



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 15 August 2023, via Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Laura Helle, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Yelba Olson, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Scott Roberts

STAFF PRESENT: Karen Miller

STAFF ABSENT: Anastasia Shartin

10:02am Board President Alkire called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Swanson seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of the minutes from the 20 June 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Dir. Olson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of the FY2024 Budget. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- See attached

Executive Director's Report

- See attached

New Business

- Approval of Individual Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
30.00	Melissa Wray	Houston	\$3,000	

29.40	Taliesin Nyala	Winona	\$3,000	
28.20	Kevin Dobbe	Olmsted	\$5,000	
28.20	Brian Johnson	Goodhue	\$3,000	
27.50	Michael Munson	Winona	\$5,000	
27.50	J C Sanford	Rice	\$5,000	
27.20	Andi Lynn Arnold	Steele	\$5,000	
27.20	Susanne Crane	Freeborn	\$5,000	Marin
27.00	Lisa Becker	Winona	\$3,000	
27.00	Sunny Nahrgang	Winona	\$3,000	
27.00	Rachael Nunemacher	Winona	\$3,000	
26.83	Ken McCullough	Winona	\$5,000	Swanson
26.80	Timothy Ahrens	Winona	\$3,000	
26.80	Alexis Zaccariello	Olmsted	\$3,000	Maloney
26.60	Sandra Sargent	Rice	\$3,000	
26.50	Rick Swanson	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.50	Tianyao Xie	Olmsted	\$5,000	

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Melissa Wray. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Taliesin Nyala. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kevin Dobbe. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Brian Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Michael Munson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to J C Sanford. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Andi Lynn Arnold. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Susanne Crane. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Lisa Becker. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Sunny Nahrgang. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Rachael Nunemacher. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Ken McCullough. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Timothy Ahrens. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Alexis Zaccariello. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Sandra Sargent. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rick Swanson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Tianyao Xie. Motion passed unanimously.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 17 applicants representing seven counties for a total of \$67,000 in funding. This includes nine Emerging Artist Grants for \$27,000 and eight Advancing Artist grants for \$40,000.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	
Fillmore	0	
Freeborn	1	\$5,000
Goodhue	1	\$3,000
Houston	1	\$3,000
Mower	0	
Olmsted	4	\$18,000
Rice	2	\$8,000
Steele	1	\$5,000
Wabasha	0	
Winona	7	\$25,000
	17	\$67,000

- **Office Space Plan**

Initial discussion of future space needs in anticipation of upcoming leasing decisions for Commerce Drive location. ED Shartin will have more information for the next meeting.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 11:00am.



Board President's Report
August 2023

The summer is a busy and productive time for organizations within our service area. Our communities have been hot with festivals, performances, exhibitions, readings and networking this summer.

At the SEMAC office, our organization has continued to secure fundamental operations, define roles and responsibilities, select new service providers, evaluate our technology and consider our future needs for physical space.

Following our recent officer elections for Board of Directors, Laura Helle and I have been added to our banking to ensure that we have adequate flexibility for the appropriate number of signatories.

Kara Maloney and I are currently the only grant reviewers for General Operations Support funding. Other board members are strongly encouraged to consider serving in this capacity.

Anastasia Shartin will be working from home for the last half of August to provide care for a family member who has had surgery.

I am available to the board, staff and review panel. Please do not hesitate to contact me to explore how we can work together to "encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development".

Many thanks for all you do!
Cheers,
Kjellgren Alkire
480-406-3155 mobile

Executive Director Report for Board Meeting August 15, 2023

Operations:

- Checking and savings accounts have been reconfigured. Kjel has been added as a third person who can sign checks. Laura has an appointment scheduled at the bank to be added as well.
- We now have remote access to e-mail and files. Next step is for OnSite to provide a quote for setting up our computer systems for security, as well as to fix our private wifi.

Grantmaking:

- Individual Artists' Grants – 17 proposed grant recipients for a total of \$67,000 will be presented to the Board for approval; a total of 35 applications were received with none receiving an average score of less than 18
- General Operating Support Grants – Kjel and Kara volunteered to review. 14 are out for review, 10 are complete and will be sent out for review after the first set are reviewed, and 1 is still in draft form. All 25 applicants have been notified that the Board will approve them at the September meeting (not in August as they were told initially.)
- Request for personal pronouns has been added to contract for Individual Artists Grants so that we can more accurately promote their projects.

MSAB/McKnight:

- Two reports submitted to MSAB: reconciliation for a busy month in 2023 (April) and unaudited financial report FY23
- McKnight application submitted
- Met with Annick Dall-Desbois, Outreach and Accessibility Coordinator, MSAB. We will plan a spring event with her, format TBD.

Networking/Grounding Work (July 19 – August 1):

- July 20 - **Harmony, Fillmore County**, attended capstone event outdoor concert of Lane Powell's composition and more by The Paperclips, and met with Robbie Brokken, SEMAC panelist
- July 21 - **Lanesboro, Fillmore County**, attended Lanesboro Community Theater's capstone event The Sound of Music, and met with Hal Cropp, Commonweal Theater ED and former SEMAC board member
- July 23 – **Winona, Winona County**, attended Great River Shakespeare Festival's summer youth program's capstone event, introduced myself to Aaron Young, GRSF ED
- July 27 – **Winona**, attended Mississippi Sippin' event, met Jovee Rockey, SEMAC individual artist grant recipient; Jon Swanson in-person, SEMAC board member and MMAM curator; and several other staff of the MMAM, including Scott Pollock, MMAM ED
- July 28 – **Owatonna, Steele County**, toured Owatonna Art Center with Silvan Durben, ED; **Faribault, Rice County**, toured Paradise Center for the Arts with Julie Fakler, Visual Arts and Education Director, SEMAC panelist, and individual artist grant recipient
- August 2 – **Red Wing, Goodhue County**, met with Yelba Olson, SEMAC board member, and attended Blue Dog concert in the park, presented by Red Wing Arts
- August 4 – **Caledonia, Houston County**, walked through the downtown after a canceled meeting, checked out Mainspring's building (SEMAC grant recipient) and Elsie's (proposed capstone site)
- August 7 – **Winona**, met with Jon Swanson and Dave Casey, MMAM associate curator and SEMAC panelist; Jamie Schwaba, SEMAC panelist, individual artist grant recipient, and former

organizational grant recipient for Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts; and Matthew Fluharty, Art of the Rural ED and SEMAC organizational grant applicant

Communications:

- In the process of identifying an independent contractor or agency to develop and implement communications strategies and a six-month to one-year plan. Goal is to bring someone on by mid-September and re-start monthly e-newsletter in October.

Other:

- I will work from home the remainder of August and through the end of September to care for my husband as he recovers from neck surgery. I have prepared a solid and productive work plan for this time period.
- Sarah Fossen, Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, wants to visit each FRACM region for a day in October/November that will include a visit with each ED, a meeting with people who have received Legacy funding and invited legislators, and a social meet-up. Ideally the meet-up can be paired with a funded event.

(I have included the ED report for the July meeting because there was no quorum at that meeting.)

Executive Director Report for Board Meeting July 18, 2023

Operations:

- Checking and savings accounts are being reconfigured by US Bank to align with new regulations for non-profit organizations. Awaiting completion of this work before Board members can register their signatures. Currently Anastasia's and Karen's signatures are on file. With Executive Committee approval and after consulting with our auditor, Anastasia and Karen signed checks July 6, including paychecks.
- Remote access to e-mail is currently unavailable. The security status and functionality of the office computer network/wifi also are a concern. The computer company who set up our systems was sold, they no longer have the necessary passwords to assist us, and they have been unresponsive following their initial visit. Because of this, we contacted OnSite Computers. We met with them on 7/11 and they are preparing a quote.
- On the recommendation of the Board, we purchased a Meeting OWL to better run hybrid meetings.

Grantmaking:

- Individual Artists Grants – received applications from 35 artists, including 17 equity artists, for a total of \$145,000 requested (\$65,000 available to grant, based on FY24 working budget).
- General Operating Support – as of 7.12.23, 18 organizations have applied with 6 grants submitted (includes 4 new organizations.)
- Exploring whether/how to request personal pronouns. Surveyed FRACM members. Region 2 asks for pronouns as part of their grant contract with individual artists to ensure that the RAC gets the language correct in their promotions.

MSAB/McKnight:

- Two reports due to MSAB in August: reconciliation for a month in 2023 (due August 14) and interim financial report (due August 15)
- McKnight application (due August 1)

Networking:

- Attended Beth Sievers capstone at Threshold Arts and will continue to attend Capstone events in communities throughout the region, including, in July, Mantorville, Red Wing, Harmony, Lanesboro, Winona, and Faribault.
- In the process of coordinating County visits. Confirmed dates: August 7 in Winona County and September 22 in Mower County.
- Attended the MSAB meeting in Worthington, July 13 and 14.

Communications:

- Met with Emily Wessing, who has been contracted with us since March. Over the next two weeks, she will develop a communications plan for late summer/fall for social media and newsletters. This will include highlighting our grant recipients and capstone events, as well as promoting our grant deadlines, artist workshops (TBD), and recruiting panelists/board members. We also discussed future website improvements and print materials. To implement this plan, she will need access to our FaceBook account.

Other:

- Sarah Fossen, Executive Director of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts, would like to plan visits hosted by the RACs throughout Minnesota in September/October.