

Proposed UT Pride Center Flag Display Charette

Date and location to be determined (contingent on UT Pride Center Approval)

What is a Charette? A charette (pronounced [shuh-ret]) is a structured, collaborative session in which a group comes together to develop a design solution. It has been used in fields such as architecture, community planning, and engineering for years – bringing together a variety of different points of view to solve a specific problem. The word *charette* is French for “cart,” and has its origin in the 19th century when teams of architects would work collaboratively to develop designs that were collected in a cart that passed through the studio and were then presented for group review.

How Does it Work? While the structure of a charette varies, depending on the design problem and the individuals in the group, charettes often involve the dividing the participants into sub-groups. Each sub-group then presents its work to the full group as material for further dialogue. The process is organic, open and allows for many perspectives and approaches. Charettes help to quickly generate a design solution while integrating the aptitudes and interests of a diverse group of people.

What is the Goal? Design a free-standing system to proudly display LGBTQIA+ flags that can be installed adjacent to the UT Pride Center. The display system will allow for ease in changing and replacing the flags while also being tall enough to inhibit vandalism. The completed display system will also be capable of being relocated to the future home of the UT Pride Center.

Who can Participate? Anyone who supports diversity on the UTK campus. Anyone who seeks to better understand how design might elevate our understanding of who we are as a culture. The UT Pride Ambassadors and other LGBTQIA members of the campus community including the Pride Center Working Group and members of the LGBT Commission.

Will This Get Built? The Faculty Senate Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion initially proposed this project, and the campus administration supports the design process with the understanding that the proposed design consults the “Campus Landscape Vision and Site Standards,” and receives final approval from the Campus Planning Committee. Staff from Design Services with UT Facility Services will participate in the charette.

What do I need to bring? All materials (including lunch and beverages) will be provided.

Charette Facilitators: Brian Ambroziak, Associate Professor of Architecture and Kae White, a fourth-year student in the College of Architecture and Design.

Contact Information: If you have questions, contact Brian Ambroziak (bambrozi@utk.edu).