is welcoming, informative for members, friends and visitors, and visually and spiritually pleasing.

Responsibilities/Functions (IN PROCESS adapted from others)

1. Work closely with other committees, leadership and staff as appropriate to coordinate efforts.
2. Consider function and purpose, as well as cohesive style and design throughout the building and grounds
3. Review proposals and make decisions related to aesthetics regarding paint colors, wall treatments, floor and window coverings, signage, and artwork. (Choice of art is already the responsibility of ART—Art Resource Team. Another intended to make organizing art exhibits a separate committee, as we do.)

4. Provide diagrams showing the arrangement of furniture (specifically sanctuary chairs) so that furniture may be returned to proper place if rearranged.

Qualifications for chair and members (taken from

- Ability to work with diverse people and consider various opinions.
- Ability to organize. An eye for neatness, function and a pleasing environment.
- Knowledge/skill in design, art, room function and organization would be helpful. Cross-over with experience on other committees such as Membership, RE, Buildings & Grounds may be helpful.

Possible Blurb for Getting Involved brochure

Intended as a placeholder for current brochure so that it can go to press by Wednesday noon to be available to new members at their class on Saturday, October 7. Refinement expected as discussed by board, Scott, others.

Aesthetics: Maintains the integrity of design and vision for our building and surroundings, to ensure that the physical environment is welcoming, informative for members, friends and visitors, and visually and spiritually pleasing. – Aesthetics@uufco.org

RESOURCES

Committee Charter for Furniture, Furnishings & Aesthetics Committee at Greenville Unitarian. <https://greenvilleuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Furniture-Furnishings-Aesthetics-Committee-2015.pdf>

Facilities Team at First UU of San Antonio

Composition of Facilities Team: The team is comprised of the chairs and co-chairs of Maintenance and Repair Committee, Grounds Committee, Green Sanctuary Team, Aesthetics, IT Committee, and the First UU Staff Administrator. The committee is chaired by the Vice President of the Board of Trustees

<http://uusat.org/facilities-team/>

Unitarian Universalist Community of the Mountains (Grass Valley)

<http://www.uugrassvalley.org/about-us/goverance/committees-2/art-aesthetics-team/>

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church (Fort Worth)

<http://www.westsideuu.org/committee/aesthetics.html>

FYI

New Home Aesthetics Statement developed by Design Committee and Art Work Group in 2012 is in NHP archives on our website: <https://www.uufco.org/aesthetics>