

## MEMORANDUM

To: LatCrit, Inc. Board

From: Colin Crawford

Date: January 8, 2007

Re: "Study Space" project proposal

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Attached is a proposal for a joint project between LatCrit and the center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, which I co-direct at Georgia State. Frank Valdes and I together generated the idea outlined in the attached sheet. The sheet is largely self-explanatory, and Frank and I can answer any questions. As you review it for consideration, please consider the following:

### Advantages

The advantages of the Study Space idea for LatCrit include:

1. No immediate outlay of financial or institutional resources, since individuals and/or institutions would be responsible for their participation in individual programs;
2. LatCrit and LC friendly progressive scholars and students could use the institutional affiliation of my Center and university to obtain funding to attend; and
3. Study Space could evolve into a vehicle for making regular contributions to scholarly and political debates and, also might, for example, provide content for *Clave*.

### Concerns

Concerns related to the Study Space idea for LatCrit include:

1. Committing to a new program, despite the absence of resource commitments required, nonetheless might spread energies too thin; and
2. Finding LC members and friends regularly to suggest and play a central role in putting together Study Space programs, to insure an adequate LC presence.

To justify this internally, I have to be able to make a connection to "metropolitan growth." In my personal case, this means environmental and land use law. However, it is worth emphasizing for all of you that this can be defined broadly. For example, on the basis of some recent conversations, Study Space locations and themes might be as follows:

- Bogotá, Colombia: conflict over land tenure, its social, economic and environmental implications
- Buenos Aires, Argentina: impact of inter-continental immigration; migrant discrimination
- Caracas, Venezuela: participatory and social democracy in Hugo Chávez' Venezuela
- US-México frontier cities: violence in public and private lives of women in the *maquiladoras*

These are only meant to suggest the range of issues that might be examined.