

**REQUEST FOR CENTER  
APPROVAL**

**Center for Equity Practice and  
Planning Justice**

**Department of Urban Planning**

**School of Architecture  
&  
Urban Planning**

**A. Proposed name.**

Center for Equity Practice and Planning Justice

**B. Brief description, Purpose, and Justification.**

Racial segregation is a persistent and intractable feature of American life. The Center will be an interdisciplinary enterprise that will focus on identifying approaches to mitigating and deconstructing racial segregation by leveraging existing research. The Center's primary focus will be to cultivate, curate and innovate around planning practices that mitigate and deconstruct racial segregation in its various forms, including housing, education, healthcare, and economic opportunity, only to name a few areas of consideration. The Center will also focus on specific strategies that strengthen communities that have been historically impacted by racial segregation in its various forms.

**C. Organizational Structure, including the method of Appointment and term of office for the Director.**

The Executive Committee of the Department of Urban Planning will appoint the Director of the Center for Equity Practice and Planning Justice. The Executive Committee of the Department of Urban Planning will work collaboratively with the Center Director to oversee the Center's operations. The Center Director serves at the pleasure of the Executive Committee and the term of service will be set by the Executive Committee.

**D. List of Resources to be committed to the Center, including their Source.**

Department of Urban Planning and the School of Architecture and Urban Planning will provide in-kind supports to the Center, shared space for Center operations, volunteer faculty support and guidance, and student volunteers. The Center will primarily pursue external support from governmental, philanthropic, and private sources.

**E. List of Faculty and Staff Members to be associated with the Center and their roles.**

Initially, the following faculty will be associated with the Center:

**Dr. Kirk E. Harris**-Department of Urban Planning Faculty, Center Director

**Dr. Robert Schneider**-Co-Chair, Department of Urban Planning, Center Program Development and Support Partner

**Carolyn Esswein**- Co-Chair, Department of Urban Planning, Center Program Development and Support Partner

**Dr. Yaidi Violeta Cancel Martinez**, Department of Urban Planning Faculty, Center Program Development and Support Partner

#### **F. The long-range plan for the Center.**

The Center will develop in three phases to occur over a six-year period. Descriptions of the activities in the three respective phases, as well as the associated budgets with those phases are articulated in a proposal/concept paper that can be provided upon request. While activities of the Center will be phased in over six years, the activities under each of the three phases will constitute the program infrastructure of the Center over the life of its operation.

#### **G. Description of Collaborations and Overlaps with existing Centers and Institutes and relevant Academic Programs at UWM.**

Discussions with the leadership of the Center on Economic Development, the Urban Studies Program, and Sustainable Peace Building Program have occurred. All those entities are in full support of the work that the Center will be advancing. The Center's work is unique in that it specifically focuses on urban planning practices and strategies that mitigate and deconstruct segregation. As such, the work of the Center does not specifically overlap with those entities identified above, except to the extent that those entities deal with issues of urban inequality and poverty, social and economic justice, and community engagement. That said, urban inequality and poverty, social and economic justice, and community engagement are central concerns of the work of the Center as it looks at urban planning practice-based strategies to mitigate and deconstruct segregation.

#### **H. A signature page with the endorsement from all participating Deans.**



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Mo Zell  
Dean, College of the Arts and Architecture