1 June 2020

To the City of La Crosse,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the continued funding of the *Hear, Here* program. *Hear, Here* provides numerous benefits for the greater La Crosse community, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, and the UWL Department of History. The program also serves as a bridge between the UWL campus and the citizens of La Crosse.

Hear, Here allows the citizens of La Crosse and people visiting the city to experience La Crosse's history and provide often unheard populations a voice in creating the city's historical memory. The program provides easy access to a vibrant and unique historical education to everyone living in or visiting the city. While traditional museums are important for providing broad community education, *Hear, Here* goes beyond that and literally makes the streets and public spaces of La Crosse a museum. *Hear, Here* is unlike any public history program or museum in the nation and the City of La Crosse should be proud of its pioneering role in creating and supporting it.

While La Crosse was where *Hear, Here* was first conceived and implemented, it has earned international attention and interest. Recently, the program has expanded to London, Ontario and institutions in Bloemfontein, South Africa have expressed interest in bringing it there in the future. In June 2019, UWL hosted an international study tour of the United States made up of students and faculty from UWL and the University of the Free State, South Africa. *Hear, Here* was incorporated into the curriculum and facilitated discussions about various social issues shared by the United States and South Africa.

Hear, Here is simply an amazing program that was developed through the collaboration of UWL and various stakeholders in La Crosse. It is a unique, educational, and unifying program that the City of La Crosse should cherish and maintain. I sincerely hope that the city continues to support this incredible project.

Sincerely,

John T. Grider
Chair, Department of History

Surround yourself with UW-La Crosse