



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 14 November 2023, via Zoom*

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Steve Dietz, Laura Helle, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Yelba Olson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

3:01pm Dir. Alkire, Board President, called the meeting to order and welcomed Dir. Steve Dietz to the board as an at-large director.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of this meeting’s agenda, as written. Motion passed with one abstention.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Helle seconded approval of the minutes from the 17 October 2023 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Dietz seconded approval of the Statement of Activity Report for October. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of the proposal on SEMAC Stipends included in the attached memo. Motion passed unanimously.**

President’s Report

- See attached.

Executive Director’s Report

- See attached.

New Business

- Approval – General Operating Support Grants

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	Facilities & Maintenance	Marin
Bridge Chamber Music Festival	Rice	Staffing & Salaries	

The Artist Sanctuary	Goodhue	Staffing & Salaries
Mainspring	Houston	Staffing & Salaries
River Arts Alliance	Winona	Staffing & Salaries

- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Freeborn County Arts Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
  - **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Bridge Chamber Music Festival. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to The Artist Sanctuary. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to Mainspring. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 for FY2024 and \$5,000 for FY2025 to River Arts Alliance. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Approval - Legacy Grants

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.40	Great River Shakespeare Festival	Winona	\$10,000	Dietz
29.00	Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	\$10,000	Dietz, Marin
29.00	Rochester Symphony	Olmsted	\$10,000	Dietz
28.60	Austin Area Arts	Mower	\$10,000	Dietz, Helle
28.50	Rochester Art Center	Olmsted	\$10,000	Dietz
28.17	Welcome Center	Mower	\$2,300	Dietz, Helle
28.00	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning	Fillmore	\$5,000	Dietz
27.86	Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	Dietz
27.83	Healthy Community Initiative	Rice	\$5,000	Dietz
27.83	Vintage Band Festival	Rice	\$10,000	Dietz
27.40	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$10,000	Dietz
27.33	Friends of Peterson	Fillmore	\$10,000	Dietz
27.33	Med City Arts Festival	Olmsted	\$10,000	Dietz, Marin
27.33	Red Wing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	Dietz
27.29	Universal Music Center	Goodhue	\$9,990	Dietz
27.20	Summerset Community Theatre	Mower	\$10,000	Dietz
27.00	International Owl Center	Houston	\$4,520	Dietz
26.83	Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative	Olmsted	\$10,000	Dietz
26.67	International Cello Institute	Rice	\$10,000	Dietz
26.57	Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$10,000	Dietz
26.50	Sheldon Theatre Brass Band	Goodhue	\$10,000	Dietz
26.40	Bridge Chamber Music Festival	Rice	\$9,650	Dietz

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
26.33	John Marshall High School	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
26.33	Shorewood Senior Campus	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
26.17	Northfield Public Library	Rice	\$5,000	Dietz
25.33	Widespot Performing Arts Center	Wabasha	\$10,000	Dietz
25.20	Engage Winona	Winona	\$5,000	Dietz

- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Great River Shakespeare Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Freeborn County Arts Initiative. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Symphony. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Area Arts. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Art Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$2,300 to Welcome Center. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Healthy Community Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Vintage Band Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Friends of Peterson. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Med City Arts Festival. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Red Wing Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$9,990 to Universal Music Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Summerset Community Theatre. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$4,520 to International Owl Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to International Cello Institute. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Paradise Center for the Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre Brass Band. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$9,650 to Bridge Chamber Music Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to John Marshall High School. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Shorewood Senior Campus. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Northfield Public Library. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Widespot Performing Arts Center. Motion passed with one abstention.
  - Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Engage Winona. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Approval - Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
28.80	Hesper-Mabel Steam Calliope	Fillmore	\$5,000	
26.67	Lanesboro Barn Dance	Houston	\$4,800	
26.67	Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$5,000	
26.50	Ye Olde Opera House	Houston	\$5,000	
26.33	Root River Current	Fillmore	\$5,000	
25.86	City of Whalan	Fillmore	\$5,000	
25.86	Wits' End Theatre	Fillmore	\$5,000	
25.50	Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools	Dodge	\$5,000	

- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Hesper-Mabel Steam Calliope. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$4,800 to Lanesboro Barn Dance. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Ye Olde Opera House. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Root River Current. Motion passed unanimously.

- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to City of Whalen. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Wits' End Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools. Motion passed unanimously.
- Approval - Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.40	Calliope Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
29.20	Children's Dance Theatre	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
29.20	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
28.17	Rochester International Film Group	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
28.00	Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz
26.60	Upper Mississippi Jazz Society	Winona	\$5,000	Dietz
26.20	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$3,650	Dietz
26.00	Bluff Country Studio Art Tour	Winona	\$5,000	Dietz, Maloney
25.80	Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$5,000	Dietz

- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Calliope Theatre Company. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Children's Dance Theatre. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Civic Theatre Company. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester International Film Group. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Chamber Music Society. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Upper Mississippi Jazz Society. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$3,650 to Rochester Repertory Theatre Company. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Bluff Country Studio Art Tour. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Male Chorus. Motion passed with one abstention.

In summary, at this meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 49 applicants representing ten counties for a total of \$334,910 in funding. This includes five general operating support grants for \$25,000, 27 Legacy grants for \$226,460, nine Programming grants for \$43,650, and eight Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$39,800.

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Dodge	1	\$5,000
Fillmore	6	\$35,000
Freeborn	2	\$15,000
Goodhue	5	\$44,990
Houston	5	\$24,320
Mower	3	\$22,300
Olmsted	13	\$83,650
Rice	7	\$54,650
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	1	\$10,000
Winona	6	\$40,000
	<b>49</b>	<b>\$334,910</b>

- Panel Candidate Lois Peterson (résumé attached)  
**Dir. Helle moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the appointment of Lois Peterson as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Helle seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:29pm.

## Executive Director Report for Board Meeting November 14, 2023

### Operations:

- Computer security work has been completed.
- Savings account is being transferred to a Money Market account with a higher interest rate.

### Grantmaking:

- General Operating Support Grants – Kjel and Kara reviewed a third batch of these with 5 applications to be proposed to the Board for approval.
- Organizational Programming Grants – 63 applications were reviewed by the panelists (35 Legacy, 19 Programming, and 9 Small Towns/Rural Areas). Based on the scores and available funding, 27 Legacy grants for a total of \$226,460; 9 Programming grants for a total of \$43,650; and 8 Small Towns grants for a total of \$39,800 (grand total of \$309,910) will be presented to the Board for approval at the November meeting.

### MSAB/McKnight:

- Office of Legislative Audit (OLA) – MSAB and the Regional Arts Councils are undergoing an OLA audit focused on our grant award process. I participated in a Zoom meeting with the auditors and other RAC directors to answer questions on October 30. OLA sent a follow up e-mail with questions specific to SEMAC on November 3. I responded to these on November 10.

### Office Space:

- Current property manager has begun advertising our space. We requested a 60-day notice.
- Working with RGI Group, we have identified two potential spaces, one at 800 sq ft across W Circle Drive for \$1,600 and one at 400 sq ft near Broadway and 37<sup>th</sup> for \$1,200.
- Also being considered is the potential of renting an office for \$1,000 in a co-office space that RGI may be incorporating into a new office building they are constructing off of W Circle Drive and scheduled to open in April.
- Karen and I are willing to work from home for a month or two, if we have to vacate our space before finding a new one.

### Networking/Grounding Work (October 13 – November 10):

- October 20 – **Austin, Mower County**, met with Kara Page, artist and high school art teacher
- October 20 – **Albert Lea, Freeborn County**, met with Susanne Crane and Elisha Marin at the Freeborn County Arts Initiative
- October 20 – **Lanesboro, Fillmore County**, attended capstone event for Paul Brokken at Commonweal Theatre
- November 8 – **Northfield, Rice County**, met with Alice Thomas of Save the Northfield Depot and met with Northfield Arts Guild staff Michael Johnson, ED, and Jennie Autonoe, Education & Engagement

### Communications:

- We have set Jacque up with an e-mail address, [communications@semac.org](mailto:communications@semac.org), and with access to FB, Foundant, and the website. She has begun work on an e-newsletter, scheduled to be sent November 28 or 29.
- Sievers draft communications plan is anticipated November 16.

### Other:

- Attended two-day FRACM meeting in St. Cloud, which included DEI training sessions, “How to Be an Ally” and “Somatic Resilience” with Aamera Siddiqui and Suzy Messerole.
- Met with Yelba to finalize the contents and creation of a draft version of a Board Orientation Manual. This draft will be reviewed by Laura Helle and Steve Dietz with plans for a final version to be distributed to all Board members in January.



## MEMO

**TO:** SEMAC Board & Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director  
**FROM:** Laura Helle, Board Treasurer  
**DATE:** October 13, 2023  
**RE:** Recommended Stipends for Boards & Panels

I recommend that SEMAC adopt a new schedule of stipends for Board and Grant Panel service as outlined below. This recommendation is largely based on SEMAC's desires to recruit and retain board and panel members from equity populations.

By providing generous stipends, board and panel members can recover lost wages, travel time, the costs of child or elder care, etc. While this is not the only way to reduce barriers to participation, it is one strategy that other organizations have used successfully.

Other non profit sectors have offered board stipends for years. The arts sector lags behind in this area. SEMAC is in a unique position to be a leader in this area and demonstrate the best practices to the arts community because our budget will support a generous stipend in addition to mileage reimbursement.

Board members would be able to choose to accept the stipend or let the funds remain with SEMAC to support the mission.

The proposed stipends are generous. After analyzing the maximum budget impact, which assumes a full board with 100% in person meeting attendance and 100% accepting the stipend, I believe SEMAC can responsibly fund the stipends for an 18 month window as a test. If, after the test period, the strategy has not resulted in more participation from equity populations or if the budget impact has been higher than expected, the stipends would sunset at that time.

See attached spreadsheets outlining the budget impact for this recommendation. I expect this memo to be received with healthy questions and debate to guide SEMAC to a final decision.

## PROPOSED

Date: January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Board Meeting Stipend: \$100 per meeting for in-person or video conference attendance  
Board Member Mileage: IRS mileage reimbursement rate per mile for actual miles driven to attend a board meeting

Grant Panel Stipend: \$125 per grant round  
Grant Panel Meeting Stipend: \$75 per meeting for in-person attendance  
Grant Panel Mileage: IRS mileage reimbursement rate per mile for actual miles driven to attend a grant panel meeting

# Panel Application

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## *SEMAC Service Opportunities*

### ***Individual Artist - Peterson, L***

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Ms Lois K Peterson  
PO Box 2123  
1045 River St  
Dakota, MN 55925

loispeterson1188@gmail.com  
O: 507-380-5251

### ***Ms Lois K Peterson***

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1045 River St  
Dakota, MN 55925

loispeterson1188@gmail.com  
O: 507-380-5251

# Application Form

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## *SEMAC Application Questions*

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### From the Apply page:

*Our charge from the State Legislature is to distribute funds for arts projects throughout southeastern Minnesota. It is imperative that the money entrusted to SEMAC is administered and dispersed wisely to ensure that such funding continues. We depend on dedicated volunteers to achieve this goal.*

*If you would like to explore joining SEMAC as a panelist or board member, please fill out this short application.*

### Project Name\*

Panel Application

The **Arts Advisory Panel** gathers four times a year to review grant proposals and make funding recommendations to our Board of Directors. Generalists interested in seeing the arts continue to flourish as well as artists specializing in dance, literary arts, music, theatre and/or visual arts who live in the eleven-county region may serve as panelists for one or two three-year terms. Panelists are reimbursed for travel expenses to attend grant review meetings.

SEMAC is governed by a **Board of Directors** who consistently demonstrate strong involvement in support of arts endeavors with the goal of perpetuating the SEMAC Mission, Vision and Core Values. The Board represents all eleven counties in the southeastern Minnesota region, and includes up to four at-large directors. These directors attend five or more meetings throughout the year to conduct SEMAC business and make funding decisions. They are also reimbursed for travel expenses.

### Where You Live\*

Tell us the county in the SEMAC Region where you currently reside.

Winona

### Service Interest\*

Indicate whether you are interested in serving in one or both capacities.

Board of Directors

### Arts Experience\*

In which of the fine arts do you have expertise or education?

Visual Arts

## Your Resume\*

Upload a one or two page resume that highlights your background in the arts, including volunteer service. for SEMAC.docx

## About You\*

Tell us a little about yourself. What prompts you to seek a volunteer opportunity with SEMAC?

Lois Peterson

My personal studio practice has always been a critical element in my life, and being a life- long advocate for the arts has been a part of my practice. I believe the arts enrich lives in communities both urban and rural as well as have a positive impact on local and global economies. During my career I founded the Clay Center at the the Arts Center of St. Peter, Mn and started the Arts Administration Program at Gustavus Adolphus College. I was fortunate to teach art making workshops in South Africa and Italy, where I was actively involved with the positive economic benefits to community members engaged with the arts. While art making is frequently an individual activity, sharing the outcome with the public is an enrichment for a much larger community.

For additional information please go to my website at: [www.loispeterson.website](http://www.loispeterson.website)

## Contacting You\*

We would like to meet and answer any questions you might have about SEMAC. Do you prefer that we phone, email or text? What time of day might you be available to meet for coffee?

Phone. I have a flexible schedule so would hope to find a time that would work for you to discuss questions we might both have.

# Evaluation Form

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## *Question Group*

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### **Project Name**

Panel Application

### **Comments about Applicant Qualifications\***

Lois is highly qualified to serve as a panelist. She initially expressed interest in being on the Board and may be a good replacement for Winona County when that county's position opens up again. In the meantime, she is happy to serve as a panelist.

### **Recommendation\***

Recommend for Panel Service

## LOIS K. PETERSON

1045 River St

Dakota, MN 55925

Home: (507) 380-5251-Cell

Email: [loispeterson1188@gmail.com](mailto:loispeterson1188@gmail.com)

[www.loispeterson.website](http://www.loispeterson.website)

<b>EDUCATION</b>	M.F.A. Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX, 1987 Major: Ceramics; Minors in Drawing, Museum studies & Art History: Graduate Reading Education, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI, 1979 Certified Reading Teacher B.S. University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, WI, 1975 Major: Art Education. Minor: Communication Studies
<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</b>	1989-2016 Professor of Art/Art History, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 2013-2015 Founder and Program Director - Arts Administration Program, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 2004-2007 Chairman, Department of Art and Art History, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 1998-2001 1995-2001 Founder and director of the Southern MN Clay Center, St. Peter, MN, Art Clay Center for the Southern Area of MN, programing including classes, exhibits and studios. 2001-2004 Johnson Endowed Chair of Fine Arts, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN 1987-89 Visiting Assistant Professor of Art: Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma WA 1985-87 Teaching Assistant - Ceramics, Art Education, Design Foundations, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 1985-86 Assistant Director, Lubbock Fine Arts Center, Lubbock, TX 1975-84 Art Education Specialist K-12 - Public Schools - Caledonia, MN and Norwalk, WI 1979-1980 Head Art Instructor: Children's Art Day Camp, Rochester Art Center, Rochester, MN
<b>UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS</b>	2024 New Visions Gallery, Marshfield, WI 2024 Lanesboro Art Center, Lanesboro, MN
<b>GALLERY REPRESENTATION</b>	Lanesboro Art Center, Lanesboro, MN River City Gallery, La Crosse, WI
<b>INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS &amp; WORKSHOPS</b>	2008 Guest Artist - Rorke's Drift Arts & Crafts Center, Rorkes Drift, South Africa - presented a three-week workshop on ceramic tile making to professional Zulu clay artists. Creating tiles reflecting and retaining the Zulu cultural heritage and artistic style. 2006 Instructor: Ceramic Tile Making: La Meridiana International Center for Ceramics, Tuscany, Italy

**SOLO AND  
TWO-PERSON  
EXHIBITIONS**

202 Pumphouse Art Center, LaCrosse, WI solo  
2  
202 Pablo Center for the Arts EauClaire, WI solo  
2  
202 The Blue Heron, Winona, MN  
1  
202 Owatonna Art Center, Owatonna, MN  
1  
202 Watkins Gallery, Winona State Univ, Winona, MN  
0  
201 Carnegie Art Center, Lois Peterson and Nicolas Darcourt, Mankato, MN  
9  
201 LaCrosse, WI Airport  
7  
201 Solo Exhibition: Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI  
6  
201 Solo Exhibition: Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN  
6