



March 11, 2022

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Friends and supporters of the Zeidler Group,

In light of the seemingly unending events in the world that cry out for civil dialog, the Board of Directors of the Zeidler Group has discerned a call for innovation in order to meet the needs of our changing community. In response, we have decided to pause for a limited time while we evaluate our programming, our staffing, and our funding before moving forward again with operations.

We know that our mission is deeply needed amidst the growing divisions in our community. The work of the Zeidler Group has impacted numerous people over the last 16 years. We have facilitated conversations around issues that have divided our community. We were present in Kenosha and Wauwatosa. We have facilitated conversations between the police and youth. We've brought Democrats and Republicans together at the same table to discuss the topics which divide and the topics in which we have a common interest. We have been present to facilitate conversations after deeply moving performances at the REP and during the Milwaukee Film Festival. And now, we exercise our methodology and best practices reflectively to ensure the Zeidler Group is in the strongest possible position for the next phase of our service to the community.

We understand it is hard to sit in ambiguity, but the Board feels strongly that we need to spend this time in deep consideration of how best to fulfill our mission in this new season. These last few years have brought new challenges, and while we know that our mission to facilitate civil conversations is still needed in this world, the question of the day is how best to go about achieving that mission, whether that involves creating an integrated suite of services beyond dialogue, or exploring new partnerships, or reconfiguring our business plan. We are committed to fulfilling our current obligations, and we are considering future contracts on a case-by-case basis during this time of reflection.

As we ponder the past 16 years, especially the convulsions of the past two years, we are deeply grateful for you. Peering into the world that awaits us, we treasure your continued partnership. Being together makes us strong.