The faculty of UWM’s School of Fine Arts have determined that it is in the best interest of the school’s students, faculty, and staff to propose that the unit be renamed. The faculty propose a change from the current appellation of “School of Fine Arts” to “School of the Arts.” While there are many reasons why the proposed change is desirable, the overriding reason is as follows under rationale.

**MOTION:**

That the name of the UWM School of Fine Arts be changed to School of the Arts.

**Rationale**

Inclusion is the impulse behind the proposed change from the “School of Fine Arts” to the “School of the Arts.” The new name more accurately and expansively describes the activities of the school that UWM has devoted to the study of the arts. Historically, “fine arts” signifies solely the visual arts. In recent decades, the definition has expanded to include the performing arts. UWM’s School of Fine Arts, however, includes a Department of Film, which does not readily fall under the rubric “fine art.” Moreover, “fine art” tends to connote, if not denote, an especially Western, classical tradition. This leaves little room for the school’s many examples of diversity, especially the acclaimed Ko-Thi African Dance Company, which is in residence at UWM.

This name change also conforms to contemporary notions of the arts, which do not insist on the now dated distinction between high and low, fine and popular, etc. but can recognize quality wherever it is to be found. In short, the School of Fine Arts has developed important programs that involve forms that are best described not by reference to the fine arts tradition, but rather by the more inclusive notion of arts per se.