

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** SGAR-61015

**Date introduced:** June 12th, 2024

**Author(s):** Leg. Chief of Staff Cockrell

**Sponsor(s):** CoAD STUCO Chair Alvarenga, Pres. Arriaga, Speaker Ballesteros, Chief of Staff Gonzalez, Dir. Chahal, Chair Awan, Chair Nieto, Chair Bivens, Chair El Hoderi, Chair Ortega, Sen. Gerling-Perez, Sen. Hubbard, Sen. Jacobs, Sen. Otero, Sen. Luong

**Committee:** Admin & Finance

**Draft:** Vote

**Recognition of the Need to Sustain University Makerspaces**

**Whereas**, the Keeland Design Laboratory is the only accessible, therefore primary, and essential facility for creative arts and design students at the University of Houston<sup>1</sup>;

**Whereas**, the engineering makerspace has been shut down, thereby limiting resources and opportunities for students to engage in hands-on, practical learning;

**Whereas**, the art makerspace is privately funded and thus not accessible to all students, further emphasizing the need for appropriately-funded makerspaces to ensure equal access for all students regardless of their financial situations;

**Whereas**, makerspaces provide students with hands-on learning opportunities that foster real-world skills and problem-solving abilities;

**Whereas**, the presence of well-funded makerspaces can significantly enhance the university's reputation as a hub for innovation, thereby attracting prospective students;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://thedailycougar.com/2024/04/18/keeland-design-lab-under-financial-stress-proposes-charging-students-for-use/>

**Whereas**, the Keeland Design Laboratory supports entrepreneurship and startup initiatives by providing the tools and space needed for prototyping and product development

**Whereas**, the lack of proper funding for makerspaces disproportionately affects students from low-income backgrounds, limiting their opportunities for practical and experiential learning.

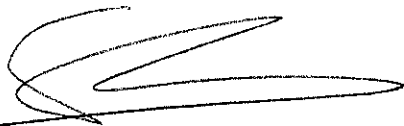
**Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

The Student Government Association formally recognizes the critical role of makerspaces in fostering innovation, collaboration, and practical learning experiences for students across multiple disciplines.

**Be it further resolved**, that the Student Government Association advocates for increased funding and resources to be allocated to the Keeland Design Laboratory to ensure its continued operation and ability to serve the student body effectively.

**Be it further resolved**, that the Student Government Association urges the university administration to explore sustainable funding models, including potential partnerships with local businesses, alumni donations, and grant opportunities, to support the Keeland Design Laboratory

**LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**, the Student Government Association of the University of Houston is committed to ensuring the sustained and equitable funding of the Keeland Design Laboratory and other makerspaces, recognizing their essential role in enhancing student innovation, collaboration, and practical learning experiences across all disciplines.



Sebastian Ballesteros

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 6/26/2024