



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 17 October 2023, via Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Yelba Olson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Laura Helle, Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

3:04pm Dir. Alkire, Board President, called the meeting to order.

ED Shartin reported that Dir. Roberts has resigned from the board, effective immediately.

Approval of the Agenda

Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded approval of this meeting’s agenda, with the addition of a board candidate. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Olson seconded approval of the minutes from the 19 September 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

As the Treasurer was excused from the meeting, ED Shartin answered questions about the budget and reporting.

President’s Report

- See attached.

Executive Director’s Report

- See attached.

New Business

- Approval of General Operating Support Grants

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>
Greater Rochester Arts & Cultural Trust	Olmsted	Staffing & Salaries
Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative	Olmsted	Administrative Expenses

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>
Owatonna Arts Council	Steele	Staffing & Salaries
Theatre du Mississippi	Winona	Facilities & Maintenance
Ameriikan Poijat Finnish Brass Band	Rice	Administrative Expenses
Mid West Music Fest	Winona	Administrative Expenses
Austin Symphony Orchestra	Mower	Staffing & Salaries
Ye Olde Opera House	Houston	Facilities & Maintenance
Winona Symphony Orchestra	Winona	Staffing & Salaries
Zumbrota Community Band	Goodhue	Staffing & Salaries

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Greater Rochester Arts and Cultural Trust. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Olson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Owatonna Arts Council. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Theatre du Mississippi. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Ameriikan Poijat Finnish Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Austin Symphony Orchestra. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Olson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Ye Olde Opera House. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Winona Symphony Orchestra. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Olson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Zumbrota Community Band. Motion passed unanimously.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded General Operating Support grants to ten applicants representing eleven counties for a total of \$50,000 in funding for FY2024.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	0

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Fillmore	0	0
Freeborn	0	0
Goodhue	1	\$5,000
Houston	1	\$5,000
Mower	1	\$5,000
Olmsted	2	\$10,000
Rice	1	\$5,000
Steele	1	\$5,000
Wabasha	0	0
Winona	3	\$15,000
	10	

- Panel Candidate David Schmidt (résumé attached)
Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the appointment of David Schmidt as a panel generalist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.
- Board Candidate Steve Dietz (résumé attached)
Dir. Olson moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the appointment of Steve Dietz as an at-large representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the November board meeting will be held one week early. By unanimous decision, that meeting will be November 14, 2023 at 3:00pm.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.



Board President's Report
October 2023

Mid-October is a powerful threshold. This time of year brings changes in my own studio related to materials handling and temperature along with the autumnal menus, sweater weather and gobs of leaf-raking. In terms of arts and culture, many of us are profoundly focused on Give To the Max, end-of-the-year reporting, municipal levy setting and winterization of programs and facilities. My extended family enjoys an annual fall vacation over MEA weekend, but it is always a frenzy to arrive at that extended weekend get-away with some degree of preparedness.

SEMARC continues to make seasonal shifts as well. Many of the operational transitions that we have pursued in the last few months are taking hold. We continue to process an unusually large number of grant applications for General Operating Support. Our board is also experiencing some change. We welcomed Steve Dietz to the board this month. Steve and Yelba Olson are both relatively new to SEMARC as volunteers, but they bring a wealth of experience and vitality to our work. We continue to look for colleagues to serve Olmsted, Steele, Houston and Dodge Counties.

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 October 17, 2023

Operations:

- Computer security is in the process of being improved with final work scheduled for October 24.
- Decided to run the upcoming panel review as has been done since COVID. Will move to a panel review meeting, either via Zoom or in-person, for the review in March.

Grantmaking:

- General Operating Support Grants – Kjel and Kara reviewed a second batch of these with 10 applications to be proposed to the Board for approval. 6 are new and 4 were asked to submit follow-up information.
- Organizational Programming Grants – 66 applications submitted (39 Legacy, 18 Programming for Arts Organizations, and 9 Small Towns/Rural Areas) for a total of \$431,408 (\$295,000 available)

MSAB/McKnight:

- FY23 Final Report was submitted to MSAB (attached).

Office Space:

- No updates.

Networking/Grounding Work (September 15 – October 12):

- September 15 – **Winona, Winona County**, attended two capstone events, Dr. Bob Armstrong exhibit, *Flotsam, Adventures on the Mississippi*, at the Winona Art Center; and Project FINE Welcoming Week Celebration on 3rd Street; as well as the Preview Party for *The Big Catch* at the MMAM.
- September 18 – **Red Wing, Goodhue County**, participated in Red Wing Arts and Honoring Dakota Partners Cultural Competency Training.
- September 22 – **Austin, Mower County**, visit organized by Laura Helle. Met with: John Deyo and Randy Forster, Summerset Community Theatre; Andrea Malo and Sheila Berger, Austin School District Curriculum Directors; Debra D’Souza and Elizabeth Leyk, individual artists; Kat Linaker and Janelle Koepke, Riverland Community College; Angela Donovan, Matchbox Children’s Theater; and five Austin Public School music, theater, and art teachers.
- September 28 – **Lake City, Wabasha County**, met with Steve Dietz, Arts Advisory Panel member
- October 5 – **Red Wing, Goodhue County**, met with Cherish Haskell, Red Wing Arts Creative Center, about organizing an artist grantwriting workshop in early December.
- October 9 – **Red Wing, Goodhue County**, attended Honoring Dakota Mural Wopida.

Communications:

- September 28 – Workshop with Sievers Creative, Red Wing, to help develop a draft communications plan. Elisha Marin and Jacquelline VanRavenhorst (Jacque) participated. Draft plan anticipated from Sievers soon.
- We have begun the prep work for Jacque to gather/store photos and videos submitted with final reports, and to become acquainted with SEMAC FB and Constant Contact. She will be set up with a SEMAC e-mail address, communications@semac.org.

Other:

- Health Insurance rep reviewed options and determined, with one employee on a policy, our only and best option is to renew the current policy. This will be done by the November 1 deadline.

- September 27 – participated in an anti-racism training workshop sponsored by Minnesota Center for Non-profits and led by Natalie Ringsmuth, ED of Unite Cloud, a non-profit working to reduce racial, religious, and cultural tensions in Central MN.
- October 3 – met with Andy Richter at JA Counter regarding options for investing a portion of SEMAC's savings and to review SEP rules.
- October 5 – Attended the play, *Passage*, featuring Aamera Siddiqui, at Pillsbury House + Theatre.
- I am continuing to work remote periodically, scheduled around in-person meetings, capstone events, and duties requiring me to be in the office.

David Allen Schmidt, ICMA-CM, AICP

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EDUCATION

International City and County Management Association – Certified Manager – 2011
Hamline Law School – MN Supreme Court Mediation Certification – 2005
Cornell University - Industrial Labor and Management School - Mediation Certificate - Spring 1996
American Institute of Certified Planners - AICP - 1995
MPA, Municipal Management and Urban Policy Analysis - Spring 1993 - East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
B.S. Urban and Regional Planning & Resource Management June, 1988 - East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

EXPERIENCES

[Organic Farmer – Co-Owner Bluff Valley Farm – Certified Organic Permaculture Farm– Wabasha, MN](#) – Reestablishing the 160-acre farm into certifiable production. Catherine and I have created a small organic farm to provide free land access to young farmers. Catherine has also established an organic flower farm with approximately 3 acres of locally grown beauty. Our farm is intended to develop community for folks of all ages to explore, learn and grow. We have begun the process of implementing the Agro-tourism plan for the property in preparation for the establishment of the Mayo Clinic destination medical center plans. The property originally served as the community ski hill and barn dance facility. October 2013 – Current.

[Interim City Administrator – City of Mondovi](#) – Worked with the elected officials, talented staff and community to bridge the challenging period after the departure of the City Administrator. Worked for the Mayor and City Council to evaluate the unfortunate financial condition of the city and worked with the Council and financial advisers to take the steps necessary to set reduce debt and secure funding to accomplish necessary goals. Worked with the Council and City Engineer to secure final plans and Bids for a state-of-the-art environmental sensitive sewage treatment plant that will serve the community for the next 50 years. Serving in the interim capacity I was able to observe and report to the elected officials and staff potential changes that could serve the community that could be difficult for a full-time administrator to share. Conducted the inhouse search for the City Administrator which resulted in a well-qualified candidate that should serve the community with distinction. March 2021 – July 2021 – On-Boarding

[Interim City Administrator – City of Plainview](#) – Worked with the elected officials, talented staff and community to bridge the challenging period after the removal of the City Administrator. Worked for the Mayor and City Council to repair internal and external relationships. Working with the highly competent Executive Leadership Team we accomplished many priorities set by the elected officials to enable a softer landing for the incoming City Administrator. During this period contracts for both unions were negotiated and adopted, review and adoption of a \$3,200,000 budget addressing several needed concerns. At the direction of the City Council we successfully marketed and sold the Municipal Liquor Store, hired a Police Chief, established policies addressing pay and benefits disparities. Serving in the interim capacity I was able to observe and report to the elected officials and staff potential changes that could serve the community that could be difficult for a full-time administrator to share. Conducted the inhouse search for the City Administrator which resulted in a well-qualified candidate that should serve the community with distinction. March 2020 – October 2020 – On-Boarding thru January 2021

[Administrative and Economic Consultant - Buffalo County](#) – Work with the talented County Team to address a number of administrative and economic development initiatives. I have been tasked with funding, development and implementation of a historic connection trail between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Coordinating the Community Development Block Grant closeout and re-establishment of a revolving loan fund to support an entrepreneurial culture in the county. August 2017 – January 2021

[Interim City Manager – City of Moorhead](#) – Worked with the elected officials, talented staff and community to bridge the challenging period after the removal of the City Manager. Worked for the Mayor and City Council to repair internal and external relationships. Working with the highly competent Executive Leadership Team we accomplished many

priorities set by the elected officials to enable a softer landing for the incoming City Manager. During this period contracts for all five unions were negotiated and adopted, review and adoption of a \$81,000,000 budget addressing several needed concerns, policies were introduced and adopted to address civility in our public processes, and pending personnel issues were addressed in a respectful and professional manner. Serving in the interim capacity I was able to observe and report to the elected officials and staff potential changes that could serve the community that could be difficult for a full time manager to share. Feedback from elected officials and staff supports the value added by this role. July 2016 – February 2017 – On-Boarding thru May 2017

City Administrator – City of Wabasha, MN - Responsibilities included professional management of all city activities for a community of 2600 with a service area of greater than 5000. Provided staff direction and coordination for a full service community with full and part time employment of 47 with an annual budget of 3.2 million and facilitated the developed the cities' first 15 year capital improvement program with attention to maintaining close direct communication with City Council. Made recommendations those were adopted to consolidate and reclassify positions for efficiencies, resulting in significant long term cost reductions. Represented the City on the Southern Minnesota Regional Transit Authority, Mississippi River Trail Management District, Economic Development Committee, and Minnesota Senate Transportation Funding Committee and other regional planning and economic development efforts. Administered the Cities' tax increment and economic development program and planning process, directed the cities budget process and all aspects of the economic development approval process. Facilitated the development of the National Eagle Center and Condominium development project that added taxable value that exceeded the value of the entire downtown. . Created the Common Board of elected and appointed partners that meet to address community issues. October 2002 – July 2013

Planner Director - Town of Kittery, ME - Responsibilities included direction of all planning and community development activities, staff coordination for Planning, Assessing and Code Enforcement. Served as staff planner for the Planning and Comprehensive Planning Boards. Represented the Town on the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, Kittery Regional Transportation Committee, Eastern Trail Management District, Conservation Committee, Kittery Outlet Association, and the Maine State Sprawl and Route One Taskforce. December 1997 – October 2002

Principal Planner - City of Schenectady, NY - Coordinated all development activities for community of 65,000 located in Upstate New York, Capital District. Responsibilities included staff Coordination for Planning and Zoning Commission, Historic Commission, and Subdivision Review. Developed and coordinated the City-Wide Project Departmental Review Process, City Real Estate Development Team, and Computerization Planning Group. Directed initial computerization efforts for Department of Development and coordinated all new city department computerization efforts, including initialization of a City GIS system and program. Recommended draft zoning and policy text amendments for planning and targeted areas of study. Facilitated the introduction and final adoption of a 147-unit new Historic District. Assisted with documentation development and project implementation for 18 new construction workforce-housing units located in target neighborhoods. Prepared received and implemented grant funds. December 1990 - December 1997

Planning and Community Development Director, City of Washington, NC. – Responsibilities included direction of all planning and community development activities, staff coordination for Planning and Zoning Board, Historic Commission, Downtown Washington Association, Historic Albemarle Committee. Directed the implementation and close out of a 1.2 million dollar Urban Development Action Grant (UDAG) and Economic Development Administration Grant (EDA) funds. Secured an additional 132K in grant monies for several civic projects. March 1990 - July 1990

City Planner, New Bern, NC - Responsibilities Included staff coordination for Planning and Zoning Board, Historic Commission, Subdivision Review, Thoroughfare Plan Review committee, Computerization committee, and Unified Development committee. Coordinated the development of unified development ordinance for the city to replace existing subdivision and zoning ordinances. Prepared, received, and implementation of a sign grant program for 911 emergency service. June 1988 - September 1990

U.S. Naval Submarine Service - USS Norfolk SSN 714 – Sonar Supervisor - Management of sonar operators: maintained communication and information link between Sonar Operations and Attack Command Center. August 1981-1985

STEVE DIETZ

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Steve Dietz is a serial platform creator, who has founded, fundraised for, and managed innovative, award winning, internationally recognized programs at the Smithsonian, Walker Art Center, Silicon Valley, and the Twin Cities. He has organized and curated numerous contemporary and new media art exhibitions and festivals nationally and internationally. He speaks extensively about the intersection of art, digital culture and the public sphere, and his writings have been published widely in university press books, exhibition catalogs, journals, and on the web.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Northern Lights.mn, Founder, President and Artistic Director, 2008-2020

01SJ Biennial, Founding Artistic Director, 2004-2010

ZERO1: The Art and Technology Network, Executive Director, 2004-2006; Artistic Director, 2007-2010.

Walter Phillips Gallery, The Banff Centre, Curatorial Fellow, 2004-05

Walker Art Center, Founding Director and Curator of New Media, 1996-2003

YProductions, consulting + independent curating, 1996-present

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Founding Chief, New Media Initiatives + Publications, 1990-1996

American Art, Editor, 1990-1996

Aperture Foundation, Vice President for Book Publishing, 1986-1990

EDUCATION

BA San Francisco State University. 1984. Art (Photography)

Stanford University. 1976-80. English Literature

CURATED EXHIBITIONS + FESTIVALS

Northern Spark, Minneapolis and/or Saint Paul, 2011-2019

Art(ists) On the Verge, 2009-2019

Media Archeology Festival: In the Beginning, Aurora Picture Show, Houston, 2014

Jim Campbell, Rhythms of Perception, Museum of Moving Image, New York, March 21–June 15, 2014

Regeneration, New York Hall of Science, October 27, 2012 – January 13, 2013

Blast Theory, A Machine to See With, Locative Cinema commission in collaboration with New Frontiers, Sundance Film Festival and Banff Centre, September 2010.

Build Your Own World, 01SJ Biennial, San Jose, September 4 – September 19, 2010

Futurefarmers, A People Without a Voice Cannot Be Heard, co-commissioned with Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, August 1 – September 4, 2010

FEEDFORWARD – The Angel of History, with Christiane Paul, LABoral, Gijon,



Spain, October 22, 2009 – May 4, 2010

01SJ Biennial: A Global Festival of Art on the Edge, San Jose, CA, June 4-8, 2008

Superlight, 01SJ Biennial, San Jose Museum of Art, May 10 – August 31, 2008

Ingenuity Festival, Cleveland, July 19-21, 2007

01SJ Biennial/ISEA 2006, San Jose, CA August 7-13, 2006

Edge Conditions, San Jose Museum of Art, June 3 – November 26, 2006

Container Culture, with Deborah Dormer-Lawler, Zhang Ga, Alice Ming Wei Jim, Gunalan Nadarajan, Ellen Pau, Johan Pijnappel, Soh Yeong Roh, Yukiko Shikata,

The Art Formerly Known As New Media, with Sarah Cook, Walter Philips Gallery, Banff Center for the Arts, September 2005

Making Things Public, with Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany, March 19 – October 3, 2005

Database Imaginary, with Sarah Cook and Anthony Kiendl, Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff Center for the Arts, November 2004

State of the Art: Maps, Stories, Games and Algorithms from Minnesota, Art Gallery, Carleton College, November, 2003.

Translocations, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Feb-May 2003:

Open Source Art Hack, with Jenny Marketou, New Museum, New York, May 3 –June 30, 2002

Telematic Connections: The Virtual Embrace, San Francisco Art Institute, Austin Museum of Art, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery, Pasadena, 2001-02

Art Entertainment Network, in *Let's Entertain*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, February 2000

Outsourcing Creativity? The Audience As Artist, with Jenny Marketou, Open Source Lounge, Athens, Greece, November 3-7, 2000

Neo[techno]logisms, US Commissioner, Medi@terra International Art & Technology Festival and Symposium. Athens, Greece, November 3-7, 2000

Open Studio: The Arts Online, Intermedia Arts, April 6 – May 7, 2000

Shock of the View: Artists, Audiences, and Museums in the Digital Age, Walker Art Center, 1999

Digital Documentary: The Need to Know and the Urge to Show, pArts Gallery, 1999

Cybermuseumology, Museo de Monterrey, 1999

Beyond Interface: net art and Art on the Net, Walker Art Center, 1998

TEACHING

Lecturer 2006. Art Festival 101. Graduate Curatorial Program. California College of the Arts

Lecturer 2004. Introduction to Digital Art. Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Lecturer. 2004. Introduction to Digital Art. Art History Department, University of Minnesota.

Dayton Hudson Distinguished Visiting Teacher/Artist in the Media Studies Program. 2003. Art After New Media. Carleton College.



Graduate Faculty Mentor. 2000-02. Minneapolis College of Art and Design.
Lecturer. 2001. Museum Management Program, University of Colorado
Guest Lecturer. 1997. Video As an Art Form. Macalaster College
Guest Lecturer. 1994. Information Management. University of California at Berkeley