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**Subject:** Follow up to ACoT Visit

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TA

Thanks to everyone who was able to visit the Art Center on Tusc on Wednesday. I know that you are as intrigued—and as cautious—as I am about the possibility of taking on the operation of ACoT.

At Thursday's board meeting, I would like to present a preliminary report on our exploratory process and share our next steps. I'm sorry I wasn't able to stay after our visit to hear your reactions, but I did gather some sense of additional information that you would like to see. Several of you asked for financial information related to the operation of ACoT since its opening. Others mentioned that we should talk with the City of Barberton about their current and future commitment to the project. Here are some suggested next steps:

- Request written financial statements from NDS on revenue and expenses
- Schedule a meeting with the City of Barberton
- Schedule a meeting with Jim Stonkus, executive director of the Barberton Community Foundation
- Schedule a meeting with the current tenants to understand their aspirations and concerns
- Identify community leaders who have an interest in revitalizing downtown and/or an interest in the arts

I attended the Fourth Friday Artwalk on Friday evening and ran into Dennis O'Connell from the Magical Theater. He is in this year's Barberton Community Leadership Institute, a program of Leadership Akron. He mentioned that this Wednesday is arts and culture day for the class. I am going to use my LA connections to see if I can sit in on as much of the day as I can to learn more about the arts and culture assets in Barberton. I will also see if I can identify individuals who might be interested in supporting ACoT.

What other information or conversations would you like to see at this point?

**Toby Ann Weber**

Chair, Board of Directors

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