



# TENANT

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## RESOURCE CENTER

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### Board of Directors Application Form

Please use this form to apply for the Board of Directors of the Tenant Resource Center.

**What is your name?**

Andrea Singletary

**What is your mailing address?**

3706 Drumlin Ln., Madison, Wisconsin 53719-6239

**What is your phone number?**

(608) 239-8768

**What is your email address?**

andrea@tenantresourcecenter.org

**What is your occupation? Please include employer and job title if you are employed.**

Technical Services Analyst, Epic; EMT, McFarland Fire & Rescue

**Why are you interested in being on the Board of Directors for the Tenant Resource Center?**

When I joined the board last June, the TRC was on rocky financial ground, which, combined with massive staff turnover and the resulting loss of institutional knowledge, threatened the agency's continued existence. In the latter half of 2019, we hired a new ED and restored our financial footing. There's so much more work to be done, and now that we've turned the agency around, I'd like to help further its success. We've just launched Dane County CARES, a project of unprecedented scale designed to keep the community housed during COVID, yet we know that the \$10mil we have in emergency funding is what it would take to keep Dane County housed in a normal year. This year we'll need 6-10x as much. We need massive help to get the money into the hands of the people who need it the most, and are forming partnerships with community groups already doing the work on the ground, amplifying their voices and fighting to compensate them for their labor. I want to continue on the Board so that I can help the TRC capitalize on the momentum from Dane County CARES to continue and enhance these partnerships to help our neighbors who are most impacted by housing injustice.

**What kind of experience have you had with the Tenant Resource Center?**

Beyond my experience on the board, I've never personally required the TRC's services, but I've referred many friends here over the years.

**What do you think Tenant Resource Center's reputation is in the community?**

TRC's the only agency in Madison that really advocates for renters. Wherever issues of renters' rights, housing insecurity, or homelessness come up, TRC is there, doing our best to amplify the voices of those who are most impacted. TRC empowers people to advocate for themselves. That said, we still have folks in the community who view TRC as perpetuating the structural racism inherent in our society. We must work to actively dismantle that racism by recruiting and supporting Black and brown staff and volunteers, and centering and funding Black- and brown-led agencies who can take the lead on working with the people most impacted by housing insecurity.

**What are some key issues for you in Madison and Dane County around rental housing and homeless services?**

The primary issue is the lack of affordable housing, which amplifies the other structural inequalities inherent in our community. New housing is targeted at the "Epic demographic," and the folks most in need are simply priced out of the market. Once you fall behind on rent, it's difficult to catch up, and once you have an eviction on your record, it's really hard to find anyone to rent to you again. Like everything in Madison, Black and brown people get the worst of it. The majority of folks in eviction court are single black moms, and eviction kicks off a cycle of poverty and trauma that impacts every facet of their and their children's lives. All of the other disparities we see in outcomes would be dramatically decreased if everyone had access to stable and affordable housing.

**Have you ever been on a Board of Directors for a nonprofit? Please tell us about your Board experience, or if you've helped a nonprofit in other ways.**

I was elected to the TRC Board and became its vice president in June, 2019. In late August, 2019 I became board president after the previous president stepped down. During the past year, I have served on the governance committee, streamlining the agency's bylaws; on the finance committee, developing a checklist for the board's oversight of the finances; and on the ED search committee, which resulted in the hiring of Robin Sereno.

From 2015-2017 I was the treasurer of the Eta House Corporation of Kappa Kappa Gamma, a 501(c)(7) nonprofit that owns the Kappa Kappa Gamma house at 601 N. Henry Street. Eta House Corp serves as landlord for the 55 members that reside in the house; employs the house director and other staff; and maintains the house and property. As treasurer, I managed a six-figure budget, funded major repairs and renovations, oversaw payroll, and handled various HR issues with our employees, including wage negotiations, hiring, training, mediation, and termination.

**The Board of Directors makes sure the Tenant Resource Center is financially stable, the Executive Director shows good leadership, and that our "big picture" plans are in line with our mission: For Housing Justice in Wisconsin. What skills would you bring to this work?**

I'm a good communicator who can work with people of various backgrounds and skill sets. I was trained as a teacher, so I can mentor newer board members and help them grow.

I troubleshoot and solve problems at my day job, so I'm good at zeroing in on the desired outcome and identifying the next steps necessary to achieve the goal. I excel at brainstorming all possible outcomes and planning for the worst case scenario.

I've been an EMT for 10 years, so I'm calm in a crisis and not much phases me.

**Optional - Please check all that apply to you**

I am a private homeowner

**Optional - Please check all that apply. Tenant Resource Center believes people who have been homeless are an important part of our leadership and should be on the Board of Directors. Are you currently, or have you ever**

**Right now, the Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Thursday or every month from 6-8 PM. Does that time work for you? If not, what evenings would work for you once a month?**

Third Thursdays work well.

**Board Members also volunteer at least 3 hours each month doing things like fundraising and event planning, reading and writing policies, housing counseling with clients, etc. Can you make that**

**commitment for at least one year?**

Yes

**The Board communicates mostly by email, and reviews/edits documents on Google Docs and Google Drive. We have conference calls with Google Meet. We also do group texting on WhatsApp. Board members are given a Tenant Resource Center email address to use for Board business.**

**Does that work for you? If not, what communication methods work best for you?**

Yes

**If elected to the Board of Directors, are you willing to commit to a two-year term?**

Yes, I'm willing to serve a two-year term.