



PRESS RELEASE

**December 20, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Wisconsin Rapids Community Theater, Inc. Announces Agreement with City to Build a New Theater at Centralia Center

Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre, Inc. (WRCT) announced today the successful completion of negotiations with the City of Wisconsin Rapids to build a theatre in the Centralia Center. On behalf of WRCT, President Ellen Roeseler agreed to sign a \$500,000, 50-year lease for 6800 square feet of unused space at the Centralia Center. The Common Council approved the contract in its meeting on December 20.

WRCT will take over the vacant space behind the Montessori School and across from River Cities Community Access Cable Television. The group recently used the room to host a fundraising Masquerade Ball in partnership with the Community Progress Initiative Downtown Cluster. Under the terms of the contract, WRCT will place a \$10,000 deposit on the Centralia Center space for a period of one year, with the remainder of the funds due on January 1, 2007. Plans for the new theatre facility include a 200-seat theatre, box office, and a set construction room to be built in the Centralia Center site.

In addition, WRCT has reached an agreement with Rapids Mall owner Sheldon Ferkey to take over 3,000 square feet of adjacent space to house dressing rooms, WRCT offices, a green room and a small black box theatre. WRCT currently has its office in a portion of the Rapids Mall space, known as the Community Center.

“Since our founding in 1975, Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre has relied on community partnerships,” Roeseler said. “In the past year alone, WRCT has partnered with Community Progress Initiative, The McMillan Library, the Cultural Center, Historic Point Basse, the City Center group, The Reusch Gallery, and the Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Rapids. Our agreement with the City and with the Rapids Mall is a continuation of partnering for the common good. We believe that by joining forces, we can – as a team – provide a new facility that will enhance our historic downtown area and be an open door for the arts,

community organizations, and businesses looking for a meeting space or auditorium. The entire board of WRCT has enthusiastically responded to the offers of Sheldon Ferkey, and of Mayor Bach and the City of Wisconsin Rapids. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the faith they show in WRCT through their support of this contract.”

Recently, in the kickoff of WRCT’s 30th anniversary season, Representatives Marlin Schneider and Amy Sue Vruwink presented WRCT with a plaque from the Wisconsin State Assembly designating 2006 as The Year of Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre, Inc. “We can’t think of a better way to celebrate than to announce plans to build our own home in such a welcoming environment,” Roeseler said.

For more information, contact WRCT at 421-0435 or stop in their office at the Rapids Mall, Wisconsin Rapids.

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