

## Freedom of Expression

### Expressive Activity Description Form

The University of Houston is committed to fostering a learning environment where free inquiry and expression are encouraged. The University expects that persons engaging in expressive activities will demonstrate civility, concern for the safety of persons and property, respect for University activities, respect for those who may disagree with their message, and compliance with University policies and applicable local, state, and federal laws. The University of Houston maintains its right to place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on organized expressive activities. Additionally, any activities that are unlawful or disruptive to the normal operations of the University including classes and University business activities will not be tolerated. The purpose of the University of Houston Freedom of Expression Policy (MAPP 13.01.01) is to provide for organized expressive activities to be conducted on the grounds of the University in a manner consistent with these principles. Groups or individuals engaging in disruptive activities or failing to comply with University policies and applicable local, state, and federal laws may face immediate removal from the campus and other appropriate actions by University officials and University police.

The Freedom of Expression Policy is applicable to University of Houston students, faculty, staff, and others who wish to engage in extracurricular public speaking, literature distribution, poster displays, sign displays, any other type of graphic exhibitions, expressive performances, petitioning, or similar noncommercial activities at locations on University property. This policy does not apply to official University activities. Non-permitted commercial activities (as defined in the Freedom of Expression Policy) are not allowed. University grounds and buildings are reserved for use by University of Houston students, faculty, and staff, except as otherwise permitted by policies of the University. Expressive activities permitted under this policy do not imply official endorsement by the University. Groups or individuals engaged in expressive activities are responsible for the content of the expression. Literature distribution must comply with the rules stated in the Freedom of Expression Policy.

The University of Houston Freedom of Expression Policy identifies six outdoor expressive activity areas that may be reserved. The outdoor free expression areas that may be reserved include: 1.) Lynn Eusan Park (Lynn Eusan Park is the only area of the six areas that is available for non-University affiliated individuals or groups to reserve), 2.) the Student Center Plaza (located between South and North Student Center), 3.) the Student Center Satellite Patio/Hill, 4) Butler Plaza, 5.) Cougar Woods Arboretum (the grassy area located to the west of Cougar Woods Dining Hall between the Dining Hall and Cullen Boulevard), and 6.) the Student Center Circle (located in front of the Student Center South). Requests to reserve outdoor organized expressive activity areas must be submitted to the Conference and Reservation Services Office located in room 271 of the Student Center South. **Reservations must be made at least 5 business days in advance of the proposed organized expressive activity. Prior to submitting a reservation request, it is the responsibility of the requesting group or individual to obtain an expressive activity approval from the Student Centers Office. To request approval, groups or individuals must submit a completed Expressive Activity Description Form to the Student Centers Office at least seven business days in advance of the proposed activity.** The six outdoor activity areas may be used without reservation, however an individual or group with a reservation will have exclusive use and priority over other individuals or groups. Amplified sound is limited to between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to midnight on class days. On non- class days, amplified sound is permitted from 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Amplified sound is not permitted in the Butler Plaza area. Generated sound output shall not exceed established decibel levels.

Amplified sound is permitted only as described in the Freedom of Expression Policy.

A copy of the University of Houston Freedom of Expression Policy may be obtained in the Student Centers Office, Room 271, Student Center South and is available on the University of Houston Manual of Administrative Policies and Procedures Web Pages at ([MAPP 01.05.01 \(Freedom of Expression\)](#)). In addition to the Freedom of Expression Policy, expressive activities must conform to the behavior expectations of UH students outlined in the Student Disciplinary Policies and Procedures published in the *University of Houston Student Handbook* <https://uh.edu/dos/resources/student-handbook/> .

## Freedom of Expression Expressive Activity Description Form

The following information is required for individuals or groups who wish to engage in expressive activities in an outdoor expressive activity area of the University's campus which requires advance reservations.

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Date of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation Request Attached: \_\_\_\_\_

Target Audience (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ UH Students

\_\_\_\_\_ UH Students & Their Invited Guests

\_\_\_\_\_ Students from Other Universities

\_\_\_\_\_ General Public

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Advertising Methods (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Flyers on Campus

\_\_\_\_\_ Flyers in Community \_\_\_\_\_ *Daily Cougar Ads*

\_\_\_\_\_ Community Newspaper Ads

\_\_\_\_\_ Radio Ads

\_\_\_\_\_ TV Ads

Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Description (i.e. speech, rally, open microphone, display, exhibit, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amplified Sound: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Activity Sponsor (UH): \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Cosponsor (non-UH): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Contact Person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant/Contact Person Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* I have read the policy statement on the opposite side of this sheet, as well as the University of Houston Freedom of Expression Policy, and I agree to comply with the policy statement and the University of Houston Freedom of Expression Policy ([MAPP 01.05.01 \(Freedom of Expression\)](#))**

**\* "State law requires that you be informed of the following: (1) with few exceptions, you are entitled on request to be informed about the information the University collects about you by use of this form; (2) under sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Government Code, you are entitled to receive and review the information; and (3) under section 559.004 of the Government Code, you are entitled to have the University correct information about you that is incorrect."**

Student Life / Student Centers Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_