



Root River Council

James Chambers
Owner, FWC Architects, Inc

Marty Defatte
Realtor – Shorewest Realtors

Chris Flynn
Owner, DP Wigley

Reva Holmes
Board Director,
Root-Pike Watershed
Initiative Network

Ben Lehner
Owner, Circa Celeste, LLP

Rep. Cory Mason
(Assembly District 62),
and Board Member,
River Alliance of
Wisconsin

Monte Osterman
BID Board Director
Owner, Osterman Granite &
Marble
Racine County Board
Supervisor

John Skalbeck
Chair- Geosciences Dept. -
University of
Wisconsin-Parkside

Melissa Warner
Coordinator Weed Out!
Racine, and Vice Chair,
Southeast Gateway
Group Sierra Club

Marybeth Zuhlke
Community Volunteer

.....committed to the revitalization and redevelopment of the Root River to create a sense of place,
promote economic growth, improve water quality,
and increase public access and interaction in the City of Racine....

Ben Lehner
Chair- Root River Council
1328 Michigan Blvd.
Racine, WI 53402

January 31, 2011

Re: West 6th Street Bridge Mosaics (1300 block)

City of Racine
Attn Mayor Dickert and Common Council
730 Washington Avenue Rm 201
Racine, WI 53403

To the Honorable Mayor Dickert and Common Council,

I am writing in support of a proposal for the installation of permanent mosaics along the street-level walkways spanning the West 6th Street bridge between Marquette and Memorial Street (1300 block.)

Among its goals, the Root River Council (RRC) is focused on creating a 'Sense of Place'. As part of this very broad goal the RRC aims to place the Root River in context with the everyday activities of Racine community members. One approach to accomplishing this is creating cultural/art installations that will draw community members to the banks of the Root River, or at minimum help them recognize the Root River as they carry on with daily activities.

The West 6th Street Bridge is a concrete bridge with concrete walls and walk-ways. Recent improvements on the west-side of the bridge include the creation of the Root River Pathway, the Root River Environmental Education Community Center (REC), the Rotary Overlook, and the 'Dawning' Sculpture. In partnership with the 'Main Gallery' youth-employment program administered through the City of Racine Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Activities and the Racine Arts Council, the Root River Council proposes to continue building upon these successes with the installation of permanent, maintenance-free mosaics on the walls spanning the W. 6th Street Bridge.

Mosaics have improved the Zoo Beach retaining wall, the North Beach Oasis, and the Uptown Business District along Washington Avenue. The W. 6th Street Bridge Mosaics propose to combine various styles represented in these installations while incorporating the natural, industrial, cultural and historical significance of the Root River. These relatively maintenance-free mosaics will act as a gateway to Downtown Racine, continue creating a 'River District' as supported in *the Downtown Racine Plan* (2005), and further recommendations included in the *Back to the Root: An Urban River Revitalization Plan* (2008).

I would like to request an opportunity to share more about this exciting community project and the on-going revitalization of the Root River in downtown Racine at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ben Lehner