



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 19 November 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller, Sharon Mansur

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1:33pm Dir. Alkire, Board President, called the meeting to order and started introductions.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Marin seconded approval of the minutes from the 15 October 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report through October 2024. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- After having served several terms with SEMAC, Dir. Alkire announced that he will step back from the president's position due to starting a new job, and will rotate off the board at the end of his term.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached. Update on Audience Survey - 400 total.

New Business

- Approval of School Residency Grant  
**Dir Swanson moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Lake City Public Schools for *Beatboxing Saxophone Artist* (score 26.67). Motion passed with one abstention. (capstone concert 3/7/2025 at 7:30pm, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School)**
- Approval of Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.00	Chatfield Brass Band	Fillmore	\$5,000	
28.00	Root River Current	Fillmore	\$5,000	Maloney
28.00	Southeast MN Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$5,000	
27.33	Lanesboro Barn Dance	Houston	\$5,000	
26.67	City of Whalan	Fillmore	\$5,000	
26.33	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$5,000	
26.33	Wits' End Theatre	Fillmore	\$5,000	
23.67	Wabasha County Fair	Wabasha	\$2,400	
21.50	Kasson-Mantorville Community Education	Dodge	\$5,000	

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Chatfield Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Root River Current. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast MN Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Lanesboro Barn Dance. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to City of Whalan. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Wits' End Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$2,400 to Wabasha County Fair. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kasson-Mantorville Community Education. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- Approval of Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.57	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
27.86	Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
27.33	Rochester International Film Group	Olmsted	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
25.71	Little Theatre of Owatonna	Steele	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
25.43	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$3,565	Arnold, Wightkin
24.86	Bluff Country Studio Art Tour	Winona	\$5,000	Maloney, Swanson, Wightkin
24.43	Austin Community Band	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.29	Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.00	Hometown Opera Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
23.43	Rochester Community Band	Olmsted	\$5,000	Boldt, Wightkin
23.00	Zumbrota Area Arts Council	Goodhue	\$5,000	Wightkin

- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Frozen River Film Festival. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Male Chorus. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester International Film Group. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Little Theatre of Owatonna. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,565 to Rochester Repertory Theatre Company. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Bluff Country Studio Art Tour. Motion passed with three abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Austin Community Band. Motion passed with one abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Chamber Music Society. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Hometown Opera Company. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Community Band. Motion passed with two abstentions.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Zumbrota Area Arts Council. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- **Approval of Legacy Grants for Non-Arts Groups**

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
27.29	Winona ORC Industries	Winona	\$5,000	Wightkin
27.14	Healthy Community Initiative	Rice	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.80	Engage Winona	Winona	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.43	Southeast Service Cooperative	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.00	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Fillmore	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.00	International Owl Center	Houston	\$5,000	Wightkin
25.83	Hiddo Soor	Steele	\$5,000	Wightkin
25.29	Steele County Historical Society	Steele	\$2,190	Wightkin
25.20	Autism Resource Guide	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.83	Cambodian American Partnership of MN	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.71	Welcome Center	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin

- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Winona ORC Industries. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Healthy Community Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Engage Winona. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast Service Cooperative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to International Owl Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Hiddo Soor. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the motion to award \$2,190 to Steele County Historical Society. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Autism Resource Guide. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Cambodian American Partnership of MN. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Welcome Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- **Approval of Legacy Grants for Arts Organizations**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recused</b>
28.40	Rochester Art Center	Olmsted	\$10,000	
28.00	Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	
27.67	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.00	Choral Arts Ensemble	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.00	Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$10,000	
27.00	Summerset Community Theatre	Mower	\$10,000	
26.80	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$10,000	
26.60	Big Turn	Goodhue	\$10,000	
26.60	Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	\$10,000	Marin
26.25	Rochester Symphony	Olmsted	\$10,000	
26.00	Great River Shakespeare Festival	Winona	\$10,000	
26.00	Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$10,000	
26.00	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$10,000	Swanson
26.00	Widespot Performing Arts Center	Wabasha	\$10,000	
25.60	Austin Area Arts	Mower	\$10,000	Wightkin
25.60	Bridge Chamber Music Festival	Rice	\$7,275	
25.60	Med City Arts Festival	Olmsted	\$10,000	
25.50	Vintage Band Festival	Rice	\$10,000	
25.40	City of Peterson Committee for the Arts	Fillmore	\$10,000	
24.80	Austin Culture & Arts Commission	Mower	\$10,000	
24.75	Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative	Olmsted	\$10,000	
24.75	Sheldon Theatre Brass Band	Goodhue	\$10,000	
24.60	Red Wing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	

- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Art Center. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Civic Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Choral Arts Ensemble. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Paradise Center for the Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Summerset Community Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Big Turn. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Freeborn County Arts Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Symphony. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Great River Shakespeare Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mantorville Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mid West Music Fest. 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 unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Area Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin/Hardy moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$7,275 to Bridge Chamber Music Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Wightkin/Chai moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Med City Arts Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin/Maloney moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Vintage Band Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire/Marin moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to City of Peterson Committee for the Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Wightkin/Marin moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Culture & Arts Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin/Chai moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire/Arnold moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Dir. Alkire/Hardy moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Red Wing Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 55 applicants representing eleven counties for a total of \$378,430 in funding. This includes one School Residency grant for \$3,000, 34 Legacy grants for \$279,465, eleven Programming grants for \$53,565, and nine Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$42,400.

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Dodge	2	\$15,000
Fillmore	6	\$35,000
Freeborn	1	\$10,000
Goodhue	5	\$45,000
Houston	3	\$15,000
Mower	5	\$40,000
Olmsted	15	\$103,565
Rice	5	\$42,275
Steele	3	\$12,190
Wabasha	4	\$24,000
Winona	6	\$40,000
	<b>55</b>	<b>\$378,430</b>

- Board Candidate Melissa Wray  
**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the appointment of Melissa Wray as the Houston County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Formation of JEDI Committee (justice equity diversity inclusion)  
Anyone interested in serving one hour per month with ED Shartin, Dir. Wightkin and Dir. Chai.
- Mid-Term Executive Committee Changes  
**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Boldt seconded appointment of Dir. Marin, president, Dir. Hardy vice president, and Dir. Arnold treasurer, to act as the executive committee of the SEMAC Board of Directors to serve until June 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Upcoming Board Meetings 1:30-3:00 SECOND TUESDAY

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

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting November 19, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Organizational Grants October deadline – 56 final applications reviewed; panel meetings held via Zoom on November 13 and 14
- Decided to eliminate LOI for Individual Artist Grants, starting with January round

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- 335 Economic Impact Surveys collected to date by Johanna Frisch and Taliesen Nyala, including 85 from BIPOC events (goal of 400 total by the end of the year, including 80 BIPOC)
- October 29 – Submitted McKnight Final Report for FY2024
- November 1 – FRACM meeting (Zoom)
- November 6 – Submitted MSAB Final Report for FY2024
- November 14 – MSAB meeting (Zoom)
- November 14 – MCA Post-Election 2024 Webinar

## Networking (October 12 – November 15, 2024):

- October 14, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Indigenous People’s Day Celebration in Peace Plaza
- October 25, Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – McKnight Fellowship Information Session and visited Lanesboro Arts to see exhibition installation in progress for “Embodied Multiplicity: Group Exhibition from Lanesboro BIPOC Artists-in-Residence”
- November 4, Zoom – Ash Hanson, ED, Department of Public Transformation
- November 12, Faribault, **Rice County** – met with Ibrahim Khalif, ED, Faribault Youth Empowerment Center and stopped in to see Julie Fakler, ED, Paradise Center for the Arts
- November 13, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Rochester Art Center annual meeting
- November 15, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Matthew Winkler, artist

## Communications:

- November e-newsletter sent to 1,192 recipients
- Contracted with Kallie Rollenhagen, photographer, to capture high quality photos and video clips of six SEMAC funded capstone events to supplement Jacque’s geographic reach

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Hired Outreach and Accessibility Manager
- Needs Assessment Survey closed October 31 with a total of 223 submitted
- October 25 – attended Exposed Brick Theatre’s, *Log Kya Kahenge (What Will People Say?)* at Lyric Arts, Anoka, MN
- October 28 – met with Lisa Higgs regarding her proposal for a Rochester Cultural Plan
- October 29 – attended meeting at UM Rochester re: “Pathways to Prosperity”, a study by University of Minnesota Extension Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
- October 30 – attended GIA webinar on Capitalization and Non-profit Health
- November 5 – Executive Committee meeting
- November 12 – attended “Beyond the Clock” event hosted by Department of Public Transformation (Zoom)