



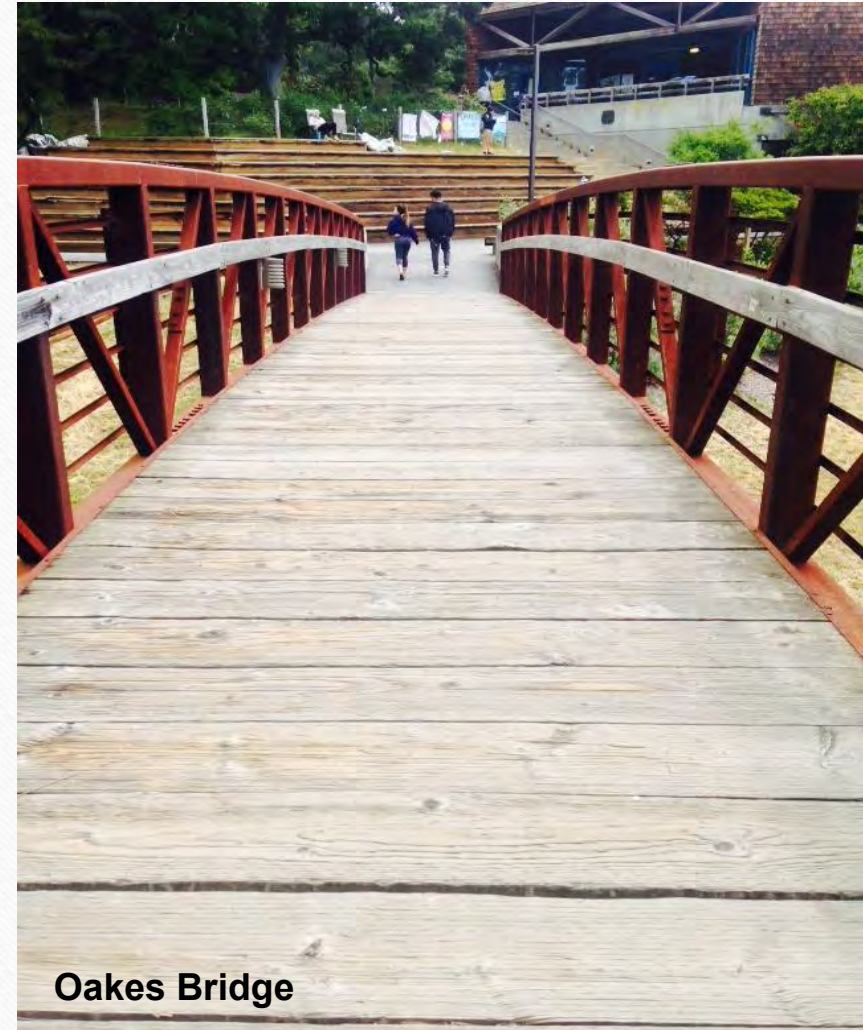
# Expressive Spaces at Oakes College:

Facilitating Growth, Sustaining  
Networks & Fostering Community

By Kua, Lily, Tim, Kimberly,  
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# Research Goals

- identify, assets, & report on the conditions, usability, and potential of existing student spaces
  - community/social spaces
  - outdoor, recreational areas
  - aesthetically pleasing
  - spaces of relaxation and leisure
- build knowledge that connects students to Oakes' initial creation, history, culture, and legacies
- analyze student, staff, and faculty insights concerning utilization, creation, and maximization of creative outlets and expressive spaces at Oakes College



**Oakes Bridge**

# Methodology & Spaces of Interest

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## **Research Methods:**

- individual/group interviews
- student/faculty/staff surveys
- focus group
- photo mapping
- recordings
- oral history

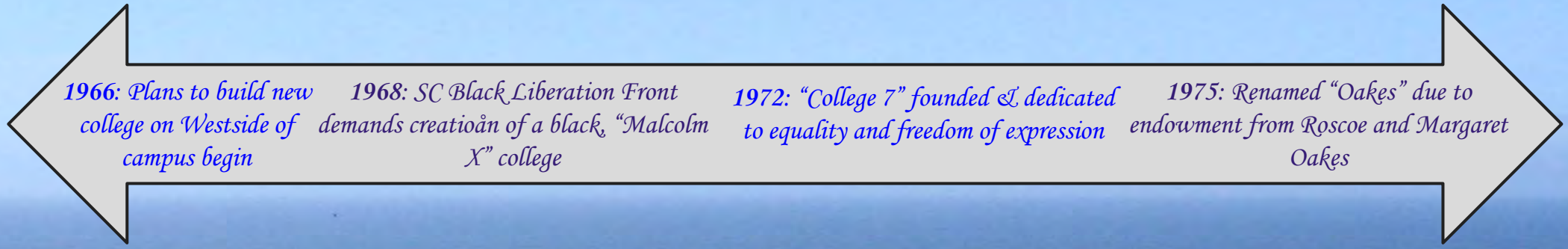
## **Key Spaces/Areas:**

- Oakes Cafe
- Lower Lawn
- Oakes Learning Center
- Oakes Library
- Community Murals
- BBQ Pits/Basketball Court



consciousness justice  
**freedom**  
EXPRESSION  
LIBERATION  
**PRIDE**  
activism  
**HOPE**





*1966: Plans to build new college on Westside of campus begin*

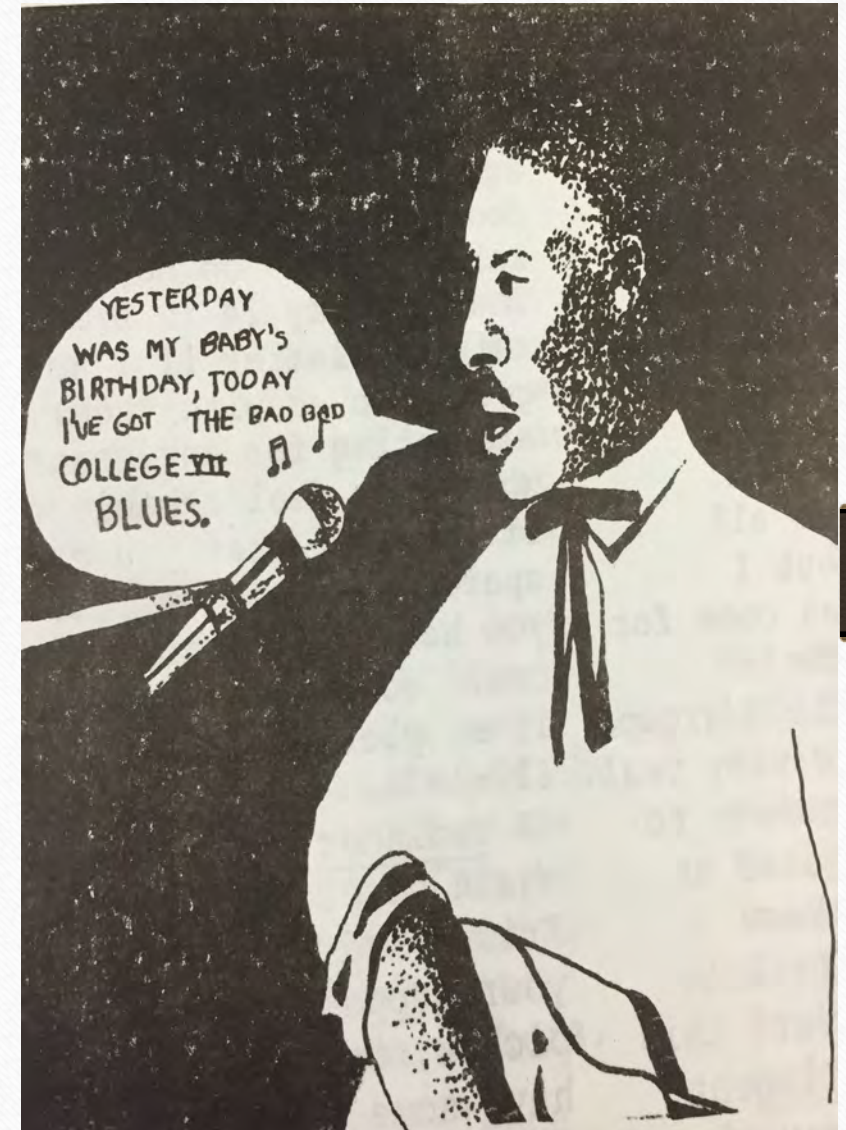
*1968: SC Black Liberation Front demands creatioån of a black, "Malcolm X" college*

*1972: "College 7" founded & dedicated to equality and freedom of expression*

*1975: Renamed "Oakes" due to endowment from Roscoe and Margaret Oakes*

## History of Expressive Spaces at Oakes

- On December 5, 1972, B276 became the first student lounge in College 7.
- B266 was supposed to be an activity organization room.
- College 7 classes and student organizations could book any room in College 7, including classrooms, provided they got Provost approval.
- On Monday mornings, breakfast was supposed to be provided to College 7 students.
- On January 16, 1973, the faculty voted against converting a trailer into a student napping place and pillow talk room for College 7.



# Defining *Expressive Spaces*, Understanding Their Importance

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With Oakes students coming from a variety of background (including First generation, undocumented, etc.) it is important to establish **creative spaces in which students can find strength, community, and support**. Allowing students to **come together** and **encourage one another** through various forms of art and expression displayed around the college will help Oakes in **strengthening their “community- building”** along with **adding expressive resources** to students. Exploring this topic is necessary in order to locate where Oakes community residents **build relationships** with one another, specifically **through art, reflection, and social integration/interaction**. Particularly, we believe that community members can benefit from sharing their knowledge about which “hot spots” or “special areas” **motivate, inspire, and retain** them – in the hopes of identifying **how, where, and why** students, faculty, and staff are able to **create bridges and bonds** through creative and artistic means, specifically.

# Places of Interest



recreational



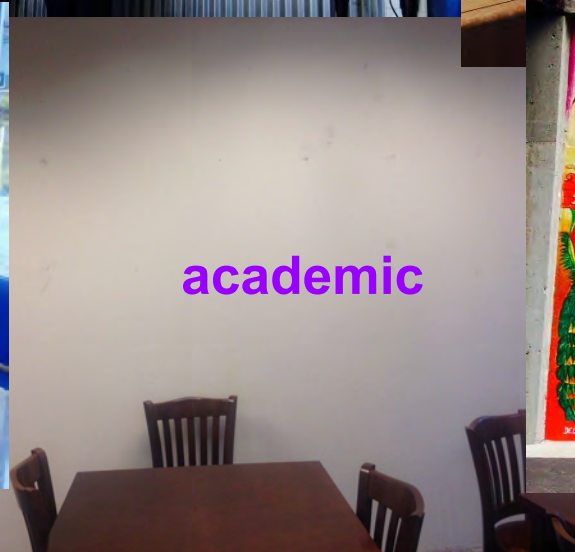
social



leisure



multi-purpose



academic



artistic

clockwise: Lower  
Lawn, Oakes Cafe,  
BBQ pits, Cafe Mural,  
Library, Oakes  
Learning Center



# Expressive Assets: Recreational & Social Spaces

“This was the first place I came to for orientation... I just remember being in awe.. freshman and sophomore year, I would come here before they closed and me and my friends would order comfort food. I come here to refuel myself as far as my soul is involved.”



“[There are] moments and spaces of serenity around Oakes.. like sitting down at Lower Lawn and getting to look out on the fields.. It creates moments where ideas flood.”



# Places of Low Energy and Expression

“we [could] have people  
express themselves with chalk  
drawings.”



“I would consider this more of a  
study space because it’s so  
small.”

*“Oakes Library is not expressive at all... it shouldn’t  
be labeled as a “library.” ...it is not a space where  
students can really work efficiently or even come  
together to do so.”*

“It reminds me of home...it’s just really representative of the struggle people have gone through to get to and from different places...”



“I feel like what makes Oakes so cool for me is that there’s so many stories at Oakes... we survive on stories...”

\*Quoted from student interviews



“Art is necessary for student retention because regular education and schooling doesn't take into account the different complexities of who you are...”

“...these portraits are hidden in places such as the advising office, rather than being brought out to be shown to everyone in the public.”



# The Necessity of Space:

## *Physical, Metaphorical, & Social*

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“Expressive spaces” encompass physical areas of congregation, stimulation, and inspiration. However, “spaces” has also come to represent instances of dialogue where students can “claim intellectual and creative space.” There is not necessarily a need to “establish” expressive spaces, but rather, facilitate dialogue where students can rethink & rejuvenate their individual/collective stories as a means of reflection, healing, and solidarity.



**Faculty/Staff  
Collaboration**

**Transparency  
Knowing your  
network**

**Popular Education  
Valuing Student  
Knowledge**

# Oakes' Creation & Commitment ... to Students!

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## Oakes' Commitments

positive social change  
integrity and compromise  
inclusivity/commonality  
economic and racial justice  
resistance, strength, & unity  
self-determination and sovereignty  
mass multicultural coalitions

VS

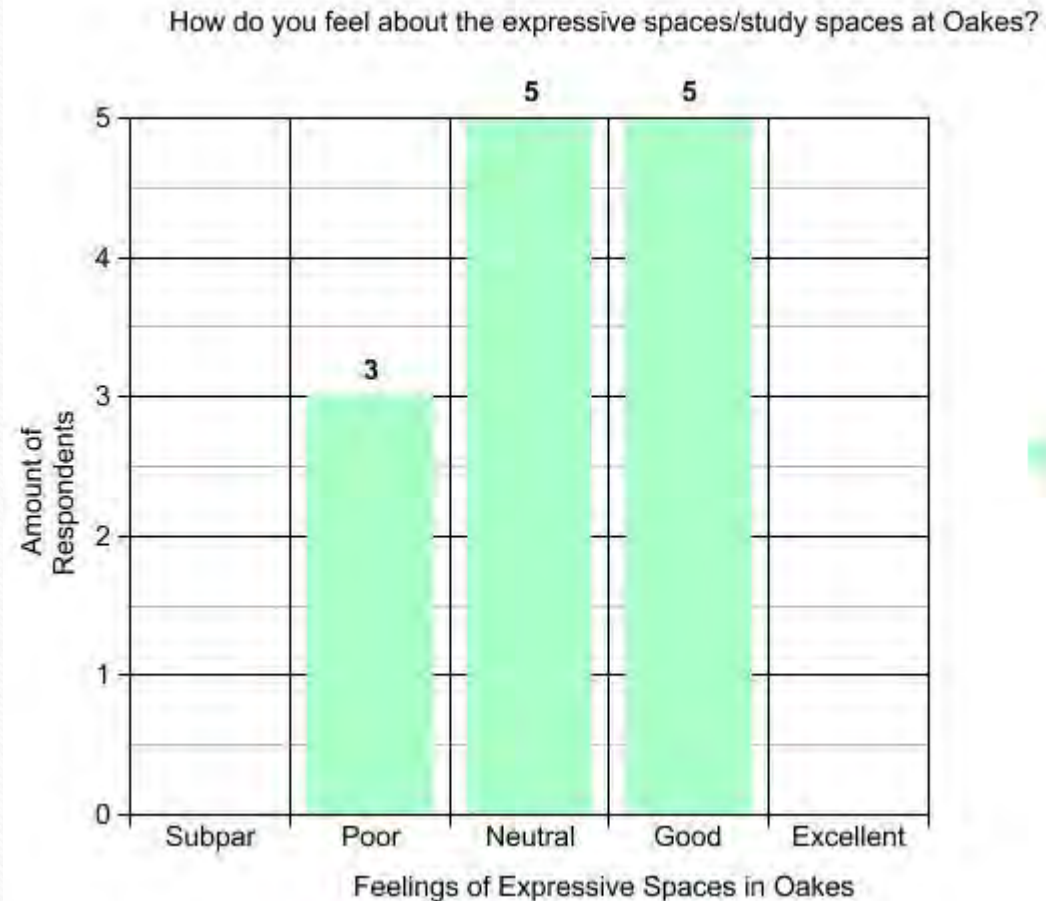
## Student's Improvements

help cultivate student creativity, talents  
invest in diverse learning practices  
encourage personal growth, leadership  
emphasis of Oakes history/core beliefs  
clearer communication; bridging  
celebrate difference & sameness  
fostering community, communality

# Staff and Faculty Findings

“I love the Oakes Mural room and think the story behind how the mural was created is wonderful. I also love that students are creating murals in all the dorms. That's a great way to make the Oakes history and Oakes stories more visible.”



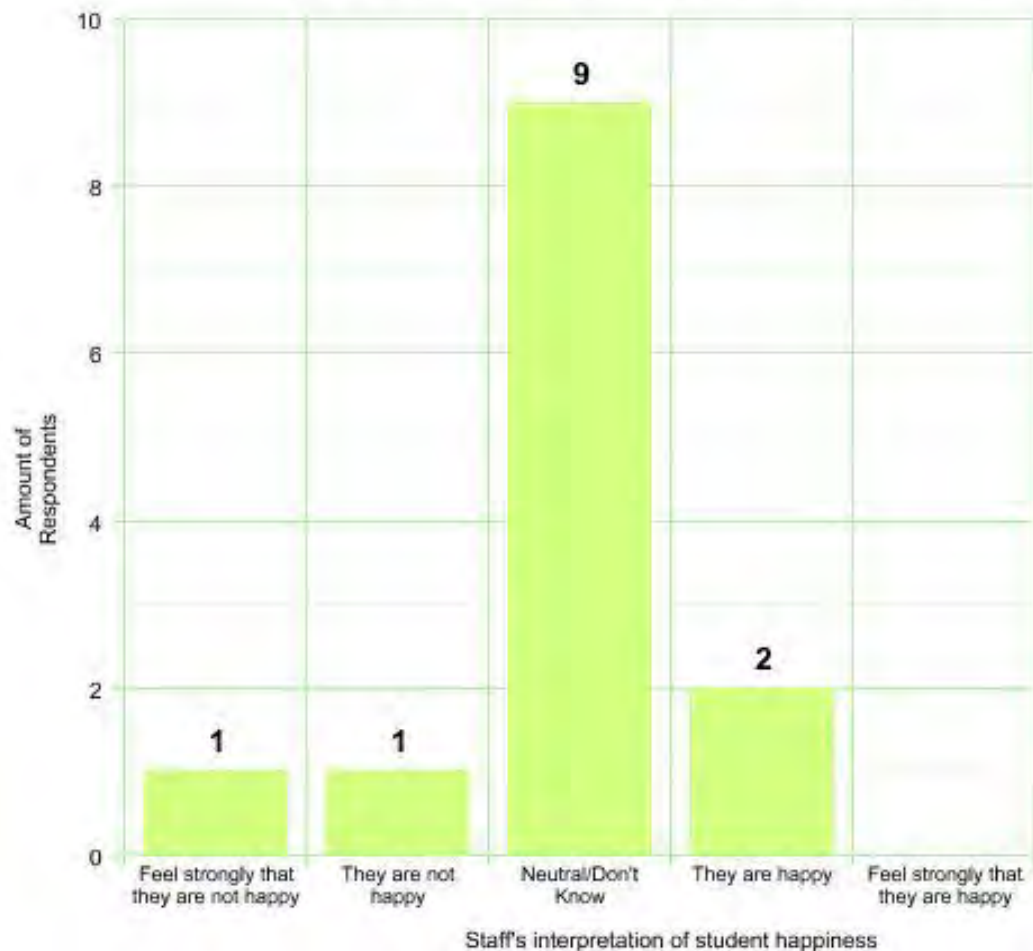


# Staff and Faculty Findings

**“I love seeing the art installations in the hallway. It makes me feel more connected to the students and brings happiness to my day.”**

“I feel that Oakes doesn't have any expressive spaces because the students aren't learning about each others' adversities and background.”

Do you feel that students are happy with the expressive spaces at Oakes?



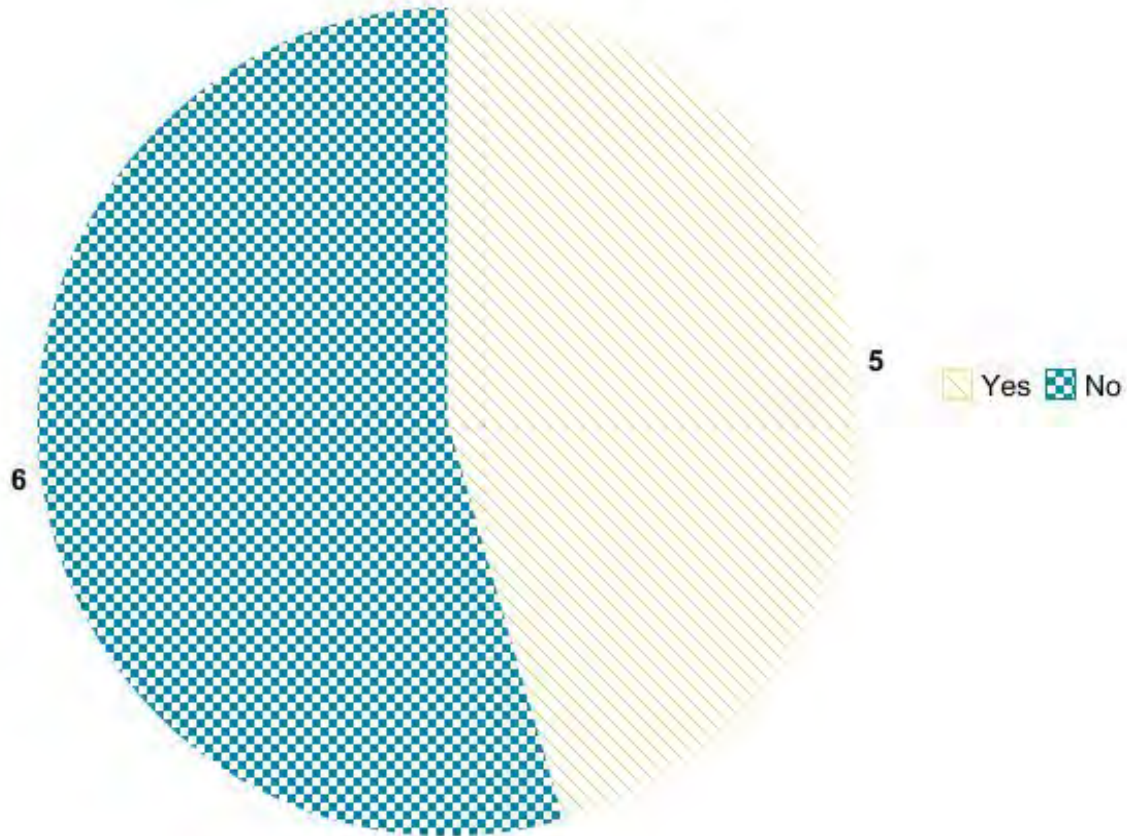
## Staff and Faculty Findings

“Those rooms feel like they are working against us--why do they have to be so ugly, like jail cells? Why do we have to work so hard not only to push back the effects of educational inequities, but to push back the immediate horizon each day so we can breathe? On a bad day when students are tired and not talking, those little rooms can feel like the "handbasket" that we're all going to hell in!”

“I don't know because I haven't been to Oakes library in awhile, but I know for sure it is pretty comfortable and quiet.”



Do you feel that Oakes' wall space is being sufficiently used for community members?



## Staff and Faculty Findings

“I think it would be great if the Oakes senate would paint the Oakes library and put a mural in there, maybe one that tells the story of the founding of Oakes and the current Oakes student experience.”



Photo taken by Missy Rae Magdalera

## Critical Intersections at Oakes College

“I think most of us at Oakes are convinced that if people don’t learn something about negotiating through their differences and communicating despite them and analyzing what’s happening in the world despite the fact that there’s a tremendous effort to obscure what’s happening—if we don’t do that, then it’s very likely that it isn’t going to be done and we’re going to increasingly become a nation of sheep, I hope, not being herded to our own slaughter, but sometimes that’s what it appears to be.”

Quote reference: Don Rothman) via *Oakes College: an Oral History*

# Steps to secure space(s) at Oakes

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- Spaces (OLC, Lower lawn, Guzman Room, Upper Lawn, BBQ Pits, Amphitheater)
  - a. Guidelines and restrictions
    - Registered with SOAR, Student Media, Sponsored by campus unit
    - Oakes Affiliation
  - b. Contact information
    - ACPC, Jacob Velasquez, [jvelasq3@ucsc.edu](mailto:jvelasq3@ucsc.edu) or (831) 459-5602
  - c. Event Proposal
    - Oakes Student Life Office

\*All contact information is posted on the Oakes College website (<http://oakes.ucsc.edu/>), under 'Activites', then click on the Oakes Facilities on the left side column.

# Proposal

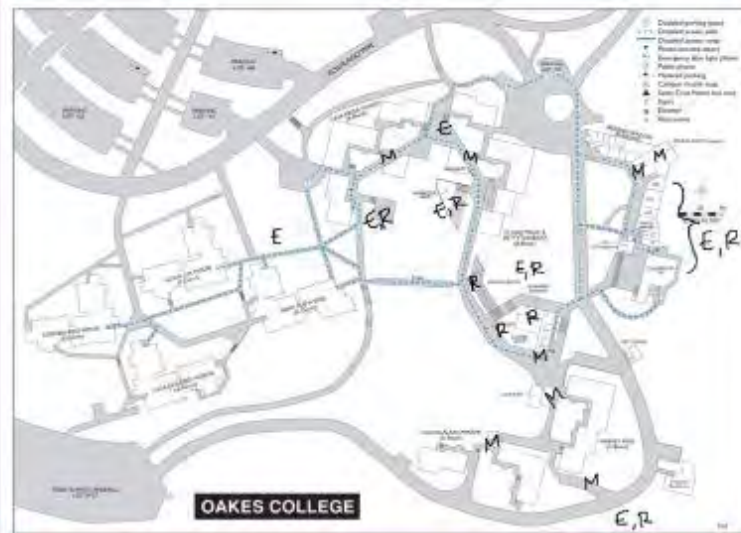
## Importance of Expressive Spaces

With Oakes students coming from a variety of backgrounds (i.e. First-generation, undocumented, etc.) it is important to establish creative spaces in which students can find strength, community, and support. Allowing students to come together and encourage one another through various forms of art and expression will help Oakes strengthen its community building. Community members can benefit from sharing their knowledge about which hot spots motivate, inspire, and retain them - identifying where students, faculty, and staff are able to create bridges and bonds through creative and artistic means.

## Oakes College:

Where are expressive spaces and how can I book facilities at Oakes?

### Your guide to access at Oakes College



Legend provided on the back.



"I feel like what makes Oakes so cool for me is that there's so many stories at Oakes... we survive on stories..."

- Oakes Affiliate

## How to book Oakes facilities?

Booking spaces on campus can be tricky if you aren't knowledgeable of the steps. Here are the ways that you can take to book classrooms at Oakes or spaces such as the Oakes Learning Center, Guzman room and Upper/Lower Lawns.

### To book a classroom:

Website: <https://classrooms.usac.edu>

- Make sure the room you want is available at the time you need. To check availability, look at the website given above.
- To book any classrooms on campus, all one-time events need to be sponsored by a department or unit on campus.
- In general, one-time events are not scheduled during the quarter until all classroom assignments are completed (2-3 weeks into the quarter).
- Student organizations who wish to reserve classroom space should contact the SOAR office first.

### To book an event at Oakes expressive spaces:

- Facilities at Oakes College are only available to student organizations which are currently registered through Student Organization Advising and Resources (SOAR), Student Media or sponsored by a campus unit.
- Each facility at Oakes may only be reserved for four consecutive weeks at a time.
- Fees and charges are used to cover the cost of wages for student staff, maintenance and upkeep of facilities/equipment.

### Cost of reservations:

- OLC: \$150
- Lower Lawn: \$200
- Guzman room: \$75
- Upper lawn: \$50
- Oakes Amphitheater: \$50
- Shahez and Kahlo BBQ pits: \$25

## Legend of Map

Expressive spaces are more than just spaces that can be booked. These types of spaces can vary from arts/murals, recreational rooms, study areas or location to relax. On the map provided:

'M' marks locations of murals and arts in Oakes

'R' marks facilities at Oakes that can be reserved/book at Oakes

'E' marks areas at Oakes that can be places to relax and study if needed (includes classrooms)

### Expressive Spaces

"Expressive spaces" encompass physical areas of congregation, stimulation, and inspiration. However, "spaces" has also come to represent instances of dialogue where students can "claim" intellectual and creative space. There is not necessarily a need to "establish" expressive spaces, but rather, facilitate dialogue where students can rethink & rejuvenate their individual/collective selves as a means of reflection, healing, and solidarity.

### For more information:

Reservations for the Oakes College facility spaces are managed by Jacob Woloskie, the Assistant College Programs Coordinator.

Please contact him with any questions regarding the reservation procedure. He can be reached at [jwolosk@usac.edu](mailto:jwolosk@usac.edu) or (531) 426-2211.

### Website

Front

Back