

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Building Naming

Action

Requested: Authorization to name the new multicultural center building on State Street in honor of Mark J. Bernstein and Rachel A. Bendit.

Background:

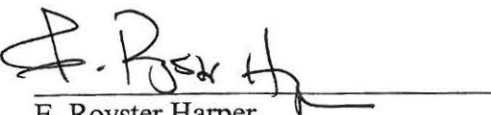
University of Michigan Regent Mark J. Bernstein (AB, 1993, JD 1996, MBA 1996), and his wife Rachel A. Bendit (AB, 1997) are volunteers and generous donors to the University of Michigan, supporting more than 10 units at the university, including Athletics, UM-Dearborn, the Health System, the Stephen M. Ross School of Business, the University Musical Society, the Museum of Art, the Center for the Education of Women, among others. Regent Bernstein has a deep dedication to civil rights, having served on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission where he was a strong voice for fairness and equality. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Michigan Association for Justice and on the Negligence Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Rachel Bendit is a mediator, teacher and attorney who serves on the Jewish Women's Archive, and who has served on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Funders Network and the Dispute Resolution Center of Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. Both work closely with the ACLU of Michigan and received the Claire and Isadore Bernstein Award from Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County.

Their firm belief in the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion as a central value of the University of Michigan, and their desire to help the university and the students fulfill their vision for a multicultural center on campus, led them to make a generous gift of \$3 million to support the construction of the new building that will house the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center, approved by the Board of Regents at their December 2015 meeting. The estimated cost of the project is \$10 million. The center is currently located off campus so this new facility helps to fulfill the students' vision for a multicultural center in the heart of campus where all students can develop a better understanding and appreciation for the multicultural diversity of the University of Michigan.

The approximately 20,000-gross-square-foot facility will accommodate spaces for the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center along with a multipurpose room that will be able to accommodate approximately 300 people, in both banquet-style seating for conferences and events, and an active learning classroom-style configuration that will accommodate more than 100 students.

In recognition of their generous gift towards construction of the new facility to house the William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center, we recommend that the Board of Regents designate the facility as Bernstein-Bendit Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

  
E. Royster Harper  
Vice President for Student Life

  
Kevin P. Hegarty  
Executive Vice President and  
Chief Financial Officer