



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 11 March 2025, via Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Andi Arnold, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjel Alkire, Tony Boldt, Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller

1:32pm Dir. Marin, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, with no president's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Hardy seconded approval of the minutes from the 11 February 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed with one abstention.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Monitoring Reports

- Dir. Stinson attended the capstone event for Big Turn Music Fest. Her report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.
- Dir. Hardy attended the capstone event for Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle. His report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.

Ongoing Grant

- Since the last board meeting, ED Shartin approved a \$500 opportunity grant to Quilters Therapy in Fillmore County to pay artist expenses for their *Neighborhood Sewcial* scheduled for April 5, 2025.

Old Business

- Biennial Plan.
Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. Motion passed unanimously.
- The Individual Artist Grant Eligibility Policy was tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business

- Approval of Advancing Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.00	Christopher Tauzell	Olmsted	\$5,000	
28.83	Dawn Mikkelson	Goodhue	\$5,000	
28.75	Ivete Martinez	Olmsted	\$5,000	
28.50	Martha Larson	Rice	\$5,000	
28.33	Annie Mack	Olmsted	\$5,000	Marin, Wray
28.20	Kate Bauman	Goodhue	\$5,000	
27.67	Kent McInnis	Rice	\$5,000	
27.00	David John Kassler	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
27.00	JC Sanford	Rice	\$5,000	
26.83	Barbara Schwenk	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.83	Shari Setchell	Rice	\$5,000	
26.80	Maggie Panetta	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.50	La Vonte Thompson	Winona	\$5,000	
25.80	Scott Roberts	Rice	\$5,000	
25.67	Mike Speck	Winona	\$5,000	
25.67	Paul Dice	Rice	\$5,000	
24.83	Roger Nelson	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.67	Benjamin Gateno	Olmsted	\$4,380	
24.67	Robbie Brokken	Fillmore	\$5,000	Marin

Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$94,380 in full funding to the 19 Advancing Artist applicants who scored 24.67 and higher. Motion passed with four abstentions.

- Approval of Emerging Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.83	Micaiah McNeilus	Fillmore	\$3,000	
28.33	Andrew Kranz	Winona	\$3,000	
27.17	Marlene Petersen	Olmsted	\$3,000	
27.00	Elizabeth Tevis	Winona	\$3,000	
26.50	Megan McCarthy	Winona	\$2,455	
26.33	Melissa Wray	Houston	\$3,000	Marin, Wray
25.67	Libby Schultz	Olmsted	\$3,000	
25.67	Lisa Becker	Winona	\$3,000	
24.83	Brian Johnson	Goodhue	\$3,000	
24.80	Rosei Skipper	Olmsted	\$3,000	
24.67	Nat Wilson	Rice	\$3,000	

Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to award \$32,455 in full funding to the 11 Emerging Artist applicants who scored 24.67 and higher. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 31 applicants representing six counties for a total of \$127,335 in funding. This includes one opportunity grant for \$500, 11 emerging artist grants for \$94,380, and 19 advancing artist grants for \$32,455

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	
Fillmore	3	\$8,500
Freeborn	0	
Goodhue	3	\$13,000
Houston	1	\$3,000
Mower	0	
Olmsted	11	\$48,380
Rice	7	\$33,000
Steele	0	
Wabasha	0	
Winona	6	\$21,455
	31	\$127,335

- Panel Candidate René Halasy
Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the appointment of René Halasy as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.

Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to adjourn.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

Executive Director Report for Board Meeting March 11, 2025

Grantmaking:

- February 26 – Step by step grant writing workshop for organizations
- March 3 – Grants Committee Meeting
- March 5 and 6 – Panel Review Meetings for the Individual Artists and Culture Bearers Grant

MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- February 20 – Attended MCA webinar, Making Arguments for the Arts
- February 28 – FACM Executive Committee Meeting
- March 4 – Attended rally for Arts Advocacy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol
- March 7 – FACM Board Meeting

Regional Networking (February 7 – March 7, 2025):

- February 7, Northfield, **Rice County** – attended capstone event for Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle at Northfield Arts Guild
- February 10, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended capstone event for Suz Szucs and Cassandra Buck at 125 Live
- February 14, Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – met with Heidi Bacon, Executive Director, and Board members of the Artist Sanctuary
- February 15, Winona, **Winona County** – attended Frozen River Film Festival
- February 21, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended “When Artists Go to Work: A Dialogue” with Sophia Chai and Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara at Griots Arts
- February 27, Chatfield, **Fillmore County** – visited Rita and Paul LeDuc’s exhibit
- February 28, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended The Sound of Gospel at the Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall
- March 6, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended reception for Kjellgren Alkire’s exhibit at RCTC

Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- March e-newsletter sent to 1,256 recipients

Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel Non-profits
- February 19 – attended Propel Non-profits webinar, Fundamentals of Non-profit Finance
- Continued work on Biennial Plan, including meeting with Board members on February 27