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TO: WCD Board Members
FROM: Marty Brooks, President and CEO
RE: Wisconsin Center South Building Art
DATE: April 13, 2023

Last week I provided an update to you on the matter of the decommissioning of several pieces of artwork, which we own, in the south building. As you recall, in January of this year we sent letters to the artists whose works we knew needed to be decommissioned as part of the modernization of the south building, which is a critical piece of the overall expansion project. Some artists chose to reclaim their works; others responded that they did not care to take possession and asked us to remove the pieces.

At that time, Woodland Pattern and multimedia artist Jill Sebastian, representing the collective sculptural prose throughout the building, requested more discussion. I was happy to do so and both parties ultimately agreed Woodland Pattern would publish a book of photographs of the works to provide a legacy, toward which the WCD would contribute \$20,000.00. As of March 27 of this year, WCD and Woodland Pattern had a fully executed Memorandum of Understanding representing this agreement. I believed at that point that the matter had been satisfied.

Since then, and like many of you, WCD has since fielded public responses calling for status quo. Some of those individuals have been local, some outside of Milwaukee. Appreciating the need to absorb conflicting perspectives, I have spent many hours contemplating the right path forward and I appreciate the support and guidance so many of you have given.

My first action was to direct the construction team to continue on south building work, but to pause any decommissioning of the prose. As of this memo it is all still in-tact, allowing me time to reflect and respond to the voices commenting on the work which we own.

Earlier today I met with staff and board members of Woodland Pattern, along with Jill Sebastian, to engage in further dialogue. My objective is to ensure we are exploring collaborative options while still moving forward and not negatively impacting the timeline or budget of the overall project. One outcome of today's meeting is that Jill Sebastian, who was very involved in the original installation in the mid-90's, and I are walking through the space with members of the design team, to review it through the lens of the modernization requirements.

Art is subjective and personal, yet status quo for the south building is unacceptable. As one of Woodland Pattern's board members said to me today, there is no fast answer. While I am spending an enormous amount of time on this issue, I hope you also [saw coverage earlier this week](#) of the Hyatt skywalk being re-installed, a critical milestone in the continued progress of the project.

I will keep you apprised as progress is made. As always, your continued support is appreciated.