

Technology Fee Concept Paper Proposal Template

Title: MADE@UF, Infinity Hall

Proposer:

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Sponsoring Organization: Academic Technology



Purpose: The Mobile App Development Environment at University of Florida (MADE@UF) is a unique concept project focusing on the evolving needs of our students as citizens in an increasingly digital world. Access to specialized technology is combined with variety of learning approaches including a MOOC, peer exchange, team collaboration, directed exploration and mentorships. Along with becoming familiar with mobile app development, students also gain experience in collaboration, entrepreneurship and the transition from education to the world of commerce.

MADE@UF, Marston is the first location, as part of Collaboration Commons in Marston Science Library, a collaborative project between UFIT and the Libraries. This project, MADE@UF, Infinity Hall is intended to create a MADE@UF in a different environment; physically located close to young businesses and entrepreneurs, encouraging learning and creativity while instilling procedures, policies and standards for mobile app publication. This space will have approximately 30 seats, consisting of single workstations, collaboration pods and one presentation monitor that can be utilized for small group presentation. This will give students all the resources necessary to learn to create their own apps, including hardware, software, development licenses and testing devices for their apps without burdening them with prohibitive expenses. Students will own all apps they develop and they will have the responsibility, cost and any benefit of publication. An online course for self-study has been developed, and the space will be staffed by experienced guides and mentors.

Students will register in one of two locations to utilize this MADE@UF, Infinity Hall location. One being the Marston Library and the second being Infinity Hall. The Department of Housing and Residence Education agrees to partner with Marston Library to have a shared system to allow students use of either space. The Infinity Hall also has physical classroom space in order to accommodate courses which have app development as a part of the curriculum. DOHRE has partnerships with Engineering, Business, the Arts, and other colleges which will be able to have courses within the facility and students will be able to use the MADE@UF space to have classroom to practical application within the same space.

Infinity Hall has an academic programming model so the facility will be hosting a different startup or established businesses on a monthly basis. These businesses can range from within the community to nationally and will, run their business, provide workshops and one-on-one mentoring with students. There will be on going recruitment efforts to be intentional and having application developers as a part of this programming model. This program model tied to Infinity Hall will be supportive of the students learning and use of the lab to create and foster their innovative spirit. There will also be an established platform for both MADE@UF locations to provide students 'jobs' which faculty, staff, community members are seeking application developers.

As a multifaceted resource, this is a unique step towards preparing our students for life after their formal education, a goal growing in importance and attention for universities everywhere.

Impact/Benefit:

Infinity Hall is adjacent to Innovation Hub and the location of MADE@UF – Infinity Hall will have a highly visible presence to the Gainesville and UF community. The room will be visible from the street off of Southwest 10th Street and Southwest 2nd Avenue. The ground floor room will have a street wall with storefront glass so passersby will be able to see the work taking place within the MADE@UF – Infinity Hall designated space. MADE@UF – Infinity Hall will primarily support application development.

MADE@UF – Infinity Hall will provide UF students' access to Innovation Hub partners, Entrepreneurs, and several UF colleges and departments. Additional partners include the Warrington College of Business; Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation; Innovation Academy; College of Engineering; College of Fine Arts, MINT Production Studio; and the A2 Fab Lab. Having these partners in the same building and located alongside MADE@UF will provide an unparalleled level of access for students to flourish, connect and innovate. Students who have a concept or vision can utilize this space to cultivate their ideas and see them become a reality. The layout of the space promotes collaborative learning. Students can work individually at desk carols as well as in group formats at collaboration stations. This provides our students the opportunity to test, create, and explore possibilities in a safe environment which results in experiential learning outside of the classroom environment.

MADE@UF – Infinity Hall will provide 24 hour access each academic term (Fall, Spring and Summer), which also includes break periods (winter break, and holidays). These hours will allow an additional level of access which the current location is unable to provide. Students who have confirmed access will then have seamless access to both MADE@UF locations. The interior corridor of the building will also have internal views of the activity going on within MADE@UF. Security cameras and room access will be controlled monitored by the Housing and Residence Education staff in conjunction with Marston Science Library staff.

The Infinity Hall also has physical classroom space in order to accommodate courses which have app development as a part of the curriculum. Colleges offering courses in Infinity will promote students use of the MADE@UF space providing classroom to practical application within the same building. Marston has logged 1300 average users each week, within 6 month period (Fall 2014). During this time approximately 100-300 students use the MADE@UF Lab during a single weekday at the Marston Library location. Device boxes have an average of 1232 loans of device boxes, Google glasses, and Epson within a 6 month period. In the Fall 2014 semester there were 325 new registrants to sign up to utilize the MADE@UF lab. We anticipate the number of users accessing Infinity Hall to be more as this location will be accessible 24 hours a day. Students may register to use MADE@UF at their Marston or Infinity. The Department of Housing and Residence Education agrees to partner with Marston Library to have a shared system to allow students use of either space.

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Sustainability: Regarding sustainability, Housing has pledged responsibility for staffing costs, equipment maintenance and life cycle replacement after initial purchase, physical space renovations and furniture costs.