

May 4, 2007

Mayor Gary Becker  
Honorable Mayor Becker and Honorable Members of the Common Council  
730 Washington Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin 53403



505 SIXTH STREET  
RACINE, WI 53403  
PHONE: 262.635.0261  
FAX: 262.634.9029  
RACART@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Dear Gary Becker,

For past three years the Racine Arts Council has been granted funds from the hotel tax for utilities and rent. This year the Racine Arts Council is asking that only the rent for 505 Sixth Street come from the Hotel Tax, which would be a reduction from previous years. The Racine Arts Council is doing better financially this year and will be having its first audit.

The Ozella Quilt Code Exhibit remains on display and brings in visitors from all over the country. Groups that are members of the Racine Arts Council may use the facility for their meetings, events and internet access. Every Friday night the International Folk Dancers practice and the Choral Arts Society have their office with us. Racine Arts Council member groups are the backbone of art and culture in Racine and what makes the heart of a community.

Listed below are some of the other activities we are engaged in.

- Gallery of Art, local artists work exhibited.
- Free community newsletter.
- Main Gallery, youth are hired for summer arts projects.
- Sand Castles, a free festival of creating at Samuel Myers Park.
- Film Seed, at risk youth learn film making.
- Prison Art, teaching painting and drawing at Racine Youthful Offenders Correctional Facility.
- Unjailed Voice, teaching poetry at Racine Youthful Offender Correctional Facility.
- Productive Community Members, working towards building successful homes at Lighthouse Point.
- It Came From Lake Michigan, a national film festival held in Racine.
- LINK, Lonely Instruments Need Kids.
- Act as fiscal receiver for emerging arts and cultural nonprofit organizations.
- Act as Racine's representative for Arts Wisconsin, Wisconsin Arts Board and the nonprofit center at U.W Parkside.
- Resource Center for people visiting or planning on moving to Racine.

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The Racine Arts Council is looking forward to working with you making Racine a great place to live and visit.

Sincerely,

Lorna Hennig  
Executive Director

Two Enclosures

March 1, 2007

Mayor Gary Becker  
City Hall  
730 Washington Avenue  
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Mayor Becker,

I am writing to urge the City's continued support of the Racine Arts Council by setting aside \$12,000 in funds generated through the hotel tax fund to offset their facility rental costs. The Racine Arts Council plays an ongoing and key role throughout our community, creating opportunities for artists and reaching out to new audiences, thus fostering a vitality that is felt throughout the area. This service is all the more critical to downtown Racine; the continued presence of the Arts Council in their Sixth Street location helps ensure continued development of the area as an arts and culture destination.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Paulson  
Executive Director  
Racine Heritage Museum



Hon. Mayor Gary Becker  
Racine Common Council  
c/o Racine City Hall  
730 Washington Av.  
Racine, WI 53403

March 16, 2007

Dear Mayor Becker and Council Members,

As the Administrator of the Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin, I'm writing to let you know of our organization's gratitude toward and support of the Racine Arts Council, and to urge your support of them as well.

Currently celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the CAS enjoys a reputation as the premiere mixed-voice choir in the region. We are proud to call Racine our home and give its residents (as most of our members are) the opportunity to express themselves through the beauty of shared song. And we couldn't do this nearly as well without the generous assistance of the Racine Arts Council.

The Racine Arts Council provides desk space for us, as well as office access for several other artists and arts groups without facilities of their own. Watching Lorna Hennig and Michael Rude at work is a pure delight. They care deeply that local artists of all kinds have the resources they need to express what lies deep within them. The atmosphere at 505 Sixth Street is charged with an indescribable energy as they advise, counsel, encourage, hold hands, cheer, sympathize, and in the best cases rejoice with those who come to them with spectacular ideas but very limited resources. I can't think of anyone who could do their jobs better, and I absolutely love being around them. They feed my own creative abilities and make me much better at the work I do.

Racine needs its artistic voice. Arts involvement assures us that we have a voice that is worth being heard, and that goes a long way toward making us better neighbors and citizens. When we know we are being heard we're more likely to respect and listen to the diverse voices of those around us. Life works better when we know we're not alone.

Please vote to fund the Racine Arts Council at the level they request. It will do us good.

Sincerely,

Annette C. S. Burmeister  
Administrator