Cross-Cultural Center Vision for Freedom High School



The vision is inspired by the UC Irvine Cross-Cultural Center, which was a space that highlighted cultural identity, provided students with community infrastructure, and bridged the gap between informal belonging and formal institutional support. The goal is to translate its spirit into a high school context with the constraints, resources, relationships, and possibilities in mind.

Core Vision

A designated physical space on the Freedom High School campus where:

1. **Cultural clubs can gather, organize, and share.** A home base for existing clubs to post information, store materials, hold informal meetings, and feel institutionally recognized.
2. **Students can book the space for cultural activities.** A structured but accessible booking system similar to how the performing arts rooms or libraries are reserved so clubs can plan events, performances, and cultural celebrations.
3. **Students without a formal club structure can still gather.** Not every cultural group has a faculty advisor, a formal constitution, or official ASB recognition. The CCC would be a supervised space where students can still celebrate cultural holidays, share food and stories, and build community if they book in advance. This would also address the problem of cultural club advisors who may be shifting positions or leaving the school entirely, ensuring students continue to have a cultural space to go to, even in the event of a vacancy.
4. **A bridge to the College & Career Center.** Many cultural communities, especially first-gen students, immigrant families, and underrepresented groups, don't see themselves reflected in college pathways. The CCC would serve as a warm handoff point: students who feel safe in a cultural space can naturally connect with college resources, scholarship information, and career programming that speak to their backgrounds.



🌱 Inspiration: UCI Cross-Cultural Center

The UCI CCC was founded in 1974 and remains one of the most recognized multicultural student centers in the UC system. Key features worth adapting:

- Multipurpose space — open during the school day, not just at events
- Culture-specific programming — Lunar New Year, Día de los Muertos, Black History Month activations, Filipino American History Month, etc.
- Staff and peer advisors — both a professional director and student staff/leaders
- Partnership model — actively connected to academic and career resources
- Low barrier of entry — you don't need to be in a formal club to walk in and belong

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🗂️ Proposed Functions

1. Physical Space

- Dedicated or repurposed room (near the library, administration, or College & Career Center for easy cross-referral)
- Bulletin boards or display areas for each cultural club to showcase their identity
- Shared storage for cultural materials, décor, and event supplies
- Flexible seating, not classroom rows, community-oriented layout

2. Booking & Access System

- Simple sign-up system (Google Form or similar) for clubs to reserve the space during lunch or after school
- Calendar visible to staff and students, showing upcoming cultural events
- Clear expectations: who can book, how far in advance, what's allowed
- Access to a projector for presentations and workshops

3. Informal Cultural Gatherings (Non-Club Groups)

- Open hours supervised by a willing staff member (rotating or designated)
- Students can propose a cultural activity/holiday observation without needing formal club status, but are encouraged to join an existing one or create a new one
- Low barrier: bring food, decorate, share — staff supervises but doesn't lead
- This pathway could eventually feed into new club formation

4. College & Career Bridge Programming

Partner with the existing College & Career Center to co-host culturally relevant events:

- First-gen college panels with alumni from similar backgrounds
- Scholarship spotlights for cultural/identity-based awards
- Career guest speakers & workshops from cultural and community organizations
- Direct connections and opportunities with cultural community organizations

