Each year all theme living groups are required to complete a renewal application with the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services. The core of the renewal application shall consist of a self-study conducted by the theme living group. The structure of the self-study is included in the Renewal Application.

After receiving the self-study, the Student Staff Steering Committee may invite representatives of the theme living group to meet with the Committee to ask additional questions that may have been raised in the self-study. Members of the theme living group will be allowed to present further information of their case, if needed.

It is the intention of the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services that this process for renewal be part of an on-going dialogue across our living areas and one that will engage other members of the Oberlin College community. In this procedure, each theme living group is encouraged to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to the community, while at the same time looking honestly at ways they can improve themselves and the quality of education and community development at the College.

This process of self-study should be understood as a constructive one. It is an opportunity for theme housing participants to share with others outside the group the excellence of the theme. It is also a time for open and honest assessment of areas needing special attention for growth and development. How you go about this self-study is as important as the final report. Hopefully this endeavor will bring your membership closer together as it deliberates upon this study. It is for this reason that we encourage you to involve as many of your group members as possible, as well as non-member residents of the building and your advisor(s).

There are a number of different ingredients that contribute to creating and maintaining a successful theme living residence. The Office of Residential Education and Dining Services believes that the contributions you make to the intellectual, cultural, and social well being of the general campus community are of greatest importance. We believe that a group’s use of college housing is a privilege and that groups that have been awarded such space, must use that space, within limits, to hold intellectual, cultural and social activities that benefit the greater campus community. We therefore ask that you put most of your energy into considering your successes and possibilities for improvement in this area.

You will note that the questions are worded rather vaguely. Our idea is to provide you with freedom in deciding how to respond. We ask that you complete all of the questions in this renewal application. You should certainly feel free to include any additional information that you wish to have the Committee consider.

Requests for renewal must be received by 5:00 p.m., February 6, 2015 in the Office of Residential Education and Dining Services.
Theme Living Renewal Application

On a separate sheet, please address each of the following in your renewal application:

1. Title of Theme Living Group.

2. Name of Theme Leader (resident in charge of theme who is not an RA) and best way to contact (e-mail, cell phone, etc.).

3. Name and Signature of Advisor(s).


5. General questions (purpose of your group, membership, etc.):
   a. Please provide a general description of your group and the intended outcomes related to your mission.
   b. How does this residential arrangement facilitate these outcomes?
   c. Give examples of activities conducted with your members and describe how these activities contributed to the overall mission.
   d. Provide a summary of theme costs and sources of funding.

6. Contributions to the campus and local community:
   a. What events have you sponsored that have been open to the community? How would you describe their success?
   b. What events or workshops have you organized to bring in speakers based on your theme?
   c. Have you done any philanthropic or community service activities as a group project? Please describe with some detail.
   d. How do you think the campus community perceives your group?

7. The future (goals, plans, etc.):
   a. Is your current space allocation adequate?
   b. How do you plan to expand or improve upon your current theme?
   c. Please provide the names and signatures of your group for the next academic year.

8. Self-Evaluation:
   a. What do you think you did well this past year?
   b. What do you think you can and should do better next year?
   c. What conditions stand in your way?
   d. What support from the College do you need to help you achieve these goals?

9. Procedures
   a. How did your group conduct this self-evaluation?
   b. Please address the procedures used and results of the evaluations from the following groups:
      1. Members of the theme living group.
      2. In-hall, non-theme living residents, if applicable.
      3. In-hall or village student and professional staff.
      4. Advisors.
   c. Please attach a letter of evaluation/support from one person in each of the above categories.

Please Note:
- If your renewal is accepted, all members who sign up for your group will be required to live within the designated theme housing community.
- If you are re-applying for theme housing in a village housing unit, all members must meet the eligibility requirements for village housing.
- Please contact Thom Julian at tjulian@oberlin.edu with any questions.