

Rahr-West Art Museum

November 10, 2025

Manitowoc Common Council
900 Quay Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Dear Council Members,

The Board of Directors of the Rahr-West Art Museum would like to extend our support of Mayor Nickels proposal to raise the baseline wage of our Visitor Services Clerks in his 2026 Operating Budget. The proposal will help to attract and retain quality candidates for this position, which is entrusted to safeguard our valuable art treasures as well as staff the customer service desk during weekends and special events.

The Visitor Services Clerks serve as the main employees working on weekends at the Rahr-West Art Museum. They hold keys and alarm codes protecting the museum and its collection. Visitor Services Clerks are the security guards of the museum and as such should be compensated at a baseline of \$15.00 per hour.

Visitor Services Clerks are also our front line of customer service on weekends and at special evening events. Last year, the Rahr-West Art Museum welcomed over 25,000 visitors from all over the country and from abroad. Often, the Visitor Services Clerks are the first interaction a visitor has with a person from Manitowoc. We want to make sure that our staff is hospitable, friendly and knowledgeable.

The total impact of this budget request is minor. With the baseline raise impacting all of our current staff, the increase to the museum's wages and salaries budget is under \$8,000. We believe that this is a valuable tradeoff for improving the caliber of service and security at one of Manitowoc's most valuable resources.

Thank you for your continued support of the Rahr-West Art Museum.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hall (Board President)

Rahr-West Art Museum

Endorsed by the following RWAM Board Members:
Matthew Schliesman
Angie Cerkas
Katherine Halla
James Day
Catherine Egger
Larry Shimon
Courtney Hansen