

Dear Friends,

Several months ago we initiated a strategic planning process culminating in the determination that Resource Center of the Americas requires some fundamental change in order to carry its work forward. To successfully navigate current economic conditions and achieve our goals, we wish to merge with one or more non-profit organizations in order to build something more meaningful and sustainable. We have identified promising merger opportunities and are in the process of high-level visioning between organizations.

Guiding our thoughts are several fundamental principles that reflect and preserve the Resource Center's legacy, while setting the stage to build something new and more relevant to the world we live in today. We aim to:

- Form a multicultural organization that unites Latinos and non-Latinos in common purpose, with majority Latino governance;
- Maintain and expand current programming and incorporate systems-change initiatives;
- Partner with an organization(s) whose mission and programs complement our activities, make programs more meaningful, and achieve operational efficiency;
- Preserve the unique identity "Resource Center of the Americas".

While many factors contribute to our direction, here are the key points:

- The economy and changing patterns of foundation support are compelling us to achieve a certain economy of scale and operational efficiency. Operating at our small size is very difficult. We believe we can accomplish more as part of something greater than we can by ourselves.
- Since re-opening in July, 2008 we have exceeded our own expectations for programs, attracting over 200 guests each week for various classes and events. While we are meeting 2/3 of our budget through program fees and donations, we have been unsuccessful in finding grant support to close the gap. As financial stewards, we can not operate at a loss without having a clear turnaround plan with a high probability of success.

This is only the first communication in a series of updates we'll share over time. At our January, 2011 member meeting we'll present the case for change in depth, inviting the public to participate in an open meeting.

If you appreciate our current programs and initiatives, please know that the only change we envision for these activities is to make them better and more meaningful--there will be no interruptions. We are evolving and building a new future, and we ask for your continuing support, at the leading edge of what we anticipate will be a wave of non-profit mergers.

Sincerely,

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