

Porter Butts Gallery, Fredric March Play Circle FAQ

Q: How was it decided that the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle names would change?

A: Union Council, the governing board of the Wisconsin Union, recommended to the chancellor that the names of the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle should change. This was based on community feedback received through open forums, an online form, email, phone calls and Union Council meetings as well as research regarding these individuals and their affiliation with a student organization called the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. The renaming of the Porter Butts Gallery was done at the request of members of his family after they heard testimony on the issue from students and community members. Union Council includes UW-Madison students, faculty, alumni and staff.

Q: When will the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle names change?

A: The names of the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle will change to the Main Gallery and Play Circle, respectively, before the 2018-19 academic year begins.

Q: Will the room names be covered before they're changed?

A: We do not anticipate covering the names of the Porter Butts Gallery or Fredric March Play Circle, as the names will be changed before the start of the fall 2018 semester.

Q: Will any other programming spaces be named after Porter Butts or Fredric March?

A: We do not anticipate naming any programming spaces for Porter Butts or Fredric March in the future.

Q: Will these rooms be renamed for other people?

A: There are no plans at this point. First, Union Council together with the Wisconsin Union team, will work to review the current room-naming process for possible changes. Currently, requests to name rooms at the Union's facilities go through the governing board's process and to the chancellor as recommendations.

Q: Will the Porter Butts Gallery or Fredric March Play Circle be closed while their names are being changed?

A: We do not expect any interruption in the availability of these spaces as a result of the upcoming change in their names.

Q: Where do I send feedback about Union Council's decision to rename the spaces?

A: Feedback regarding Union Council's decision to rename the Porter Butts Gallery and Fredric March Play Circle can be sent to union@union.wisc.edu.