

August 11, 2017

Susan Morrison and Mary Charnitz
Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development
Community Development Division, City of Madison
P. O. Box 2627, Madison, WI 53701-2627

Ms. Morrison and Ms. Charnitz,

Last night, Shaun Abshere from the Wil-Mar Board of Directors, requested support from the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association (TLNA) for the August 2 application for Neighborhood and Community Development Funds from the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center.

The TLNA Council voted yes to express their vigorous support for the Wil-Mar application. We believe that the City of Madison should support our diverse isthmus community by providing the requested loan to enable Wil-Mar to purchase this open urban community space.

Located at the intersection of Jenifer and Brearly Streets, this is vital space for Wil-Mar's licensed-daycare playground, a public playground, public basketball courts, public events, and parking for programs and events. Wil-Mar's programming directly benefits people and neighborhoods across our racially and economically diverse urban isthmus.

We agree with the Wil-Mar Center Board of Directors that this crucial mixed-use community space is needed by Wil-Mar to sustain the successful programs which have helped to make our urban isthmus "A Place for All People" for the past 50 years. Wil-Mar's programs would wither without this community space.

Please convey our support to the City of Madison staff, committees, and alders who will take up this application.

Thank you.

On behalf of the TLNA Council,


Patty Prime President

cc. Ledell Zellers, Alder, 2nd District, City of Madison



PO Box 3223
Madison, WI 53704

Board of Directors

Lynn Lee, President	Jack Kear
Amanda White, V. President	Anita Krasno
Renee Lauber, JK, Treasurer	Mary Ann McBride
Dayna Long, Secretary	Michael Doyle Olson
John Coleman	Colleen Hayes
Katherine Davey	Gary Tipler

August 14, 2017

Susan Morrison and Mary Charnitz
Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development
Community Development Division, P.O. Box 2627, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-2627
RE: Wil-Mar Application for \$500,000 funding from the City of Madison

Dear Susan and Mary,

The Marquette Neighborhood Association (MNA) Board unanimously endorses Wil-Mar's request for \$500,000 to help purchase their crucial adjacent common space. Our strong support of Wil-Mar is representative of many residents of the East Isthmus. As you know, this funding is vital to put Wil-Mar on the successful path of raising \$1.75 Million dollars for their combined common space purchase and needed building refurbishment.

Please understand, Wil-Mar plays an important role in keeping the East Isthmus "A Place for all People". We believe now more than ever this is more than a slogan, and worthy of City support.

Wil-Mar's programming for diverse people of all ages, backgrounds and income levels is something the City should be proud of. Their festival fundraisers are the definition of involving community residents to celebrate and support the greater good. Besides Le Fete de Marquette, Wil-mar provides important backstops and organizational help for our three MNA festival fundraisers including the upcoming Orton Park Festival starting on August 25th. Our understanding is over 90,000 people attend these community building festivals.

The City's strong support of the purchase of this community space is a smart investment, it pays dividends now and will be an important asset for the future generations of Isthmus community leaders.

We understand an anonymous donor has already pledged \$500,000 towards Wil-Mar's and the Isthmus's future. We ask the city to match this amount as a strong sign of support for the work Wil-Mar does now, and will do in the future. Your investment preserves and promotes the Isthmus as "A Place for all People".

Sincerely,

Lynn Lee,
President,
Marquette Neighborhood Association

Cc. MNA Board, Alder Marsha Rummel, Mayor Paul Soglin, Wil-Mar Board of Directors

The Marquette Neighborhood Association is a public charity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

www.marquette-neighborhood.org

SASY

Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara Neighborhood Association

Friday, August 18, 2017

Sent by Email

Mary Charnitz

Susan Morrison

Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development

Community Development Division, P.O. Box 2627, Madison, WI 53701-2627

Ms. Charnitz and Ms. Morrison,

I send this letter on behalf of the Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara (SASY) Neighborhood Association in strong support of the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Association's application to the City of Madison for \$500,000 in Neighborhood & Community Development Funds to purchase the parking lot across the street from their facility at 953 Jenifer St. At our August 10th meeting, the SASY Board considered this piece as part of the larger \$1.75M renovation & improvement project that Wil-Mar is planning for the next two years. The SASY Board voted unanimously to support the project and to give voice to that support through this letter. Please accept this as an unequivocal endorsement for the investment of those funds in the project.

The Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center fills a crucial role for the surrounding near-east side neighborhood. Its diverse programming addresses base-level needs of residents, including things like childcare, a food pantry, prepared meals and health & wellness classes. Furthermore, the staff of Wil-Mar truly build community and engagement on a different level through the festivals that they organize throughout the year. This sort of grass-roots leadership and activism is what makes that neighborhood – and this city – strong.

Our endorsement of Wil-Mar's grant request recognizes another vital detail of their project; the current owners of the parking lot want to sell it, and if Wil-Mar cannot purchase it someone else will. For years Wil-Mar has been using parts of the lot for programming and storage. Much of their programming has evolved to depend on it. Loss of the lot would cripple the outstanding programs that do so much for people throughout the neighborhood.

The SASY Board has been working closely with Wil-Mar for the past four years in the production of our own local festival, AtwoodFest. We can attest first hand to the authenticity and reliability of Wil-Mar. They do good work, and they will be reliable stewards of any funds that the City of Madison invests in them. I strongly encourage you to fully fund their request for \$500,000 to purchase the lot in question. It will truly be a worthy investment in that neighborhood and in this city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Brad Hinkfuss
President - SASY, Inc.



Cc: Anne Monks, Marsha Rummel, Steve Silverberg, SASY Board of Directors