



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 21 July 2020, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diane Crane, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, John Becker, Laura Helle, Drew Medin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:07am Ms. Pearson, Executive Director, called the meeting to order.

Although a quorum was present, due to the small number in attendance, several agenda items were suspended.

Voting for new Directors and Panelists will be postponed until next month.

**Executive Director's Report**

- SEMAC is holding \$48,145 for eight April 2020 grantees that chose to postpone events until next year. These funds will be transferred to the SEMAC savings.
- On July 2, SEMAC received the FY 2021 McKnight Fund of \$90,000.
- According to information shared during the July 15, 2020 MSAB board meeting, the reduction to the Legacy funds will be 14.02%. The reduction to the General fund for this year remains unknown. Additionally, RACs have not received information on when additional legacy funding will occur – only that it will happen.
- On July 17, SEMAC received \$18,231, our share of a \$250,000 Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant to the FRACM. The FRACM will use \$50,000 of this grant for a statewide training program. The remaining \$200,000 was put through the FRACM funding formula to be used for COVID-19 Relief and/or Equity work in each region. Does SEMAC want to create emergency funding relief for artists and arts organizations that currently do not have funding (example \$500 x 20 grants = \$10k.) While this option sounds appealing, SEMAC would face the same challenges that other entities have faced: overwhelming need and not enough money to make an overall difference. Or do we want to apply the funding to equity training for SEMAC panelists, provide additional resources for SEMAC board members, and/or offer workshops to our artists and organizations?

- On July 20, SEMAC was notified that \$132,969, the first payment of the initial fiscal agent agreement, was approved. It was automatically deposited today. The next payment is scheduled for September 20, 2020.
- On June 25, SEMAC received a PPP loan in the amount of \$29,302.
- The Second-Year FY2021 General operating support grant commitments. Will make those payments in September.

Likely Changes to Grant Programs (previously discussed at the June meeting):

- Suspend the school residency program for FY 2021. Only two residencies were funded in FY2020. The program suspension is listed on our website.
- Suspend eligibility for non-arts groups with the exception of those that are culture bearers that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.
- Suspend July 1 application deadline for artists and move deadline to August 3 or September 1, 2020. Change award ceiling to \$3k for all.
- Continue October 1 application deadline for arts organizations with a lowered ceiling on ACHF grants from \$10k to \$6k; keep current Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Town ceiling at \$3k. Remove required match.
- Limit arts organizations to one SEMAC project grant in FY2021. Grantees with current and/or rescheduled projects cannot apply until such projects are completed.
- If funding becomes available during the year, SEMAC can contact grantees that were eligible but, because initial funding was exhausted, did not receive grants, to offer funds based on potential to continue project and/or change schedule.
- John Becker cycles off the Board in August. Should board consider adding at-large positions to create diversity on the board?

#### New Business

- Grant Ceilings  
**Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to temporarily adjust the grant ceiling to \$3,000 for all Individual Artist grants and \$6,000 for Arts & Cultural Heritage grants. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:59am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 18 August 2020, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, John Becker, Laura Helle, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Andrea Arnold, Diane Crane

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:06am Mr. Medin, Board Treasurer, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Becker seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Becker moved and Mr. Alkire seconded approval of the minutes from the 21 July 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- August 14, 2020, officially received notice that the reduction to the Legacy funds will be 14.02%. SEMAC will receive the remaining 50% of our allotment after the MSAB October board meeting. Distribution dates of the remaining funds are unknown at this time. Distribution of the initial 50% funds: 7/20/20, 9/20/20, 11/20/20, and 1/20/21. The General fund remains unknown.
- As reported last meeting, SEMAC received a check for \$18,231 as a share of a Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant of \$250,000 awarded to the FRACM. \$50,000 of this grant will be used by the FRACM for a statewide training program with remaining \$200,000 allotted via the standard FRACM funding formula.

Old Business

Changes to Grant Programs for FY2021 – note that these are considered temporary and for this fiscal year only.

- Propose opening a Pandemic Relief Grant for Artists as quickly as possible using FY2020 funds until funding is exhausted. Use of FY2020 monies was approved by the legislature to assist artists with expenses due to loss of income and MSAB amended contract accordingly. Flexibility is not included in the current contract.

**Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to approve \$1,500 Pandemic Relief Grants for Individual Artists to be offered this fall. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Temporarily lower the award ceiling to \$3,000 with February 1, 2021 application deadline for artist project grants, using both McKnight and Legacy monies as needed. Artists cannot receive both the \$1,500 relief and a \$3,000 project grant.
- School Residency program suspended for FY 2021.
- Eligibility for non-arts groups with the exception of those that are culture bearers that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities has been suspended for FY2021.
- Move the October 1 application deadline to November 1 for arts organizations only with a lowered ceiling on ACHF grants to \$6k. Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Towns/Rural Areas remain at \$3,000. Matches will not be required. The feasibility of an April deadline remains unknown.
- Arts organizations are limited to one SEMAC project grant per year. Grantees with outstanding and/or rescheduled projects cannot apply until those projects have been completed.
- Commitment for Year 2 General Operating Support in FY2021. Payments will begin in September.

#### New Business

- Board and Panel Candidates (résumés attached)
  - **Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the appointment of Levi Livingood as the Dodge County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Becker seconded the appointment of Julie Fakler as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Becker seconded the appointment of Julianna Skluzacek as a theatre panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Becker seconded the appointment of Amarama Vercnocke as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Next Steps for Equity
  - Training of individual incoming board members
  - Committee to develop Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (DEI) Statement, Ms. Arnold, Ms. Helle, and Ms. Maloney, to spark ideas for recruiting a diverse panel
  - SEMAC will pay for attendance workshops/training webinars, etc.

**Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:40am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 15 September 2020, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Diane Crane, Lee Gundersheimer, Laura Helle, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:02am Ms. Arnold, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the minutes from the 18 August 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Today we will begin a discussion of the SEMAC mission, goals and values.

Executive Director's Report

- On August 14, 2020, we officially received notice that the reduction to the Legacy funds will be 14.02%. SEMAC will receive the remaining 50% of our allotment after the MSAB October board meeting. Distribution dates of the remaining funds and general fund are unknown at this time. Distribution of the initial 50% funds: 7/20/20, 9/20/20, 11/20/20, and 1/20/21.
- SEMAC received \$18,231 as a share of a Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant of \$250,000 awarded to the FRACM. \$50,000 of this grant will be used by the FRACM for a statewide training program with remaining \$200,000 allotted via the standard FRACM funding formula.
- Changes to Grant Programs – note that these are considered temporary and for this fiscal year only.
  - School Residencies suspended for FY 2021. SEMAC funded only two residencies in FY2020.
  - Eligibility for non-arts groups suspended with the exception of culture bearers and those that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.

- July 1 artist deadline was suspended. Will replace it this year only with:
  - \$1,500 Pandemic Relief Grant for Artists as quickly as possible using FY2020 carry-over funds until funding is exhausted.
  - Temporarily lower the award ceiling to \$3,000 and move application deadline for artist project grants to February 1, 2021, utilizing both McKnight and Legacy monies as needed. Artists cannot receive both the \$1,500 pandemic relief and the \$3,000 project grant.
- Move October 1 deadline to November for arts organizations with a lowered ceiling on Arts & Cultural Heritage grants to \$6,000; and keeping current Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Towns/Rural Areas ceiling at \$3,000. Matches will not be required. Limit arts organizations to one SEMAC project grant per year. Grantees that currently have outstanding and/or rescheduled projects to later in FY21 cannot apply until those projects have been completed. April deadline remains unknown.
- Second Year FY2021 General operating support grant payments will begin in September.
- SEMAC will pay for board members to attend workshops/training webinars, etc.

### New Business

#### Approval of Pandemic Relief Grants for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers

- Michael Arturi, Red Wing musician and teacher, 40-60% artist, requests funds for supplies and 36 hours at \$35 per hour for practice, networking and research time. **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Michael Arturi. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Will Brzezinski, Winona ceramicist, 20-40% financial support from art, requests funds for rent, utilities, supplies and 15 hours at \$15 per hour. **Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Will Brzezinski. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- Mike Munson, Winona musician, full-time artist, requests funds to create new work for 75 hours at \$20 per hour. **Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Mike Munson. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- Ryan Utterback, Rochester musician, 20-40% income from music, requests funds for living expenses and to put 75 hours at \$20 per hour into his craft. **Mr. Gumdersheimer moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Ryan Utterback. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- John Wells, Red Wing painter, 20-40% income from art, requests funds for supplies and artist fees for 62 hours at \$20 per hour. **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to John Wells. Motion passed unanimously.**

### Old Business

DEI Committee (Andrea Arnold, Laura Helle, Kara Maloney and Robin Pearson) began discussion of moving the SEMAC core values forward. Current statements as follows.

- Mission

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants and services.

- Vision
  - All community members are inspired to take part in the arts and build partnerships that promote the arts and artists.
  - New culturally rich artistic opportunities are incorporated into our communities while preserving our existing artistic heritages.
  - Community members, leaders, and policy-makers foster a climate that celebrates imagination, creativity, innovation, and excellence that encourages life-long participation in the arts.
- Core Values
  - SEMAC seeks out and rewards creative efforts of high artistic integrity that stand out among similar efforts.
  - SEMAC believes that high quality art should be challenging and original, able to illuminate the human condition and serve the vital interests of the community.
  - Rooted in basic human values, SEMAC believes that art should move the imagination and the heart, and enrich rather than merely entertain.
  - SEMAC believes that art should be artistically challenging for both the artists and the audience, and should significantly contribute to the development and enrichment of a given art form(s).
  - SEMAC funded artists must demonstrate serious training with reputable teachers or mentors, a commitment to their art form and life as an artist, and present art of lasting value.

Discussion will continue.

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 10:30am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 17 November 2020, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diane Crane, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Laura Helle

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:00am Mr. Medin, Board Treasurer, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded approval of the minutes from the 15 September 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of FY 2021. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- Legacy funds were reduced by 14.02%. FY 2021 Legacy funds can be carried forward into next fiscal year. General Fund dollars were not reduced. However, these funds must be obligated and/or spent prior to June 30, 2021.
- As reported last meeting, SEMAC received a share of the \$250,000 Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant awarded to the FRACM. SEMAC will award \$1000 to arts organizations that fully participate in all four sessions of the Art in Digital Spaces training. The balance of funds can be used for additional training opportunities within the region.
- Continuation of Changes to Grant Programs – note that these are considered temporary and for this fiscal year only.
  - Suspend eligibility for non-arts groups with the exception of those that are culture bearers that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.



- Due to the continuing and deepening crisis that our artists are facing, the \$1500 Pandemic Relief Grant for Artists will continue, using FY2020 funds carried forward with eligible grants approved until funding is exhausted. The legislature approved the use FY2020 monies to assist artists with expenses due to loss of income and the MSAB amended our contract accordingly. NOTE: this flexibility was not included in the current fiscal year contract.
- Currently ten grants have been awarded (and an additional one is pending approval). Suggest that we keep it open until the end of May 2021.
- Temporarily lower award ceiling to \$3,000 for artist project grants to February 1, 2021, for projects using both McKnight and Legacy monies as needed. Artists cannot receive both \$1500 pandemic relief and \$3000 project grant.
- For arts organizations, the October deadline was changed to November 1, with a lowered ceiling on ACHF grants but keeping current ceiling for Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Towns. Matches will not be required. Arts organizations are limited to one SEMAC project grant per year. Grantees that currently have outstanding and/or rescheduled projects to later in FY21 cannot apply until those projects have been completed. Suggest that we conduct the April round as usual.
- Second Year FY2021 General operating support grant commitments began in September. Currently holding six grants for arts organizations.
- Continue offering stipends to panelists for their participation. Offering nominal stipends to board.
- Monitoring reports, since most activities are online, should be easier this year
- Next steps for equity: FRACM is meeting with Aamera to continue working on the IDI. Continue with committee work to develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement (DEI) for SEMAC. A draft should be ready for the January meeting.
- SEMAC will pay for board members to attend workshops/training webinars, etc. Please share them with me so that I can get the information out to the full board.

#### New Business - Approval of Grants

- Arts & Cultural Heritage

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
28.63	Northfield Arts & Culture Commission	Rice	\$6,000	
27.78	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$6,000	Gundersheimer
27.67	Red Wing Art Association	Goodhue	\$6,000	
27.44	Resounding Voices	Olmsted	\$6,000	
27.33	City of Winona Parks & Recreation	Winona	\$6,000	Gundersheimer
27.00	Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	\$6,000	
26.63	Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale	Olmsted	\$6,000	
26.00	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$4,815	
25.75	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$6,000	
25.56	Rochester Dance Company	Olmsted	\$6,000	
24.56	Ameriikan Poiijat Finnish Brass Band	Rice	\$6,000	
23.67	Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics & Latin Americans	Olmsted	\$6,000	

- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Northfield Arts & Culture Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Red Wing Art Association. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Resounding Voices. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to City of Winona Parks & Recreation. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Sing Out Loud. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$4,815 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Repertory Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Dance Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Ameriikan Poijat Finnish Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics & Latin Americans. Motion passed unanimously.

- Presenter/Production Assistance

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
27.50	Children's Dance Theatre	Olmsted	\$3,000	
25.00	Matchbox Children's Theatre	Mower	\$3,000	
21.50	Southeastern Minnesota Poets	Olmsted	\$2,750	

- M. Marin moved and M. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Children's Dance Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Crane moved and M. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Matchbox Children's Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Gundersheimer moved and M. Marin seconded the motion to award \$2,750 to Southeastern Minnesota Poets. Motion passed unanimously.

- Small Towns/Rural Areas

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
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Score	Applicant	County	Request Recused
28.40	Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$3,000
22.80	Chamber Music Live	Houston	\$3,000
21.50	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$2,200

- **M. Swanson moved and M. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **M. Marin moved and M. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Chamber Music Live. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **M. Marin moved and M. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$2,200 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Pandemic Relief for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers**

Lane Michael Powell, Harmony composer, 20-40% artist, requests funds for keyboard, software and 14 hours at \$25 per hour to research best practices and new innovations in composition through online seminars and workshops.

**Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Lane Michael Powell. Motion passed unanimously.**

**For the Fall 2020 grant rounds**, SEMAC awarded grants to 29 applicants representing eight counties for a total of \$104,265 in funding. This includes twelve Arts & Cultural Heritage grants for \$70,815, three Presenter/Production Assistance grants for \$8,750, three Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$8,200, and eleven Pandemic Relief Grants to individuals for \$16,500.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	0
Fillmore	1	\$1,500
Freeborn	0	0
Goodhue	4	\$10,500
Houston	2	\$6,000
Mower	1	\$3,000
Olmsted	11	\$46,250
Rice	4	\$18,315
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	1	\$2,200
Winona	5	\$16,500
		<b>\$104,265</b>

**Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:45am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 19 January 2021, SEMAC Office*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Diane Crane, Laura Helle, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Andrea Arnold

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:02am Ms. Helle, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Medin seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the minutes from the 17 November 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Old Business

- Equity Discussion
  - Addition to SEMAC reading list: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, summarized in "America's Enduring Caste System" by Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal.
  - **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Medin seconded formation of a SEMAC Action Committee to emphasize diversity in local governments and communities. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - Initial members of the SEMAC Action Committee will be Mr. Alkire, Ms. Helle and Mr. Gundersheimer.

New Business

- MSAB Rules Changes
  - State Arts Board rationale for removing the Forum of Regional Arts Councils (FRACM) from rules includes aligning rules with statutes and changing the scope and function of the MSAB/RAC Liaison Committee by replacing RAC executive staff members with board directors.

- The proposed changes have been represented as a way to improve MSAB and RAC board member interaction and communication with the end goal better serving the public. The RACs believe that there are more effective ways for the MSAB to engage with the citizen-led boards, including strategic and purposeful statewide gatherings of MSAB/RAC leaders or MSAB Board Members visiting RAC board members or attending retreats.
- Biennial Plan for FY2022-23  
Potential changes to consider for upcoming biennium:
  - Adding designation for BIPOC and culture bearers
  - Return to previous grant amounts or continue with the reduced amount in order to help more artists as pandemic restrictions lift
  - Change \$3,000 Presenter/Production to “organizational grant” and raise the amount?
  - Keep \$3,000 Small Towns/Rural Areas grant but raise the amount ?
  - Retain \$4,000 General Operating Support but raise the amount ?
  - Arts and Cultural Heritage return to higher level for FY2022 (\$8000?)
  - Resume funding arts related grants in non-arts nonprofits?
  - Restart School Residencies if schools have safely returned to in-person learning.
  - Email Ms. Pearson with feedback by February 5 for compilation by the February meeting. MSAB plan deadline is April 1.
- Arts Action Week  
February 16-19 will be zoom meetings with legislators, rather than an in-person Arts Advocacy Day. Register on the MCA website.
- Date of Next Board Meeting  
**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Medin seconded rescheduling of the February Board meeting to the 23rd. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 10:30am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 2 March 2021, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Diane Crane, Laura Helle, Lee Gundersheimer, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Levi Livingood, Drew Medin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:10am Ms. Helle, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Marin seconded approval of the minutes from the 19 January 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Helle seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for the Second Quarter of FY 2021. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Ms. Helle reported on outreach activities of the Action Committee, which includes Mr. Alkire and Mr. Gundersheimer, over the last few weeks.
- Winona County is almost done and Mower County is next on the agenda.
- Goal to reach out to all eleven counties over a two-year period.
- The Committee welcomes participation by other directors, particularly with their own county.

Executive Director's Report

- Recap of Arts Advocacy Week
- Thank you letters from organizations are welcome, but we must emphasize to organizations that these funds are grants with specific restrictions rather than donations or contributions.
- Jennifer Halcrow is acting director for MCA. Sheila Smith has retired

- Attended two day virtual symposium, “We Have Words for Art,” on Writing about Art by Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. Will share at a later board meeting.
- Plan to contract hire a community engagement coordinator. We have job description and plan.
- Considering contract hire a content creator for newsletter, website, and other social media, with plan to update/redesign SEMAC website, and include a videographer to make highlights for website, etc.

#### Old Business

- Biennial Plan Discussion

#### New Business

- Defining Equity on Application Forms
- Strategies for Encouraging New Applicants

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 10:55am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 16 March 2021, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Diane Crane, Laura Helle, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Drew Medin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:04am Ms. Helle, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Arnold seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, with the addition of a petition from Rochester Civic Theatre under Old Business. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the minutes from the 3 March 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Action Committee Report

- Ms. Heller, Mr. Alkire and Mr. Gundersheimer have presented at virtual meetings with groups in Austin and Winona. Earlier this week Mr. Alkire forwarded to all directors information about those presentations.
- The committee invited the other directors to get involved, particularly when presentations are scheduled in their respective counties.

Old Business

- Approval of Biennial Plan  
**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the Biennial Plan. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Rochester Civic Theatre Petition  
**Mr. Livingood and Mr. Alkire seconded reinstatement of the Rochester Civic Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.**



### New Business

- Approval of Grants

Score	Applicant	Grant	County	Request	Recused
28.20	Catherine Glynn	3821AA	Fillmore	\$3,000	Arnold, Maloney, Gundersheimer
27.60	Katie Cook	3421AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	Arnold
27.44	David Kassler	4021AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	Arnold
27.30	Gao Hong	5321AA	Rice	\$3,000	Arnold
27.10	Daniel Kallman	3921AA	Rice	\$3,000	Arnold
27.00	Maggie Panetta	5721AA	Winona	\$3,000	Arnold, Gundersheimer
26.63	Joy Davis Ripley	3521AA	Winona	\$3,000	Arnold, Gundersheimer
26.60	Leslie Moore	4221AA	Rice	\$3,000	Arnold
26.50	Michael Khuth	4121AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	Arnold
26.13	Amarama Vercnocke	5021AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	Arnold, Helle
25.60	Andrea Mazzariello	5621AA	Rice	\$3,000	Arnold
25.00	Marcia Ratliff	5821AA	Winona	\$1,655	Arnold, Gundersheimer
24.70	Anne George	3721AA	Winona	\$3,000	Alkire, Gundersheimer
24.67	Elizabeth Oness	4621AA	Winona	\$3,000	Gundersheimer
24.50	C Mikal Oness	4521AA	Winona	\$3,000	Gundersheimer
24.40	Susan Hansen	5521AA	Mower	\$3,000	
24.20	Erin Drummond	5421AA	Winona	\$3,000	Gundersheimer
20.10	Shanda Brekke	3321AA	Steele	\$1,500	Marin
19.90	Dylon Starr	4721AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	Livingood
18.60	Dede Esse	3621AA	Olmsted	\$3,000	

- Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Catherine Glynn. Motion passed with three abstentions.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Katie Cook. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to David Kassler. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Gao Hong. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Daniel Kallman. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Maggie Panetta. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Joy Davis Ripley. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Leslie Moore. Motion passed with one abstention.

- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Michael Khuth. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Amarama Vercnocke. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Ms. Crane moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Andrea Mazzariello. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,655 to Marcia Ratliff. Motion passed with two abstentions. It was later decided to fully fund every artist. This amount was raised to \$3,000.
- Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Anne George. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Elizabeth Oness. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Ms. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to C Mikal Oness. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Susan Hansen. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Erin Drummond. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Shanda Brekke. Motion passed with one abstention. It was later decided to fully fund every artist. This amount was raised to \$3,000.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Dylan Starr. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Dede Esse. Motion passed with one abstention.

For the Winter 2021 grant rounds SEMAC awarded grants to 22 applicants representing eight counties for a total of \$63,000 in funding. This includes twenty *Artistic Support for Individual Artists & Culture Bearers* grants for \$60,000, and two previously-awarded *Pandemic Relief for Working Artists & Culture Bearers* grants for \$3,000.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	1	\$1,500
Fillmore	1	\$3,000
Freeborn	1	\$3,000
Goodhue	0	0
Houston	0	0
Mower	1	\$3,000
Olmsted	7	\$19,500
Rice	4	\$12,000
Steele	1	\$4,500
Wabasha	0	0
Winona	7	\$21,000
	<b>22</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>

**Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:50am.



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 18 May 2021, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diane Crane, Laura Helle, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Elisha Marin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:04am Ms. Helle, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the minutes from the 16 March 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- The legislative session ended yesterday. A budget was not passed, so a special session will take place in mid-June. RACs will have more information regarding FY22 allocations at that time. Should have needed budget information by the June meeting and at that time will present FY21 wrap up and FY22 projections.
- Spent the month of April reviewing ten regional arts council biennial plans and participating in the two-day review of the plans. All were approved
- Board will return to the normal working meeting schedule for FY22 (August, November, March, May, June). Can schedule additional meetings as needed.
- Board minutes are public documents and are posted on the website, as well as other documents. Contact Karen with questions or concerns about accessing these items.
- Board meeting dates are always posted on the website. In FY22, the RACs have agreed to operate in the spirit of the open meeting law, so SEMARC will make the zoom meeting accessible to the public. The same rules apply as if someone attended in person – no interaction with board unless they have requested in advance to be on the agenda & this was approved by the board ahead of time.

At some point in FY22 the panel will begin meeting via zoom with the same process for the public. Phone in options will be allowed but no video.

- Regarding executive committee for FY22: Ms. Arnold has relocated to Minneapolis, and will leave the board with the June meeting. Ms. Helle's first term expires August 17 and Ms. Maloney's first term will expire November 16. Mr. Medin was asked to continue as treasurer and second check signatory.
- An application was received for the vacancy in Rice County. I will meet with her prior to the June meeting. Several conversations with potential interested individuals for Goodhue County. Additionally, am in contact with several organizations within these counties regarding the vacancies, making deliberate efforts to find qualified BIPOC community members for these strategic positions
- Actively seeking input for the positions of community engagement coordinator, grants coach, and social media/web content manager. The goal is to seek BIPOC individuals. We plan to have contractors in place as soon as possible; initially contacting the videographer recommended by Mr. Swanson.
- We continue to research companies to update/redesign the SEMAC website.

### Old Business

- Action Committee Report
  - Presentations were made to Winona City Council, Winona County Commission, Austin Culture & Arts Commission, Mower County Commission, and Austin City Council, so the committee is ready to move on to the next community, asking for volunteers.
  - By August, Ms. Maloney can host presentations in Lanesboro.
  - Ms. Helle cited an artist connection that was made through these meetings.

### New Business

- Approval of Arts & Cultural Heritage Grants

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.22	Hispanic Outreach Program	Goodhue	\$6,000	
28.67	Southeastern MN Youth Orchestras	Olmsted	\$6,000	
28.63	Minnesota Marine Art Museum	Winona	\$6,000	Swanson, Gundersheimer
28.00	Northfield Healthy Community Initiative	Rice	\$6,000	
27.89	Southeast MN Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$6,000	
27.88	Austin Area Commission for the Arts	Mower	\$6,000	Helle
27.75	Austin Culture & Arts Commission	Mower	\$5,000	Helle
27.63	Winona Symphony Orchestra	Winona	\$6,000	Medin, Gundersheimer
26.89	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	\$6,000	Gundersheimer
26.67	City of Rochester Music Department	Olmsted	\$6,000	Medin
26.00	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$1,185	
24.89	Med City Arts Festival	Olmsted	\$6,000	
24.56	Lanesboro Arts Center	Fillmore	\$6,000	Maloney
24.11	Mantorville Art Guild	Dodge	\$6,000	Livingood
23.38	Winona Arts Center	Winona	\$4,145	Gundersheimer

- Mr. Medin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Hispanic Outreach Program of Goodhue County. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Medin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Minnesota Marine Art Museum. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Northfield Healthy Community Initiative. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Austin Area Commission for the Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Austin Culture & Arts Commission. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Winona Symphony Orchestra. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Mr. Medin moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Frozen River Film Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to City of Rochester Music Department. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,185 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Med City Arts Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Lanesboro Arts Center. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Mantorville Art Guild. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Medin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$4,145 to Winona Arts Center. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Approval of Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
28.33	Northfield Community Education	Rice	\$3,000	
27.63	South Central MN Studio ArtTour	Rice	\$3,000	

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
27.56	Mainspring	Houston	\$3,000	Crane, Maloney
26.67	Southeast MN Federation Music Club	Olmsted	\$3,000	
26.44	Cannon Arts Board	Goodhue	\$3,000	
25.78	Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$3,000	Livingood
24.44	Celebration of a City (Rochesterfest)	Olmsted	\$3,000	
24.44	Zumbrota Area Arts Council	Goodhue	\$3,000	
24.33	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$3,000	Medin, Livingood
22.78	Northfield Troubadours	Rice	\$3,000	
19.22	Saint Charles Public Schools	Winona	\$3,000	Gundersheimer

- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Northfield Community Education. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to South Central Minnesota Studio ArTour. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Mainspring. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Mr. Medin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Southeast Minnesota Federation Music Club. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Cannon Arts Board. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Mantorville Theatre Company. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Celebration of a City. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Medin moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Zumbrota Area Arts Council. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Swanson moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Rochester Civic Theatre Company. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Mr. Medin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Northfield Troubadours. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Medin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Saint Charles Public Schools. Motion passed with one abstention.**

For the April grant round SEMAC awarded grants to 26 applicants representing eight counties for a total of \$115,330 in funding. This includes fifteen Arts & Cultural Heritage grants for \$82,330, and eleven Programming Grants for Arts Organizations for \$33,000.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	2	\$9,000

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Fillmore	1	\$6,000
Freeborn	0	0
Goodhue	3	\$12,000
Houston	2	\$9,000
Mower	2	\$11,000
Olmsted	6	\$27,000
Rice	5	\$16,185
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	0	0
Winona	5	\$25,145
	<b>26</b>	<b>\$115,330</b>

- Executive Committee elections will be held during the June meeting. As nominations were discussed, it was noted that the terms of two directors will soon be ending. Ms. Helle indicated her desire to serve a second term and to be nominated as president.
- Also on the agenda for June will be further discussion of nominal stipends for directors.

**Mr. Medin moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:59am.