



Dear prospective board member,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Board of Directors for Racine Arts Council. We are in need of resourceful, energetic individuals who are excited about our goal of promoting the positive power of art! The Board of Directors is essential for RAC's success.

The board is responsible for the organization's financial well-being and accountability, ensuring that our activities are consistent with our mission, and the oversight. In addition to governing functions, RAC's board is a working board. Board members are the backbone of our organization and are critical to our success. Board members assist with administrative tasks, fundraising, and partner with staff to fulfill management and technical functions.

Board members make a three year commitment as this helps us ensure an experienced and capable board. The board meets on the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings are held at RAC (409 Sixth Street in downtown Racine). Meetings begin at 6:30 PM and generally last 1.5 - 2 hours. Board members are expected to participate in other occasional activities such as fundraisers, committees, and email discussions. Prospective board members meet with a current board member to discuss their interest in serving on the board and also the skill set that they believe will be beneficial to RAC's board.

The information in this document will help you gain a better understanding of Racine Arts Council's mission and structure. Learn more about Racine Arts Council:

- Visit our website: [www.RacineArtsCouncil.org](http://www.RacineArtsCouncil.org)
- Subscribe to our e-newsletter: <http://bit.ly/RACnewsletter>
- Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RacineArtsCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/RacineArtsCouncil)

If you have any questions or are interested in joining our Board of Directors, please feel free to contact me or reach out to any board member or staff.

Sincerely,

Lesley Heins Walker  
President, Racine Arts Council Board of Directors  
[lwalker@uwp.edu](mailto:lwalker@uwp.edu)

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Founded in 1967, the Racine Arts Council encourages, supports and advocates on behalf of emerging and established artists, artistic groups in our community and young people interested in the arts.

## **HOW WE FULFILL OUR MISSION**

We Support Emerging and Established Artists Racine Arts Council is dedicated to promoting local visual artists by providing artists a place to exhibit their artwork at Ballyhoo at the Zoo, Fine Art Fair, we advocate for other organizations on our Fb page, collaborate with other arts organizations and RAC's ArtSeed grant program provides grants to artists seeking to implement innovative and/or experimental programs or projects based in the arts.

### **We Support Young People Interested in the Arts**

ArtStart makes art accessible to underserved children and their families. ArtStart programming includes outings to artistic performances and museums. Most recently, local artist Bill Reid held workshops for children residing at Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO).

Lonely Instruments Need Kids (LINK) is designed to give donated instruments to children who are financially unable to purchase or rent an instrument of their own

## **HOW WE FUND OUR MISSION**

The RAC does not receive local, state or federal funds except for a WAB Grant for our regranting program. Funding for our programs is accomplished through charitable donations from individuals and foundations, grants, and fundraising efforts. We are grateful for the ongoing support, time, and efforts that our Board members and volunteers devote throughout the year to raising crucial funds whether it be through grant writing efforts, seeking corporate donations, in kind donations, or assisting with fundraisers. This generosity enables RAC to continue to promote the positive power of art.

We host an annual golf outing each year at Ives Grove as our major fundraising event.

## **Membership**

Racine Arts Council offers memberships to individuals and organizations for a nominal fee. Members are non-voting members and are invited to attend our annual meeting. Membership fees help support RAC's mission.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Duties of the Board (RAC BYLAWS ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2) The Duties of the Board are to: ensure that the goals and objectives of the Racine Arts Council are implemented; evaluate and monitor all programs; develop programs and activities that promote the purpose of the Racine Arts Council; establish governance, program, personnel, and financial policies; approve an annual budget; monitor finances; ensure that adequate resources are available to the Racine Arts Council; authorize all legal actions; present an annual report at the annual meeting.

## **COMMITTEES**

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is composed of the board officers. The chief function of the Executive Committee is to plan the work of the board and to exact responsibility from members by providing agenda and other guidelines for board actions. The Executive Committee also provides guidance for the organization between board meetings.

## **Governance**

The Governance Committee oversees the identification, recruitment, orientation, training, and retention of board members. The committee looks for opportunities to strengthen and evolve the board's effectiveness, capacity, composition, and ability to lead the organization into the future.

## **Finance/Fundraising**

The Finance Committee is led by the board treasurer to oversee the creation of the budget, monitor and report on the financial status and activities of the agency, ensure the financial policies and practices are followed, and oversee investments

Fundraising works closely with staff to create and implement the financial resource plan that will guide the staff and board's activities in seeking out and securing funding from diverse sources. Special event committees are often a subcommittee of the Fundraising Committee, and they often include non-board members. This committee also takes the lead in working with the other board members to explore the best ways they can contribute to the fundraising effort.

## **Marketing/Membership**

The Marketing/Membership Committee works closely with staff and other board committees to develop and implement a marketing/communications plan that articulates the primary audiences for the organization, how best to reach them, and what they most care about. The committee monitors the presentation of the organization's brand, and ensures that the products, services, and programs of the organization remain relevant to the audience.

This committee creates and implements recruitment and retention programs to increase and maintain membership or broad community engagement. The Membership Committee organizes an annual membership drive and events. The committee appoints a Volunteer Coordinator who coordinates volunteer opportunities to keep them actively engaged and recruits new volunteers.

## **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

### **ArtSeed**

The purpose of the ArtSeed grant program is to encourage and enhance the arts in the Racine area and to foster excitement, support and growth in the arts in our community. Grants are awarded to individuals and organizations. Committee Responsibilities: Secures funding, oversee Wisconsin Arts Board grant process, organize marketing and promotional materials for applicants, organizes review committee, coordinates review process and grant distribution.

### **ArtStart**

The goal of ArtStart is to make art truly accessible to everyone in our community, no-matter their socio-economic status. ArtStart provides adults and children alike opportunities to experience and appreciate art in all its forms. Committee Responsibilities: Secures funding and works with local organizations to coordinate events and activities.

### **Lonely Instruments Need Kids (LINK)**

Lonely Instruments Need Kids is a program designed to give elementary and middle school children an opportunity to participate in school band and orchestra programs and other community musical youth organizations. Donated instruments are given to children who are financially unable to purchase or rent an instrument of their own. Committee Responsibilities: Secures funding, coordinates instrument collections, promotes programs to local schools.

### **Ballyhoo at the Zoo, Fine Art Fair**

The Racine Arts Council annually hosts Ballyhoo at the Zoo, Fine Art Fair\* (formerly MSAF) the first weekend in June one of Wisconsin's oldest and most respected juried fine art fairs, presenting over 60 artists from around the country exhibiting works in a variety of media.

*\*This fair has been held at Monument Square in downtown Racine for 53 years and was moved to the zoo after the covid 19 pandemic for social distancing space and safety*

### **Quilts on Barns, the Beauty of Rural Art**

Racine County is home to one of the first barn quilt projects in the state. Sponsored by the Racine Arts Council (RAC) and Real Racine, 26 "Quilts on Barns" locations are scattered across the County; each one showing a unique and historic quilt pattern. A Racine County Map is available with all patterns listed on them for a driving tour and you can go to [www.realracine.com](http://www.realracine.com) for a GPS tracking tour.