



MIT Latino Cultural Center
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The MIT Latino Cultural Center (LCC) was founded in 2002 to serve as the hub for Latino student life at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Today, the Center remains the focal point of both academic and extracurricular activity for students who identify with, or are interested in learning more about, Latino culture. The Center holds regular office hours, study breaks, discussions, information sessions, networking events, celebrations, small performances, and guest dinners. The LCC is also actively involved in planning events for *Mes Latino* – MIT's version of Hispanic Heritage Month. Each fall, the Center helps to coordinate *Cena a las Seis*, a large-scale dinner for families of Latino students during MIT's Family Weekend, as well as *Festival des la Américas*, a trivia and food fair that showcases the richness of Latin American culture and cuisine. In the spring, the LCC brings students together to celebrate Latino culture through *jGala Sabrosura!*, a performance-oriented dinner and party.

As an anchor for individual study and student group activities, as well as a resource for peer-to-peer support and networking among Latino students, the Latino Cultural Center is composed of two main parts: the Lounge and the Office. The Lounge is mainly used for student study breaks and socializing during the day, and for group meetings and events in the evening and during the weekends. The Office is mainly used for individual and group study, as well as for executive board meetings and for student group storage and office space.

Since 2007, the Executive Board of the Latino Cultural Center (LCC Exec) has been working to upgrade both spaces to make them more efficient and welcoming to students. Thus far, the following changes have been enacted:

In the Lounge:

- Installed new A/V equipment for group presentations, performance group practices, and general student use
- Systemized Latin American flag display for better aesthetics
- Repainted back wall to provide a fresh canvas to display student group photo collages for better group advertisement; currently, five organizations are showcasing their collages
- Re-upholstered couches and lounge chairs
- Secured a new semi-permanent loan for two tables and 30 extra chairs that students use to eat and study (also used for student group meetings)

In the Office:

- Catalogued and arranged all books by type
- Created a drop-off spot for course study guides and other books
- Rearranged the front counter to display student group awards
- Created two new advertising boards and one new monitor for student group publicity purposes
- Reallocated office space by group type (i.e. performing arts, cultural, and professional) for better efficiency
- Placed identification plaques next to student group offices in an effort to increase the sense of ownership of the space
- Reorganized the back room to maximize available space and to provide a storage facility for new groups
- Upgraded student computers

Throughout the renovations process, students have vocalized the need for more study space in the LCC Office and have expressed concern that group offices are only being used as storage space. Thus, we are now in the process of fundraising for large-scale renovations in order to (1) expand student study space in the Office and (2) redefine the student group office space to maximize storage capacity. The major anticipated renovations are as follows:

- Create a reception area to better position student desk workers to greet visitors (currently, desk workers sit with their backs to the Office door due to the pre-existing configuration of the space) and to enhance the inviting atmosphere of the Office
- Replace student group office substructures with a large desk-bench for computer and study space and overhead cabinets for student group storage
- Expand student group storage capacity with added tall storage units in the main office area and the back room

Attached, please find a current and proposed blueprint of the space for your reference.

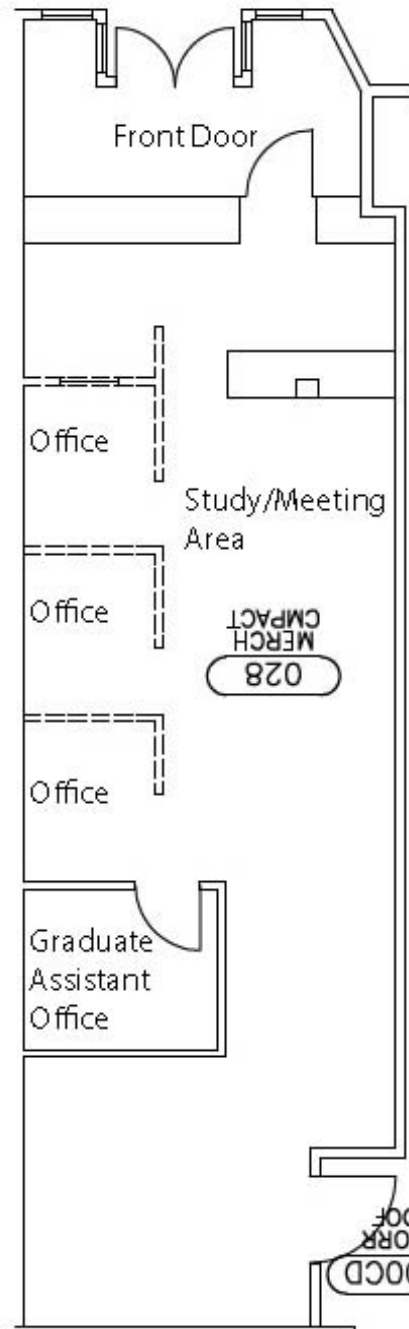
In order for these renovations to be a success, we need your financial support. From an initial walk-through of the space, our estimated total financial need is \$20,000. We hope that you will consider supporting us, financially and conceptually, in our endeavor.

We look forward to your feedback, comments, and questions; please direct all communication to the LCC Graduate Assistant, Polina Bakhteiarov, by sending an email to psb2010@mit.edu.

Many thanks for your time and attention! We hope to hear from you soon!

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- current layout -



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- proposed layout -

