Centro Hispano

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**Mission:**
Centro Hispano works to improve the quality of life for Latinos and others living in Dane County by empowering youth, strengthening families, and engaging the community. Currently, our largest program area is our academic support and youth development work with Latino youth. Our goal is to see Latino youth prepared to succeed in life by finishing high school, being prepared for post-secondary education and engaging positively in their communities. While youth are our future, we do not forget that youth cannot succeed without strong families. For this reason, we continue to provide vital workforce development and social service programming for adults.

**Target Population:** Youth (middle/high school students) and families

**Current Programs:**
Disconnection, gang activities, and negative police contact among Latino youth are a great concern to public safety and the future of a generation of young Latinos. Centro Hispano is a leader in fighting delinquency as well as giving youth real alternatives and resources to provide themselves with a better future. The Juventud Program in the middle schools allows youth to explore their cultural identity while exposing them to future career opportunities. The Escalera Program in the high schools works with students to prepare and develop themselves for life after high school. Working with high school-aged youth as well, the ComVida program focuses on diverting youth from delinquency by helping them to build healthy relationships with themselves, their parents, their peers and their community. Finally, our program Nuestras Voces works with Latina youth to develop leadership through discussions and workshops on female issues. Through our youth programs, Centro Hispano hopes to create a better life for young Latinos and in doing so, better the future of the Latino community of Madison.

**Project Development Guidelines:** Best practices according to the partner; planning and preparation requirements (including recruitment and publicity); process for developing a project; various contact people for projects.

**Program-Design Needs:** Specific features and description of projects of interest for the partner. Including the preferred time frame and duration of projects; skills and resources of interest to the partner; logistical information and any ethical concerns; possible uses of HEX grant funds.

**Neighborhood resources and community institutions:** Local and unique features; area schools/churches/after-school programs and affiliated organizations. Geographic and spatial landscape of the community.
Future Programs: Projects of interest to the community partner; activities that have been requested by a community members.

Former HEX Projects:

Beyond Walls: Community, Meaning-Making, and Murals

Eleni Schirmer, Jorge Rodriguez, Katrina Flores (Curriculum and Instruction)

Graduate students from Prof. Michael Apple’s Friday seminar will collaborate with Centro Hispano and MECHA to engage with a group of community members (Centro constituents) to participate in the development of public community art. In conjunction with community members, we will help facilitate the creation of a “for youth, by youth” mural in Centro Hispano’s new youth center (COMVIDA). In addition to the mural, we will help students create a film documentary documenting the process; we will also work to build a curriculum about developing public, community-based arts. One semester.