

## **Letter to the Board**

### ***White Students Colonizing Trotter***

February 22, 2022

University of Michigan  
Board Of Regents And  
Administration at Large

Members of the Board:

My name is Byron D. Brooks, a dual degree grad student, and current Deputy Policy Advisor for the Anti-Racism Commission through CSG here on campus. For the past few months, I have been observing campus conditions and hosting listening tours, and from this, I have quickly been made aware of an issue of inequity on our campus. This issue at hand sadly is one that is no stranger to PWI's (Predominately White Institutions) and that is the issue of white students crowding, and moreso colonizing space which is supposed to be a safe space for students of color.

The Trotter Multicultural Center, as it is known today, began as Trotter House, a Black Student Cultural Center. African American students united under the Black Action Movement (BAM), to help students who experienced obstacles within their educational process. Trotter House was birthed out of this movement, yet since its expansion and relocation to its current location, the very students who fought for Trotter's inception are being oppressed through the power and privilege that is embedded within our community. What is supposed to be a Mecca for students of color has become a white-washed space where white students have no regard for the sacredness or purpose of the space.

In my two semesters of being a student here on campus, not only have I been informed by fellow students but, I have witnessed with my own eyes, white student organizations kicking black and brown students out of spaces within trotter because their white organizations reserved the space. It's time that we as The Michigan Community transform our Air into Action, and uphold the values of equity by protecting, and reestablishing Trotter as a safe space for people of color.

As The Leaders of Our Campus, I petition you to not only address this issue formally with our Campus, but to set up a meeeting with student leaders of color accross campus to ensure that true equity is being upheld here at The University of Michigan.

In a Stand For Equity,

Byron D. Brooks

