Application

181008 - FY 2026-2027 Regional Arts Council Documents
181607 - SEMAC FY 2026-2027 Biennial Plan
Regional Arts Councils

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Organization Information

Legal Name:	Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council
Alternate Name	
City	Rochester

Preliminary Biennial Plan

Preliminary Biennial Plan - PDF	1744390477903_SoutheasternMinnesotaArtsCouncil_PrelimApplication.pdf
Preliminary Biennial Plan - Budget Only	1744390477926_SoutheasternMinnesotaArtsCouncil_PrelimBudget.pdf

Narrative

Title

Your council's name or acronym followed by FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan (e.g., Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan)

(100 characters max)

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan

Mission statement

The biennial plan must include the regional arts council's mission statement which must describe the overall philosophy and aims of the organization concerning local and regional arts development.

(1,000 characters max)

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants, and services.

Region - Background, demographics, other context for the plan

(5,000 characters max)

Provide any necessary context about your region (i.e., economic, demographic, geographic, cultural, etc.) or about your organization that has a meaningful impact on your planning or your programs and services.

SEMAC has served as the designated regional arts council for Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties, including the Prairie Island Indian Community since 1977.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2022 numbers, the total population of the 11-county region is 520,313, which is just over 9% of Minnesota's total population. 83.3% of the population is white, 6.4% is Hispanic, 4.4% is Black, 3.6% is Asian, 1.9% is of two or more races, .4% is American Indian and Native Alaskan, and .1% is Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. 5.4% of the population are veterans, 10.3% are people with disabilities (all ages), 18.9% are seniors, and 9.3% are living in poverty. The top three non-English languages spoken in the region are Hmong, Somali, and Spanish. In the last election, the region voted overwhelmingly conservative. Of the 23 State Senators and Representatives currently representing the region, 18 are affiliated with the Republican Party.

Rochester, the third largest city in the state with a population of more than 121,000, is centrally located in the region. There are also several mid-size towns, including Albert Lea, Austin, Faribault, Northfield, Owatonna, Red Wing, and Winona, which each have populations of between 16,500 and 27,000. However, the region is primarily rural with many small towns that have fewer than 5,000 residents, including Caledonia, Chatfield, Mantorville, and Zumbrota, and dozens of even smaller towns with populations under 1,000, including Lanesboro which has 723 residents.

The region is home to the Mayo Clinic, one of the State's largest employers, and to Hormel Foods, which is an economic driver and philanthropic entity impacting Mower County in particular. The 11-county region has forty-three K-12 school districts, four community college campuses, and five colleges and universities. The Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind are located in the region. The region also boasts access to nature, including 11 State Parks, the Zumbro River and Root River watersheds, and the Mississippi River runs along its eastern border.

There are several vibrant arts communities in the region, each with multiple arts organizations, support from local non-arts groups, and active communities of artists working in multiple disciplines. Noteworthy among these are Lanesboro, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, and Winona.

The majority of arts organizations in the region are small and have limited, if any, paid staff and are mainly managed by volunteers. However, there are also many large arts organizations, 18 of which recently were awarded Operating Support grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board. A total of 114 arts organizations who have sought support from SEMAC since July 2015 are registered in the grant interface.

Attachment (optional)

Needs assessment

(10,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must be based on a needs assessment carried out in a manner which ensured input from the arts community and the arts involved public. The components of the needs assessment shall be determined by the regional arts council and may consist of any combination of constituent meetings, focus groups, program evaluations, mail, e-mail, online, or telephone surveys, individual interviews, or other evaluative tools. The assessment shall be conducted to assess and prioritize constituent needs, to evaluate appropriate community and regional resources to meet those needs, and to determine the practicality of continuing existing programming activities, service and grants assistance programs, or the feasibility of developing new programs, services, or grants by the regional arts council. The needs assessment shall be updated at intervals determined and announced by the regional arts council, but no less frequently than once every four years. The results shall be included in the biennial plan.

In this section, describe:
1. When the needs assessment was completed.
2. The process used to generate input from the arts community and the arts involved public.
3. The methods and/or tools used to gather input.
4. The key findings identified through the needs assessment.

SEMAC's FY2026-2027 Biennial Plan was informed by the results of an on-line Needs Assessment Survey as well as by information and feedback gathered through nearly 100 one-on-one conversations SEMAC's executive director engaged in with artists, arts administrators, directors of nonprofit non-arts organizations, teachers, and other community leaders throughout the 11-county region since June 2023 when she was hired. Board members also met with individuals in their counties and submitted written notes to be considered.

The Needs Assessment Survey was written by the executive director and members of an ad hoc committee of the Board and was open from September 15 through October 31, 2024. It was publicized through multiple channels including SEMAC's October e-newsletter and two e-mail blasts, each of which was sent to more than 1,200 contacts; several social media posts from September 25 through October 31 on Facebook and Instagram; a month-long Meta ad in October targeting specific zip codes throughout the region; and press releases sent to 37 media outlets. The Meta ad resulted in 18,692 impressions and 265 clicks on the link. To supplement these publicity efforts, staff, Board, and Arts Advisory Panel members sent direct e-mails with information about and a link to the Survey to their friends and colleagues.

In total, we received 223 responses to the Survey in the following categories: 50 from individual artists, 34 from grant coordinators from arts organizations, 14 from grant coordinators from non-arts organizations, 51 from those with other paid or volunteer roles at arts or non-arts organizations, 14 from people with previous ties to SEMAC or to another arts or non-arts organization, and 60 from individuals who selected "none of the above". SEMAC's staff and Board were impressed with the number of responses which more than doubled our expectations and pleased with the distribution of these across categories. (Full report is attached.)

Key Findings
While survey respondents had a generally favorable view of SEMAC (for example, 63% of respondents ranked interactions with SEMAC staff as "excellent" and a majority of arts organizations felt SEMAC's current programs served the region well), several key areas for improvement were identified by staff and Board after review of SEMAC's Needs Assessment Survey report:

- Increase Awareness of SEMAC and Engagement with Underrepresented Groups (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1)
- Low survey participation from counties other than Olmsted and Winona, indicating SEMAC's low engagement with those counties
- Low survey participation from BIMPOC individuals (4% of survey respondents vs. 16.7% living in our region according to US Census 2022), indicating SEMAC's low engagement with these groups
- Low awareness of SEMAC and of its programs (25% of unaffiliated respondents indicated they were completely unaware of SEMAC)
- Limited rural/small town arts opportunities
- Rural communities need more encouragement and example projects

- Adjust Grant Amounts (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #3)
- 46% of respondents overall wanted larger grant amounts (rising expenses are a concern and organizations want to keep their programs affordable)
- A desire for smaller grant amounts also was expressed, for individual artists through a simpler application process as a way of encouraging young/new artists to apply and for organizations (esp. for very small organizations, $5,000 can be more than they need/can manage)
- Organizations expressed interest in more flexibility with the grant structure and amounts
- Arts organizations also expressed a need for support in addition to programming grants, things such as staff trainings and strategic planning particularly to address the changes causing stress on the arts post-COVID

- Improve Application, Grant Review Process, Capstone Requirement, and Reporting (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #3)
- Feedback from organizations on grant application and reporting process included many who said the application process was moderately difficult or difficult, and that the reporting process was difficult or very difficult
- Comments that panel members are biased and do not read applications carefully
- Artists and small organizations requesting more grant writing support
- Requirement of Capstone Event for individual artists can be burdensome – need for more flexibility

- Provide Opportunities for Professional Development and Networking for Artists (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #2)
- Requests for more professional development opportunities for individuals
- Requests for more professional development opportunities for organizations (specifically mentioned marketing/communications, budgeting/financial reporting, Board training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and strategic planning)
- Requests for more networking opportunities for artists
- Interest in networking, collaboration, and shared resources among arts organizations

- Improve Communications and Website (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1)
- Respondents indicated they would like SEMAC's help promoting arts activities in the region (including social media, local promotions, and an arts calendar)
- Several comments that SEMAC's website is difficult to navigate

These findings support similar feedback the Executive Director received during her one-on-one meetings. Additional takeaways were:

- Networking (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1) Facilitate conversations designed to allow participants to communicate with others in the region on specific issues, challenges, and actions most relevant to them.
- Art, Nature, and Wellness (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1) Strong interest among arts and non-arts organizations in interdisciplinary partnerships exploring the intersection of art, nature, and wellness.
- School Residency Grants (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #4) From teachers and school administrators when asked about low demand for the school residency program: there is a strong interest in having students interact with artists and exposing students to new art forms and processes, but the main obstacle to schools applying is limited time.
- Support for Young Artists (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #4) Explore offering small grants to individuals (i.e. $1,000) with a simplified application process and without a capstone event requirement aimed at supporting artists and culture bearers who may just be graduating or starting out in their art career. This would introduce them to applying for grants and provide them with the income or resources they need to continue making work. Various other ideas emerged about ways SEMAC could support younger and new artists in addition to grants, such as mentorships, cohorts, etc.

Attachment (optional) 1742842486966_SEMAC_Needs Assessment Survey Results.pdf

Description of the planning process

(5,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must include a description of the biennial planning process used by the council including a list of the steps included in the development of the biennial plan and the participants involved in the biennial planning process.

Although the opportunity to develop this Biennial Plan and envision the future of SEMAC was on the mind of the new executive director the day she was hired in June 2023, the planning process formally began on December 10, 2024, with a day-long in-person meeting of SEMAC's three staff members, contracted communications manager, and chair of the Board to review and discuss the results of the Needs Assessment Survey (see attachment in Needs Assessment section above.) A summary of these results was presented to the full Board at their December 17 meeting, with the majority of that meeting devoted to discussing the report and identifying key findings to be reflected in SEMAC's Plan.

With these key findings in mind, the executive director drafted Work Plan Priorities with the staff and presented these to the Board at their meeting on January 14, 2025. In response to the Board's input and in consideration of the organization's capacity and resources, staff continued to review and edit these throughout the planning process.

Also at the January Board meeting, we heard from invited guest Andi Sutton, Executive Director of the Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension, who presented the findings of a recent study she conducted with the Southeast Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and the Center for Urban Regional Affairs (CURA), Pathways to Prosperity: Evaluating Collaboration Opportunities for Southeast and South Central Minnesota Funders to Better Serve Inclusion and Equity-Focused Grantees. The goal of this study was to identify how Southern Minnesota funders could best equip resilient communities-focused organizations that are BIPOC-led and BIPOC serving to realize their goals and spark transformative change at the community level.

Sutton shared eight primary findings from the study: traditional philanthropy is failing BIPOC-led organizations in that it favors well-resourced groups; short-term funding = short-term impact; funders need to trust BIPOC-led organizations to lead change; one size does not fit all, i.e. rural and urban organizations have different needs; risk-averse funders are stifling innovation; reporting burden hurts impact; relationships matter more than metrics; and be aware of "equity talk" without "equity walk". She also shared recommendations from the study for funders: provide technical support, offer flexible funding, develop relational strategies, increase cultural awareness, and advocate for systems change. Although SEMAC acknowledges this work is never done and there is a lot we have yet to learn, the findings of the study are reflected in the Biennial Plan, primarily with its focus on outreach and inclusion, as well as simplifying the grant process and offering more grant writing support.

Grants Committee meetings in January and February focused on discussions of possible changes to SEMAC's grant programs in response to the Needs Assessment. A final draft describing the updated grants programs was finalized by the executive director and Committee members via e-mail throughout February.

On February 27, a meeting was held for Board members to review the final drafts of the Work Plan Priorities, Program Information, and Budget sections of the Biennial Plan. Seven of eleven members attended, and one additional member submitted notes.

On March 3, the Grants Committee reviewed a final draft of the grants programs and provided input on final questions regarding the new programs.
The executive director was primarily responsible for creating the budgets for FY2026 and 2027 to align with the Plan. She worked with a financial consultant at Propel NonProfits.

On March 11, the Board approved the preliminary plan. The plan was posted on the SEMAC website on March 13. This and the public meeting were publicized in the March e-newsletter sent to more than 1,200 contacts, in an e-mail blast, in a social media post, and through an ad buy on Facebook. Staff and board also sent direct e-mails to colleagues and community leaders inviting them to share their thoughts. A link to a Google Form was provided for written feedback or questions.

A public meeting was held on March 18 via Zoom. More information about this and solicitation of public feedback is below, in the Public Meeting section of this application.

Attachment (optional)

Work plan for grants, programs, and services - Overview

(4,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must include a work plan which contains a description of services, programs, and grants available from the council, and the goals and objectives of these activities as related to the needs assessment, and the 25-year arts legacy outcomes.

SEMAC will promote regional arts development in FY 2026 – 2027 by offering financial support to artists and culture bearers, non-profit arts organizations, and non-arts organizations through six grant programs; by providing services to artists, culture bearers, and organizations such as grant writing workshops and professional development opportunities; and by promoting arts activities to the general public through a monthly e-newsletter and an on-line regional arts calendar. (A complete list of services is in the Program Information attachment.)

The six grant programs SEMAC will offer in FY 2026 – 2027 are Project Support for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers, Rural Arts, Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools, Programming Support for Organizations, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building for Arts Organizations (in FY2027 only), and General Operating Support for Arts Organizations. Noteworthy changes made to the grant programs as a result of the Needs Assessment as compared to the previous biennium include:
- grant amounts were increased for individuals and organizations
- individuals may apply to the Rural Arts Grant and this grant now requires a collaboration with one or more community organizations to ensure even the smallest communities in our region receive funding and to promote community-building through the arts
- individuals may apply for the Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools grant, which will remove primary responsibility for this residency program from teachers and potentially increase the number of opportunities for K-12 students to interact with artists and culture bearers
- a new grant program was developed, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building, to provide support arts organizations expressed needing to ensure their stability and future strength

With the addition of an Outreach and Accessibility Manager to the staff, SEMAC's capacity to offer services has expanded significantly. We will offer more one-on-one grant coaching, develop and circulate a resource list for artists and culture bearers, increase the number of grant-writing workshops annually, and identify ways to make our programs and services more accessible. In partnership with Springboard for the Arts, Propel NonProfits, and Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement, SEMAC will improve upon our previous artist workshops and expand to include workshops for arts organizations.

In the previous biennium, SEMAC made improvements to its communications and promotions through an e-newsletter sent to more than 1,200 contacts monthly, social media, and printed postcards and handouts. In response to the Needs Assessment, we will continue this work to increase awareness of SEMAC and encourage participation in the arts with an on-line regional arts calendar to be promoted to the general public.

SEMAC is committed to providing grants and services with a goal of equitability and inclusivity. This spring, we will see the results of the Equity Audit that Exposed Brick Theatre was hired to conduct by the Forum of Regional Arts Councils (FRACM). SEMAC will use the audit and the data we have collected on our grantmaking since FY 2023 to focus our outreach efforts. Our data show that, during that time period, 12.2% of SEMAC's grants to individuals were awarded to people of color, whereas the region's BIMPOC population is 16.7%. Looking at SEMAC's grantmaking history by county, we see that several counties are being underserved, namely Dodge, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele, and Wabasha. Individuals in these counties made up less than 3% of grant recipients and organizations in each of these counties received between 1.6 % and 8.1% of all organizational grants.

The Work Plan Priorities, detailed actions, and measurable outcomes in the next section address the 25-year Arts Legacy goals.

Attachment (optional)

Are you ready to work on work plan priority 1?	Yes

Work Plan Priority 1 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #1 – Expand Outreach, Inclusion, and Accessibility Efforts
- Conduct targeted outreach to counties and communities historically underserved by SEMAC, including Prairie Island Indian Community
- Offer grant writing workshops for individuals and organizations on Zoom and in communities underserved by SEMAC in partnership with local organizations
- Partner with organizations serving underserved populations to provide grant coaching and language services to applicants
- Identify diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals for SEMAC and take steps to implement
- Expand SEMAC's social media network and increase number of e-newsletter subscribers
- Improve regional arts calendar on website and promote this resource to the general public
- Develop interdisciplinary partnerships to engage the community in conversations about the role of art, nature, and wellness

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 1 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)	Individuals and organizations historically underserved by SEMAC will engage as grant applicants, recipients, workshop participants, and partners.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life	
Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are	Yes
People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts	Yes
People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding	
The arts thrive in Minnesota	

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

SEMAC will collect demographic information from applicants, workshop participants, and people who receive grant coaching and language services and compare this to similar data from previous years to track whether the number of new people from the counties and underserved communities being targeted has increased. SEMAC will pay close attention to the demographics of grantees to measure the results of our outreach efforts. Our goal will be to increase the percentage of grants awarded to BIMPOC individuals from the current measure of 12.2% to 15% and to raise the percentage of grants awarded to underserved counties currently at 1.7% to 8.1% by a minimum of 2% each. Increased numbers of e-newsletter recipients, social media followers, and people using the calendar on the website also will help measure how much the region believes the arts are vital to their lives.

Is there a second work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 2 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #2 – Provide Professional Development and Networking Opportunities for Artists, Culture Bearers, and Organizations
- Offer professional development workshops for artists in partnership with Springboard for the Arts with facilitated opportunities for networking
- Offer arts management training opportunities for arts organizations in partnership with Propel Nonprofits and Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement (MAVA) with facilitated opportunities for networking
- Develop a resource list for artists with other grant opportunities, organizations offering professional support and training, residencies, etc.
- Identify a plan to coordinate in-person networking events and take steps to implement

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 2 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)

Individual artists, culture bearers, and leaders of arts organizations learn new skills, advance their careers, and lead with confidence.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life

Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are

People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts

People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding

The arts thrive in Minnesota Yes

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

We will distribute surveys following each workshop or training seeking input on skills and useful information gained by the participants and to learn if their connections in the region increased because of the networking opportunities included. The results will be shared with our contract partners and reviewed by SEMAC staff to inform future planning.

Is there a third work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 3 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #3 – Administer Grant Programs with a Focus on Improving Processes
- Provide financial support in the form of grants to individual artists, culture bearers, arts organizations, and non-arts organizations (including schools, local government and tribal entities, etc.)
- Simplify grant applications and reporting requirements
- Improve website navigation and reduce accessibility barriers to grant information
- Review all e-mail templates used for grant communications for clarity and to ensure information is up to date
- Recruit new Arts Advisory Panel members to ensure diverse representation of arts expertise and cultural backgrounds, and participation from all 11 counties
- Continue diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-bias training for Panel members

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 3 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)

Grant funds are awarded following SEMAC's policies and procedures and a majority of applicants report the process is uncomplicated and transparent.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life Yes

Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are

People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts Yes

People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding Yes

The arts thrive in Minnesota

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

A survey will be sent to all applicants after each grant round seeking information about the application process. The Executive Director also will read all final reports and follow-up with applicants personally to learn more about their experience. On SEMAC?s blog we also post monthly Impact Stories to share how particular grant-funded activities affected the artist, culture bearer, organization, audience, and community at large.

Is there a fourth work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 4 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #4 – Ensure SEMAC Continues to be a Good Steward of Public Funds
- Hire a consultant to work with staff and Board to review and update bylaws, mission, vision, and goals, and to develop a long-range strategic plan
- Set a plan to celebrate SEMAC's 50th anniversary in FY2028
- Review, update, and consolidate organization's policies and procedures
- Evaluate General Operating Support Grant Program with changes to be implemented FY2028
- Assess Artists in the Schools Grant Program with changes to be implemented FY2027 or 2028
- Research and develop a micro-granting or guaranteed income program for individual artists and culture bearers to launch in FY2028
- Continue annual diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for SEMAC staff and Board
- Establish a committee of the Board to develop equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility goals for SEMAC; integrate these throughout the work plan; and track progress

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 4 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)	Outcomes include a long-range plan, easy to reference policies and procedures, improvements to existing programs, and development of new programs.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life	
Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are	
People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts	
People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding	Yes
The arts thrive in Minnesota	
Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)	SEMAC will monitor participation numbers and frequency of engagement in our programs and services as an indication of support and trust among artists, community leaders, organizations, and the general public throughout our region.
Is there a fifth work plan priority?	No

Program information

(7,000 characters max)

Describe the grants and other forms of assistance the council will provide, the review criteria for evaluating grant requests, and eligibility requirements.

SEMAC will promote regional arts development by offering financial support totaling $810,000 in FY2026 and $925,000 in FY2027 to artists and culture bearers, nonprofit arts organizations, and non-arts organizations through these grant programs:
1) Project Grants for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers encourage individual artists and culture bearers to take the next step in their creative pursuits by providing the financial support needed to experiment, take on a challenge, or deepen their practice. The grant proposal must be to support the creation of new work and include an opportunity for public engagement with that work.

2) Rural Arts Grants bring arts experiences into the smallest rural communities in southeastern Minnesota with populations below 7,500. The lead applicant can be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or a non-profit organization in the rural community where the project is proposed to take place. Proposed projects must include a collaboration with a local community partner – a non-profit organization, library, government department or agency, tribal entity, etc. – opportunities for active community engagement, and an accessible public event.

3) Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to work directly with artists and culture bearers during the school day. Grant activities must supplement the school's arts curriculum and not be a substitute for these requirements. The lead applicant can either be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or the school in which the residency will take place. Written acknowledgement from the secondary applicant (school or artist) confirming their commitment and role in the proposed activities is required. No public event is required however the participating school must agree to share the residency in their district's communications to families, with the School Board, and with any local press contacts to raise awareness of the importance of the arts.

4) Programming Support Grants for Organizations support activities directly involved in the creation, performance, publication, and exhibition of the arts with a focus in one or more of the three key areas identified in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Legacy Amendment – Arts Access, Arts Education, and Cultural Heritage. Nonprofit arts and non-arts organizations (non-profits, schools, local government and tribal entities) are eligible to apply, and collaborations between arts and non-arts organizations are encouraged. An accessible public event is required.

5) Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants is a new program that we plan to launch in FY2027. It will provide the support nonprofit arts organizations need to adapt to change, work on new strategies, develop competencies, or improve processes and systems.
Examples of eligible proposals include feasibility studies for accessibility, strategic planning, financial consultation, and professional development opportunities for staff. Proposals to purchase new equipment to be used for arts programming also will be considered, if the applicant can make a strong case for how it would increase the organization's ability to better serve the needs of its community and/or contribute to the future financial health of the organization. In addition to a written final report, representatives from organizations receiving this grant must participate in a public forum to share information gained and the impact of the grant on their organization.

6) General Operating Support Grants are available to nonprofit arts organizations with operating expenses of less than $174,000 to strengthen and stabilize their organization by supporting administrative and other overhead expenses over the course of two years (biennial grant). Recipients of this grant must submit an interim report after Year One to receive Year Two payment.

Full descriptions of the grant programs, including eligibility requirements, grant project restrictions, disallowed expenses, and review criteria are under the "Grants" tab found on the home page of SEMAC's website, www.semac.org.

In addition to grant programs, SEMAC offers the following services to individuals and organizations: workshops and training sessions, grant writing workshops and one-on-one assistance, resource lists, networking opportunities, language services, and regional promotion of their arts and cultural activities.

Attachment (optional)

Grant making and monitoring process

(5,000 characters max)

Provide a detailed description of the council's grant making process including the review process, the terms of the grant contract with grant recipients, the time needed and process followed in paying grant recipients, the responsibilities of grantees, and the grant monitoring process.

Grant applications are posted 30 days prior to the submission deadline. Staff is available throughout that time period for questions and, if an applicant submits their application at least one week prior to the deadline, they can request the staff review it and provide input. Applicants also can request one-on-one grant coaching support.

Once an application is submitted, the Grants Program Manager reviews it to confirm the applicant is eligible, the application is complete, and the budget does not include disallowed expenses. The Executive Director then reviews the narrative sections of the application to ensure the proposed project does not break any rules.

Eligible applications for the Project Support for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers grants, Rural Arts grants, Programming Support Grants for Organizations, and Artists & Culture Bearers in the Schools grants are assigned to Arts Advisory Panel members for their review. Subcommittees of the Board review Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building grant applications, as well as General Operating Support applications. The Panel is comprised of artists, arts professionals, and other community members who support the arts and who live in the SEMAC region. Panelists may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Interested individuals apply to join the Panel. The Executive Director interviews the applicant and makes a recommendation to the Board for a vote.

Panelists and Board members are given three to four weeks to review the grants assigned to them independently. The Executive Director facilitates a meeting on Zoom during which the reviewers discuss each application based on the review criteria. These meetings are open to the public and recorded. The link to the recording and the panelists' written comments are shared with the applicants after awards are announced.

The following three criteria are used to review all grants: 1) artistic merit and quality of the project or program, 2) demand or need for the project or program by the applicant or by the constituents served, and 3) ability to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented. At the conclusion of the public review meeting, each reviewer assigns a score from 1 – 5, with 5 being the highest, to each criterion for each application. The Grants Program Manager calculates the average score for each application and creates a list of applications in order from highest to lowest score. The Executive Director identifies the funding available for that grant round and then identifies which applications to present to the Board for approval by starting at the top and going down the list until funds run out. This list is presented to the Board for a vote.

It should be noted that the Panel and Board are asked to verbally declare conflicts of interest with a grant application prior to discussion of that application at the panel review meeting and prior to any discussion or vote on that application at the Board meeting. Panel members or Board members with a conflict are assigned to a breakout room on Zoom. If a meeting is held in-person, the person with a conflict will be required to leave the room.

Awards are announced the day after the Board meeting at which the applications were approved. Applicants are notified at that time as well and those receiving grants are sent a contract. Within two weeks after the contract is signed, the grant check is mailed. The earliest start date for a grant project is 90 days after the submission deadline.

Grantees are required to follow the terms of their contracts and to submit a final report within 30 days after their stated end date. The form for this is made available to them on the grant interface as soon as the contract is signed, allowing them to preview the information they will be asked to provide. If as the project unfolds the applicant must make a change to the budget, timeframe, or another aspect of the proposed project, they must submit a Request to Modify for the approval of the Executive Director. In addition to the final report serving as a source of information about the outcomes of a grant funded project, Board members attend public activities for these projects in the county they represent and submit a Monitoring Report Form. This form asks if SEMAC was acknowledged and if the project was what they expected from having read the grant proposal. It is reviewed by the Executive Director and shared with the full Board. Staff also attend grantees' activities and report on them to the Board.

See the Grant Making and Monitoring attachment for more details about SEMAC's grantmaking process, application requirements, Conflict of Interest Policy, scoring rubrics, terms of the grant contract, and responsibility of grantees. By-laws also are included.

Attachment (optional) 1743461127599_SEMAC_Grant Making and Monitoring.pdf

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Public meeting

(1,000 characters max)

Each council must hold at least one public meeting to solicit reaction to its preliminary biennial plan before it is approved and submitted to the Arts Board.
Provide the date(s) and location(s) of the public meeting(s). How was the public informed? Who participated in the meeting (types and numbers of attendees)?

The Public Meeting was held March 18, from 6 – 8 pm, on Zoom. 11 people attended – 2 SEMAC Board members, 4 artists, 3 staff and a volunteer from arts orgs, and Becca Graves from ARAC. 5 additional people submitted Feedback Response Forms – staff from 2 non-arts orgs, a volunteer from a rural arts org, and 2 anonymous. 6 of 11 counties were represented – Fillmore, Freeborn, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

The public was informed in these ways (also see attachment):
Feb 1 – Website updated, "Save the Date" in Feb e-newsletter to 1256 contacts
Feb 24 – Press release to 68 local and regional newspapers and radio stations
Mar 1 – Article in Mar e-newsletter to 1256 contacts
Mar 6 – FB Event
Mar 11 – Meta Traffic Campaign
Mar 12 – FB and Insta post
Mar 13 – Prelim Plan, Meeting Registration, and Response Form on website
Mar 14 – FB and Insta Story, E-blast to 1253 Contacts
Mar 18 – FB and Insta Story, FB Event reshared
Mar 19 – Public Meeting video and PPT on website
Mar 24 – Response Form closed

Attachment (optional) 1743519048555_SEMAC_Public Meeting.pdf

Attach Files Here

Required attachments

Council's bylaws 1742843462876_SEMAC_By-laws.pdf

Board information
? Names and affiliations
? Arts experience and background requirements for membership
? Nomination process - including a statement of the council's commitment and methods used to identify, recruit, and appoint board members to provide representation from all counties
? Rotation system - to ensure replacement of members on a regular basis

Board information 1742843462891_SEMAC_Board Information.pdf

Staff information
? Names and titles
? Job descriptions

Staff information	1742843462858_SEMAC_Staff Information.pdf

Is council part of a regional develoment commission?
If yes, attach a memorandum describing the policies and procedures under which grants will be made including a statement that the regional development commission agrees to fund only organizations or projects which have been recommended by its arts advisory council and that the recommendations will be based on the regional arts advisory committee's review of the application's artistic merit, the applicant's ability, and the need for the project or program

Is council part of a regional develoment commission?	No

Is council using a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent?
If yes, attach a letter of agreement between the council and its fiscal agent stating that the fiscal agent has no jurisdiction over the council's review and awarding of arts grants.

Is council using a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent?	No

Projected budget

Click here to download a blank: Biennial Plan Budget Template.

Biennial budget	1748880076865_SEMAC_FY26_27_Budget_Plan_FINAL.xls

Certifications and Signature

Certify that the nonprofit organization is registered and is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State. Applicant can check the nonprofit?s registration status using the following link: Minnesota Secretary of State Business Search.

The applicant is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State of Minnesota	True

Attach a PDF file containing a list with the names of the applicant's

- Current board members,
- Staff members with authority to access grants funds or determine how those funds are used.

Attach PDF file here	1742843902477_SEMAC_Board and Staff.pdf
None of the individuals in the list provided have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last ten years	True

The signature of an authorizing official certifies that all information in the application is true and correct, the applicant meets all program eligibility criteria, and the applicant intends to use any granted funds only for allowable purposes.

Authorizing Official	Anastasia Shartin
Title	Executive Director

Application

181008 - FY 2026-2027 Regional Arts Council Documents
181607 - SEMAC FY 2026-2027 Biennial Plan
Regional Arts Councils

Status: Under Review
Submitted Date: 04/01/2025 9:51 AM

Primary Contact

Legal Name*

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Anastasia		Shartin

Alternate Name

First Name	Last Name

Organization Information

Legal Name: Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Alternate Name

City Rochester

Preliminary Biennial Plan

Preliminary Biennial Plan - PDF

Preliminary Biennial Plan - Budget Only

Narrative

Title

Your council's name or acronym followed by FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan (e.g., Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan)

(100 characters max)

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Biennial Plan

Mission statement

The biennial plan must include the regional arts council's mission statement which must describe the overall philosophy and aims of the organization concerning local and regional arts development.

(1,000 characters max)

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants, and services.

Region - Background, demographics, other context for the plan

(5,000 characters max)

Provide any necessary context about your region (i.e., economic, demographic, geographic, cultural, etc.) or about your organization that has a meaningful impact on your planning or your programs and services.

SEMAC has served as the designated regional arts council for Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties, including the Prairie Island Indian Community since 1977.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2022 numbers, the total population of the 11-county region is 520,313, which is just over 9% of Minnesota's total population. 83.3% of the population is white, 6.4% is Hispanic, 4.4% is Black, 3.6% is Asian, 1.9% is of two or more races, .4% is American Indian and Native Alaskan, and .1% is Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander. 5.4% of the population are veterans, 10.3% are people with disabilities (all ages), 18.9% are seniors, and 9.3% are living in poverty. The top three non-English languages spoken in the region are Hmong, Somali, and Spanish. In the last election, the region voted overwhelmingly conservative. Of the 23 State Senators and Representatives currently representing the region, 18 are affiliated with the Republican Party.

Rochester, the third largest city in the state with a population of more than 121,000, is centrally located in the region. There are also several mid-size towns, including Albert Lea, Austin, Faribault, Northfield, Owatonna, Red Wing, and Winona, which each have populations of between 16,500 and 27,000. However, the region is primarily rural with many small towns that have fewer than 5,000 residents, including Caledonia, Chatfield, Mantorville, and Zumbrota, and dozens of even smaller towns with populations under 1,000, including Lanesboro which has 723 residents.

The region is home to the Mayo Clinic, one of the State's largest employers, and to Hormel Foods, which is an economic driver and philanthropic entity impacting Mower County in particular. The 11-county region has forty-three K-12 school districts, four community college campuses, and five colleges and universities. The Minnesota State Academies for the Deaf and the Blind are located in the region. The region also boasts access to nature, including 11 State Parks, the Zumbro River and Root River watersheds, and the Mississippi River runs along its eastern border.

There are several vibrant arts communities in the region, each with multiple arts organizations, support from local non-arts groups, and active communities of artists working in multiple disciplines. Noteworthy among these are Lanesboro, Northfield, Red Wing, Rochester, and Winona.

The majority of arts organizations in the region are small and have limited, if any, paid staff and are mainly managed by volunteers. However, there are also many large arts organizations, 18 of which recently were awarded Operating Support grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board. A total of 114 arts organizations who have sought support from SEMAC since July 2015 are registered in the grant interface.

Attachment (optional)

Needs assessment

(10,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must be based on a needs assessment carried out in a manner which ensured input from the arts community and the arts involved public. The components of the needs assessment shall be determined by the regional arts council and may consist of any combination of constituent meetings, focus groups, program evaluations, mail, e-mail, online, or telephone surveys, individual interviews, or other evaluative tools. The assessment shall be conducted to assess and prioritize constituent needs, to evaluate appropriate community and regional resources to meet those needs, and to determine the practicality of continuing existing programming activities, service and grants assistance programs, or the feasibility of developing new programs, services, or grants by the regional arts council. The needs assessment shall be updated at intervals determined and announced by the regional arts council, but no less frequently than once every four years. The results shall be included in the biennial plan.

In this section, describe:
1. When the needs assessment was completed.
2. The process used to generate input from the arts community and the arts involved public.
3. The methods and/or tools used to gather input.
4. The key findings identified through the needs assessment.

SEMAC's FY2026-2027 Biennial Plan was informed by the results of an on-line Needs Assessment Survey as well as by information and feedback gathered through nearly 100 one-on-one conversations SEMAC's executive director engaged in with artists, arts administrators, directors of nonprofit non-arts organizations, teachers, and other community leaders throughout the 11-county region since June 2023 when she was hired. Board members also met with individuals in their counties and submitted written notes to be considered.

The Needs Assessment Survey was written by the executive director and members of an ad hoc committee of the Board and was open from September 15 through October 31, 2024. It was publicized through multiple channels including SEMAC's October e-newsletter and two e-mail blasts, each of which was sent to more than 1,200 contacts; several social media posts from September 25 through October 31 on Facebook and Instagram; a month-long Meta ad in October targeting specific zip codes throughout the region; and press releases sent to 37 media outlets. The Meta ad resulted in 18,692 impressions and 265 clicks on the link. To supplement these publicity efforts, staff, Board, and Arts Advisory Panel members sent direct e-mails with information about and a link to the Survey to their friends and colleagues.

In total, we received 223 responses to the Survey in the following categories: 50 from individual artists, 34 from grant coordinators from arts organizations, 14 from grant coordinators from non-arts organizations, 51 from those with other paid or volunteer roles at arts or non-arts organizations, 14 from people with previous ties to SEMAC or to another arts or non-arts organization, and 60 from individuals who selected "none of the above". SEMAC's staff and Board were impressed with the number of responses which more than doubled our expectations and pleased with the distribution of these across categories. (Full report is attached.)

Key Findings
While survey respondents had a generally favorable view of SEMAC (for example, 63% of respondents ranked interactions with SEMAC staff as "excellent" and a majority of arts organizations felt SEMAC's current programs served the region well), several key areas for improvement were identified by staff and Board after review of SEMAC's Needs Assessment Survey report:

- Increase Awareness of SEMAC and Engagement with Underrepresented Groups (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1)
- Low survey participation from counties other than Olmsted and Winona, indicating SEMAC's low engagement with those counties
- Low survey participation from BIMPOC individuals (4% of survey respondents vs. 16.7% living in our region according to US Census 2022), indicating SEMAC's low engagement with these groups
- Low awareness of SEMAC and of its programs (25% of unaffiliated respondents indicated they were completely unaware of SEMAC)
- Limited rural/small town arts opportunities
- Rural communities need more encouragement and example projects

- Adjust Grant Amounts (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #3)
- 46% of respondents overall wanted larger grant amounts (rising expenses are a concern and organizations want to keep their programs affordable)
- A desire for smaller grant amounts also was expressed, for individual artists through a simpler application process as a way of encouraging young/new artists to apply and for organizations (esp. for very small organizations, $5,000 can be more than they need/can manage)
- Organizations expressed interest in more flexibility with the grant structure and amounts
- Arts organizations also expressed a need for support in addition to programming grants, things such as staff trainings and strategic planning particularly to address the changes causing stress on the arts post-COVID

- Improve Application, Grant Review Process, Capstone Requirement, and Reporting (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #3)
- Feedback from organizations on grant application and reporting process included many who said the application process was moderately difficult or difficult, and that the reporting process was difficult or very difficult
- Comments that panel members are biased and do not read applications carefully
- Artists and small organizations requesting more grant writing support
- Requirement of Capstone Event for individual artists can be burdensome – need for more flexibility

- Provide Opportunities for Professional Development and Networking for Artists (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #2)
- Requests for more professional development opportunities for individuals
- Requests for more professional development opportunities for organizations (specifically mentioned marketing/communications, budgeting/financial reporting, Board training, volunteer recruitment and retention, and strategic planning)
- Requests for more networking opportunities for artists
- Interest in networking, collaboration, and shared resources among arts organizations

- Improve Communications and Website (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1)
- Respondents indicated they would like SEMAC's help promoting arts activities in the region (including social media, local promotions, and an arts calendar)
- Several comments that SEMAC's website is difficult to navigate

These findings support similar feedback the Executive Director received during her one-on-one meetings. Additional takeaways were:

- Networking (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1) Facilitate conversations designed to allow participants to communicate with others in the region on specific issues, challenges, and actions most relevant to them.
- Art, Nature, and Wellness (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #1) Strong interest among arts and non-arts organizations in interdisciplinary partnerships exploring the intersection of art, nature, and wellness.
- School Residency Grants (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #4) From teachers and school administrators when asked about low demand for the school residency program: there is a strong interest in having students interact with artists and exposing students to new art forms and processes, but the main obstacle to schools applying is limited time.
- Support for Young Artists (Addressed in Work Plan Priority #4) Explore offering small grants to individuals (i.e. $1,000) with a simplified application process and without a capstone event requirement aimed at supporting artists and culture bearers who may just be graduating or starting out in their art career. This would introduce them to applying for grants and provide them with the income or resources they need to continue making work. Various other ideas emerged about ways SEMAC could support younger and new artists in addition to grants, such as mentorships, cohorts, etc.

Attachment (optional) 1742842486966_SEMAC_Needs Assessment Survey Results.pdf

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Description of the planning process

(5,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must include a description of the biennial planning process used by the council including a list of the steps included in the development of the biennial plan and the participants involved in the biennial planning process.

Although the opportunity to develop this Biennial Plan and envision the future of SEMAC was on the mind of the new executive director the day she was hired in June 2023, the planning process formally began on December 10, 2024, with a day-long in-person meeting of SEMAC's three staff members, contracted communications manager, and chair of the Board to review and discuss the results of the Needs Assessment Survey (see attachment in Needs Assessment section above.) A summary of these results was presented to the full Board at their December 17 meeting, with the majority of that meeting devoted to discussing the report and identifying key findings to be reflected in SEMAC's Plan.

With these key findings in mind, the executive director drafted Work Plan Priorities with the staff and presented these to the Board at their meeting on January 14, 2025. In response to the Board's input and in consideration of the organization's capacity and resources, staff continued to review and edit these throughout the planning process.

Also at the January Board meeting, we heard from invited guest Andi Sutton, Executive Director of the Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension, who presented the findings of a recent study she conducted with the Southeast Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and the Center for Urban Regional Affairs (CURA), Pathways to Prosperity: Evaluating Collaboration Opportunities for Southeast and South Central Minnesota Funders to Better Serve Inclusion and Equity-Focused Grantees. The goal of this study was to identify how Southern Minnesota funders could best equip resilient communities-focused organizations that are BIPOC-led and BIPOC serving to realize their goals and spark transformative change at the community level.

Sutton shared eight primary findings from the study: traditional philanthropy is failing BIPOC-led organizations in that it favors well-resourced groups; short-term funding = short-term impact; funders need to trust BIPOC-led organizations to lead change; one size does not fit all, i.e. rural and urban organizations have different needs; risk-averse funders are stifling innovation; reporting burden hurts impact; relationships matter more than metrics; and be aware of "equity talk" without "equity walk". She also shared recommendations from the study for funders: provide technical support, offer flexible funding, develop relational strategies, increase cultural awareness, and advocate for systems change. Although SEMAC acknowledges this work is never done and there is a lot we have yet to learn, the findings of the study are reflected in the Biennial Plan, primarily with its focus on outreach and inclusion, as well as simplifying the grant process and offering more grant writing support.

Grants Committee meetings in January and February focused on discussions of possible changes to SEMAC's grant programs in response to the Needs Assessment. A final draft describing the updated grants programs was finalized by the executive director and Committee members via e-mail throughout February.

On February 27, a meeting was held for Board members to review the final drafts of the Work Plan Priorities, Program Information, and Budget sections of the Biennial Plan. Seven of eleven members attended, and one additional member submitted notes.

On March 3, the Grants Committee reviewed a final draft of the grants programs and provided input on final questions regarding the new programs.
The executive director was primarily responsible for creating the budgets for FY2026 and 2027 to align with the Plan. She worked with a financial consultant at Propel NonProfits.

On March 11, the Board approved the preliminary plan. The plan was posted on the SEMAC website on March 13. This and the public meeting were publicized in the March e-newsletter sent to more than 1,200 contacts, in an e-mail blast, in a social media post, and through an ad buy on Facebook. Staff and board also sent direct e-mails to colleagues and community leaders inviting them to share their thoughts. A link to a Google Form was provided for written feedback or questions.

A public meeting was held on March 18 via Zoom. More information about this and solicitation of public feedback is below, in the Public Meeting section of this application.

Attachment (optional)

Work plan for grants, programs, and services - Overview

(4,000 characters max)

The biennial plan must include a work plan which contains a description of services, programs, and grants available from the council, and the goals and objectives of these activities as related to the needs assessment, and the 25-year arts legacy outcomes.

SEMAC will promote regional arts development in FY 2026 – 2027 by offering financial support to artists and culture bearers, non-profit arts organizations, and non-arts organizations through six grant programs; by providing services to artists, culture bearers, and organizations such as grant writing workshops and professional development opportunities; and by promoting arts activities to the general public through a monthly e-newsletter and an on-line regional arts calendar. (A complete list of services is in the Program Information attachment.)

The six grant programs SEMAC will offer in FY 2026 – 2027 are Project Support for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers, Rural Arts, Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools, Programming Support for Organizations, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building for Arts Organizations, and General Operating Support for Arts Organizations. Noteworthy changes made to the grant programs as a result of the Needs Assessment as compared to the previous biennium include:
- grant amounts were increased for individuals and organizations
- individuals may apply to the Rural Arts Grant and this grant now requires a collaboration with one or more community organizations to ensure even the smallest communities in our region receive funding and to promote community-building through the arts
- individuals may apply for the Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools grant, which will remove primary responsibility for this residency program from teachers and potentially increase the number of opportunities for K-12 students to interact with artists and culture bearers
- a new grant program was developed, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building, to provide support arts organizations expressed needing to ensure their stability and future strength

With the addition of an Outreach and Accessibility Manager to the staff, SEMAC's capacity to offer services has expanded significantly. We will offer more one-on-one grant coaching, develop and circulate a resource list for artists and culture bearers, increase the number of grant-writing workshops annually, and identify ways to make our programs and services more accessible. In partnership with Springboard for the Arts, Propel NonProfits, and Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement, SEMAC will improve upon our previous artist workshops and expand to include workshops for arts organizations.

In the previous biennium, SEMAC made improvements to its communications and promotions through an e-newsletter sent to more than 1,200 contacts monthly, social media, and printed postcards and handouts. In response to the Needs Assessment, we will continue this work to increase awareness of SEMAC and encourage participation in the arts with an on-line regional arts calendar to be promoted to the general public.

SEMAC is committed to providing grants and services with a goal of equitability and inclusivity. This spring, we will see the results of the Equity Audit that Exposed Brick Theatre was hired to conduct by the Forum of Regional Arts Councils (FRACM). SEMAC will use the audit and the data we have collected on our grantmaking since FY 2023 to focus our outreach efforts. Our data show that, during that time period, 12.2% of SEMAC's grants to individuals were awarded to people of color, whereas the region's BIMPOC population is 16.7%. Looking at SEMAC's grantmaking history by county, we see that several counties are being underserved, namely Dodge, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele, and Wabasha. Individuals in these counties made up less than 3% of grant recipients and organizations in each of these counties received between 1.6 % and 8.1% of all organizational grants.

The Work Plan Priorities, detailed actions, and measurable outcomes in the next section address the 25-year Arts Legacy goals.

Attachment (optional)

Are you ready to work on work plan priority 1? Yes

Work Plan Priority 1 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #1 – Expand Outreach, Inclusion, and Accessibility Efforts
- Conduct targeted outreach to counties and communities historically underserved by SEMAC, including Prairie Island Indian Community
- Offer grant writing workshops for individuals and organizations on Zoom and in communities underserved by SEMAC in partnership with local organizations
- Partner with organizations serving underserved populations to provide grant coaching and language services to applicants
- Identify diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals for SEMAC and take steps to implement
- Expand SEMAC's social media network and increase number of e-newsletter subscribers
- Improve regional arts calendar on website and promote this resource to the general public
- Develop interdisciplinary partnerships to engage the community in conversations about the role of art, nature, and wellness

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 1 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max) Individuals and organizations historically underserved by SEMAC will engage as grant applicants, recipients, workshop participants, and partners.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life

Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are Yes

People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts Yes

People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding

The arts thrive in Minnesota

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

SEMAC will collect demographic information from applicants, workshop participants, and people who receive grant coaching and language services and compare this to similar data from previous years to track whether the number of new people from the counties and underserved communities being targeted has increased. SEMAC will pay close attention to the demographics of grantees to measure the results of our outreach efforts. Our goal will be to increase the percentage of grants awarded to BIMPOC individuals from the current measure of 12.2% to 15% and to raise the percentage of grants awarded to underserved counties currently at 1.7% to 8.1% by a minimum of 2% each. Increased numbers of e-newsletter recipients, social media followers, and people using the calendar on the website also will help measure how much the region believes the arts are vital to their lives.

Is there a second work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 2 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #2 – Provide Professional Development and Networking Opportunities for Artists, Culture Bearers, and Organizations
- Offer professional development workshops for artists in partnership with Springboard for the Arts with facilitated opportunities for networking
- Offer arts management training opportunities for arts organizations in partnership with Propel Nonprofits and Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement (MAVA) with facilitated opportunities for networking
- Develop a resource list for artists with other grant opportunities, organizations offering professional support and training, residencies, etc.
- Identify a plan to coordinate in-person networking events and take steps to implement

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 2 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)

Individual artists, culture bearers, and leaders of arts organizations learn new skills, advance their careers, and lead with confidence.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life

Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are

People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts

People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding

The arts thrive in Minnesota Yes

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

We will distribute surveys following each workshop or training seeking input on skills and useful information gained by the participants and to learn if their connections in the region increased because of the networking opportunities included. The results will be shared with our contract partners and reviewed by SEMAC staff to inform future planning.

Is there a third work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 3 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #3 – Administer Grant Programs with a Focus on Improving Processes
- Provide financial support in the form of grants to individual artists, culture bearers, arts organizations, and non-arts organizations (including schools, local government and tribal entities, etc.)
- Simplify grant applications and reporting requirements
- Improve website navigation and reduce accessibility barriers to grant information
- Review all e-mail templates used for grant communications for clarity and to ensure information is up to date
- Recruit new Arts Advisory Panel members to ensure diverse representation of arts expertise and cultural backgrounds, and participation from all 11 counties
- Continue diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-bias training for Panel members

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 3 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)

Grant funds are awarded following SEMAC's policies and procedures and a majority of applicants report the process is uncomplicated and transparent.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life Yes

Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are

People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts Yes

People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding Yes

The arts thrive in Minnesota

Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)

A survey will be sent to all applicants after each grant round seeking information about the application process. The Executive Director also will read all final reports and follow-up with applicants personally to learn more about their experience. On SEMAC?s blog we also post monthly Impact Stories to share how particular grant-funded activities affected the artist, culture bearer, organization, audience, and community at large.

Is there a fourth work plan priority? Yes

Work Plan Priority 4 (2,000 characters max)

Work Plan Priority #4 – Ensure SEMAC Continues to be a Good Steward of Public Funds
- Hire a consultant to work with staff and Board to review and update bylaws, mission, vision, and goals, and to develop a long-range strategic plan
- Set a plan to celebrate SEMAC's 50th anniversary in FY2028
- Review, update, and consolidate organization's policies and procedures
- Evaluate General Operating Support Grant Program with changes to be implemented FY2028
- Assess Artists in the Schools Grant Program with changes to be implemented FY2027 or 2028
- Research and develop a micro-granting or guaranteed income program for individual artists and culture bearers to launch in FY2028
- Continue annual diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for SEMAC staff and Board
- Establish a committee of the Board to develop equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility goals for SEMAC; integrate these throughout the work plan; and track progress

State one measurable outcome the council expects to produce through Priority 4 activities.

Measurable Outcome (150 characters max)	Outcomes include a long-range plan, easy to reference policies and procedures, improvements to existing programs, and development of new programs.

Which of the 25-year arts legacy outcomes will this measurable outcome address (select all that apply)?

The arts are interwoven into every facet of community life	
Minnesotans believe the arts are vital to who we are	
People of all ages, ethnicities, and abilities participate in the arts	
People trust Minnesota's stewardship of public arts funding	Yes
The arts thrive in Minnesota	
Plan for measuring results (1,000 characters max)	SEMAC will monitor participation numbers and frequency of engagement in our programs and services as an indication of support and trust among artists, community leaders, organizations, and the general public throughout our region.
Is there a fifth work plan priority?	No

Program information

(7,000 characters max)

Describe the grants and other forms of assistance the council will provide, the review criteria for evaluating grant requests, and eligibility requirements.

SEMAC will promote regional arts development in FY 2026 and 2027 by offering financial support totaling $925,000 per year to artists and culture bearers, non-profit arts organizations, and non-arts organizations through these grant programs:
1) Project Grants for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers encourage individual artists and culture bearers to take the next step in their creative pursuits by providing the financial support needed to experiment, take on a challenge, or deepen their practice. The grant proposal must be to support the creation of new work and include an opportunity for public engagement with that work.

2) Rural Arts Grants bring arts experiences into the smallest rural communities in southeastern Minnesota with populations below 7,500. The lead applicant can be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or a non-profit organization in the rural community where the project is proposed to take place. Proposed projects must include a collaboration with a local community partner – a non-profit organization, library, government department or agency, tribal entity, etc. – opportunities for active community engagement, and an accessible public event.

3) Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to work directly with artists and culture bearers during the school day. Grant activities must supplement the school's arts curriculum and not be a substitute for these requirements. The lead applicant can either be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or the school in which the residency will take place. Written acknowledgement from the secondary applicant (school or artist) confirming their commitment and role in the proposed activities is required. No public event is required however the participating school must agree to share the residency in their district's communications to families, with the School Board, and with any local press contacts to raise awareness of the importance of the arts.

4) Programming Support Grants for Organizations support activities directly involved in the creation, performance, publication, and exhibition of the arts with a focus in one or more of the three key areas identified in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Legacy Amendment – Arts Access, Arts Education, and Cultural Heritage. Nonprofit arts and non-arts organizations (non-profits, schools, local government and tribal entities) are eligible to apply, and collaborations between arts and non-arts organizations are encouraged. An accessible public event is required.

5) Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants is a new program. It will provide the support nonprofit arts organizations need to adapt to change, work on new strategies, develop competencies, or improve processes and systems.
Examples of eligible proposals include feasibility studies for accessibility, strategic planning, financial consultation, and professional development opportunities for staff. Proposals to purchase new equipment to be used for arts programming also will be considered, if the applicant can make a strong case for how it would increase the organization's ability to better serve the needs of its community and/or contribute to the future financial health of the organization. In addition to a written final report, representatives from organizations receiving this grant must participate in a public forum to share information gained and the impact of the grant on their organization.

6) General Operating Support Grants are available to nonprofit arts organizations with operating expenses of less than $174,000 to strengthen and stabilize their organization by supporting administrative and other overhead expenses over the course of two years (biennial grant). Recipients of this grant must submit an interim report after Year One to receive Year Two payment.

Full descriptions of the grant programs, including eligibility requirements, grant project restrictions, disallowed expenses, and review criteria are in the attached Program Information document.

Attachment (optional)	1742842487000_SEMAC_Programs and Services.pdf

Grant making and monitoring process

(5,000 characters max)

Provide a detailed description of the council's grant making process including the review process, the terms of the grant contract with grant recipients, the time needed and process followed in paying grant recipients, the responsibilities of grantees, and the grant monitoring process.

Grant applications are posted 30 days prior to the submission deadline. Staff is available throughout that time period for questions and, if an applicant submits their application at least one week prior to the deadline, they can request the staff review it and provide input. Applicants also can request one-on-one grant coaching support.

Once an application is submitted, the Grants Program Manager reviews it to confirm the applicant is eligible, the application is complete, and the budget does not include disallowed expenses. The Executive Director then reviews the narrative sections of the application to ensure the proposed project does not break any rules.

Eligible applications for the Project Support for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers grants, Rural Arts grants, and Programming Support Grants for Organizations are assigned to Arts Advisory Panel members for their review. Subcommittees of the Board review applications for the remaining grants programs, Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools, Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building, and General Operating Support. The Panel is comprised of artists, arts professionals, and other community members who support the arts and who live in the SEMAC region. Panelists may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. Interested individuals apply to join the Panel. The Executive Director interviews the applicant and makes a recommendation to the Board for a vote.

Panelists and Board members are given three to four weeks to review the grants assigned to them independently. The Executive Director facilitates a meeting on Zoom during which the reviewers discuss each application based on the review criteria. These meetings are open to the public and recorded. The link to the recording and the panelists' written comments are shared with the applicants after awards are announced.

The following three criteria are used to review all grants: 1) artistic merit and quality of the project or program, 2) demand or need for the project or program by the applicant or by the constituents served, and 3) ability to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented. At the conclusion of the public review meeting, each reviewer assigns a score from 1 – 5, with 5 being the highest, to each criterion for each application. The Grants Program Manager calculates the average score for each application and creates a list of applications in order from highest to lowest score. The Executive Director identifies the funding available for that grant round and then identifies which applications to present to the Board for approval by starting at the top and going down the list until funds run out. This list is presented to the Board for a vote.

It should be noted that the Panel and Board are asked to verbally declare conflicts of interest with a grant application prior to discussion of that application at the panel review meeting and prior to any discussion or vote on that application at the Board meeting. Panel members or Board members with a conflict are assigned to a breakout room on Zoom. If a meeting is held in-person, the person with a conflict will be required to leave the room.

Awards are announced the day after the Board meeting at which the applications were approved. Applicants are notified at that time as well and those receiving grants are sent a contract. Within two weeks after the contract is signed, the grant check is mailed. The earliest start date for a grant project is 90 days after the submission deadline.

Grantees are required to follow the terms of their contracts and to submit a final report within 30 days after their stated end date. The form for this is made available to them on the grant interface as soon as the contract is signed, allowing them to preview the information they will be asked to provide. If as the project unfolds the applicant must make a change to the budget, timeframe, or another aspect of the proposed project, they must submit a Request to Modify for the approval of the Executive Director. In addition to the final report serving as a source of information about the outcomes of a grant funded project, Board members attend public activities for these projects in the county they represent and submit a Monitoring Report Form. This form asks if SEMAC was acknowledged and if the project was what they expected from having read the grant proposal. It is reviewed by the Executive Director and shared with the full Board. Staff also attend grantees' activities and report on them to the Board.

See the Grant Making and Monitoring attachment for more details about SEMAC's grantmaking process, application requirements, Conflict of Interest Policy, scoring rubrics, terms of the grant contract, and responsibility of grantees. By-laws also are included.

Attachment (optional) 1743461127599_SEMAC_Grant Making and Monitoring.pdf

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Public meeting

(1,000 characters max)

Each council must hold at least one public meeting to solicit reaction to its preliminary biennial plan before it is approved and submitted to the Arts Board.
Provide the date(s) and location(s) of the public meeting(s). How was the public informed? Who participated in the meeting (types and numbers of attendees)?

The Public Meeting was held March 18, from 6 – 8 pm, on Zoom. 11 people attended – 2 SEMAC Board members, 4 artists, 3 staff and a volunteer from arts orgs, and Becca Graves from ARAC. 5 additional people submitted Feedback Response Forms – staff from 2 non-arts orgs, a volunteer from a rural arts org, and 2 anonymous. 6 of 11 counties were represented – Fillmore, Freeborn, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

The public was informed in these ways (also see attachment):
Feb 1 – Website updated, "Save the Date" in Feb e-newsletter to 1256 contacts
Feb 24 – Press release to 68 local and regional newspapers and radio stations
Mar 1 – Article in Mar e-newsletter to 1256 contacts
Mar 6 – FB Event
Mar 11 – Meta Traffic Campaign
Mar 12 – FB and Insta post
Mar 13 – Prelim Plan, Meeting Registration, and Response Form on website
Mar 14 – FB and Insta Story, E-blast to 1253 Contacts
Mar 18 – FB and Insta Story, FB Event reshared
Mar 19 – Public Meeting video and PPT on website
Mar 24 – Response Form closed

Attachment (optional) 1743519048555_SEMAC_Public Meeting.pdf

Attach Files Here

Required attachments

Council's bylaws 1742843462876_SEMAC_By-laws.pdf

Board information
? Names and affiliations
? Arts experience and background requirements for membership
? Nomination process - including a statement of the council's commitment and methods used to identify, recruit, and appoint board members to provide representation from all counties
? Rotation system - to ensure replacement of members on a regular basis

Board information 1742843462891_SEMAC_Board Information.pdf

Staff information
? Names and titles
? Job descriptions

Staff information	1742843462858_SEMAC_Staff Information.pdf

Is council part of a regional develoment commission?
If yes, attach a memorandum describing the policies and procedures under which grants will be made including a statement that the regional development commission agrees to fund only organizations or projects which have been recommended by its arts advisory council and that the recommendations will be based on the regional arts advisory committee's review of the application's artistic merit, the applicant's ability, and the need for the project or program

Is council part of a regional develoment commission?	No

Is council using a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent?
If yes, attach a letter of agreement between the council and its fiscal agent stating that the fiscal agent has no jurisdiction over the council's review and awarding of arts grants.

Is council using a 501(c)(3) fiscal agent?	No

Projected budget

Click here to download a blank: Biennial Plan Budget Template.

Biennial budget	1742924410390_SEMAC_FY26_27_Budget_Plan_3.25.25.xls

Certifications and Signature

Certify that the nonprofit organization is registered and is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State. Applicant can check the nonprofit?s registration status using the following link: Minnesota Secretary of State Business Search.

The applicant is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State of Minnesota	True

Attach a PDF file containing a list with the names of the applicant's

- Current board members,
- Staff members with authority to access grants funds or determine how those funds are used.

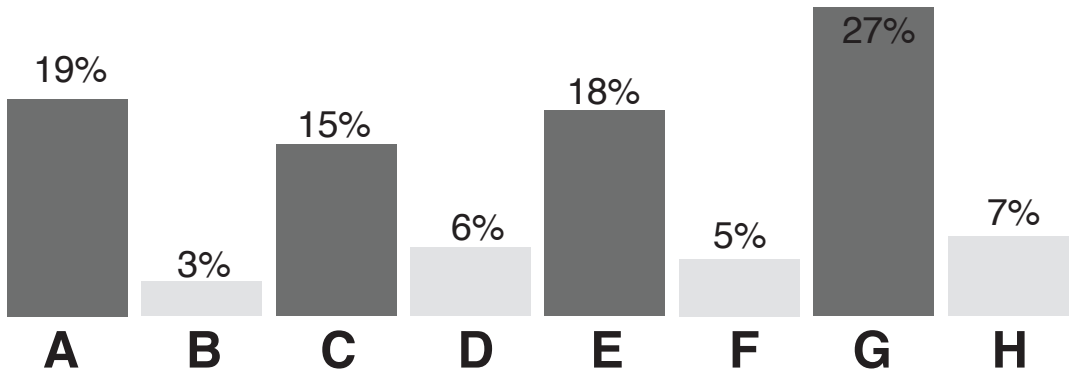
Attach PDF file here	1742843902477_SEMAC_Board and Staff.pdf
None of the individuals in the list provided have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last ten years	True

The signature of an authorizing official certifies that all information in the application is true and correct, the applicant meets all program eligibility criteria, and the applicant intends to use any granted funds only for allowable purposes.

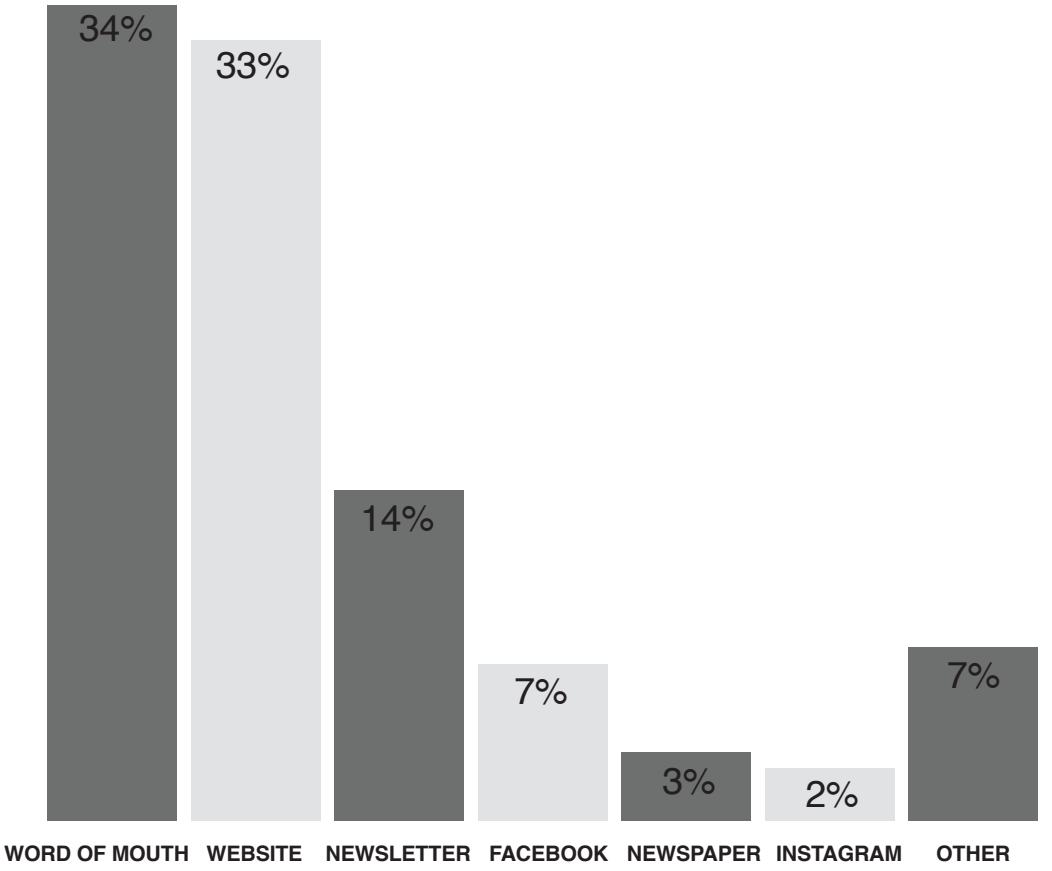
Authorizing Official	Anastasia Shartin
Title	Executive Director

What is the Primary Way You Interact with SEMAC? Total Responses 223

A	SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient - 43/223	19%
B	SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant - 7/223	3%
C	Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants - 34/223	15%
D	Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants - 14/223	6%
E	Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant - 39/223	18%
F	Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants - 12/223	5%
G	None of the above - 60/223	27%
H	Other (Program/Project Participant, Former Board member, past advisor member, etc) - 14/223	7%



How did you hear about the grant opportunity? Total Responses 137



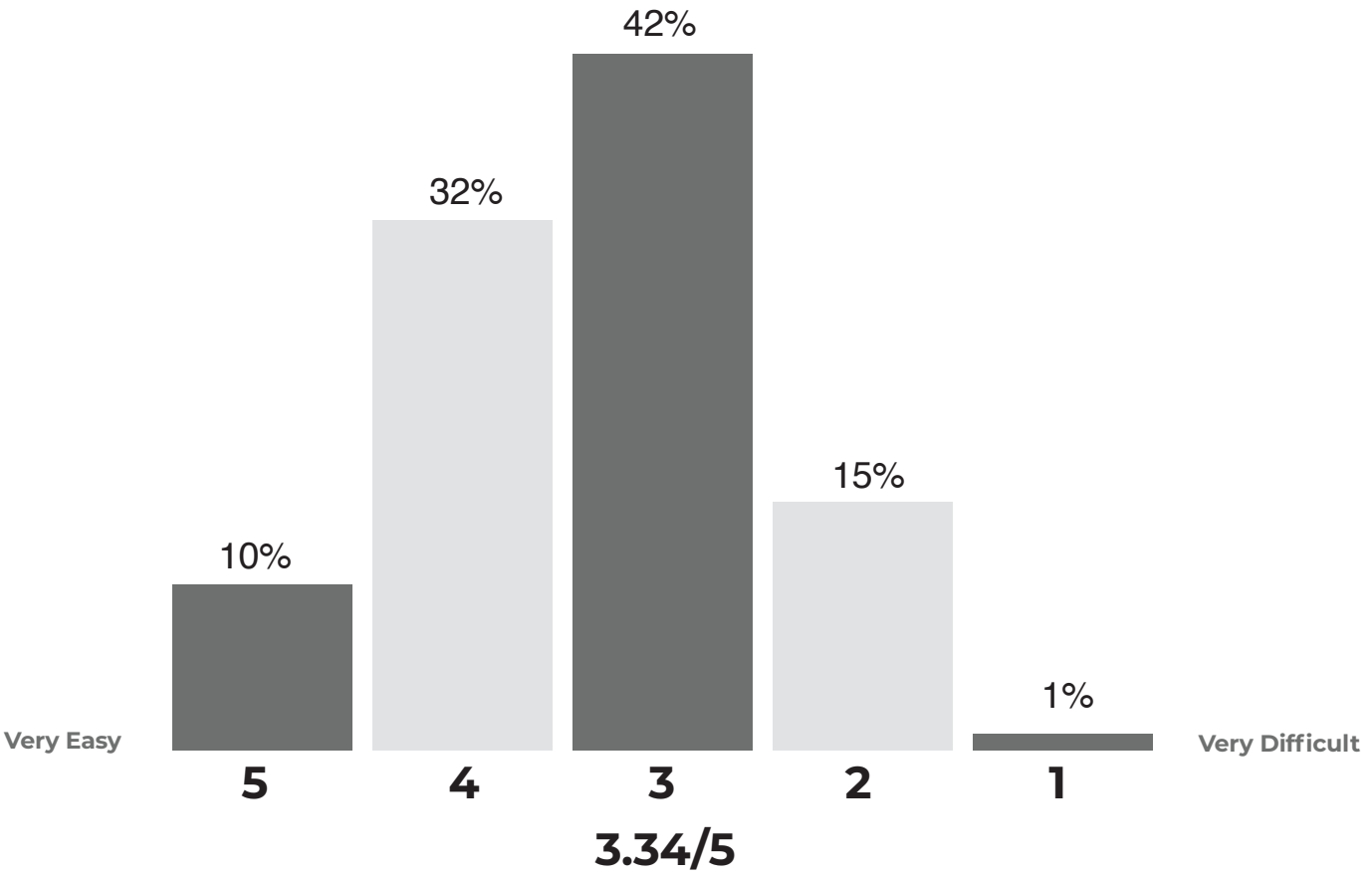
A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	Word-of-Mouth - 39% Website - 22% E-Newsletter - 17% Facebook - 7% Instagram - 7% Newspaper - 6% Other - 2%	TOTAL RESPONSES 54
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	Word-of-Mouth - 31% Website - 31% E-Newsletter - 8% Facebook - 15% Instagram - 8% Newspaper - 8% Other - 8%	13
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 31% Website - 36% E-Newsletter - 19% Facebook- 8% Instagram - 0% Newspaper - 0% Other - 6%	36
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 50% Website - 25% E-Newsletter - 10% Facebook- 5% Instagram - 5% Newspaper - 0% Other - 5%	20
E. PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 30% Website - 17% E-Newsletter - 23% Facebook- 14% Instagram - 2% Newspaper - 2% Other - 14%	44

***MULTIPLE SELECTIONS PER RESPONSE**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

How easy was the application process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 91



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 7% 4 (EASY) - 28% 3 (MODERATE) - 43% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 22% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.21	TOTAL RESPONSES 42
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (VERY EASY) - 0% 4 (EASY) - 14% 3 (MODERATE) - 43% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 29% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 14% AVERAGE 2.57	7
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 9% 3 (MODERATE) - 52% 4 (EASY) - 33% 5 (VERY EASY) - 6% AVERAGE 3.36	33
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 29% 3 (MODERATE) - 14% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 28% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.57	14

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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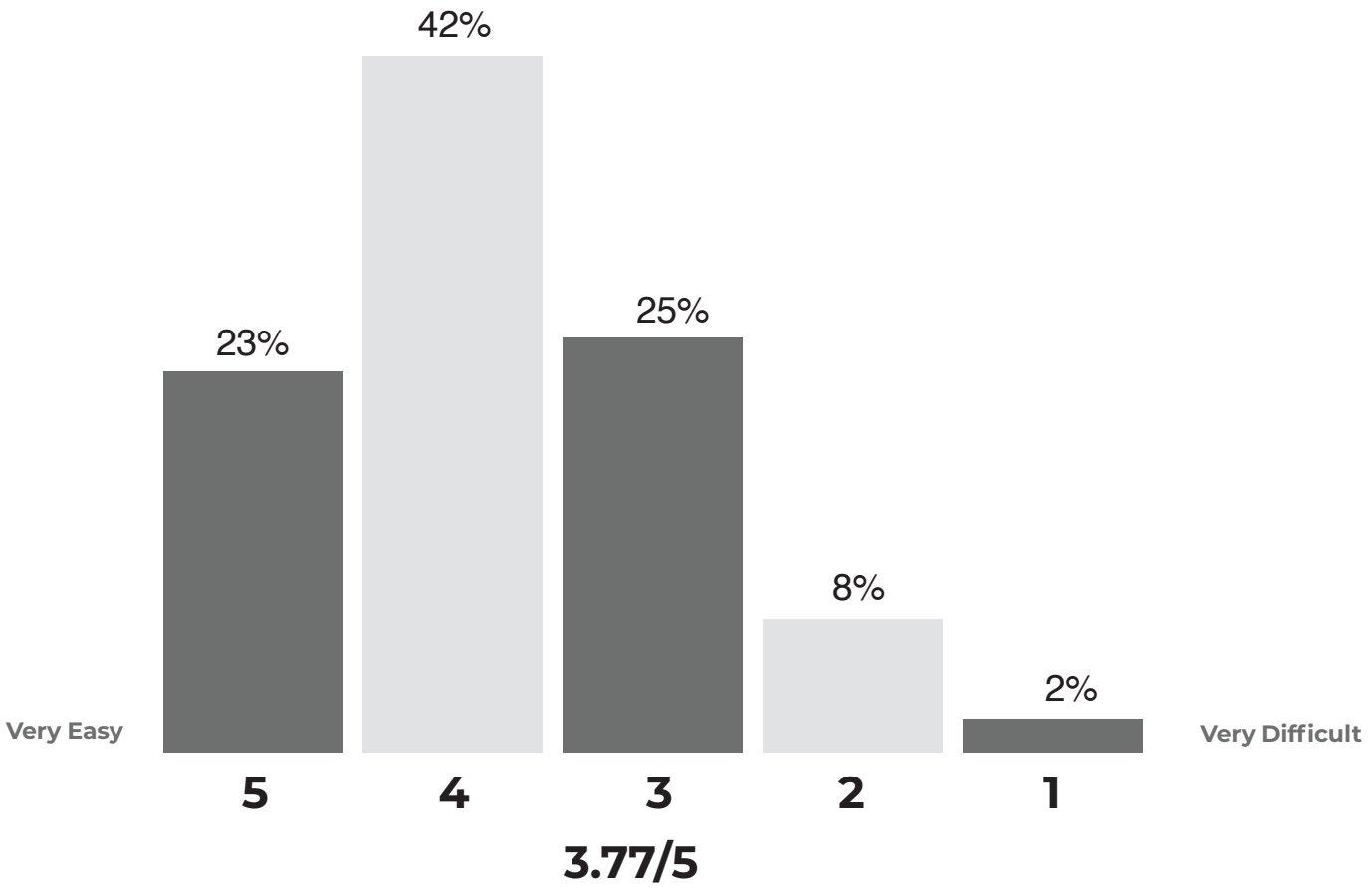
How well did the questions in the application help you focus on your proposed project and allow you to communicate your vision? (1-5 rating) Total Responses 93



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 23% 4 (EASY) - 43% 3 (MODERATE) - 28% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 8% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.8	TOTAL RESPONSES **40**
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 29% 3 (MODERATE) - 29% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 14% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 28% AVERAGE 2.86	**7**
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 30% 4 (EASY) - 42% 3 (MODERATE) - 21% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 6% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.97	**33**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 43% 3 (MODERATE) - 14% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 14% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.86	**13**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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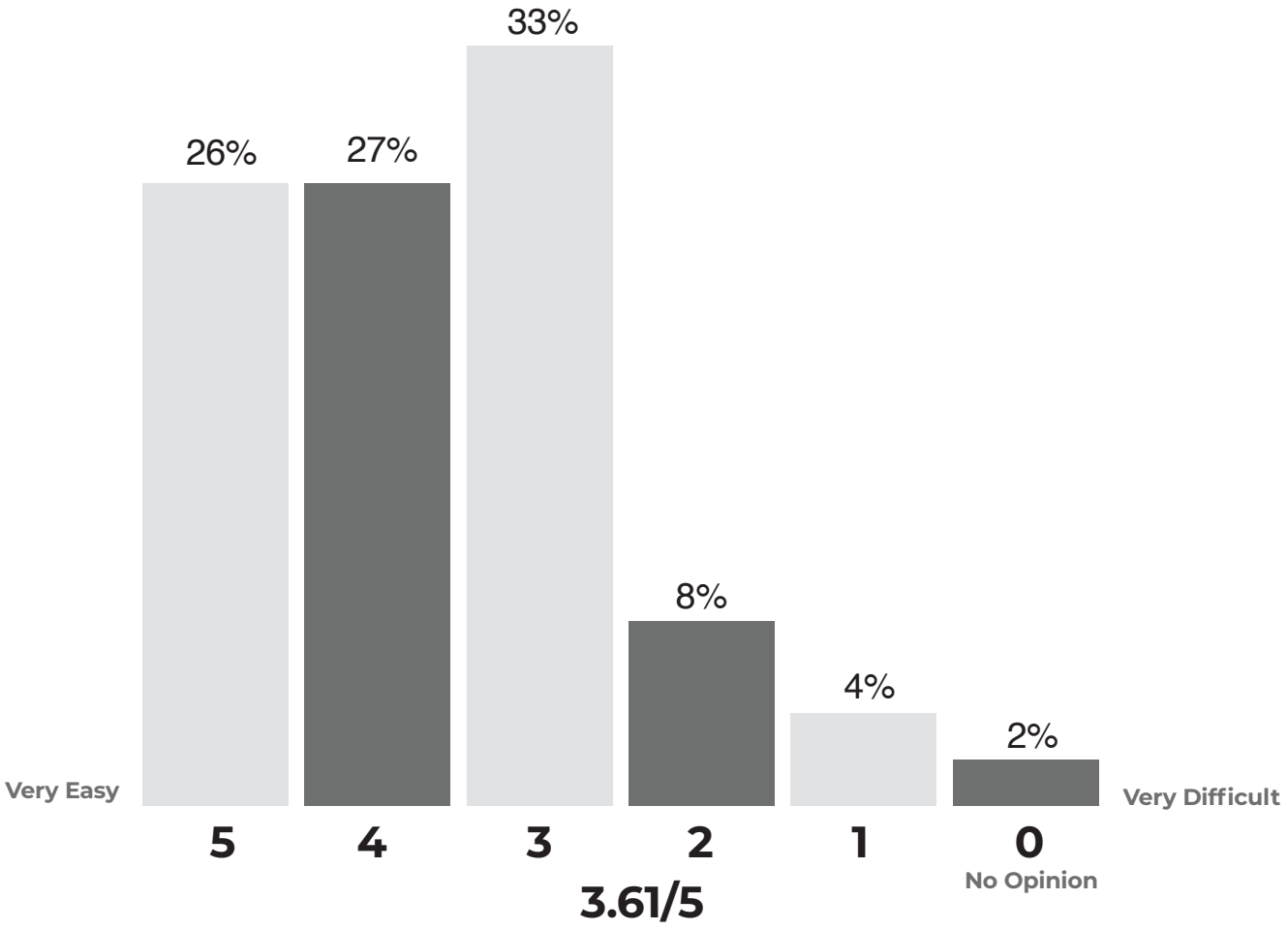
How easy was the reporting process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 88



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 34% 4 (EASY) - 20% 3 (MODERATE) - 37% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 10% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.78	TOTAL RESPONSES **41**
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 21% 4 (EASY) - 46% 3 (MODERATE) - 21% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 6% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 6% AVERAGE 3.7	**33**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 14% 3 (MODERATE) - 29% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 7% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 7% 0 (NO OPINION) - 14% AVERAGE 3.07	**14**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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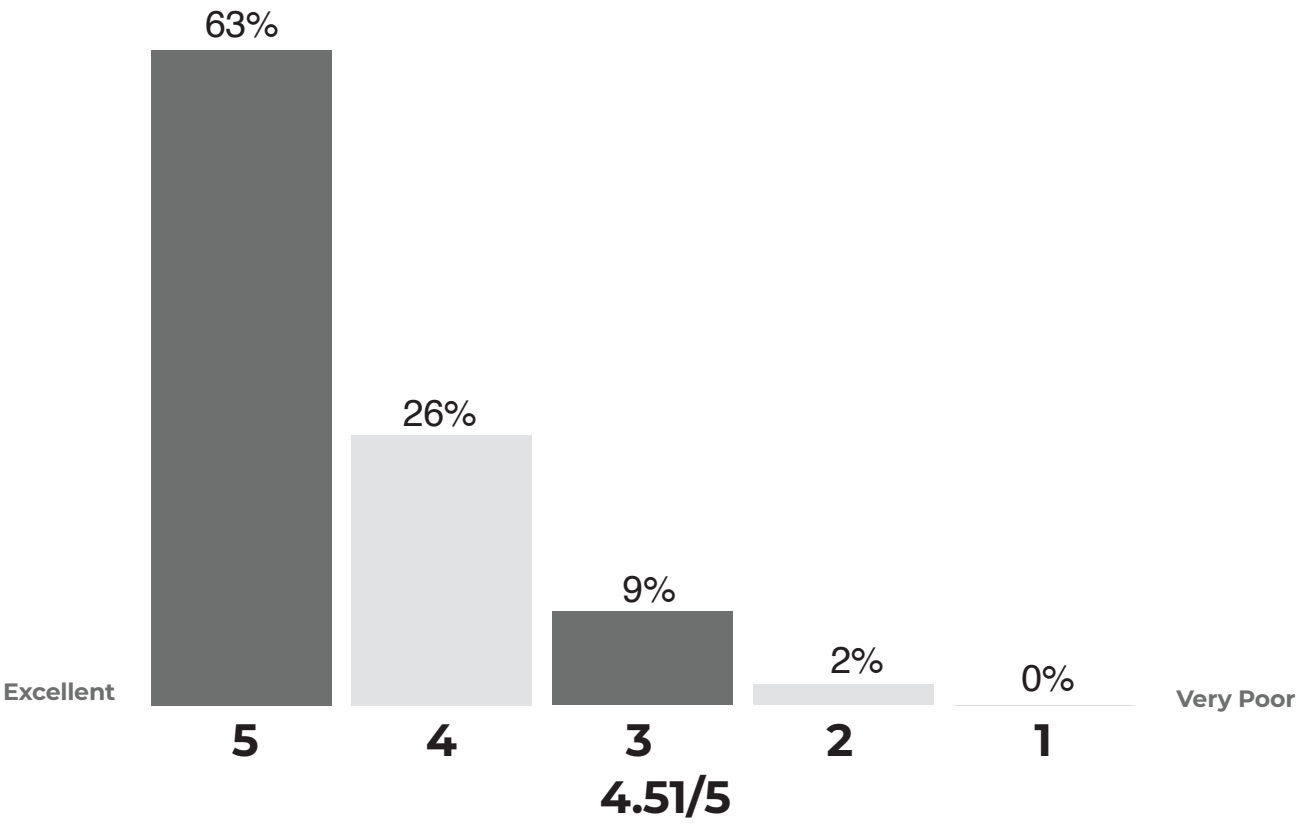
How would you rate the quality of interactions with SEMAC staff throughout the grant process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 134

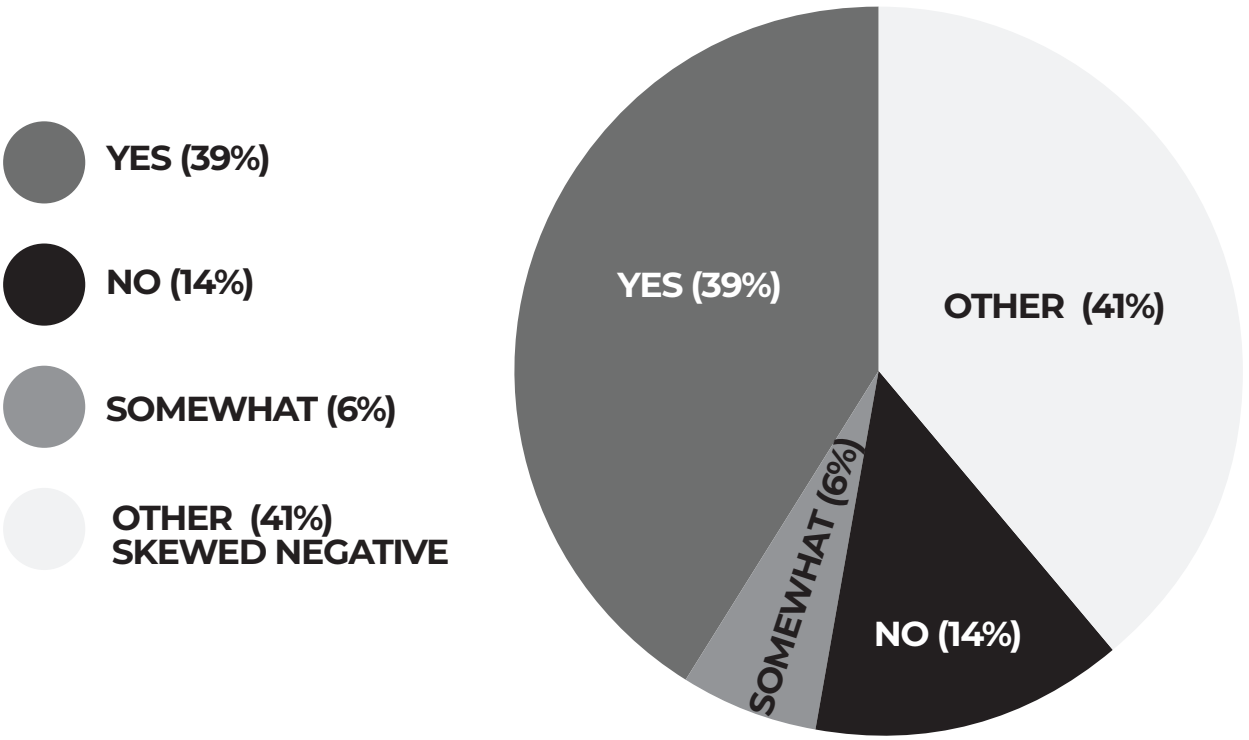


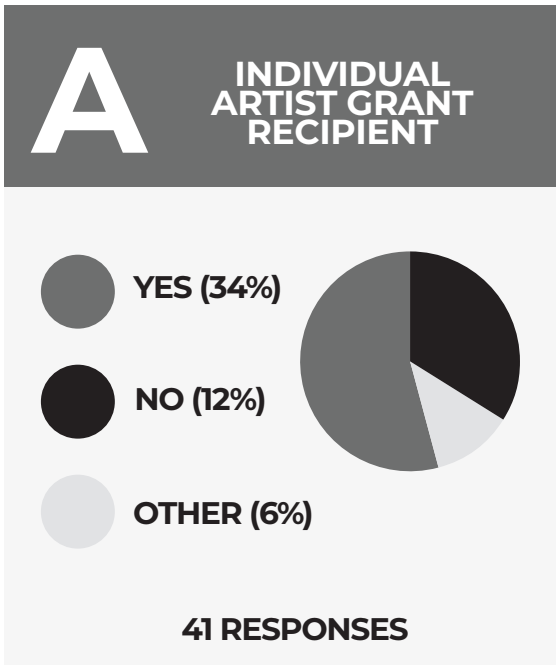
A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (EXCELLENT) - 73% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 20% 3 (GOOD) - 7% 2 (POOR) - 10% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.66	TOTAL RESPONSES 41
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (EXCELLENT) - 13% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 29% 3 (GOOD) - 29% 2 (POOR) - 29% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 3.29	7
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 89% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 15% 3 (GOOD) - 3% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.79	33
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 72% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 14% 3 (GOOD) - 14% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 3.14	14
E. PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 64% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 13% 3 (GOOD) - 5% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.59	39

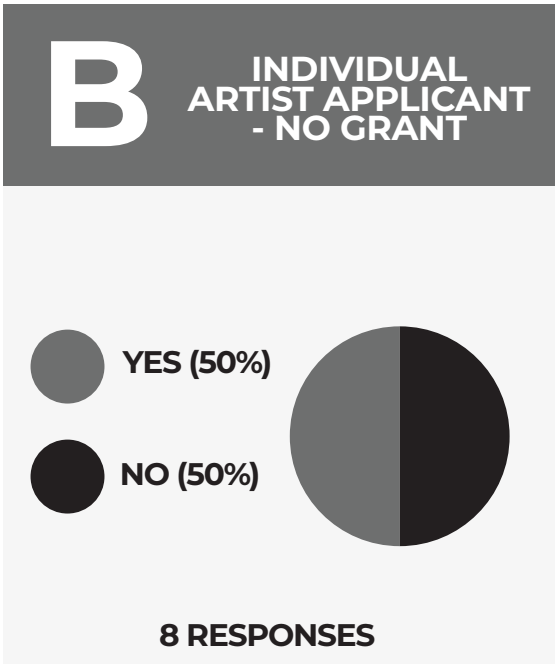
A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

Were the Arts Advisory Panel's comments about your application helpful? Why or why not?

Total Responses 49







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Were the Arts Advisory Panel's comments about your application helpful. Top Sentiments with Frequency

FOUND HELPFUL/POSITIVE (20 MENTIONS)

"VERY HELPFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR FEEDBACK"

"YES, THEY GAVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK"

"HELPED UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE PROPOSAL SUCCESSFUL"

DON'T RECALL/DIDN'T LOOK (10 MENTIONS)

"DON'T RECALL THEM"

"DIDN'T LOOK, PAST COMMENTS WERE RIDICULOUS"

"DON'T REMEMBER RECEIVING ANY"

LACK OF CAREFUL READING (8 MENTIONS)

"PANEL MEMBERS DIDN'T READ CAREFULLY"

"COMMENTS REFLECTED NOT READING APPLICATION"

"REVIEWER MISSED DETAILS THAT WERE INCLUDED"

NO COMMENTS RECEIVED (6 MENTIONS)

"NO COMMENTS DONE"

"DON'T USUALLY GET COMMENTS"

"NEVER GOT THAT FAR"

UNCLEAR/CONTRADICTORY (6 MENTIONS)

"'CLEAR PLAN' VS 'NOT SURE WHAT PLANNING'"

"A BIT AMBIGUOUS"

"COMMENTS MISSED THE MARK"

NOT HELPFUL (5 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T ADD ANYTHING"

"MADE LITTLE SENSE"

"THEY WERE BIASED"

USED FOR IMPROVEMENT (4MENTIONS)

"MADE APPLICATION STRONGER"

"IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE OMISSIONS"

"HELPED UNDERSTAND WEAK AREAS"

PANEL EXPERTISE CONCENS (4 MENTIONS)

"NO WRITERS ON PANEL"

"QUESTION IF PANELISTS QUALIFIED"

"SHOWED NO SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE"

RESTATED CONTENT (3 MENTIONS)

"ECHOED WHAT I WROTE"

"JUST RESTATING APPLICATION"

"REPEATED PROJECT DETAILS"

MIXED FEELINGS (3 MENTIONS)

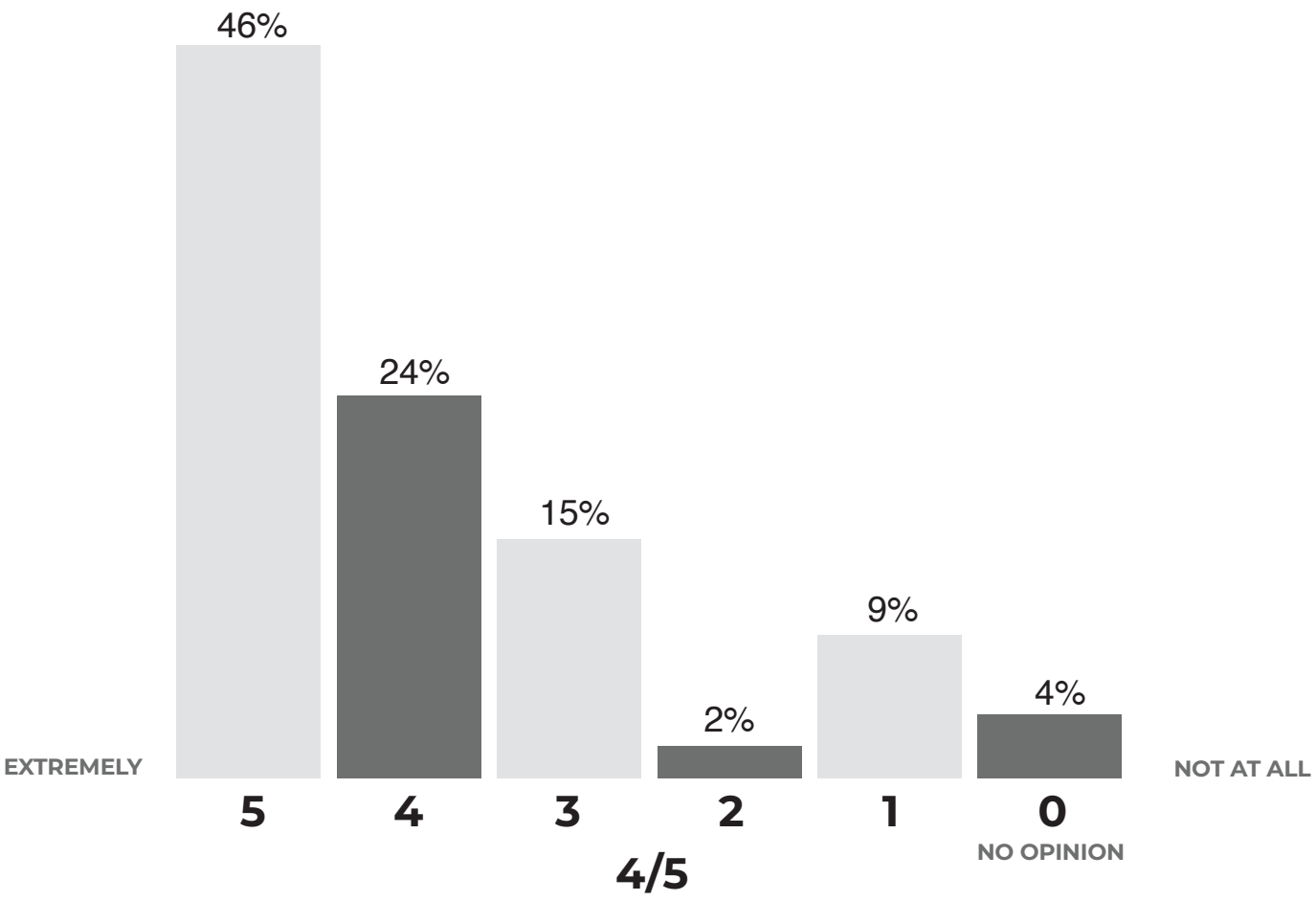
"SOMETIMES YES, SOMETIMES RESTATING"

"SOME PRAISE, SOME COMPLAINTS"

"OKAY"

How impactful was the Capstone Event for your artistic development

Total Responses 89 (Rating 0-5 - 0 no opinion)



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (EXTREMELY) - 46% 4 (VERY) - 24% 3 (MODERATELY) - 15% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 5% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 10% 0 (NO OPINION - 0%	TOTAL RESPONSES **42**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXTREMELY) - 52% 4 (VERY) - 24% 3 (MODERATELY) - 18% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 0% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 0% 0 (NO OPINION - 6%	**33**
E. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXTREMELY) - 29% 4 (VERY) - 36% 3 (MODERATELY) - 0% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 0% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 21% 0 (NO OPINION - 14%	**14**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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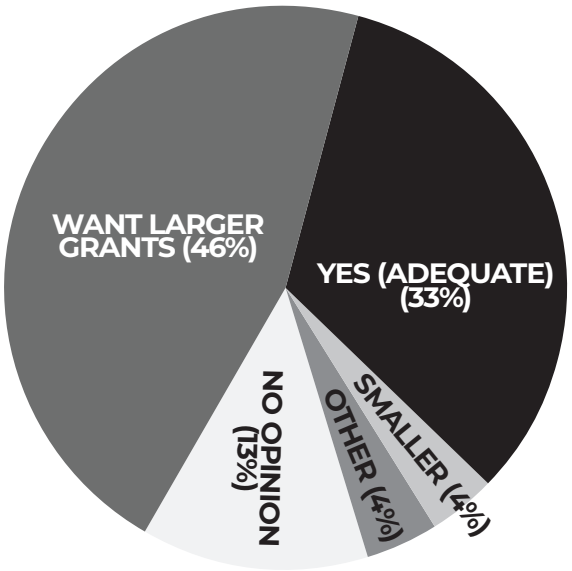
Do you feel the grant amounts offered through SEMAC's current Individual Artist Grant program are adequate for your needs? Total Responses 117

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (46%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (33%)
- WANT SMALLER (4%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (4%)
- NO OPINION (13%)



A INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (66%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (24%)
- WANT SMALLER (5%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (5%)

34 RESPONSES

B INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (40%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (60%)
- WANT SMALLER (0%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (0%)

5 RESPONSES

C GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (36%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (39%)
- WANT SMALLER (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (21%)
- NO OPINION (0%)

33 RESPONSES

D GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (45%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (44%)
- WANT SMALLER (0%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (11%)

9 RESPONSES

E PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (58%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (25%)
- WANT SMALLER (6%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (6%)
- NO OPINION (5%)

36 RESPONSES

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

Additional Comments/Sentiments:

NEED FOR AMOUNT FLEXIBILTY

WANT VALUES BETWEEN $5000 AND $10000
$5000 IS GOOD BUT WOULD APPLY FOR MORE IF AVAILABLE
HAD TO MODIFY PROJECT SCOPE TO FIT $5000 BUDGET
NEEDS TO BE MORE

MULTIPLE GRANT REQUESTS

WANT ABILITY TO APPLY FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS PER YEAR
WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR 2 SMALL TOWN GRANTS ($5K) PER YEAR
NEED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

COMPETITION CONCERNS

MORE COMPETITIVE NOW DUE TO PROMOTION
FORCES SMALLER GRANT REQUESTS
INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS CAUSING ORGANIZATIONAL STRESS

CURRENT AMOUNT FEEDBACK

$5000 IS "REALLY GREAT" BUT WOULD LIKE MORE AVAILABLE
HAVEN'T NEEDED $5000 YET BUT GOOD FUTURE OPTION
SMALL TOWN GRANTS SIZE ($5K) IS GOOD

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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Is there anything different you would like to see about the application process? What would make the process better from your perspective? Total responses: 34

APPLICATION PROCESS COMPLEXITY/CONFUSION (8 MENTIONS)

TWO-STEP PROCESS CRITICIZED
WEBSITE NAVIGATION ISSUES
REDUNDANT QUESTIONS NOTED

TIMING/DEADLINE CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

SHORT TIMEFRAME FOR STEP 2
DECISION DATES NEED EARLIER SHIFT
LONG WAITING PERIODS

VENUE/LOCATION REQUIREMENTS (4 MENTIONS)

DIFFICULTY SECURING VENUES IN ADVANCE
NEED MORE EXHIBITION SPACES
NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES (4 MENTIONS)

NEED FOR VIDEO/LANGUAGE OPTIONS
BARRIERS FOR NEURODIVERGENT ARTISTS
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS CHALLENGING

APPLICATION FORMAT RESTRICTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

CHARACTER LIMITS PROBLEMATIC
RESUME UPLOAD OPTIONS WANTED
LESS RIGID REQUIREMENTS NEEDED

CAPSTONE EVENT CONCERNS (3 MENTIONS)

QUESTIONS NECESSITY
USES FUNDS NEEDED FOR ART
INFLEXIBILITY ISSUES

REVIEW PANEL COMPOSITION (3 MENTIONS)

NEED MORE DIVERSE PANELISTS
AGE/GENDER BIAS CONCERNS
MEDIA-SPECIFIC EXPERTISE NEEDED

BUDGET/PLANNING CONSTRAINTS (3 MENTIONS)

DIFFICULTY WITH PRE-FUNDING SPECIFICS
NEED MORE FLEXIBILITY
GRANT SIZE VS. EXPERIENCE ISSUES

REDUNDANT QUESTIONS (2 MENTIONS)

"SEVERAL REDUNDANT QUESTIONS"
"WHICH INFO TO INCLUDE WHERE"

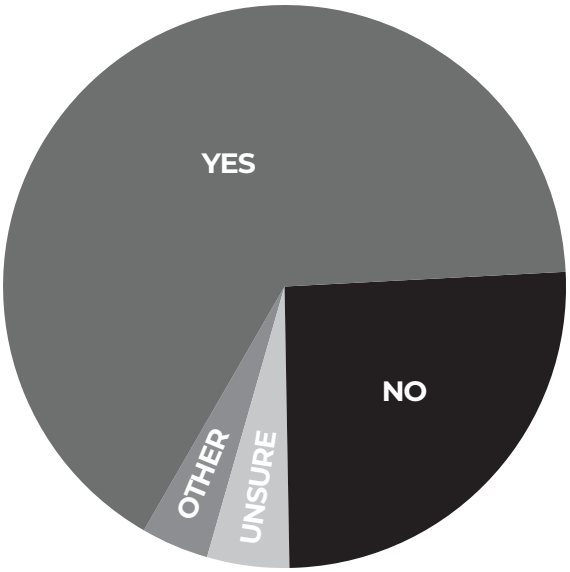
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (2 MENTIONS)

BALANCE WITH PERSONAL PROJECTS
FLEXIBILITY NEEDED

Would you apply again? Why or why not? Would you recommend this grant opportunity to other artists?

Total Responses 130

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (85%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (33%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (6%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (5%)



A INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (83%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (2%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (11%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (4%)

41 RESPONSES

B INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (57%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (29%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (14%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

7 RESPONSES

C GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (94%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (3%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

33 RESPONSES

D GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (87%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (7%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (7%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

15 RESPONSES

E PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (88%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (6%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (3%)

34 RESPONSES

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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Sentiments from those who WOULD apply again

FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL/CRITICAL/NEEDED (28 MENTIONS)

"YES, OF COURSE. IT'S HOW I SURVIVE."
"OUR NONPROFIT OPERATES ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET"
GRANTS ALLOW US TO FOCUS ON OUR MUSIC & SHARING IT WITH THE COMMUNITY"
“FUNDING ALLOWS US TO OPERATE WITHOUT CHARGING DUES TO MEMBERS"
"YES, THE FUNDING GREATLY HELPS TO SUPPORT OR PROGRAM"

STAFF IS HELPFUL/EASY TO WORK WITH (16 MENTIONS)

"KAREN ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION I HAD AND HAD THE PATIENCE TO FULLY EXPLAIN WHAT THE PROCESS SOUGHT"
"I FIND SEMAC STAFF TO BE EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL AND KNOWLEDGABLE"
"STAFF IS GREAT AND THE PROCESS IS NOT TOO ONEROUS"
"STAFF WERE SO EASY TO WORK WITH AND THE GRANT APPLICATION WAS CLEAR"

PROCESS IS FAIR/REASONABLE (12 MENTIONS)

"THE GRANT PROCESS IS FAIR IN RATIO OF WORKLOAD TO OUTCOME"
"ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS IS INTENSE, THE PAYOFF IS WORTH THE EFFORT"
"THE GRANTS ARE SPECIFIC BUT FLEXIBLE"
"WE HAVE BEEN AWARDED GRANTS SEVERAL TIMES SO APPLYING DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A WASTE OF TIME"

IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITY ARTS/RURAL AREAS (11 MENTIONS)

"GREAT SUPPORT FOR RURAL ARTS"
"THE ARTS HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY"
"THIS HAS PROVIDED AN CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY THAT IS RARE OUTSIDE STATE MN"
"ALLOWS US TO PRESENT ARTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RURAL COMMUNITY"

GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (9 MENTIONS)

"THE GRANTS REALLY HELP EMERGING ARTISTS ESTABLISH OURSELVES AND MORE EXPERIENCED ARTISTS DIVE DEEPER"
"IT WAS A GOOD WAY TO GET TO KNOW WHAT THE GRANT PROCESS IS LIKE”
"THIS SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR MY CREATIVE PRACTICE""
"THE DEADLINE AND CAPSTONE MOTIVATE ME TO STICK TO TIMELINE"

Sentiments from those who WOULD NOT apply again

PANEL/REVIEW PROCESS ISSUES (3 MENTIONS))

"PROBABLY NOT BECAUSE THE PANEL PROCESS IS BROKEN. PANELISTS DON'T DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND RELY ONLY ON WHAT THEY HAPPEN TO SPECIFICALLY KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THEIR OWN COUNTY"

"WOMEN ARTISTS ARE GOING TO GET JUDGED ON THEIR LOOKS, WHETHER THEIR LOOKS ARE SURPRISING IN SOME WAY, OR WHETHER SOME MAN IS GOING TO WONDER OUT LOUD"

"APPARENTLY I AM NOT A GOOD ENOUGH WRITER..... I TALKED WITH MANY PEOPLE ABOUT THIS PROJECT.... I HEARD NOTHING BUT GREAT ENTHUSIASM"

APPLICATION PROCESS TOO DEMANDING FOR GRANT SIZE (2 MENTIONS)

"IT IS UNLIKELY THAT I WILL APPLY AGAIN DUE TO MY CONCERN THAT THIS IS MORE OF A COMMUNITY-BASED GRANT RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT. AND, FOR SUCH A RELATIVELY MODEST AMOUNT OF GRANT MONEY, THE APPLICATION IS CUMBERSOME AND VAGUE IN SEVERAL AREAS"

"FOR THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING, THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS A PAIN IN THE REAR. WE HAVE GRANTS FROM THE STATE FOR 10+-TIMES MORE MONEY THAT REQUIRE LESS"

LACK OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (1 MENTION)

"I'M NOT SURE. THERE WAS AN INCREDIBLE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE ORIGINAL HOST FOR MY CAPSTONE STOPPED COMMUNICATION AND I WAS FORCED TO PUSH THE CAPSTONE BACK BY MONTHS""

GENRE/WRITING NOT SUPPORTED (1 MENTION)

"I'M NOT SURE. IT'S GETTING PRETTY CLEAR THAT WRITERS ARE NOT REALLY GETTING FUNDED"

ORGANIZATION CLOSED (1 MENTION)

"THE MERLIN PLAYERS HAVE SHUT THEIR DOORS""

In what other ways do you think SEMAC could help support Individual artists?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/WORKSHOPS (8 MENTIONS)

"I LIKED THE MONTHLY ZOOM/TOPICS"
"WORKSHOPS OR COLLABORATIONS WITH ORGS LIKE SPRINGBOARD"
"MAYBE 1-2 TIMES A YEAR WITH ONLINE TRAINING ABOUT BUDGETING/FINDING OTHER GRANTS"

GRANT STRUCTURE CHANGES (7 MENTIONS)

"LARGER GRANT AWARDS"
"MAYBE SMALLER INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS GRANTS SO MORE CAN RECEIVE THEM?"
"BEGINNER GRANTS FOR $1000.00 THAT DO NOT REQUIRE CAPSTONES"
"THEY SHOULD PERHAPS HAVE TO TAKE A YEAR OFF BETWEEN?"

ARTIST NETWORKING/ DIRECTORY (6 MENTIONS)

"AN ARTIST DIRECTORY WOULD BE HELPFUL"
"A GATHERING OF THE RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS COULD BE AN AMAZING RESOURCE/ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY"
"MORE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS"

ONLINE PRESENCE/PROMOTION (6 MENTIONS)

"HAVE AN ONLINE GALLERY ON YOUR WEBSITE LINKING TO THE WEBSITES OF PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS"
"I REALLY APPRECIATED THE SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL MEDIA"
"I ENJOY ALL OF THE WORKSHOPS THAT SEMAC DOES"

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS (5 MENTIONS)

"CREATE A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM WHERE ESTABLISHED ARTISTS CAN HELP MENTOR EMERGING ARTISTS"
"PERHAPS SOME KIND OF A MENTOR-SHIP PROGRAM TO HELP NEW ARTISTS NAVIGATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS"
"PAIRING A NEW ARTIST WITH SOMEONE WHO'S RECEIVED A GRANT PREVIOUSLY"

OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED AREAS/ARTISTS (4 MENTIONS)

"TARGETING AREAS THAT ARE ARTS NEGLECTED"
"HAVING SOME OUTREACH TO LESS ENGAGED AREAS, POPULATIONS AND TYPES OF ARTS"
"FIND PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE ARTS WORLD BUBBLE"

EXHIBITION/PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES (4 MENTIONS)

"MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW WORK FOR CAPSTONE"
"PROVIDING MORE SPACES TO SHOWS AND INTERACT W THE COMMUNITY"
"BIENNIAL EXHIBITS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

PUBLIC ART SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)

"GUIDANCE IN THINGS LIKE GETTING PUBLIC ART APPROVED"
"I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A PROGRAM SEGMENT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS"

TRANSPARENCY IN PROCESS (3 MENTIONS)

"RECORDINGS OF THE GRANTS RATINGS CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL"
"APPROACHABILITY COULD BE BETTER"
"TELL THEM WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING TO FUND"

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC ART FORMS (2 MENTIONS)

"GET SOME PANELISTS WHO ARE WRIT-ERS"
"I THINK A DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN 'CRAFTS' AND 'ART'"

In what other ways do you think SEMAC could help support Organizations?

MARKETING/PUBLICITY SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"WE NEED TO TAKE BETTER ADVANTAGE OF SEMAC'S PUBLICITY AVENUES"
“HIGHLIGHT AN ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL A MONTH"
"WE STRUGGLE WITH BETTER WAYS TO MARKET"
"HELPING TO MARKET THE EVENTS“

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING (7 MENTIONS)

"PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPS FOR NON-PROFIT LEADERS"
"BY OFFERING WORKSHOPS TO IMPROVE THE BOARD'S AND MEMBERS' SKILLS"
"HELP US LEARN TO BUDGET, MARKET, ORGANIZE FOR THE FUTURE"
"TO GIVE GRANTS TO IMPROVE/TRAIN OUR MEMBERS"

COLLABORATION/NETWORKING SUPPORT (6 MENTIONS)

"ASSIST WITH FINDING COLLABS THROUGH THE REGION"
"BRINGING TOGETHER LIKE-MINDED ARTS ORGS TO COLLECTIVELY PROBLEM SOLVE ISSUES"
"TO SHARE MAILING LISTS”
“ADVICE ON MANAGING VOLUNTEER ARTS ORGANIZATIONS"

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"GRANTS FOR STAFF"
"OPERATION FUNDING"
"MORE GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT FUNDS/OPPORTUNITIES"
"MULTI-YEAR FUNDING WOULD BE WONDERFUL!"

SIMPLIFIED GRANT PROCESS (4 MENTIONS)

"SIMPLIFY THE GRANT PROCESS"
"GRANT APPLICATION FORM COULD BE LESS COMPLEX"
"FEWER OF THE QUESTIONS THAT SEEM VERY SIMILAR"

EVENT CALENDAR/PROMOTION (3 MENTIONS)

"HAVE A CALENDAR WHERE WE COULD LIST ALL OF OUR CONCERTS"
"SEND OUT PRESS RELEASES OF ALL FINISHED PROJECTS"
"PROMOTION OF EVENTS... IN SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

BUILDING/MAINTENANCE SUPPORT (2 MENTIONS)

"WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO APPLY FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE GRANTS"
"EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE FUNDS"

RESOURCE DIRECTORY (2 MENTIONS)

"HAVE A RESOURCE PAGE OF SUGGESTED STRATEGIC PLANNING FACILITATORS"
"SEMAC TO BE A HUB FOR AREA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES"

SATISFIED WITH CURRENT SUPPORT (2 MENTIONS)

"FOR THE TIME BEING, IT IS JUST FINE"
"SUPPORT IS GOOD AT CURRENT LEVELS"

FUNDING CONCERNS (2 MENTIONS)

"IF YOU ADVERTISE FOR MORE APPLICANTS YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE MONEY"
"ALLOW NON ART ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY FOR LARGER GRANTS"

In what other ways do you interact with SEMAC?

Total Responses 223

72	RECIPIENT OF SEMAC'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER	32%
51	FOLLOWER OF SEMAC ON INSTAGRAM AND/OR FACEBOOK	23%
47	NONE OF THE ABOVE	21%
24	FORMER OR CURRENT MEMBER OF SEMAC'S ARTS ADVISORY PANEL	11%
23	ATTENDEE OF A SEMAC GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP	11%
22	ATTENDEE OF A SEMAC ARTIST DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP	10%
21	PARTICIPANT IN ARTS ADVOCACY EFFORTS ORGANIZED BY SEMAC	9%
8	FORMER OR CURRENT MEMBER OF SEMAC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS	4%
8	OTHER MENTIONS	4%

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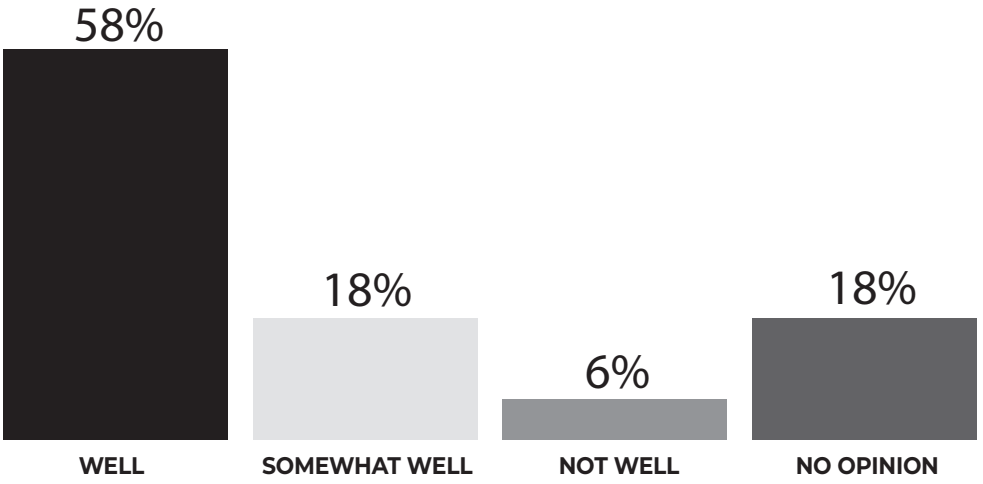
How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

General Operating Support Grants for Organizations (217 responses)



IMPORTANCE FOR OPERATIONS (8 MENTIONS)

"GOS IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR OURORGANIZATION TO FUNCTION"

"VERY IMPORTANT TO ONGOING SUCCESS"

"THESE ARE ACTUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT!"

"MANY GROUPS NEED THE SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THEIR PROGRAMMING"

RURAL/ROCHESTER FOCUS CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

"I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE GOING TO SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

"FOCUS SEEMS ON ROCHESTER"

"MANY SMALL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH-OUT SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RELY ON SEMAC FUNDS"

"NEED MORE GOING TO SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

LACK OF AWARENESS (5 MENTIONS)

"I AM NOT AWARE OF THE OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS FROM SEMAC"

"I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS OR DOES"

"I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH A LOT OF NONPROFITS IN RICE COUNTY AND NEVER KNEW OF THIS OPPORTUNITY"

SAME RECIPIENTS CONCERN (4 MENTIONS)

"IT SEEMS THE SAME PEOPLE KEEP GETTING GRANTS"

"I SEE MANY OF THE SAME ARTISTS GET THESE GRANTS"

"THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PROGRAMS OR RECIPIENTS DOING THIS"

APPLICATION PROCESS ISSUES (4 MENTIONS)

"I FEEL LIKE THE APPLICATION ITSELF IS CUMBERSOME AND REDUNDANT"

"IT GETS CONFUSING FOR TRACKING WHEN MANY ORGS HAVE CALENDAR FISCAL YEARS AND YOURS IS JULY"

"I DID HAVE A NON-PROFIT BUT GAVE UP

THE STATUS. IT WAS CAUSING MORE WORK AND MORE $ THAN IT WAS OFFERING ME"

FUNDING AMOUNT CONCERNS (3 MENTIONS)

"FEWER GRANTS AWARDS BUT LARGER AMOUNTS - ORGS HAVE GREATER NEEDS"

"AN INCREASE IN FUNDING WOULD BE HELPFUL, IN LIGHT OF INFLATION"

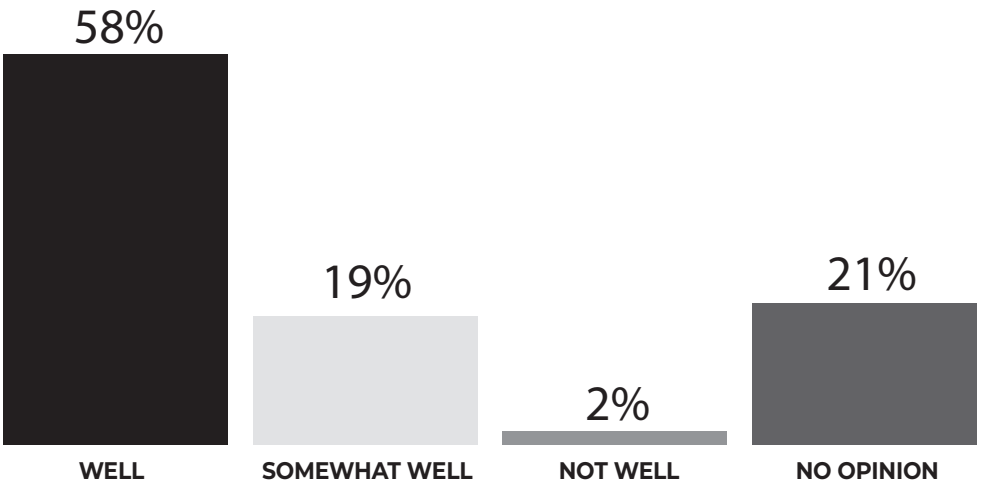
"GENERAL OPERATIONS ARE ALWAYS HARD TO COME BY. THAT'S AN IMPEDIMENT IN ITSELF"

"WAYS TO HELP ORGS MOVE FROM GRANT

SUPPORT TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MODELS"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Programming Grants for Arts Organizations (161 responses)



NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING/RESOURCES (5 MENTIONS)

"FUNDING COULD BE HIGHER"

"I WISH THERE WERE MORE FUNDS FOR LEGACY, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT LIMITATIONS EXIST"

"PERSONALLY WOULD PREFER EITHER MULTI-YEAR OR LARGER GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS"

POSITIVE IMPACT ON ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (4 MENTIONS)

"THAT IS THE HEART OF OUR ORG... W/O SEMAC SUPPORT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PAY OUR ARTISTS"

"MANY SMALL ORGS THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST MN RELY ON SEMAC FUNDS TO KEEP THEIR DOORS OPEN"

"THIS TYPE OF GRANT IS SO HELPFUL TO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS HERE"

VISIBILITY/COMMUNITY PRESENCE (4 MENTIONS)

"I'VE SEEN THE SEMAC LOGO ON CERTAIN OTHER CONCERTS--IT APPEARS THEY ARE VERY ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES"
"I SEE THINGS IN THE WEEKLY PAPER OCCASIONALLY"

"SEMAC SHOULD HAVE A PRESENCE BEYOND JUST THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT ON A POSTER"

ARTS ACCESSIBILITY/REPRESENTATION (3 MENTIONS)

"HELPFUL IN BRINGING ARTS TO SOME WHO MAY NOT OTHERWISE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY"

"SOME AREAS ARE LESS WELL REPRESENTED"

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER WAYS THAT THEY CAN SHOW US HOW TO MORE OF HMONG ARTS"

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT IMPORTANT (3 MENTIONS)

"ALLOWS ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE PROGRAMMING"
"FOCUS ON ARTISTS RATHER THAN ADMINISTRATORS"

"I APPRECIATE THE FLEXIBILITY AND CARING SHOWN TO ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING SUPPORT"

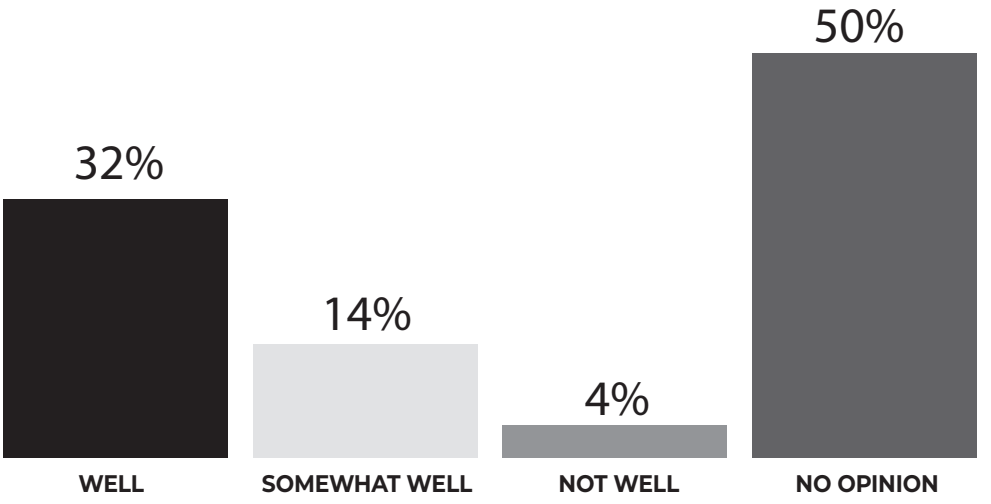
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION FEEDBACK (2 MENTIONS)

"REPRESENTATIVES OF SEMAC SHOULD BE ON HAND TO GATHER PUBLIC INPUT AT INSTALLATIONS"

"AS A BOARD MEMBER, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE PRESENT AT MORE CAPSTONES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

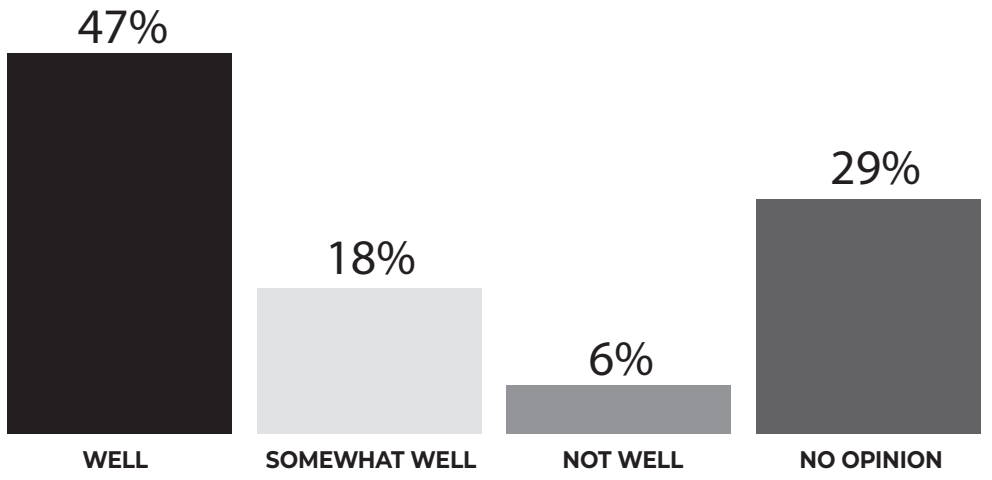
Arts Programming Grants for Non-Arts Orgs (158 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS/CLARITY (4 MENTIONS)	SUPPORT FOR ART-INTEGRATION (3 MENTIONS)
"NOT AWARE OF THIS" "IMPROVE AWARENESS OF AVAIL-ABILITY" "DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A THING" "PLEASE BE MORE CLEAR ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY NON-ARTS"	"EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO HAVE FUNDING" "WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS" "GREAT IDEA" FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES (2 MENTIONS)	**FUNDING NEEDS (2 MENTIONS)**
"FEW ART OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-ART ORGANIZATIONS" "WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES"	"BEING GRANT SUPPORTED WOULD GO A LONG WAY" "DON'T SKIMP ON US"
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FOCUS (1 MENTION)	**EVENT PLANNING CHALLENGES (1 MENTION)**
"SHARE THE BENEFITS OF ARTS TO ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY"	"PLANNERS LACK ABILITY TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK OR AFFORD SETUP FEES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Individual Artist Grants (157 responses)



APPLICATION PROCESS CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

"THERE ARE A LOT OF HOOPS TO JUMP THROUGH"

"APPLICATION ITSELF IS CUMBERSOME AND REDUNDANT"

"YOU SHOULD MAKE THE PROCESS SIMPLER"

FUNDING LEVEL SUGGESTIONS (5 MENTIONS)

"ONE MINI-STEP BEFORE THE $3000.00 WITH A LESS ARDUOUS PROCESS"

"ARTISTS COULD ALWAYS USE ADDITIONAL FUNDING"

"PROVIDING A SMALLER STARTER GRANT"

ACCESS/INCLUSIVITY CONCERNS (4 MENTIONS)

"HOW DO WE MAKE GRANTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO TALENTED ARTISTS WHO DON'T HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE"

"COULD USE BETTER STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT IS 'ART'"

"INCLUDE MORE LITERARY ARTISTS, WRITERS, POETS, NOVELISTS"

POSITIVE IMPACT (4 MENTIONS)

"LOVED GETTING THEM. HOPE TO GET MORE. ALWAYS VERY EDIFYING"

"I'VE BEEN VERY INTERESTED AND IMPRESSED BY THE PROJECTS"

"BEING AWARDED AN SEMAC GRANT IS A GREAT MOTIVATION"

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FEEDBACK (3 MENTIONS)

"THE CRITERIA FOR EMERGING/ADVANCED COULD BE RE-EVALUATED"

"WISH THAT THERE WAS NOT A REQUIREMENT THAT ARTISTS BE OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL"

"DECISION MAKING COULD BE MORE CLEAR"

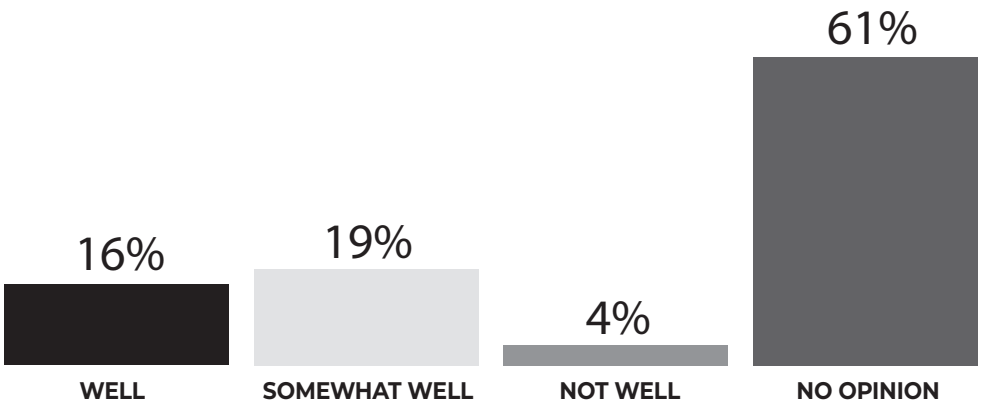
CULTURAL REPRESENTATION (2 MENTIONS)

"THE PROGRAM HELP SHOW OTHER PEOPLE OUR CULTURE AND ARTS"

"WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LITERARY ARTISTS APPLY AND RECEIVE FUNDING"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

School Residency Grants (158 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (7 MENTIONS)

"NOT SURE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THEM"

"NOT SURE THERE IS A BROAD AWARENESS"

"I WISH I KNEW MORE"

"DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THERE!"

"PROGRAM NEEDS BE BETTER PROMOTED"

POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS (3 MENTIONS)

"GREAT FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE ARTISTS"

"VERY HELPFUL FOR THE ARTIST(S) AND THE SCHOOLS"

"WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOLS"

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES (2 MENTIONS)

"HARD FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PUSH FOR AND CONSIDER ONE MORE THING"

"JUST THE COORDINATION REQUIRED"

UNDERUTILIZATION (2 MENTIONS)

"ISN'T BEING WELL UTILIZED"

"HASN'T BEEN TOO MANY APPLICATION SUBMITTALS"

FEEDBACK SUGGESTIONS (1 MENTION)

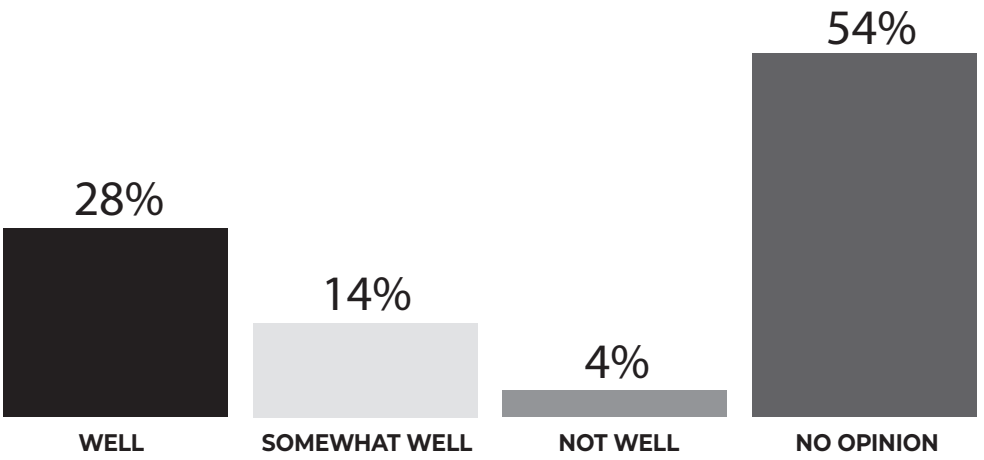
"FOLLOW-UP ON CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS SHOULD BE DONE"

HIGHER EDUCATION EXCLUSION (1 MENTION)

"DO NOT HELP THOSE OF US IN HIGHER ED WHO WOULD LIKE TO BRING TEACHING ARTISTS TO CAMPUSES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Individual Artist Workshop Series (155 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (6 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED!"
"DID NOT KNOW THIS WAS A THING"
"I DIDN'T ATTEND ONE AND I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS WORKSHOP SERIES"
"NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT BUT LOVE THE CONCEPT"
"BETTER PUBLICITY?"

POSITIVE RECEPTION (5 MENTIONS)

"LOVED SEEING THIS EMERGE AS A FANTASTIC RESOURCE!"
"I LOVE THAT THESE ARE BEING OFFERED"
"THEY ARE GETTING BETTER FOR SURE!"
"THE SERIES THIS YEAR WAS VERY AFFIRMING"
"THESE SOUND REALLY USEFUL!"

DESIRE FOR MORE/EXPANSION (4 MENTIONS)

"I WISH WE HAVE MORE"
"MORE FOCUSED I.E. MUSIC, VISUAL, DANCE ETC."
"MORE MENTORSHIP FOR YOUNGER ARTISTS WOULD SERVE THE APPLICANTS BETTER"
"MORE WORKSHOPS SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS"

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT (2 MENTIONS)

"WORKSHOPS TEND TO LEAN AWAY FROM ANY EVALUATION OF ARTISTIC QUALITY REGARDING THE PROPOSALS"
"WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR DIRECTION WITH SOME OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS"

COMMUNITY IMPACT FOCUS (2 MENTIONS)

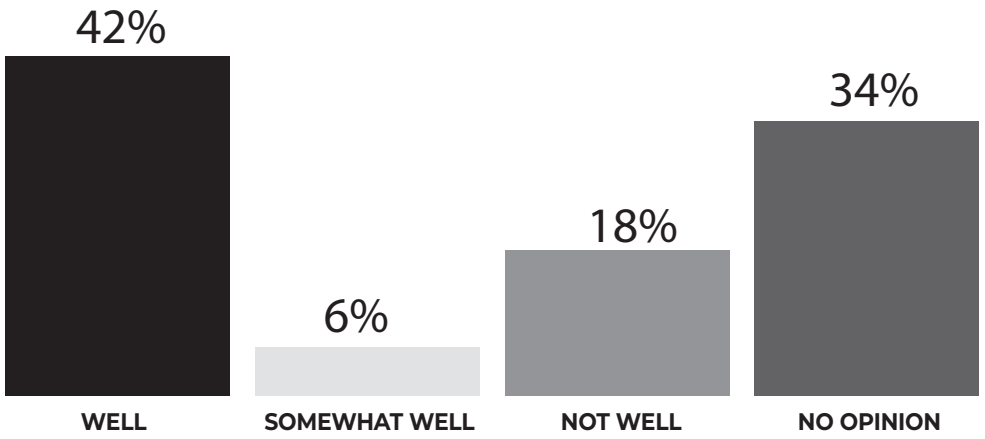
"THE GIVE-BACK ASPECT OF RECEIVING GRANT FUNDS SHOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY"
"SHOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THAT PARTICULAR ARTIST/WRITER LIVES"

BETTER ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE (2 MENTIONS)

"MORE FOCUSED I.E. MUSIC, VISUAL, DANCE ETC."
"BETTER PUBLICITY?"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

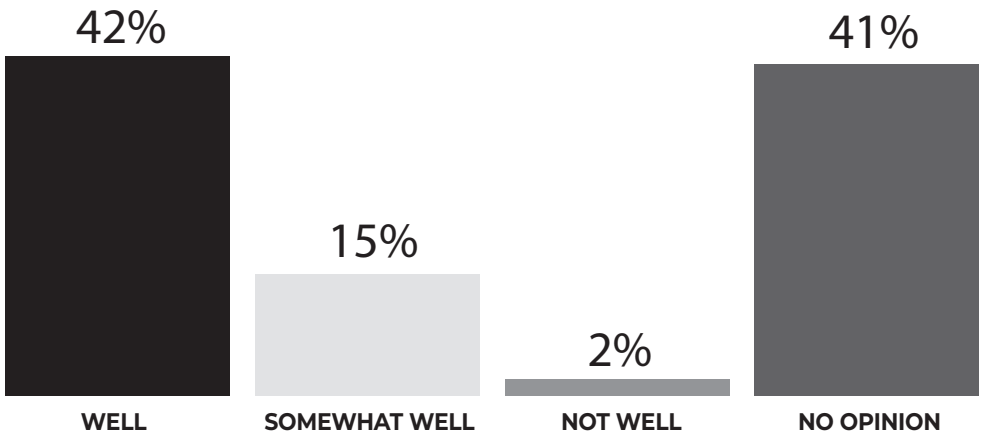
Grant Writing Workshops (156 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (4 MENTIONS)	POSITIVE EXPERIENCE/VALUE (4 MENTIONS)
"DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS..." "I DIDN'T KNOW THESE EXISTED" "DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THERE" "PROBABLY WHAT I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN.... I DIDN'T USE IT, SO NOT SURE"	"THE LAST ONE WAS AWESOME" "I ATTENDED, THIS WAS HELPFUL, THANK YOU FOR OFFERING IT" "THIS IS ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT AND WELCOME RESOURCE" "I CAME TO THE FIRST GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP IN ROCHESTER AT THE SEMAC OFFICE AND ENJOYED IT"
NEED FOR EXPANSION/MORE OFFERINGS (3 MENTIONS)	**NEED FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)**
"I WISH WE HAVE MORE" "WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THESE OFFERED IN THE 9 COUNTY REGION" "OFFERED AS A SERIES THROUGH THE LOCAL LIBRARY SYSTEM WOULD BE GREAT"	"MORE HELP IS NEEDED TO INSTRUCT PEOPLE HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION" "MORE OBJECTIVITY NEEDS TO BE USED DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS" "PERHAPS MORE INSIGHT INTO THE REVIEWERS AND HOW THEY APPROACH GRANT GIVING"
RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE (2 MENTIONS)	**CONCERNS ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY/COMPLEXITY (2 MENTIONS)**
"EVERYONE CAN USE HELP TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS" "THIS IS A VERY NECESSARY SKILL"	"THE REAL NEWBIES GET OVERWHELMED"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

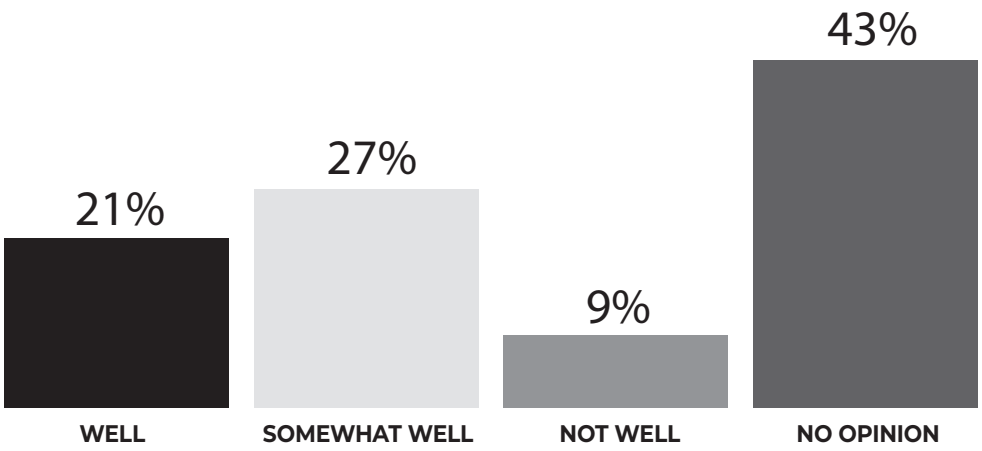
Monthly Newsletter (157 responses)



POSITIVE ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS (6 MENTIONS)	DON'T RECEIVE/UNAWARE (4 MENTIONS)
"THIS HAS BEEN MUCH BETTER THIS PAST YEAR" "NEWLY IMPROVED!" "GREAT REVAMP!"	"I DON'T BELIEVE I GET ONE" "I MUST BE MISSING THIS" "NOT YET ON THE NEWSLETTER"
INFORMATIVE/HELPFUL (4 MENTIONS)	**COMMUNICATION FREQUENCY (2 MENTIONS)**
"REALLY LIKE HEARING ABOUT OTHER SEMAC EVENTS" "THE NEWSLETTER IS CLEAR AND INFORMATIVE" "THIS HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL"	"APPRECIATE THAT THEY ARE NOT FLOODING MY INBOX" "MORE! HELPS REMIND ME OF STUFF"
UNCERTAIN/CAN'T REMEMBER (2 MENTIONS)	**NOT FAMILIAR (2 MENTIONS)**
"CAN'T REMEMBER IF I GET THESE" "LOTS OF EMAIL THESE DAYS"	"NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Social Media Presence (158 responses)



INCREASED/IMPROVED PRESENCE (7 MENTIONS)

"SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN INCREASING WHICH IS GREAT"

"DIGITAL/SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BEEN EXCELLENT IN THE PAST 2 YEARS"

"GOOD WAY TO RAISE ARTS AWARENESS"

NEED MORE/EARLIER POSTS (6 MENTIONS)

"COULD POST MORE SO WE CAN SHARE"

"SOME POSTS POP UP TOO LATE TO ATTEND EVENTS"

"NEED TO HAVE MORE POSTS"

UNAWARE OF PRESENCE (5 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T REALIZE, BEFORE TODAY, THAT SEMAC HAS A FB PRESENCE"

"I DON'T KNOW IF I KNEW THESE EXISTED"

"THIS SURVEY IS THE FIRST I'VE SEEN REGARDING SEMAC"

DON'T USE SOCIAL MEDIA (4 MENTIONS)

"I TEND TO AVOID SOCIAL MEDIA"

"OLDER RESIDENTS DON'T USE MUCH SOCIAL MEDIA"

"I'M NOT ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

POSITIVE IMPACT/SHARING (4 MENTIONS)

"LOVE HOW YOU SHARE THE EVENTS GOING ON IN THE REGION"

"I LOVE THE GRAPHICS AND PHOTOS!"

"VERY HELPFUL TO SEE REAL TIME ACTIVITIES"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (3 MENTIONS)

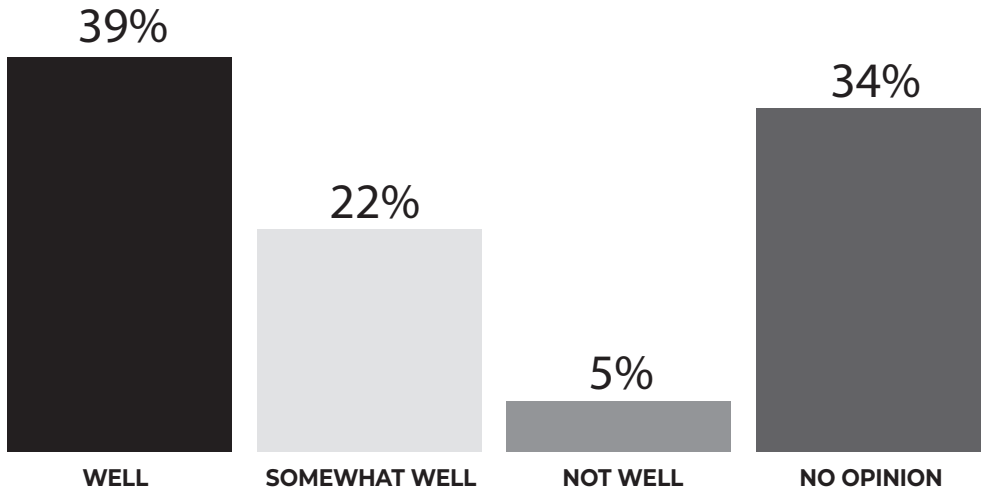
"WISH YOU PROVIDED/REQUIRED A HASHTAG FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS"

"SIGN-UP PROCESS IS ALSO NOT CLEAR"

"A GOOD START TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Arts Advocacy Efforts (157 responses)



NEED MORE VISIBILITY/PUBLICITY (7 MENTIONS)

"NEED MORE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS"

"THERE SHOULD BE A GREATER PRESENCE IN ALL SE MN COMMUNITIES"
"MORE ADVOCACY"

POSITIVE ABOUT LEADERSHIP/EFFORTS (4 MENTIONS)

"THE NEW SEMAC LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN VERY PROACTIVE"

"I SEE NEW LEADERSHIP DOING GREAT THINGS"

"TIM PENNY DOES A GOOD JOB"

UNCLEAR/UNFAMILIAR (3 MENTIONS)

"UNCLEAR. I AM FAMILIAR WITH MCA EFFORTS NOT SEMAC"

"I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT THIS INVOLVES"

"ARTS ADVOCACY COMMENTS GO HERE"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (3 MENTIONS)

"COULD DO MORE IN NON-ROCHESTER AND SMALL TOWN VENUES"

"I'D LIKE TO SEE REGULAR INFORMATION RELEASES"

"ADVERTISMENTS, SPONSORSHIPS OF SUPPORTING EVENTS"

CRITICISM OF GRANT FOCUS (2 MENTIONS)

"THERE IS NO SUPPORT FOR THOSE THAT DON'T WRITE GRANTS"

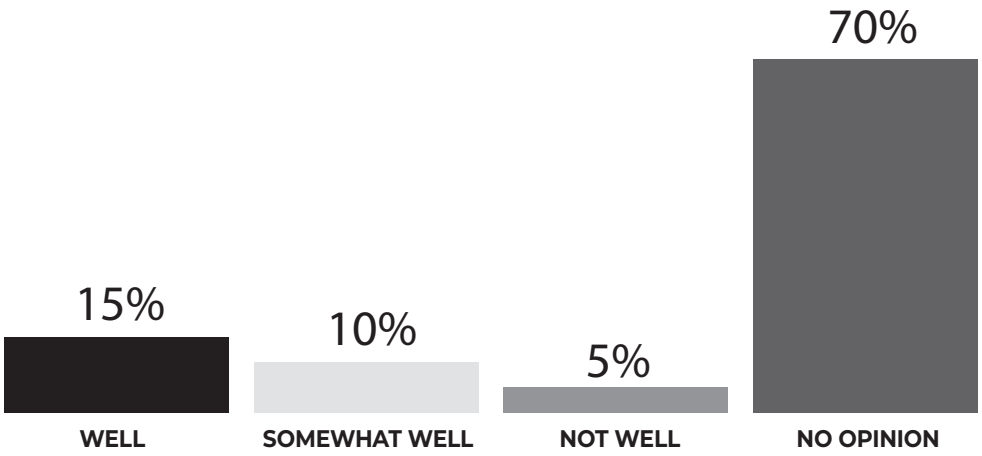
"SEMAC IS STUCK IN A CYCLE OF SELF PROMOTION OVER ARTIST PROMOTION"

APPRECIATIVE (2 MENTIONS)

"WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!"
"I ENJOY THE IDI TRAINING COURSE"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Language Services & Grant Coaching (154 responses)



UNAWARE OF SERVICES (9 MENTIONS)

"I WASN'T AWARE OF THESE SERVICES"
"NOT AWARE ENOUGH TO COMMENT"
"NO CLUE THIS WAS AVAILABLE"
"DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A THING"

DESIRE FOR MORE COACHING (4 MENTIONS)

"I WOULD LIKE MORE COACHING IN WRITING APPLICATIONS"
"GRANT WRITING CAN BE OVERWHELMING FOR ARTISTS"
"MORE HELP IN APPLYING IS NECESSARY"

POSITIVE FEEDBACK (3 MENTIONS)

"KAREN IS A TERRIFIC RESOURCE"
"VERY HAPPY WITH STAFF RESPONSES"
"I RECOMMEND!"

QUESTIONS ABOUT NEWNESS (2 MENTIONS)

"IS THIS NEW?"
"PERHAPS THEY'RE NEWER OPTIONS"

INTERESTED BUT HAVEN'T USED (2 MENTIONS)

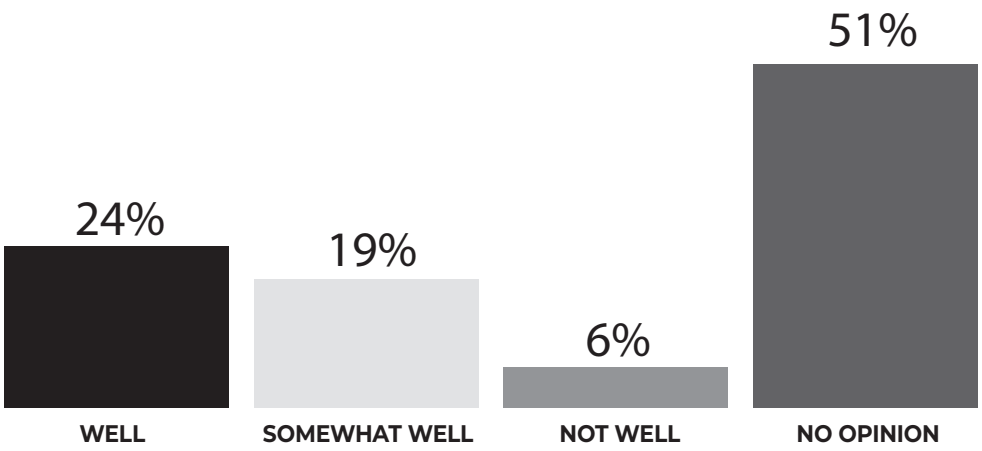
"I HAVEN'T USED THIS - VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT BEING AN OPTION"
"TO BE FAIR I HAVEN'T NEEDED"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (2 MENTIONS)

"GRANT COACHING COULD INCLUDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR APPLICANTS TO FURTHER THEIR SKILL LEVELS"
"HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT CULTURE"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Calendar on Website (154 responses)



NEED MORE VISUAL/USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT (5 MENTIONS)

"THE FORMAT COULD BE EASIER DISPLAY. LIKE A GOOGLE CALENDER"

"NEEDS TO BE REFRESHED"

"PERHAPS CONSIDER MORE VISUALS WITH THE TEXT HEAVY SECTIONS"

REQUESTS FOR LONGER-TERM PLANNING (3 MENTIONS)

"DATES FURTHER OUT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL"

"HELPFUL TO KNOW THE GRANT SUBMISSION CALENDAR FOR 12-18 MONTHS"

"I PLAN A YEAR OR MORE IN ADVANCE"

UNAWARE/DON'T USE (4 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ONE"

"I'VE NEVER LOOKED AT THIS"

"HAVE NOT PERUSED YET"

NAVIGATION ISSUES (2 MENTIONS)

"DRACONIAN AT TIMES AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE"

"UNCLEAR HOW WE GET ON THE CALENDAR"

POSITIVE FEEDBACK (2 MENTIONS)

"WEBSITE HAS BEEN GETTING EASIER TO NAVIGATE"

"THE SEMAC WEBSITE IS VERY GOOD"

NEED MORE PROMOTION (2 MENTIONS)

"THIS COULD USE MORE PROMOTING"

"MAYBE PUBLICIZE MORE"

Do you have any additional comments or feedback on SEMAC's current activities?

POSITIVE ABOUT STAFF/ LEADERSHIP (12 MENTIONS)

"STAFF ARE SO VERY SUPPORTIVE AND IT'S CLEAR THEY ARE HERE TO HELP"
"KAREN IS A JEWEL. SHE IS VERY HELPFUL IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS"
"ANASTASIA HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO THE ORGANIZATION"
"THE STAFF AT SEMAC IS REALLY WONDERFUL, AND KAREN IS A VERY GOOD COMMUNICATOR"

NEED MORE OUTREACH/ VISIBILITY (10 MENTIONS))

"I'VE LIVED HERE OVER 50 YEARS AND AM UNAWARE OF MUCH SEMAC DOES"
"NOT EVEN AWARE OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH SUGGESTS LACK OF VISIBILITY"
"LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE; REALIZING MY INDIVIDUAL CONNECTIONS CREATE KNOWLEDGE GAPS"

PRAISE FOR RECENT IMPROVEMENTS (8 MENTIONS)

"THE IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO HAVE BEEN AMAZING"
"I FEEL SEMAC HAS A BETTER PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS PAST YEAR"
"I APPRECIATE THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE IN OUR REGION"
"BETTER PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS PAST YEAR AND IS SERVING ARTIST BETTER"

SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKSHOPS/TRAINING (6 MENTIONS)

"MORE WORKSHOP TRAINING. LIKE SOCIAL MEDIA, ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES... WE ARE ARTISTS NOT PROFESSIONALS BUSINESS PEOPLE"
"MAYBE SEMAC COULD OFFER ORGANIZATIONS AND ARTISTS A WORKSHOP ON MAXIMIZING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA"
"OUR LACK IN BUSINESS BACKGROUND WE FEEL THAT IS ALWAYS SOMETHING LACKING"

GRANT PROCESS CONCERNS (5 MENTIONS)

"PANELISTS SKIM THE APPLICATIONS IN A HURRY & OLMSTEAD COUNTY SEEMS TO RECEIVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF GRANTS"
"GRANTEE SELECTION SEEMS TO VARY GREATLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR MAKING IT DIFFICULT"
"DIVISION IN EMERGING AND ADVANCING ARTISTS DOES NOT FEEL DEFINED ENOUGH NOR A BIG ENOUGH JUMP BETWEEN"

MENTORSHIP REQUESTS (4 MENTIONS)

"INDIVIDUALS DURING THEIR EARLY STAGES WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM MENTORSHIPS"
"BABY GRANTS COULD BE A COHORT OF 3-5 AND BE TREATED AS A GROUP MENTORED BY A MORE EXPERIENCED ARTIST"
"WORKSHOPS, CLASSES OR MENTORSHIPS WOULD HELP GUIDE THEM IN FURTHERING THEIR SKILLS"

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (3 MENTIONS)

"HIRE A UBX DESIGNER TO HELP WITH YOUR SITE"
"SOMEWHAT CLUNKY APPLICATION WEBSITE"
"YOUR WEBSITE IS DRACONIAN AT TIMES AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE"

COMMUNITY IMPACT APPRECIATION (3 MENTIONS)

"THIS IS A GREAT PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNTIES DEVELOPMENT"
"SEMAC HAS BEEN OF AN ENOURMOUS HELP TO OUR DEVELOPMENT AS AN ORGANIZATION"
"SEMAC'S EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO INDIVIDUALS/COMMUNITIES IS IMPORTANT AND EFFECTIVE IN ADDRESSING ISOLATION"

APPLICATION PROCESS SUGGESTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

"BABY GRANTS THAT ONLY REQUIRE A VIDEO OR VERY SHORT WRITTEN STATEMENT"
"GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL SEEMED TO JUDGE APPLICATIONS MORE ON HOW WELL WRITTEN RATHER THAN QUALITY"
"NEED MORE HELP IN APPLYING"

PROMOTIONAL SUGGESTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

"DOES SEMAC DO ANY LOCAL PROMOTIONS FOR SEMAC EVENTS? THAT COULD BE HELPFUL"
"SOME EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIRECTLY IN THE AREAS THE EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE"
"I APPRECIATE ALL THE NEW EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SEMAC"

What needs within your community or that you have as an artist, arts enthusiast, arts volunteer, or arts professional are not being met by SEMAC's current programs? Total 143

NEED FOR MORE FUNDING/HIGHER GRANTS (22 MENTIONS)

"HIGHER GRANT AMOUNTS FOR MORE AMBITIOUS PROJECTS - DUE TO RISING PRICES"
"A LIVING WAGE FOR PROJECTS - ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE PROFESSIONAL ARTIST OUTSIDE METRO"
"THE GRANT AMOUNTS NEED TO BE GREATER - CAN TAKE 10 HOURS JUST IN PRE-GRANT WORK FOR ONLY $5000"

DESIRE FOR YOUTH/EDUCATION PROGRAMS (18 MENTIONS)

"MORE GRANTS FOR YOUTH - TEEN CHILDREN THAT COULD REALLY FLOURISH WITH GRANT SUPPORT"
"HOW CAN CHILDREN BE BETTER ENGAGED - ESPECIALLY FROM DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS"
"COMING INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - NEED MORE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS"

REQUEST FOR ARTIST NETWORKING/COMMUNITY (16 MENTIONS)

"YEARLY ART GET TOGETHER TO SHARE RESOURCES - DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES COULD HOST"
"CONNECTING ARTISTS WITHIN SEMAC'S REGION - REGIONAL ONLINE CONVERSATION AND DATABASE"
"NEED REGIONAL ARTIST CONNECTIONS - STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER BETTER"

VISIBILITY/PROMOTION CONCERNS (15 MENTIONS)

"GETTING THE WORD OUT - LIVED HERE 50 YEARS AND UNAWARE OF SEMAC"
"MORE NOTIFICATIONS AND MARKETING ON SOCIAL NETWORKS TO RAISE AWARENESS"
"MORE ADVERTISING IN SMALLER DEMOGRAPHIC COMMUNITIES THAN ROCHESTER - NEED SEED PLANTING"

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (14 MENTIONS)

"MORE PROGRAMMING FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES AND MARKETING - WE ARE ARTISTS NOT BUSINESS PEOPLE"
"PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS TRAINING - ESPECIALLY FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS"
"ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE - MANY RELY SOLELY ON VOLUNTEER BOARDS"

MENTORSHIP/GUIDANCE NEEDS (14 MENTIONS)

"PROGRAM TO PARTNER YOUNG ARTISTS WITH AGING ARTISTS - CREATING STRONG BONDS"
"FUNDING MENTORSHIPS TO COMPENSATE BOTH MENTOR AND MENTEE"
"HELP ARTISTS THAT ARE NEW TO AREA AND DON'T HAVE NETWORK - SEMAC COULD CONNECT"

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS (12 MENTIONS)

"SERVING RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES - LONG WAY TO GO"
"WOULD LOVE TO SEE NON-WHITE ARTISTS BECOME MORE VISIBLE"
"HISTORICALLY SAME PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING - NEED MORE DIVERSE APPLICANTS"

VENUE/EXHIBITION NEEDS (10 MENTIONS)

""PROVIDING VENUES TO EXHIBIT - ESPECIALLY FOR VISUAL ARTISTS"
"WE NEED AN ART GALLERY/MUSEUM - NO AVENUE TO SHOWCASE WORK PERIODICALLY"
"MORE PLACES FOR ARTISTS TO TEACH FROM - NOT TEACHING OUT OF HOMES"

GRANT PROCESS ASSISTANCE (9 MENTIONS)

"HELP WITH FILLING OUT GRANTS - PROCESS OVERWHELMING FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS"
"MAYBE CONSULTATIONS - HARD TIME FINDING RESOURCES WHEN FIRST STARTING"
"PANEL PROCESS IS BROKEN - NO LONGER ADVOCATE BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS"

RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"YOU IGNORE SMALLER TOWNS OUTSIDE NORTHFIELD AND ROCHESTER"
"NOT A LOT OF RURAL OPPORTUNITIES - NEED FOCUS ON ARTS ON THE FARM"
"RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED MORE ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXAMPLE PROJECTS"

What needs within your community or that you have as an artist, arts enthusiast, arts volunteer, or arts professional are not being met by SEMAC's current programs? Total 143

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"NEED FUNDING FOR PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE HELP - ALL VOLUNTEER BOARDS"

"INTERIM SUPPORT WHEN ORGANIZATION LOSES DIRECTOR"

"SMALL ORGANIZATIONS DISCOURAGED BY COMPETITION - NEED MORE AVAILABLE MONEY"

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS (7 MENTIONS)

"ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ANXIETY/ADHD - DECISION PARALYSIS OVERWHELMING"

"MORE AVENUES FOR DISABLED ARTISTS - REQUIREMENTS AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFYING"

"NEED INFO ON DRESS CODE, PARKING, ENTRANCE - REDUCES BARRIERS"

RESOURCE SHARING (6 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE - MARKETING TOOLS, PRODUCTION STAFF, VENUES"

"NEED ACCESS TO RESOURCES LIKE SCANNING EQUIPMENT, ADOBE SUITE, PODCASTING SPACE"

"DATABASE SO ARTISTS CAN FIND ONE ANOTHER IF DESIRED"

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING (6 MENTIONS)

"DIFFERENT CULTURAL FOOD EVENTS - BEST WAY TO BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER"

"COOKING CLASSES FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES"

"MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS"

SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"LONG-TERM SUPPORT VS SHORT TERM FUNDING - NEED SUSTAINABILITY"

"MULTI-YEAR GRANTS FOR STABILITY"

"NEED IMPACT TRACKING AND SUSTAINED ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT"

LITERARY ARTS SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION TO LITERARY ARTISTS - REQUIREMENTS WRITTEN FOR VISUAL ARTISTS"

"SUPPORT FOR WRITERS, NOVELISTS, POETS, STORYTELLERS"

"INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING SUPPORT NEEDED"

DIGITAL SKILLS SUPPORT (4 MENTIONS)

"TECHNICAL AND DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING - ESPECIALLY FOR ADVANCED CAREER ARTISTS"

"GRAPHIC DESIGN REFRESHER COURSES"

"ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE WITH TECHNOLOGY - DIFFICULT IN RURAL AREAS"

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS (4 MENTIONS)

"TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS TO ARTS VENUES AND ACTIVITIES"

"ACCESS TO EVENTS - ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND RURAL AREAS"

"NEED HELP GETTING PEOPLE TO VENUES"

PUBLIC ART SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)

"PERMANENT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION SUPPORT NEEDED"

"MURAL PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

"MORE PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES IN SMALL TOWNS"

PERFORMANCE SPACE NEEDS (3 MENTIONS)

"VERY LITTLE MODERN DANCE SPACE/SUPPORT"

"FULL RESTORATION OF PERFORMANCE VENUES LIKE CHATEAU THEATER"

"NEED MORE DEDICATED PERFORMANCE SPACES OUTSIDE MAJOR CITIES"

What words would you use to describe SEMAC? Total responses 169

POSITIVE

SUPPORTIVE/SUPPORT (31 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORTIVE OF ALL AGE GROUPS"
"STRONG SUPPORTER OF ALL TYPES OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION"

VITAL/ESSENTIAL (15 MENTIONS)

"VITAL TO SMALLER COMMUNITIES"
"VITAL, DEDICATED, WELL CONNECTED"

IMPORTANT (12 MENTIONS)

"IMPORTANT ARTS FUNDER"
"CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR ARTS PROGRAMMING"

HELPFUL (10 MENTIONS)

"MOST HELPFUL PEOPLE I HAVE ENCOUNTERED"
"HELPFUL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPPORT"

FUNDING/FUNDER (8 MENTIONS)

"MAIN SOURCE FOR FUNDING"
"CRITICAL FUNDER OF DIVERSE ARTS ACTIVITIES"

CATALYST/ENABLER (7 MENTIONS)

"CATALYST FOR CREATIVITY"
"ENABLERS OF ARTS CREATION"

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED (6 MENTIONS)

"COMMUNITY CHANGING"
"INTERACTIVE, SUPPORTIVE, ENGAGING, COMMUNITY CHANGING"

ADVOCATE/ADVOCACY (5 MENTIONS)

"STRONG ADVOCATE FOR BRINGING QUALITY ARTS"
"ADVOCACY FOR STRENGTHENING PRESENCE OF ARTS"

INNOVATIVE (4 MENTIONS)

"INNOVATIVE APPROACHES"
"SUSTAINERS OF INNOVATION"

EDUCATIONAL (4 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORT AND EDUCATE"
"PROVIDES EDUCATION, GRANT OPPORTUNITIES, AND RESOURCES"

NEGATIVE

UNAPPROACHABLE/EXCLUSIVE (4

"UNAPPROACHABLE TO NEWCOMERS"
"INSULAR, CLIQUEY, EXCLUSIVE"

LIMITED SCOPE (4 MENTIONS)

"NARROW SCOPE AND IMPACT"
"NOT SERVING WIDE ENOUGH BASE"
"SELECTIVE" "SHORT-SIGHTED"

BIASED (3 MENTIONS)

"BIASED TOWARD THE SAME GROUPS"
"MOSTLY BENEFICIAL TO THOSE ALREADY ESTABLISHED" "PREDICTABLE"

UNKNOWN (3 MENTIONS)

"INVISIBLE"
"UNKNOWN"
"UNDER UNDERSTOOD"

BUREAUCRATIC (2 MENTIONS)

BUREAUCRACY"
"TRADITIONAL"

CONFUSING (2 MENTIONS)

"CONFUSING"
"FORMAL, OPAQUE"

FOCUSED ON ADMINISTRATION (2)

"USE FUNDING FOR SALARIES & ADMIN"
"TAKES FUNDING THAT DONORS BELIEVE IS GOING TO ARTISTS"

ARROGANT (1 MENTION)

"ARROGANT. TOO FOCUSED ON DEI"

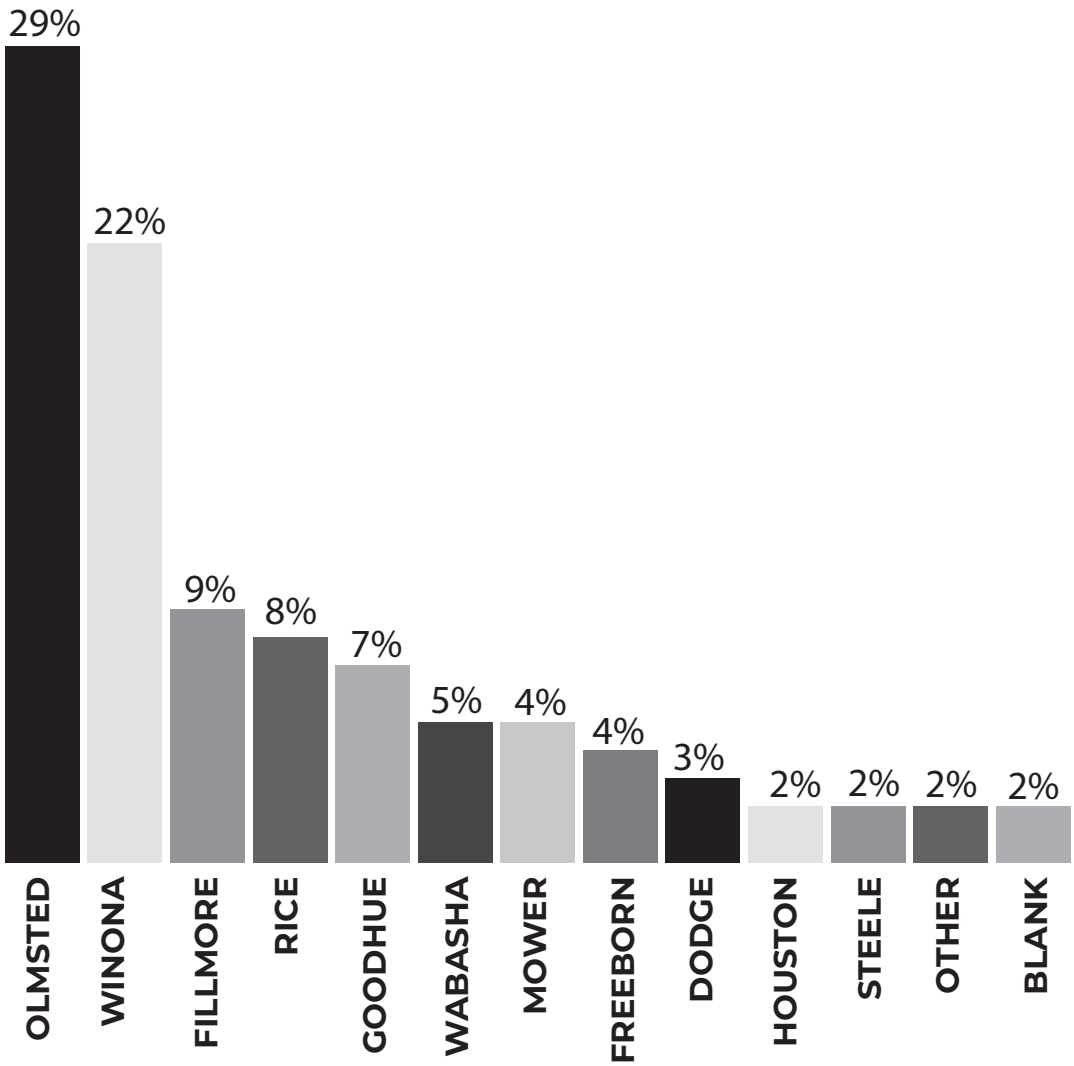
ELITIST (1 MENTION)

"ELITIST""

DORMANT (1 MENTION)

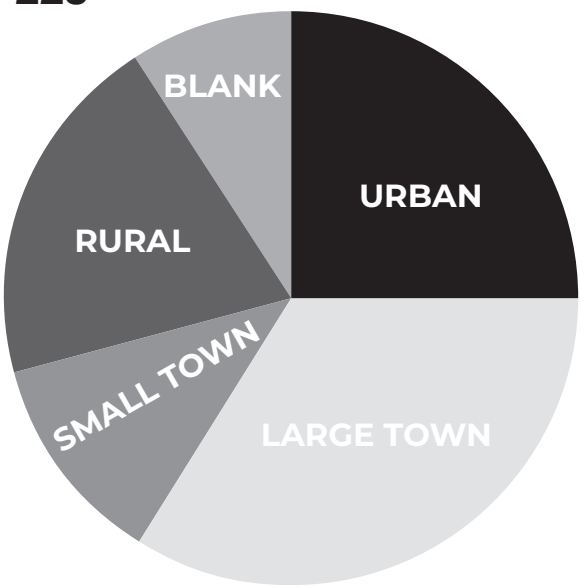
"DORMANT SEED READY TO GROW"

In which southeastern Minnesota county do you reside? Total Responses 223

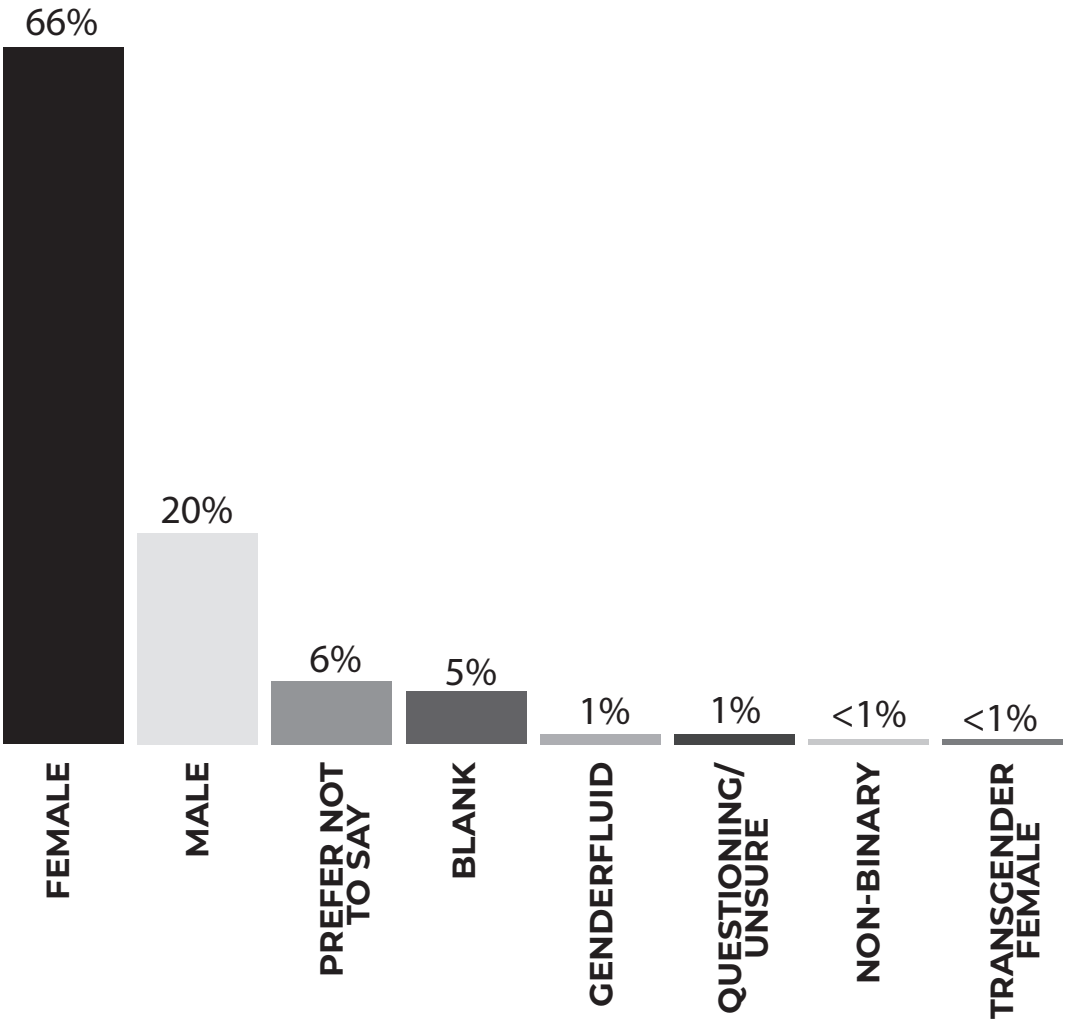


What type of community do you live? 223

- **URBAN (50K+): 25%**
- **LARGE TOWN (10K-50K): 34%**
- **SMALL TOWN (2.5K-10K): 12%**
- **RURAL (<2.5K): 20%**
- **(BLANK): 9%**

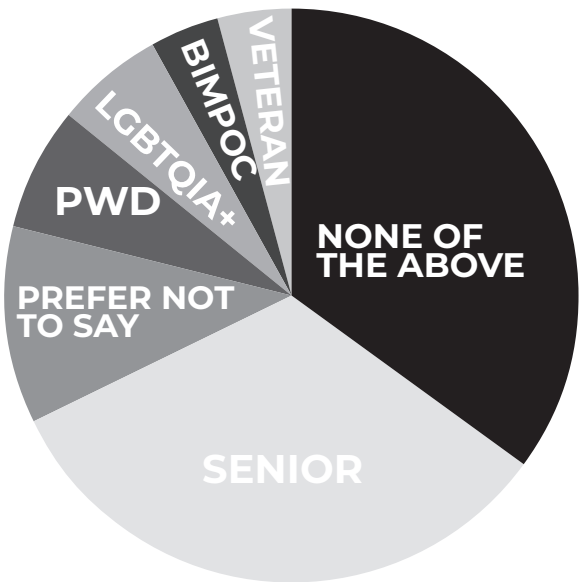


Which of the following best describes your gender identity? 223



Do you identify as a member of any of the following equity groups? Total responses 236

- **SENIOR: 35%** VS US CENSUS 19%
- **NONE OF THE ABOVE: 33%**
- **PREFER NOT TO SAY: 11%**
- **PWD: 7%** VS US CENSUS 9%
- **LGBTQIA+: 6%**
- **BIMPOC: 4%** VS US CENSUS 16.7%
- **VETERAN: 4%** VS US CENSUS 4%



SEMAC Program Information Attachment to FY 2026-2027 Biennial Plan

Grant Programs

Grant Program Descriptions

See below for eligibility guidelines and rules, grant project restrictions, disallowed expenses, and review criteria applicable to all grant programs.

Project Support for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers

These project grants are meant to encourage individual artists and culture bearers to take the next step in their creative pursuits by providing the financial support needed to experiment, take on a challenge, or deepen their practice. Individuals creating new work in all disciplines, including but not limited to, painting, photography, printmaking, textiles, music, dance, theater, performance, storytelling, literary arts, intermedia arts, and traditional arts are encouraged to apply.

There are two categories for these project grants: Emerging Artists may apply for $2,000 - $4,000 and Advancing Artists may apply for $3,000 - $6,000. To be eligible to apply as an Advancing Artist, an applicant must demonstrate that they have received regional or national recognition for their previous work.

The grant proposal must be to support the creation of new work and include an opportunity for public engagement with that work. This public component could be an exhibition, a performance, a reading, or another in-person activity, or it could be a series of events. As long as this component is accessible and meaningfully engages the general public, the applicant can determine the format that best supports their project. The applicant will be asked in the grant application to identify a specific date for the public component for SEMAC to use for promotion and to send a representative to monitor.

Applicants who apply to present, adapt, or translate existing work such as a piece of music, a play, etc. will be asked to describe why they chose that specific work, how their choice advances their own creative pursuits, and how the proposed project fulfills the grant program's focus to support the creation of new work. If you have any questions about this requirement, please contact the office before applying.

Individual Artists and Culture Bearers Grants are offered two times annually with submission deadlines of July 28 and January 28. The earliest start date for a grant submitted July 28 is November 1 and for a grant submitted January 28 the earliest start date is May 1.

Rural Arts Grants

These project grants are meant to bring arts experiences into the smallest rural communities in southeastern Minnesota with populations below 7,500. Eligible projects can be in any discipline,

including but not limited to, painting, photography, printmaking, textiles, music, dance, theater, performance, storytelling, literary arts, intermedia arts, and traditional arts.

The lead applicant can be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or a non-profit organization in the rural community where the project is proposed to take place. Proposed projects must include a collaboration with a local community partner – a non-profit organization, library, government department or agency, tribal entity, etc. – opportunities for active community engagement, and an accessible public event. Grant amounts range from $3,000 - $6,000.

Rural Arts Grants are offered two times annually with submission deadlines of September 30 and March 30. The earliest start date for a grant submitted September 30 is January 1 and for a grant submitted March 30 the earliest start date is July 1. Partner organizations may not submit for the same project during the same grant round.

For inspiration, artists and community leaders interested in this grant program are encouraged to see these resources: *Heartland, Heartwork: A Field Guide to Place and Possibility for Rural Leaders* published by Springboard for the Arts (springboardforthearts.org/books/) and the Department of Public Transformation's Activate Rural program (publictransformation.org/activate-rural).

Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools

These residency grants are meant to provide students in grades K-12 with opportunities to work directly with artists and culture bearers during the school day. Grant activities must supplement the school's arts curriculum and not be a substitute for these basic requirements and can be in any discipline, including but not limited to, painting, photography, printmaking, textiles, music, dance, theater, performance, storytelling, literary arts, intermedia arts, and traditional arts.

The lead applicant for this grant can either be an individual artist or culture bearer living in the SEMAC region or the school in which the residency will take place. Written acknowledgement from the secondary applicant (school or artist) confirming their commitment and role in the proposed activities is required. Grant amounts range from $2,000 - $4,000.

No public event is required however the participating school must agree to share the residency in their district's communications to families, with the School Board, and/or with any local press contacts to raise awareness of the importance of the arts.

Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools Grant applications open August 1 annually and are accepted until the funds are spent. Applications received by the first of each month will be reviewed that month and applicants will be notified by the end of the following month. The earliest start date for a residency must be 90 days from the first of the month when the application is reviewed. (For example, if an application is submitted September 1, the applicant will receive notice by October 31 and the earliest start date for the residency would be December 1.)

Programming and Project Support for Organizations

These grants are meant to support activities directly involved in the creation, performance, publication, and exhibition of the arts with a focus in one or more of the three key areas identified in the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Legacy Amendment – Arts Access, Arts Education, and Cultural Heritage. Nonprofit arts and non-arts organizations (non-profits, schools, local government and

tribal entities) are eligible to apply and collaborations between arts and non-arts organizations are encouraged. An accessible public event is required.

Proposed budgets should give priority to paying fees to artists, creative production team members, and people providing technical support to help create and support a thriving arts ecosystem throughout southeastern Minnesota.

Grant amounts range from $3,000 - $11,000 per application. Arts organizations receiving Operating Support from MSAB are eligible to receive one grant per year for up to $11,000. All other arts organizations are eligible to receive two grants per year for a maximum total of up to $16,000. These arts organizations may use a fiscal sponsor. Non-arts organizations with 501(c)3 status are eligible to receive one grant per year for up to $6,000. Partner organizations may not submit for the same project during the same grant round.

Programming and Project Support for Organizations Grants are offered two times annually with submission deadlines of September 30 and March 30. The earliest start date for a grant submitted September 30 is January 1 and for a grant submitted March 30 the earliest start date is July 1.

Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building

These grants are meant to provide the support nonprofit arts organizations need to adapt to change, work on new strategies, develop competencies, or to improve processes and systems.

Examples of eligible proposals include feasibility studies for accessibility, strategic planning, financial consultation, and professional development opportunities for staff. Proposals to purchase new equipment to be used for arts programming also will be considered, if the applicant can make a strong case for how it would increase the organization's ability to better serve the needs of its community and/or contribute to the future financial health of the organization. In addition to a written final report, representatives from organizations receiving this grant must participate in a public forum to share information gained and the impact of the grant on their organization.

Arts organizations with 501(c)3 status are eligible to apply. Grant amounts range from $1,000 - $5,000. Grant recipients may reapply every three years, i.e. an organization receiving this grant in FY2026 may not apply again until FY2029.

This grant opportunity is limited to between 5 and 10 awards annually. Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grant applications open January 1 annually and are accepted until the funds are spent. Applications received by the first of each month will be reviewed that month and applicants will be notified by the end of the following month. The earliest start date for use of the grant funds must be 90 days from the first of the month when the application is reviewed. (For example, if an application is submitted February 1, the applicant will receive notice by March 31 and the earliest start date for the residency would be May 1.)

General Operating Support

Nonprofit arts organizations with operating expenses of less than $174,000 are invited to apply for these grants to strengthen and stabilize their organization by supporting administrative and other overhead expenses over the course of two years (biennial grant). Grant amounts are up to $5,000

per year. Recipients of this grant must submit an interim report after Year One to receive Year Two payment.

Arts organizations with 501 (c) 3 status only are eligible to apply. Colleges, universities, and local government entities are not eligible. Applications open July 1 and are accepted until the funds are spent. Applications received by the first of each month will be reviewed that month and applicants will be notified by the end of the following month. The earliest start date for use of the grant funds must be 90 days from the first of the month when the application is reviewed. (For example, if an application is submitted February 1, the applicant will receive notice by March 31 and the earliest start date for the residency would be May 1.)

Eligibility Guidelines and Rules for All Grant Programs

Grant Eligibility Per Year by Applicant Type

Individual Artists and Culture Bearers are eligible to receive two grants total:

- one Individual Artist and Culture Bearer Grant or one Rural Arts Grant, and
- one Artists and Culture Bearers in the Schools Grant

Arts organizations receiving MSAB Operating Support are eligible to receive two grants total:

- one Programming Grant and
- one Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grant

Arts organizations in rural communities with populations below 7,500 are eligible to receive four grants total:

- two Programming Grants, or one Programming Grant and one Rural Arts Grant as the lead or co-applicant, and
- one Organizational Sustainability Grant and
- General Operating Support

Arts organizations NOT in rural communities who do NOT receive MSAB Operating Support are eligible to receive four grants total:

- two Programming Grants and
- one Organizational Sustainability Grant and
- General Operating Support

Non-arts organizations and local government entities in rural communities with populations below 7,500 are eligible to receive one grant:

- one Programming Grant or one Rural Arts Grant as the lead or co-applicant

Non-arts organizations, colleges or universities, and local government entities NOT in rural communities would be eligible to receive one grant:

- one Programming Grant

K-12 schools would be eligible to receive two grants:

- one Programming Grant and
- one Artists in the Schools Grant either as the lead applicant or as the co-applicant with an artist as the lead applicant

Applicant Eligibility Rules

Every individual must meet all of the following conditions to apply for a SEMAC grant:

1. You must be at least 18 years of age on the final submission deadline and not currently enrolled in high school.
2. You must be a United States citizen or resident alien.
3. You must have been a full-time resident of the SEMAC region for at least six months and agree to reside in Minnesota for the duration of the proposed grant activity.
4. You may not apply until all final reports from all previous SEMAC grants have been submitted and approved. Thus, grantees who are in good standing are eligible to reapply every fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
5. You may not apply as an emerging artist at any time after having received funding as an advancing (or established) artist.
6. Unsuccessful applicants may apply again as early as the next deadline.

Every organization must meet all of the following conditions to apply for a SEMAC grant:

1. They must be located in the SEMAC region.
2. They have a clearly defined Mission Statement, preferably on the website
3. They must be a nonprofit organization.
4. They have current 501(c)(3) status **OR** one of the following applies
   - Local government or tribal entity,
   - Non-religious K-12 school, college or university,
   - A Minnesota fiscal sponsor with current 501(c)(3) status has agreed to accept grant funding on behalf of the Applicant. For nonprofit arts organizations only.

Grant Project Restrictions

Grant proposals may not include any of the following:

- Activities that are essentially for the religious socialization of the participants or audience.
- Activities that attempt to influence any state or federal legislation or appropriation.
- Benefits, fundraisers, donations, and re-granting money (including outside scholarships, endowment funds, and/or prize money).
- Feasibility studies.
- Capital improvement, construction, or purchase of real property.
- Historic preservation projects.
- Activities that violate federal, state, or local laws, ordinances, or policies.

- Programs designed to fulfill K-12 Minnesota Academic Standards in the Arts. Grants to schools must supplement rather than supplant the school's prescribed curriculum. In addition, K-12 schools may not apply for funding of
    - Core arts teaching
    - Equipment (such as band instruments)
    - Student transportation or field trips
- Organizations are discouraged from charging artists a fee to participate and, whenever possible, encouraged to include payments to artists who will exhibit, perform, provide technical support and/or advise on the proposed program.
- In applications for Individual Artist Grants, fees paid to Capstone Event venues cannot exceed 10% of the funds requested from SEMAC.
- Projects related to class, course or degree requirements.

Disallowed Expenses

The following budget items may not be included in grant proposals:

- Costs for relocating the applicant's legal address/residence outside the state of Minnesota.
- Out of state travel or activities that take place outside the geographic boundaries of the state of Minnesota.
- Expenses incurred prior to the start date, including publicity and grant writing.
- Living expenses. However, artist fees are strongly encouraged.
- Legal fees, except for copyrights or royalties.
- Purchase of alcoholic beverages.
- Grant writing expenses.

Review Criteria

All grants are reviewed and scored on the following three criteria:

- Artistic merit and quality of applicant's past work and of the project
- Demand or need for the project by the applicant or by the constituents served
- Ability of the applicant to accomplish the project they describe

SEMAC Services

In addition to grantmaking, SEMAC offers the following services to artists, arts organizations, and the general public:

- Grant writing workshops
- Grant coaching
- Language translation services (by Project FINE)
- Resource list for individual artists and culture bearers

- Professional development workshops and trainings (by Springboard for the Arts, Propel NonProfits and Minnesota Alliance for Volunteer Advancement)
- E-newsletter
- Social media promotion of regional arts events
- On-line regional arts calendar

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

For Individual Artists & Culture Bearers

Work Samples are required. For those whose work isn't represented on social media, a limited number of work samples may be uploaded to the application.

All grant activities must take place within the state of Minnesota.

The proposal must include an accessible public engagement component to benefit the citizens of the SEMAC Region. Virtual programming components are allowed, but the event must be in person.

Verification from the host organization that the Public Component has been scheduled and the venue is ADA compliant must be received by the Final Submission Deadline

A Proposal Narrative addressing the three SEMAC Review Criteria is required.

The Start Date must be at least (no fewer than) 90 days after the Final Submission Deadline, with an End Date within twelve months.

- No publicity pertaining to the project may be produced before the Start Date,
- No grant related expenses may be incurred before the Start Date or after the End Date.

Applicants must provide an itemized list of total expenses for the proposed project.

- Budgets with Disallowed Expenses will be disqualified.
- If total expenses exceed the grant amount, applicants will be asked about plans to cover the difference.

Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the deadline, but will not be accepted after the deadline. SEMAC will not accept late applications or emails confirming capstone events, regardless of whether a deadline falls on a weekend. This is in fairness to applicants who submitted on time. No exceptions.

NOTICE: Grants to individual artists are taxable income. Grant recipients will be required to submit Federal Form W-9 and will receive Federal Form 1099.

For Organizations

No organization may have an overdue final report. Final reports that are due before a new grant deadline must be approved before the applicant may apply in the new round.

All organizations must submit data on annual arts participation and related expenses for the previous fiscal year.

All grant activities must take place within the state of Minnesota. Virtual programming components are allowed, but the capstone event must be held in person.

The proposal must include an accessible Public Component to benefit the citizens of the SEMAC Region. The organization must confirm that the capstone event location is ADA compliant.

SEMAC funding cannot be used as a substitute for other traditional state arts funding sources. For example, School Residency Grants must supplement rather than supplant the school's prescribed arts curriculum.

Organizations without 501(c)3 or equivalent designation must submit a signed Fiscal Sponsor agreement.

Organizations may submit only one proposal per grant cycle.

A Proposal Narrative addressing the three SEMAC Review Criteria is required.

The Start Date must be at least (no fewer than) 90 days after the Final Submission Deadline, with an End Date within twelve months.

- No publicity pertaining to the project may be produced before the Start Date,
- No grant related expenses may be incurred before the Start Date or after the End Date.

Applicants must provide an itemized list of total expenses for the proposed project.

- Budgets with Disallowed Expenses will be disqualified.
- If total expenses exceed the grant amount, applicants will be asked about plans to cover the difference.

Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the Final Submission Deadline, but will not be accepted after the deadline. SEMAC will not accept late applications or emails confirming capstone events. No exceptions.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

All grantees must agree to the following:

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo

A specified credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity regarding the grant activity. Grantees also receiving support from MSAB Operating Support must acknowledge both funding sources.

The credit line may not be altered in any way. Refer to the Legacy Logo website for usage guidelines and approved Legacy Logo downloads.

2. Grant Activity

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes to the grant activity must be pre-approved by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

3. Out of State Travel

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel by either the Grantee or Partner Organization, or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

4. Access to Participation

Participation in programming cannot be limited based on disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences. See ADA Access Plan.

5. Letters of Thanks

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to your two elected officials in the Minnesota Legislature (one each from the MN House and MN Senate). One example of the letter(s) must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report.

Organizations with a broad reach are encouraged to send letters to multiple officials in the various communities they impact.

6. Final Report

Within 30 days after the stated End Date, an online Final Report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

7. Compliance

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a Misuse of Public Funds and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantees agree to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

School Residency grantees must also agree to the following:

1. Supplemental Programming

   The Minnesota Constitution states that grant funds "…must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute." The Grantee School confirms that this residency does not replace, reduce, or supplant the school's normal funding stream for curriculum or activities.

Individual Artist grantees must also agree to the following:

1. Residency and Eligibility

   The grantee must be a full-time resident of the SEMAC Region and agrees to reside in Minnesota for the duration of the grant activity. The Grantee must also be a United States citizen or resident alien at least 18 years of age. Further, the Grantee is eligible to reapply as long as all previous grant activities have been completed and final reports have been submitted and approved.

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.
Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Please describe below any relationships, positions, or circumstances in which you are involved that you believe could contribute to a real or perceived conflict of interest (as defined in SEMAC's Policy on Conflicts of Interest).

I hereby certify that the information set forth above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have reviewed, and agree to abide by, the Policy of Conflict of Interest of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc., that is currently in effect.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SEMAC Conflict of Interest Policy

Purpose & Scope: SEMAC encourages the active involvement of its directors, officers, advisory panelists, and employees in the community. In order to deal openly and fairly with actual conflicts and/or the appearance of conflict that may arise as a consequence of this involvement, SEMAC adopts the following conflict of interest policy. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, Minnesota Statutes, Section 317A.255, which governs conflicts of interest for directors of nonprofit corporations. This policy applies to all directors of the board, advisory panelists, and persons employed (both paid and non-paid) by SEMAC, regardless of position.

Responsibility: SEMAC is effective because it includes individuals who have relationships and affiliations throughout the region that may, at times, raise questions about perceived conflicts of interest. Everyone who serves SEMAC has the responsibility to ensure that the entire board is made aware of situations that involve personal, familial, or business relationships that could create a real or perceived conflict of interest. Therefore, SEMAC requires that each director, panelist, and employee (a) to be familiar with the terms of this policy; (b) to disclose to the board any possible personal, familial, or business relationships that reasonably might give rise to a conflict involving SEMAC; and (c) to acknowledge by his or her signature that he or she is in accordance with the letter and spirit of this policy.

Disclosure Statement: Each director, panelist, and employee of SEMAC will be required to submit an annual disclosure statement listing all organizations with which s/he has a personal affiliation or feels unduly biased. The statement should describe the nature of the affiliation as defined below. Appearances of conflict include significant adversarial or advocate relationships in which impartial judgment may be impaired. At the time of disclosure a member should declare any conflicts that have occurred within two years prior to the submission date. These conflicts will continue for two years once declared. In the event there is a material change in the information contained in a disclosure statement, written notification must be promptly submitted to the Executive Director.

A conflict of interest exists if a director or advisory panelist:

- Receives direct financial benefit from the organization or project being reviewed.
- Serves as an employee or governing board member of an applicant organization.
- Serves with or without pay as a consultant to an applicant, or on the application being reviewed.
- Has a familial, adversarial, or significant advocate relationship with an applicant or a staff or board member of an applicant organization.
- Receives free tickets or other benefits **directly** from a grant applicant being reviewed. NOTE: It is permissible for the SEMAC office to receive tickets or other arrangements from a funded grant for distribution to board and panelists.

This policy does not imply that directors, panelists, or employees should reveal any political, religious, ethnic, fraternal, or civic affiliations.

Administration: The SEMAC board president and Executive Director, working together, have the authority to review and determine the existence and affect of a conflict of interest. This determination shall be brought to the attention of the full board. Members acting in violation of the rules will be asked to resign. Information disclosed under this policy will be held in confidence except where, in the judgment of the board, the best interest of the organization requires further disclosure.

Restraint on Participation: A director, panelist, or employee who has declared or has been found to have a conflict of interest in any proposed transaction or other matter involving SEMAC will refrain from participating in consideration of the proposed transaction or other matter, unless for special reasons the board requests information or interpretation from the person or persons involved. Furthermore, a director or panelist will not vote on the matter in question and will not be present at the time of the vote.

Advance Determinations: Any director, panelist, or employee who is uncertain about possible conflicts of interest in any matter may request the board to determine whether a possible conflict exists; the board shall resolve the question by majority vote.

Individual Artists SEMAC Review Criteria	Considerations used to address this criterion include the following:	Additional points and insights
1. Artistic merit and quality of the project or program. Weighted ranking system multiplier 3	• How well do the resources (qualifications of artistic personnel, facilities, activities, etc.) meet the artist's goals? • How well does the project meet or advance your goals? • How does the project contribute to the artistic development of the respective art form and/or audience? • How does the project increase the number and variety of arts opportunities in the community or attempt new approaches to existing art programs?	• Clarity of vision • Innovation • Originality • The intention behind the physical work is evident. • Relationship to the viewer; provocative • Correlation between work and vision stated in proposal • Goals are specific and achievable. • Clarity of the plan as it relates to the goal.
2. Demand or need for the project or program by the artist applying or by the constituents served. Weighted ranking system multiplier 2	• Community involvement and support for the project. • Whether the project is duplicated and if so, does it improve upon an existing program? • The method used to determine that the project is needed.	• Public component is evident and specific. • Audience is defined. • Contributes to the creative capital of the region. • Educational awareness and visibility • Is the benefit long term?
3. Ability of the artist to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented. Weighted ranking system multiplier 1	• The planning process used to develop the project format. • Qualifications of the artistic and administrative personnel used in the project. • Feasibility of the budget. • Marketing and publicity efforts. • Evidence of the host organization's fiscal responsibility. • Previous successful efforts.	• Technical skills; how well they master the materials. • Commitment to their practice • Impact on the artist's career is clearly defined. • Plan is appropriate to where they are in their career. • Budget is realistic • Emerging artists: potential, forming of ideas, dedication. • How well they handle the materials and execute the work.

SEMAC Review Criteria for Organizations

Artistic Merit & Quality

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Project demonstrates exceptional creativity and high artistic and/or historical (organizational) quality. Application provides engaging and insightful overview of project, e.g., applicant's history, capability, organization's mission, programming, administration, public value, planning and evaluation. • Implementation plan is specific, clearly outlined, and objectives are defined. • Goals and objectives are realistic and clearly stated. Timeline is clear and identifies specific activities and dates for completion.	• Project is creative and demonstrates artistic and/or historical quality. Application provides strong overview of project. • Implementation plan is easily outlined and has sound integration of objectives. • Goals of project are stated, realistic, and clear. Timeline is included, along with list of activities and dates for completion.	• Project has artistic and/or historical merit. Application provides basic, clear information about project. • Implementation plan is outlined and connection to objectives stated. • Goals of project are stated and timeline included.	• Project's artistic merit or quality is questionable. Application has limited information about project. • Implementation plan is outlined and has some connection to objectives. • Goals of project are stated but lack detail. Timeline lacks specificity and clarification regarding dates for completion.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Need by the public and/or artist (community impact and public benefit)

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Public value clearly stated and communicated. • Application clearly identifies community need through detailed documentation and research. Application succinctly describes value-added, accessibility and opportunities for participation by community served.	• Application identifies community need and details how it is addressed through project. Application describes accessibility to community served.	• Application identifies community need the project addresses. Application describes accessibility to community served.	• Application fails to identify community need for project. Application mentions accessibility to community served but fails to effectively describe.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Ability of the organization and/or artist to carry out the project

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Clear and concise budget/financial information provided. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Sufficient earned income and/or contributed funds are present from a variety of sources. Applicant demonstrates ability to develop and manage resources wisely. • High confidence about ability to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information provided is sound. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Earned income and/or contributed funds are present. Applicant outlines proficiency in managing financial resources. • Application proves ability to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information provided. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Earned income and/or contributed funds may be present but weak. Applicant appears capable of managing financial resources. • Application demonstrates competence to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information may be provided. Budget is documented and included but questions exist. Little or no earned income and/or contributed funds present. Applicant fails to demonstrate competence for managing financial resources. • Questions remain about ability to carry out project.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Monitoring Report FY2024-2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Grantee Name*

Character Limit: 100

Title of Event*

Character Limit: 250

Date and Location of the Event*

Character Limit: 250

Did you identify yourself as representing SEMAC?*

Choices

Yes

No

SEMAC Acknowledgement*

Was SEMAC recognized at the activity and/or was the logo or credit line used in the printed material? If you kept a copy of the program or other material, attach a photo or scan if possible.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

The Grant Activity*

What were your impressions of the activity? Was it what you expected from reading the grant proposal?

Character Limit: 250

Your Thoughts?*

Please report any highlights or concerns you wish to bring to the Board's attention.

Character Limit: 250

Items for Reimbursement*

- State the mileage and destination so you can be reimbursed for mileage at the current IRS rate.
- If you purchased a ticket for yourself, tell us the cost. Also attach a photo or scan of the ticket stub or receipt for our records.
- If you are not seeking reimbursement, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Individual Artist Grants Jan 2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Final Report ID

Grant Number (assigned by SEMAC)
Character Limit: 7

Project Title
Character Limit: 40

Amount Awarded
Character Limit: 20

Contractual Agreement Questions

You agreed to abide by the numbered items stated below. Each item is accompanied by one or more report questions that require a response and/or document upload.

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo*

The required credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on **all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity** regarding the grant activity. Attach examples below.

Was SEMAC funding also verbally acknowledged at public events for this grant activity? Explain briefly.

Character Limit: 250

Attach Applicable Publicity*

Upload a single PDF file that includes scans of those publicity pieces specifically for this grant activity. Circle or highlight the credit line on each piece if possible.

- **Multiple files cannot be uploaded.**
- Include in one PDF the pertinent page(s) of each piece, such as
    - front and back of postcards
    - flyers and/or posters
    - relevant program pages EXCEPT those pages containing only advertising
    - newspaper clippings
    - any photos you wish to submit (multiple images per page preferred)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

2. Residency & Eligibility*

The Grantee is a full-time resident of the SEMAC Region and agrees to reside in Minnesota for the duration of the grant activity. The grantee must also be a United States citizen or resident alien at least 18 years of age. Further, the Grantee is eligible to reapply as long as all previous grant activities have been completed and final reports have been submitted and approved.

Choices

Confirmed

If this statement cannot be confirmed, contact SEMAC immediately.

Online Presence

List one specific URL for a Web page, blog post, online video, etc., regarding the grant activity.

- **Response is optional.**
- If you use this option, please make sure the posting will be available to reviewers for at least six months.

Character Limit: 2000

3. Grant Activity*

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes that affect grant funding require pre-approval by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

1. Briefly describe how the grant funds were used and how it may have differed from the original proposal.
2. What were the highlights of your activities? List the dates and attendance of each public component.
3. Describe any difficulties. For example, were there scheduling conflicts, unexpected costs, problems in getting people to participate?

Character Limit: 500

Evaluating the Grant Activity*

Answer each of the following questions separately. If a survey was conducted, upload a results summary page, but not the individual surveys.

1. What method(s) did you use for evaluation?
2. What specifics did you learn from the evaluation that will assist you in planning for the future?
3. Were there any target populations? If so, how specifically were they affected by the funding?

4. In what ways other than through the above evaluation method(s) do you see the affect it had?
5. How did the larger community benefit?

Character Limit: 2500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

4. Out of State Travel*

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

Choices

No out of state travel was undertaken.
Out of state travel was beyond the scope of project expenses.
If neither statement applies, contact SEMAC immediately.

Review the Itemized Spending Plan from your Contract and/or original application. Then answer the following questions relative to those budgets.

Changes to Budget*

If it was necessary to make changes to your original budget, did you receive written approval from SEMAC?

Choices

Yes
No
Changes were not made to the budget.

Approved Changes to Budget*

How does the budget you followed differ from the original budget request? No need to state reasons, just include the dollar amounts and designations.

- FYI - Approved changes are listed as administrator comments and/or documents uploaded by the administrator.
- If no approved changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Unauthorized Changes to Budget*

If you made changes to the budget but neglected to contact SEMAC to secure approval, describe those changes and why they were necessary to the grant activity.

- If no such changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Actual Expenses*

List all *paid* expenses for this grant activity, indicating which were paid for with SEMAC funds. Explain any differences from the original budget.

Character Limit: 999

Subtotals by Budget Category

- Enter the actual costs for each of the categories you budgeted for (right column).
- Enter a zero in the categories you did not use.

BUDGET CATEGORY	COST ESTIMATE	ACTUAL COST
Artist Fees, Honoraria & Stipends		
Cost of Evaluation		
Equipment & Non-Expendable Materials		
Expendable Supplies & Materials		
In-State Travel		
Publicity		
Rental of Space or Equipment		
Other Expenses		
Total Expenses		

Actual Income*

List all sources of financial support for this grant activity, including earned income, SEMAC grant, other grants and contributions, and cash budgeted for this purpose.

Character Limit: 999

Did you earn money or lose money due to this grant activity?*

- SEMAC acknowledges that artists and organizations may earn money from their proposals.

- Explain any substantial difference (plus or minus 25%) between estimated and actual expenses and estimated and actual income.

Character Limit: 250

Was any durable equipment purchased with SEMAC grant funds?

- **If so**, describe the equipment and report where the equipment will be stored when not in use. List serial and model numbers where applicable.
- Attach a single file containing scans of receipts for all equipment purchased.
- **NO OTHER RECEIPTS are required**.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

5. Access to Participation*

Participation in programming cannot be limited on the basis of disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences.

- Describe how your programming is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant or accessible.

Character Limit: 250

6. Letters of Thanks*

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to the appropriate representatives and senators in the Minnesota Legislature. One example of the letters must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report. (sample letter)

- List below the names of all recipients of these thank you letters and the date(s) the letters were sent.
- Upload **one example** of the letter or email sent to these legislators.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

7. Final Report*

Within 30 days after the specified End Date, an online final report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

- If the grant activity was postponed without prior authorization from SEMAC, contact director@semac.org immediately.

- If you have questions or need clarification regarding your final report, or need extra time to submit, email staff@semac.org with the details.

Choices

Acknowledged

8. Compliance*

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a **misuse of public funds** and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantee agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant

You will receive a confirming email after this final report is approved. The SEMAC Board of Directors reviews final reports. The quality and completeness of the report reflects upon the Grantee.

Choices

Acknowledged

State Mandated Questions

These questions gather information about grant applicants in all Minnesota Regional Arts Councils (RACs). The data is maintained by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the RACs, and may be distributed to others in accordance with the MN Data Practices Act. Responses may appear on the LCC Legacy Amendment Web site.

Total Expenses*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much money was spent on the grant activity? This does not include in-kind contributions.

Character Limit: 20

Outcome Statement

In your original grant application you selected the following goal or outcome. The next two fields measure the actual outcome relative to this proposed outcome.

Choices

Minnesotans participate in the arts because arts experiences are relevant and accessible to them.
Minnesotans learn, grow, or change because they participate in quality arts experiences.
Grantees change, expand, or enrich the ways they connect to their communities.
Members of groups traditionally underserved by the arts feel an authentic connection to the grantee.

Actual Measurable Outcomes*

Keeping in mind the proposed goal or outcome, select one or more actual measurable outcome that applies to the grant activity.

Choices

Supported artists and organizations who create, produce and present high quality arts activities.
Overcame barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities.
Instilled the arts into the community and public life in this region.
Provided high quality, age appropriate arts education for residents of all ages.

Represented the diverse ethnic, cultural and folk traditions represented in this region.

Measurable Outcomes Achieved*

Select one statement that best describes how well the grant activity achieved the proposed outcomes.

Choices

The activities fully achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities mostly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities partly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities did not achieve the proposed outcomes.

Minnesota Counties Impacted*

What Minnesota county or counties were impacted by the grant activity? In other words, from what Minnesota counties did participants and audience come and/or in which counties did you advertise?

- Select all that apply.
- For nearby counties, see our map of the SEMAC Region.

Choices

Aitkin
Anoka
Becker
Beltrami
Benton
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Carlton
Carver
Cass
Chippewa
Chisago
Clay
Clearwater
Cook
Cottonwood
Crow Wing
Dakota
Dodge
Douglas
Faribault
Fillmore
Freeborn
Goodhue
Grant
Hennepin
Houston

Hubbard
Isanti
Itasca
Jackson
Kanabec
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Koochiching
Lac qui Parle
Lake
Lake of the Woods
Le Sueur
Lincoln
Lyon
Mahnomen
Marshall
Martin
McLeod
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Mower
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Norman
Olmsted
Otter Tail
Pennington
Pine
Pipestone
Polk
Pope
Ramsey
Red Lake
Redwood
Renville
Rice
Rock
Roseau
Scott
Sherburne
Sibley
St. Louis
Stearns
Steele
Stevens
Swift
Todd

Traverse
Wabasha
Wadena
Waseca
Washington
Watonwan
Wilkin
Winona
Wright
Yellow Medicine

Total Grant Dollars Spent*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much of the SEMAC grant was spent on this grant activity?

Character Limit: 20

Actual Participation by Artists*

Number of **adult artists** directly involved in, or providing art or artistic services for, grant activities.

- Include living artists whose work was represented regardless of who provided the art work.

Character Limit: 7

Actual In-Person Participation by Youth*

Number of **children and youth ages 0-18** who were directly engaged in grant activities IN PERSON.

- If no in-person activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 7

Actual In-Person Participation by Adults*

Number of **adults** who were directly engaged in grant activities IN PERSON.

- Exclude paid performers, participating artists, and staff not part of the target audience.
- If no in-person activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Actual Online Participation by Youth.*

Number of **children and youth ages 0-18** who were directly engaged in grant activities ONLINE.

- If no online activity was held, enter 0.

- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Actual Online Participation by Adults*

Number of **adults** who were directly engaged in grant activities ONLINE.

- Exclude paid performers, participating artists, and staff not part of the target audience.
- If no online activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Population Benefitted by Race/Ethnicity*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Ethnicity** codes.

Choices

N
A
P
B
H
M
W
O
99

Population Benefitted by Age*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Age** Codes.

Choices

1
2
3
4

99

Population Benefitted by Distinct Groups*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Group** codes.

Choices

D
I
P
E
M
Y
5
G

Event Venue(s)*

Record the following information for all **public activities** associated with the grant, including the capstone event.

- Name of Venue
- Address of Venue
- City and Zip Code of Venue
- Number of Days Using the Venue

If some of the grant activities were held in separate locations *create a record for each location*. See below for additional guidance regarding activities with multiple venues.

- For an event such as a street festival that continued for multiple blocks without discrete venues, report a central address as either the center of activity or geographic center.
- If the activities took place at multiple addresses within the larger footprint of the event, report each address as a separate activity location.

Character Limit: 500

By clicking Submit, you certify that the information contained in this Final Report is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Sharing Your Grant Activity

Optional Feedback

We invite you to include photos, quotes or anecdotes from your grant activity and/or capstone event that can be shared on SEMAC social media. **Response is optional.**

For multiple photos, email them directly to communications@semac.org. Otherwise, one photo may be included per upload button below.

Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Organizational Grants Oct 2024

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Final Report ID

Grant Number (assigned by SEMAC)
Character Limit: 7

Project Title
Character Limit: 40

Amount Awarded
Character Limit: 20

Organization Type
What type of organization is the Applicant? An Equity Organization may also be an arts organization. Certain arts organizations are also local government entities. Click both if a similar situation applies.

Choices
Arts Organization
Equity Organization
Other Nonprofit Organization
Local Government Entity
Public or non-religious Private K-12 School
College or University

Financial Statement

Start Date
Character Limit: 10

End Date
Character Limit: 10

Financial Statements*
Upload a financial report showing expenses and income (or profit and loss) that includes the period from Start Date (and deposit of grant funds) to the End Date (or later project transaction). Reports generated by QuickBooks or other accounting software are acceptable.

- **Arts Organizations**. Report should include ALL of the organization's expenses during the grant period.

- **Non-Arts Groups**. Report need include ONLY expenses for this particular grant activity.

The uploaded report must be either an Excel, PDF, or Word formatdocument.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Contractual Agreement Questions

Your organization agreed to abide by the numbered items stated below. Each item is accompanied by one or more report questions that require a response and/or document upload.

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo*

The following credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on **all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity** regarding the grant activity.

> *This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.*

The credit line **may not be altered** in any way. Refer to the Legacy Logo Web site for usage guidelines and approved downloads.

- Was SEMAC funding verbally acknowledged at public events for this grant activity? Explain briefly.

Character Limit: 250

Attach Applicable Publicity*

Upload a single PDF file that includes scans of those publicity pieces specific to this grant activity. Circle or highlight the credit line on each piece if possible.

- **Multiple files cannot be uploaded.**
- Include in one PDF the pertinent page(s) of each piece, such as
  - front and back of postcards
  - flyers and/or posters
  - **relevant** program pages EXCEPT those pages containing only advertising
  - newspaper clippings
  - any photos you wish to submit (multiple images per page preferred)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Online Presence

List one specific URL for a Web page, blog post, online video, etc., regarding the grant activity.

- **Response is optional.**
- If you use this option, please make sure the posting will be available to reviewers for at least six months.

Character Limit: 2000

2. Grant Activity*

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes that affect grant funding require pre-approval by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

1. Briefly describe how the grant funds were used and how it may have differed from the original proposal.
2. What were the highlights of your activities? List the dates and attendance of each public component.
3. Describe any difficulties. For example, were there scheduling conflicts, unexpected costs, problems in getting people to participate?

Character Limit: 750

Evaluating the Grant Activity*

Answer each of the following questions separately. If a survey was conducted, upload a results summary page, but not the individual surveys.

1. What method(s) did you use for evaluation?
2. What specifics did you learn from the evaluation that will assist you in planning for the future?
3. Were there any target populations? If so, how specifically were they affected by the funding?
4. In what ways other than through the above evaluation method(s) do you see the affect it had?
5. How did the larger community benefit?

Character Limit: 2500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Review the Proposed Uses of Funds and Sources of Financial Support from your Contract and/or original application. Then answer the following questions relative to those budgets.

Changes to Budget*

If it was necessary to alter your original budget request, did you receive written approval from SEMAC to add or subtract items?

Choices

Yes
No
Changes were not made to the budget.

Approved Changes to Budget*

How does the budget you followed differ from the original budget request? No need to stat reasons, just include the dollar amounts and designations.

- FYI - Approved changes are listed on the grant interface as administrator comments and/or documents uploaded by the administrator.
- If no approved changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Unauthorized Changes to Budget*

If you altered the budget items or categories but neglected to contact SEMAC to secure approval, describe those changes and why they were necessary to the grant activity.

- If no such changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Actual Expenses*

List all *cash* expenses for this grant activity, indicating which were paid for with SEMAC funds. Explain any differences from the original budget.

Character Limit: 999

Actual Income*

List all sources of financial support for this grant activity, including earned income, SEMAC grant, other grants and contributions, and cash budgeted for this purpose.

Character Limit: 999

Did you earn money or lose money due to this grant activity?*

- SEMAC acknowledges that artists and organizations may earn money from their proposals.
- Explain any substantial difference (plus or minus 25%) between estimated and actual expenses and estimated and actual income.

Character Limit: 250

Was any durable equipment purchased with SEMAC grant funds?

- **If so**, describe the equipment and report where the equipment will be stored when not in use. List serial and model numbers where applicable.

- Attach a single file containing scans of receipts for all equipment purchased.
- **NO OTHER RECEIPTS are required**.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

3. Out of State Travel*

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel by either the Grantee or any Partner Organization, or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

Choices

No out of state travel was undertaken.
Out of state travel was beyond the scope of project expenses.
If neither statement applies, contact SEMAC immediately.

4. Access to Participation*

Participation in programming cannot be limited on the basis of disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences.

- Describe how your programming is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant or accessible.

Character Limit: 250

5. Letters of Thanks*

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to the appropriate representatives and senators in the Minnesota Legislature. One example of the letters must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report. (sample letter)

- List below the names of all recipients of these thank you letters and the date(s) the letters were sent.
- Upload **one example** of the letter or email sent to these legislators.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

6. Final Report*

Within 30 days after the specified End Date, an online final report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

- If the grant activity was postponed without prior authorization from SEMAC, contact director@semac.org immediately.
- If you have questions or need clarification regarding your final report, or need extra time to submit, email staff@semac.org with the details.

Choices

Acknowledged

7. Compliance*

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a **misuse of public funds** and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantee agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

You will receive a confirming email after this final report is approved. The SEMAC Board of Directors regularly reviews approved final reports. The quality and completeness of the report reflects upon the Grantee.

Choices
Acknowledged

State Mandated Questions

These questions gather information about grant applicants in all Minnesota Regional Arts Councils (RACs). The data is maintained by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the RACs, and may be distributed to others in accordance with the MN Data Practices Act. Responses may appear on the LCC Legacy Amendment Web site.

Total Cash Expenses*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, indicate the total spent from all sources (including the SEMAC grant, but excluding in-kind contributions) on the grant activity.

Character Limit: 20

FTE Funded*

Did you hire any staff *specifically* to manage this grant activity? If so, list the FTE (full-time equivalent) hours for those staff members.

- Contracted professional or service work associated with the grant activity should be reported as a direct project expense, not as FTE.
- Calculate FTE as the total number of new staff hours generated by grant dollars **divided by 2,088**. The resulting number will be small, no more than 2.00.
- **Enter 0 if no new staff positions were created.**

Character Limit: 20

General Administrative Costs*

Did the organization incur **unexpected** administrative costs (i.e., indirect or overhead expenses) that were not included in the project budget? If so, list the cost of those expenses, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

- Remember to **EXCLUDE** all expenses that were part of the original project budget.

- **DO NOT** Include expenses that were incurred even if the grant activity had not happened.
- **Enter 0 if no additional costs were incurred.**

Character Limit: 20

In your original grant application you selected the following outcome or outcomes. Answer the next two questions relative to these statements.

Outcome Statement

Choices

Minnesotans participate in the arts because arts experiences are relevant and accessible to them.
Minnesotans learn, grow, or change because they participate in quality arts experiences.
Grantees change, expand, or enrich the ways they connect to their communities.
Members of groups traditionally underserved by the arts feel an authentic relationshp to the grantee

Actual Measurable Outcomes*

Keeping in mind the proposed outcome, select one or more actual measurable outcomes that applies to the grant activity.

Choices

Supported artists and organizations who create, produce and present high quality arts activities.
Overcame barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities.
Instilled the arts into the community and public life in this region.
Provided high quality, age appropriate arts education for residents of all ages.
Represented the diverse ethnic, cultural and folk traditions represented in this region.

Measurable Outcomes Achieved*

Select one statement that best describes how well the grant activity achieved the proposed outcomes.

Choices

The activities fully achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities mostly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities partly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities did not achieve the proposed outcomes.

Grantee Board*

List names of board members or equivalent governing body who were serving at the time of the grant activity. If grantee is a school, provide names of school board members.

- Enter names **alphabetically by surname** in one block of text with a comma between each name.
- Do **NOT** list degrees or other titles such as Dr, Rev, PhD, MD, etc.
- **Example:** John Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington.

Character Limit: 250

Minnesota Counties Impacted*

What Minnesota county or counties were impacted by the grant activity? In other words, from what Minnesota counties did participants and audience come and/or in which counties did you advertise?

- Select all that apply.
- For nearby counties, see our map of the SEMAC Region.

Choices

Aitkin
Anoka
Becker
Beltrami
Benton
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Carlton
Carver
Cass
Chippewa
Chisago
Clay
Clearwater
Cook
Cottonwood
Crow Wing
Dakota
Dodge
Douglas
Faribault
Fillmore
Freeborn
Goodhue
Grant
Hennepin
Houston
Hubbard
Isanti
Itasca
Jackson
Kanabec
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Koochiching
Lac qui Parle
Lake
Lake of the Woods
Le Sueur

Lincoln
Lyon
Mahnomen
Marshall
Martin
McLeod
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Mower
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Norman
Olmsted
Otter Tail
Pennington
Pine
Pipestone
Polk
Pope
Ramsey
Red Lake
Redwood
Renville
Rice
Rock
Roseau
Scott
Sherburne
Sibley
St. Louis
Stearns
Steele
Stevens
Swift
Todd
Traverse
Wabasha
Wadena
Waseca
Washington
Watonwan
Wilkin
Winona
Wright
Yellow Medicine

Total Grant Dollars Spent*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much of the SEMAC grant was spent on this grant activity?

Character Limit: 20

Actual Participation by Artists*

Number of *adult artists* directly involved in providing art or artistic services *related specifically to this grant activity*.

- Include living artists whose work was represented regardless of who provided the art work.

Character Limit: 7

Actual Participation by Youth*

Number of *children and youth ages 0-18* who directly engaged with the arts *related specifically to this grant activity*.

- Include attendance at arts events as well as participation in arts learning or other types of activities in which they were directly involved with artists or the arts.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

Character Limit: 7

Actual Participation by Adults*

Number of *adults* who directly engaged with the arts *related specifically to this grant activity,* excluding paid performers, participating artists, and staff members not part of the target audience.

- Include attendance at arts events as well as participation in arts learning or other types of activities in which they were directly involved with artists or the arts.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

Character Limit: 10

Population Benefitted by Race/Ethnicity*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more** of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

- Click Here for a list of current **Ethnicity** codes.

Choices

99 - no single group made up 25% or more of the population
N
A
P
B
H
M
W
O

Population Benefitted by Age*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more** of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Age** Codes.

Choices

99 - no single group made up more than 25% of the population
1
2
3
4

Population Benefitted by Distinct Groups*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more**of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Group** codes.

Choices

G - No single group made up more than 25% of the population
D
I
P
E
M
Y
5

Event Venue(s)

Record the following information for all **public activities** associated with the grant, including the capstone event.

- Name of Venue
- Address of Venue
- City and Zip Code of Venue
- Number of Days Using the Venue

If some of the grant activities were held in separate locations *create a record for each location*. See below for additional guidance regarding activities with multiple venues.

- For an event such as a street festival that continued for multiple blocks without discrete venues, report a central address as either the center of activity or geographic center.
- If the activities took place at multiple addresses within the larger footprint of the event, report each address as a separate activity location.

SHOULD YOUR VENUE LIST REQUIRE MORE THAN 5 LOCATIONS, PROVIDE THE LIST IN THE FIELD UPLOAD BELOW.

Venue Name	Venue Address	Venue City	Venue Zip	# of Days for Venue

Extended Venue Listing

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Electronic Signature*

Enter your full legal name and your title within the Grantee Organization. If no other title exists, enter Grant Coordinator.

Character Limit: 100

By clicking Submit, you certify that the information contained in this Final Report is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Sharing Your Grant Activity

Optional Feedback

We invite you to include photos, quotes or anecdotes from your grant activity and/or capstone event that can be shared on SEMAC social media. **Response is optional.**

For multiple photos, email them directly to communications@semac.org. Otherwise, one photo may be included per upload button below.

Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Additional Upload

File Size Limit: 5 MB

BYLAWS
OF
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

ARTICLE I. Name and Territory

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc., hereinafter referred to as SEMAC. The governing body shall be the SEMAC Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

SECTION 2. The territory of SEMAC shall include the region known as Southeastern Minnesota which encompasses the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

SECTION 3. This Corporation is a nonprofit, non-political, non-sectarian organization and no one shall be denied the opportunity to participate in any program of the organization on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, marital status, or disability.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purposes of SEMAC shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To serve as the legislatively-mandated arts council for the region, maintaining an eleven (11) county, region-based arts planning process.
2. To continue to provide grants and related technical assistance for local arts development in the region.
3. To encourage arts excellence in the region.
4. To promote awareness as to the value of the arts to all residents of the region.
5. To promote, develop, and build increased support for the arts in the region.
6. To encourage increased access to the arts for all residents of region.
7. To ensure that information on the arts and arts activities is communicated within the region.
8. To provide assistance to artists and local arts organizations, including identification of alternative funding sources and help with management and planning.
9. To facilitate and coordinate arts program development where necessary and appropriate within the region.
10. To maintain a meaningful partnership between the region and state and develop a liaison with other regional, state, and national programs and organizations.

ARTICLE III. Membership

SEMAC is not a membership organization. All individuals and organizations within the SEMAC region are eligible to participate in and benefit from the services SEMAC provides.

ARTICLE IV. Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The property and business of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board, which shall consist of not fewer than nine (9) members, but not more than fifteen (15) members, hereinafter referred to as directors. These numbers include the Executive Director as a voting member of the Board.

SECTION 2. The Board shall consist of one (1) director representing each county, the rest to be designated at-large and elected by the current Board, including the Executive Director. All directors shall reside in the SEMAC region, having an interest in and a desire to promote the arts.

SECTION 3. The term of office of directors shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Election of new directors shall be conducted as needed at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 5. A vacancy shall occur when a director shall cease to be a member of the Board or is removed for cause. The vacancy shall be filled by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 6. Three (3) consecutive, unexcused absences from regular or special meetings of the Board shall constitute grounds for removal of the absent director. The President or Executive Director shall have authority to excuse absences.

ARTICLE V. Duties of the Board

The duties of the Board shall be:

1. To establish policy.
2. To assume responsibility for obtaining basic monetary resources.
3. To hire the Executive Director to handle and carry out the day to day operations and duties as assigned by the Corporation.

4. To be accountable for the activities of the Executive Director and appropriate staff.
5. To be accountable for the disbursement of fiscal resources.
6. To approve annual reports.
7. To conduct other business as necessary.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Board shall be held as needed with a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year to elect officers and determine the direction of the organization for the coming year.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of any three directors.

SECTION 3. All directors shall be duly notified of the time and place of all meetings.

SECTION 4. A quorum at any regular or special meeting shall consist of forty percent (40%) of the directors.

SECTION 5. Mileage reimbursement shall be paid to directors.

SECTION 6. In the event of the Board voting on an issue or proposal for funding in which a director is affiliated, as self-determined, that director shall not be allowed to make a motion or vote on such issue. That director shall leave the room.

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SECTION 1. Officers of the Board shall consist of a president, vice president, and treasurer, elected by the Board for a term of one (1) year at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year.

SECTION 2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall oversee the presentation of agendas.
2. The vice president shall perform such duties as assigned by the president, including the duties of president in the president's absence.
3. The treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Board.

SECTION 3. Any officer may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all directors at a regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. In the event an office shall become vacant prior to the expiration of the term, the Board shall elect a replacement at the earliest possible meeting.

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SECTION 1. The Board president, vice president, and treasurer shall make up the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. Other committees shall be established as determined to be necessary by the Board.

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SECTION 1. There shall be an Arts Advisory Panel to the Board, hereinafter referred to as the Panel, for the purpose of reviewing and recommending funding of arts grant applications. The Panel will review arts grant applications based on the three established review criteria:

1. Artistic merit and quality of the project or program.
2. Demand or need for the project or program by the applicant or by the constituents served.
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The Panel may also advise the Board on policy relating to the granting process and act as liaison between SEMAC and the public.

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SECTION 1. SEMAC shall have all legal and fiscal authority and responsibility for all actions carried out in its name.

SECTION 2. The provisions of these bylaws shall be subject to State and Federal laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief* shall govern the Board where applicable and consistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order that the Board may adopt.

SECTION 4. All notes of the Corporation and checks over $1,000 shall be signed by the Executive Director and by the Board's designee, or by such other officers or agents as may be designated by resolution of the Board.

SECTION 5. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July of each year.

SECTION 6. These bylaws may be amended by the majority of the Board.

Amended 11/18/2014
Amended 8/19/2014
Amended 11/20/2012
Amended 5/15/2012
Amended 4/24/2012
Amended 8/17/1987

Biennial Plan

SEMAC's 2026-2027 Biennial Plan

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) is developing its required 2026-27 Biennial Plan for the Minnesota State Arts Board, a strategic initiative that will guide arts funding and programming across 11 counties serving over 517,000 residents. This comprehensive plan, informed by feedback from more than 200 artists, arts professionals, and community members through a recent Needs Assessment Survey, outlines grant programs, community initiatives, and vital services. The plan aims to strengthen regional arts development through targeted leadership, expanded outreach, dedicated advocacy, and enhanced mentorship opportunities, with a focus on fostering diverse artistic expressions and ensuring equitable access to arts resources throughout southeastern Minnesota.

Click here to review the SEMAC Biennial Plan for FY2026-27.

SEMAC's Public Input Meeting on the Biennial Plan

SEMAC hosted a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, March 18 from 6-8p, to review and discuss the draft plan. This forum ensured that community voices helped shape the future of arts funding and programming in southeastern Minnesota. The document was available on this page starting March 13, giving community members time to review before providing input at the Zoom meeting.

A recording of the meeting is now available for those who were unable to attend. You can also review a PDF of the presentation for reference. If you were unable to attend the virtual meeting, you still have the option to give feedback using this form through March 24.

The meeting recording (Zoom passcode f?KC6g$X) and PDF presentation can be accessed through the link below.

Meeting Recording

View Presentation

SAVE THE DATE: Public Meeting for SEMAC's Biennial Plan

Tuesday, March 18 | 6-8p
via Zoom

Every other year, the Regional Arts Councils throughout the state are required by the Minnesota State Arts Board to submit a Biennial Plan that sets priorities for the two upcoming fiscal years. This spring plans are due for fiscal years 2026 and 2027!

Each regional arts council's plan is based on input from the communities we serve. SEMAC's plan was shaped by the results of the Needs Assessment Survey we conducted this fall to which more than 200 artists, arts professionals, arts supporters, and members of the general public responded. But, participation from the community in this planning process does not end there! On Tuesday, March 18, we will hold a public meeting on Zoom to go through the key points and to hear your input. Register for this Zoom meeting at the link below.

Learn More

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc – Rochester, MN

CONTACT: Jacqueline VanRavenhorst, Communications Manager
608-792-6831 | communications@semac.org

SEMAC ANNOUNCES PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS FOR 2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

Attached Images: SEMAC Logo, Legacy Logo

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) invites community members to participate in shaping the organization's 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. This comprehensive strategic plan will guide SEMAC's work to encourage, promote, and support vibrant arts communities throughout 11 counties in southeastern Minnesota: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

The draft plan, informed by feedback from more than 200 artists, arts professionals, and community members through a recent Needs Assessment Survey, outlines grant programs, community initiatives, and vital services. The plan aims to strengthen regional arts development through updated grant programs, expanded outreach, and enhanced learning opportunities, with a focus on fostering diverse artistic expressions and ensuring equitable access to arts resources throughout the region served by SEMAC.

SEMAC will host a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to gather community feedback on the draft plan. The complete draft will be available for review on semac.org beginning March 13, 2025. Community members can also provide feedback through a Google form available on the SEMAC website where the draft Biennial Plan will be posted.

"Receiving community feedback and input is so important for SEMAC to have the greatest positive impact on the artists, arts organizations, and members of the public who engage with the arts throughout our region. Every two years, we develop a plan for the coming two years in an attempt to understand and better meet the needs of our

region, and we invite the public to be a part of this process. We were thrilled to receive more than 200 responses to our Needs Assessment Survey this fall. The results of this survey had a huge impact helping to shape our draft Biennial Plan for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. I hope people will log into the Public Meeting on March 18 where I will share key components of the draft plan and be available for questions and comments." - Anastasia

The final plan will be submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board and will guide SEMAC's grant programs and community initiatives through fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

For more information about the planning process or to register for the virtual meeting, visit semac.org or contact the office at 507-281-4848.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

--end--

Public Meeting for SEMAC's Biennial Plan

Tuesday, March 18 | 6-8p
via Zoom

Every other year, the Regional Arts Councils throughout the state are required by the Minnesota State Arts Board to submit a Biennial Plan that sets priorities for the two upcoming fiscal years. This spring plans are due for fiscal years 2026 and 2027!

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On Tuesday, March 18, we will hold a public meeting on Zoom to go through the key points and to hear your input. The document will be available on the SEMAC website starting March 13, giving community members time to review before providing input at the Zoom meeting. Additionally, there will be an option to give written feedback on the website through March 24 if you are unable to attend the virtual meeting.

Learn More & Register

SEMAC created an online **event**.
March 6 at 8:58 AM ·

Tue, Mar 18

SEMAC 2026-2027 Biennial Plan Public Meeting

Sharon, Dana and Melissa were interested

Interested

Sharon Mansur and 1 other

Like Comment

Comment as Jacque Lline

You're commenting as Jacque Lline.

Ad	Results	Reach	Views	Frequency	Cost per result	Budget Ad set	Amount spent	Ends	Quality ranking Ad relevance...	Engagement rate ranking Ad relevance...
25 Biennial Plan - Traffic	34 Link clicks	2,158	2,610	1.42	$0.45 Per Link Click	$20.00 Daily	$15.13	Mar 18, 2025	Above average	Above average

SEMAC
March 18 at 7:31 AM ·

Join SEMAC for a virtual public meeting tonight from 6-8p to review and discuss our 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. This forum ensures that community voices help shape the fut... **See more**

Tue, Mar 18

SEMAC 2026-2027 Biennial Plan Public Meeting

Sharon, Dana and Melissa were interested

Interested

See insights

Boost a post

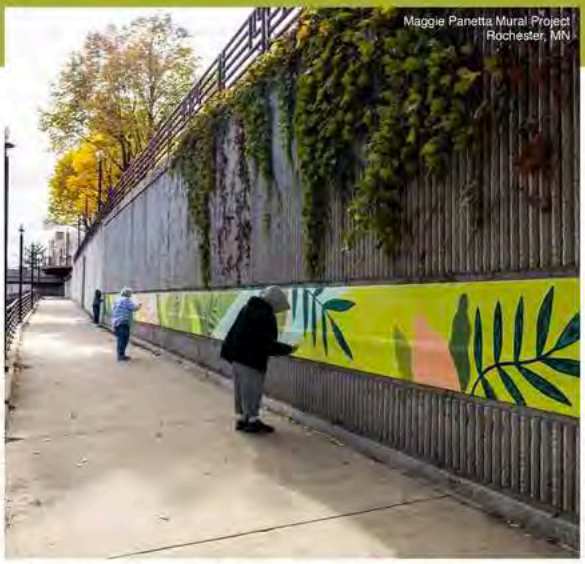
Sharon Mansur

Like Comment Share

SEMAC
Sponsored ·

📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!

...See more



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

semac.org
Biennial Plan - Southeastern Minnesota...

Learn more

Sharon Mansur and 17 oth... 2 shares

Like Comment Share

southeasternmnartscouncil ···

southeasternmnartscouncil Our 2026-2027 Biennial Plan is available on our website! This strategic roadmap will guide arts funding across 11 counties serving over 517,000 residents.
Informed by 200+ artists and community members, this plan outlines our vision for stronger regional arts development through leadership, outreach, advocacy, and mentorship over the next two years.

📝 Review the plan and submit your feedback through March 24th!

Missed our March 18th public meeting? You can still watch the meeting recording (Zoom passcode: f?KC6g$X), review the presentation PDF, and submit your thoughts via our online form.

View insights **Boost post**

Liked by **melissaewray** and **3 others**
6 days ago

Add a comment... Post

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC
southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil ···

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!

Join the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council for a virtual discussion on Tuesday, March 18 (6-8PM), about our 2026-27 Biennial Plan - the strategic roadmap guiding arts funding across our 11 counties serving 517,000+ residents!

This plan, informed by 200+ artists and community members through our Needs Assessment Survey, will determine grant programs and initiatives for 2026 and 2027.

The draft plan will be available on our website (semac.org) starting March 13. Can't attend? Written feedback will be accepted through March 24.

View insights Boost post

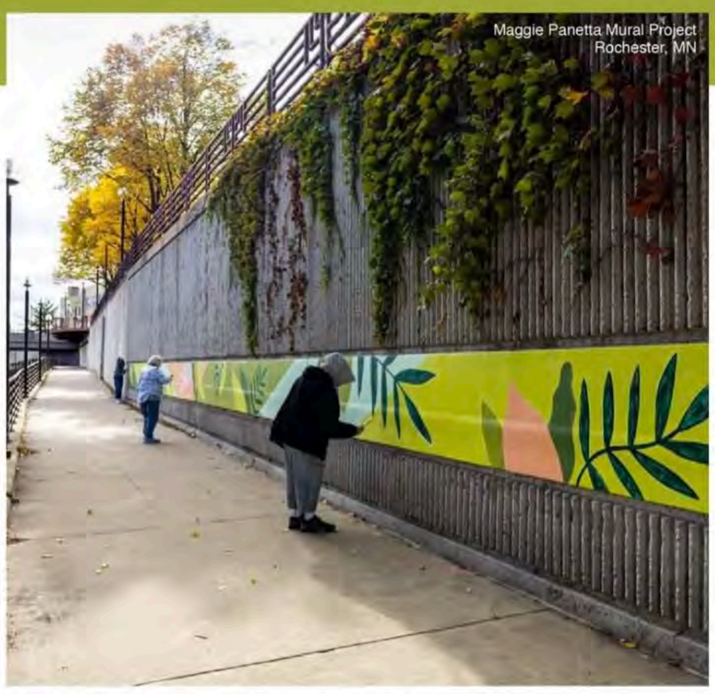
Liked by **melissaewray** and **9 others**

March 12

Add a comment... Post

March 14 7:07 AM

southeasternmnartscouncil



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!...

The SEMAC Biennial Plan is now available for review on our website! Review, register for the Public Input Meeting, or voice your vision at the <<< link

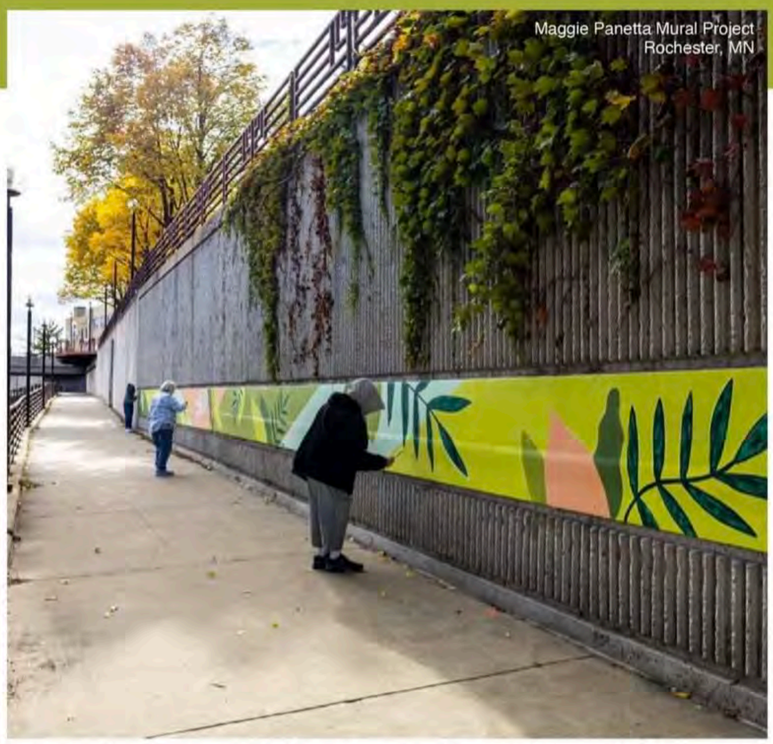
REVIEW & REGISTER

Say something...

Activity Boost Highlight More

March 18 7:25 AM

southeasternmnartscouncil



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!...

Join us tonight for our 2026-2027 Beinnial Plan public input meeting

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Say something...

Activity Boost Highlight More

BYLAWS
OF
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

ARTICLE I. Name and Territory

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc., hereinafter referred to as SEMAC. The governing body shall be the SEMAC Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

SECTION 2. The territory of SEMAC shall include the region known as Southeastern Minnesota which encompasses the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

SECTION 3. This Corporation is a nonprofit, non-political, non-sectarian organization and no one shall be denied the opportunity to participate in any program of the organization on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, marital status, or disability.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purposes of SEMAC shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To serve as the legislatively-mandated arts council for the region, maintaining an eleven (11) county, region-based arts planning process.
2. To continue to provide grants and related technical assistance for local arts development in the region.
3. To encourage arts excellence in the region.
4. To promote awareness as to the value of the arts to all residents of the region.
5. To promote, develop, and build increased support for the arts in the region.
6. To encourage increased access to the arts for all residents of region.
7. To ensure that information on the arts and arts activities is communicated within the region.
8. To provide assistance to artists and local arts organizations, including identification of alternative funding sources and help with management and planning.
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SECTION 2. The Board shall consist of one (1) director representing each county, the rest to be designated at-large and elected by the current Board, including the Executive Director. All directors shall reside in the SEMAC region, having an interest in and a desire to promote the arts.

SECTION 3. The term of office of directors shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Election of new directors shall be conducted as needed at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

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Amended 11/18/2014
Amended 8/19/2014
Amended 11/20/2012
Amended 5/15/2012
Amended 4/24/2012
Amended 8/17/1987

a. Names and affiliations of SEMAC board members – March 2025

Kjellgren Alkire Wabasha County Term 2 expires 8/18/2026	810 N Oak St Lake City MN 55041	Visual artist
Andi Lynn Arnold Steele County Board Treasurer 2025 Term 1 expires 3/31/2027	914 Saint Andrews Pl Owatonna MN 55060	Visual artist
Tony C Boldt Dodge County Term 1 expires 9/30/2027	415 West St Mantorville MN 55955	Musical Director, Rochester Community Band Band Teacher, Kasson-Mantorville High School
Sophia Chai Olmsted County Check Signatory FY2025 Term 1 expires 1/31/2027	1931 6th Ave NE Rochester MN 55906	Visual artist
Steve Dietz At Large Term 1 expires 10/31/2026	28839 Lake Ave Way Frontenac MN 55026	Retired arts administrator
Rob B Hardy Rice County Bd Vice President 2025 Term 1 expires 1/31/2027	305 5th St E Northfield MN 55057	Poet Former Poet Laureate of Northfield
Elisha A Marin Freeborn County Board President 2025 Term 2 expires 8/19/2025	224 S Broadway Ave Studio 2 Albert Lea MN 56007	Musician Executive Director, Freeborn County Arts Initiative
Anastasia D Shartin Executive Director	603 First St SW #103 Rochester MN 55902	Executive Director, SEMAC
Laurel Stinson Goodhue County Term 1 expires 10/31/2027	307 E 6th St Red Wing MN 55066	Director of Residency & Advancement, The Anderson Center at Tower View
Jon D Swanson Winona County Term 2 expires 5/20/2025	Minnesota Marine Art Museum 800 Riverview Dr Winona MN 55987	Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Amy Wightkin Mower County Term 1 expires 9/30/2027	801 24th Ave NW Austin MN 55912	Musician Paramount Theatre Manager, Austin Area Arts
Melissa Wray Houston County Term 1 expires 1/31/2028	113 S Badger St Caledonia MN 55921	Visual artist Founding Director, Mainspring Program Director, Lanesboro Arts

b. There are no specific prerequisites for service on SEMAC's Board of Directors, but an applicant's knowledge of and dedication to the arts are considered.

c. The SEMAC Board of Directors consists of one representative from each of the eleven counties, with as many as three at-large positions, and the Executive Director. When vacancies occur, a public call for nominations is issued, using the SEMAC website, e-newsletter, social media, and the general media. Current board members are also asked to suggest names of individuals they feel would serve the region well and the Executive Director actively recruits new members. In addition to representation from all counties, SEMAC seeks members with diverse backgrounds both in terms of artistic expertise and cultural as well as gender identity. Individuals interested in serving are asked to complete a brief application on the grant interface. The Executive Director reviews the application and schedules a meeting with the applicant to get to know them and discuss the role and expectations of directors. If she feels the applicant would make a good addition to the Board, their application is presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting for review and vote.

d. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for 90 days. (see by-laws, Article 4, Section 4)

SEMAC Staff Information - March 2025

Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director

Karen Miller, Grants Program Manager

Sharon Mansur, Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Executive Director
Job Posting --- January 9, 2023

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc. (SEMAC) is currently accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. For information about SEMAC: https://www.semac.org

Organization Overview

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc. (SEMAC) is one of eleven Regional Arts Councils designated by the State of Minnesota to make final decisions on the use of appropriations for local/regional arts development. SEMAC has served Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties since 1977 and is charged with assessing regional needs and planning and administering programs and services using its legislative allocation. The combined counties of the SEMAC region have a population of 519,045, ranging from Minnesota's third-most populous city to industrial hubs to farming communities. In FY2022, SEMAC disbursed $1,094,400 through 189 grants in the region.

SEMAC Mission

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants and services.

SEMAC Vision

- All community members are inspired to take part in the arts and build partnerships that promote the arts and artists.
- New culturally rich artistic opportunities are incorporated into our communities while preserving our existing artistic heritages.
- Community members, leaders, and policy-makers foster a climate that celebrates imagination, creativity, innovation, and excellence that encourages life-long participation in the arts.

Position Purpose

The Executive Director will be a visionary and community-oriented leader to steward the next chapter of SEMAC's work. The Executive Director will be responsible for leading the organization, and working with the Board of Directors, staff, arts community of the SEMAC region, and other community stakeholders to implement an inspiring vision and strategic direction for SEMAC. The Executive Director will be responsible for partnership and community-building, outreach across the SEMAC region with a focus on racial, cultural, and geographic equity, and advocacy for artists and the arts sector in the region.

The Executive Director oversees a staff of one, plus a communications contractor, and other staff and contractors as needed, and works with grant review panelists and stakeholders to deliver on SEMAC's mission and vision. This position is full-time, exempt, with an excellent benefits package. Position starting salary is $100,000, salary will be commensurate with experience.

Key Responsibilities

Organizational Management

- Leads the staff and board, and ensures the vision and strategic direction of SEMAC through clear communication and work plans.
- Sets plans and policies for the organization to ensure its effective functioning and staff engagement.
- Recruits effective and equity-focused staff and board to meet the mission and vision of SEMAC.
- Serves as a member of the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota to build partnerships and organizational support across the state.
- Serves as liaison to the Minnesota State Arts Board and McKnight Foundation.
- Ensures organizational activities comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota State Arts Board, State of Minnesota, and other funders.
- Builds organizational relationships and partnerships to support artists and arts organizations in the SEMAC region.

Advocacy and Outreach

- Is an active community builder with direct outreach and relationship-building skills, willing to travel the region and show up to support the work of partners and stakeholders.
- Conducts virtual and in-person site visits with grantees and potential grantees to better understand the needs of the region.
- Advocates with politicians and stakeholders for the arts and SEMAC, partners with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and other regional arts advocacy groups to build understanding and support for the Legacy Amendment.
- Finds new relationships for more equitable and inclusive grantmaking.
- Organizes information and activities to support advocacy on behalf of SEMAC, including financial impact, arts participation, SEMAC vision and goals, and relevant activities.

Program Management

- Develops and supervises grants programs, working with staff and grant review panels to ensure inclusive, equitable grant-making.
- Recruits quality panelists and develops transparent, equitable review processes for greater inclusion and artistic representation.
- Ensures effective communication about programs, through direct print and digital mechanisms, as well as speaking and presentation.
- Seeks out new opportunities for SEMAC funding, and expanding program opportunities and partnerships.

Financial Management

- Provides effective financial management of SEMAC as an organization, including budgeting, reporting, and allocation with state guidelines.
- Reports on SEMAC work to the Minnesota State Arts Board and McKnight Foundation, and other potential funders, as well as publicly to stakeholders.
- Prepares audit and meets state and federal requirements of nonprofit organizations.

Knowledge and Skills Required

- 5-10 years of increasingly responsible and mission-driven senior leadership, working with a staff and a Board of Directors.
- Proven ability in recruiting, training, supervising, and retaining highly effective staff, volunteers, and board members.
- Proven ability to successfully supervise, manage, and develop staff, and a willingness to learn alongside and from staff.
- Experience with the local arts communities and cultural institutions with technical and sector-specific knowledge, particularly in smaller or grassroots organizations.
- Ability to be nimble in working with groups of many styles at various stages of development.
- An understanding and working knowledge of the region served by SEMAC.
- Demonstrated experience engaging historically marginalized communities and the ability to apply a racial equity lens to all aspects of the work.
- Ability to bridge political, racial, and geographic differences in service of larger goals.
- Active community-building and outreach experience.
- Expertise in financial oversight and program management for a mid-sized organization.
- Experience in navigating the Minnesota Legacy Funding model, and other public and private funding models in the region and the nation.
- Ability to articulate your passion for the SEMAC mission.
- Leading effective strategic planning and collaborative vision planning.
- Write and present information in a concise and accurate manner.
- Computer competency and digital adaptability, familiarity with web-based applications.
- A strong commitment to constituent service and relationships.

Position Location

- Executive Director is expected to live in the SEMAC region.
- SEMAC currently has an office in Rochester, Executive Director should plan to be in the office for meetings and community connection regularly 2-3 days a week, with flexibility for travel and outreach.
- Candidate should have reliable transportation for meetings, outreach, and advocacy in the SEMAC region.

Position Benefits

- 100% employer paid health insurance for employee (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota)
- Paid vacation and sick leave
- Flexible work environment
- Travel reimbursement budget
- After 1 year of employment, employer contribution to employee directed IRA

TO APPLY

Please use the following link to upload a cover letter of interest for the position, and a resume listing your qualifications for the role. Submit your application here: **https://bit.ly/3GjetRV**. Please label your submission materials as follows: “Lastname_Firstname_Cover.PDF” and “Lastname_Firstname_Resume.PDF.” The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council is an Equal Opportunity employer. We actively welcome and encourage people who identify as Black, Indigenous, Native and/or People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities to apply.

If you have questions about the role, please send them to ***semac.ed.applications@gmail.com***. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, with a deadline of February 24, 2023. We anticipate conducting two stages of interviews; the first stage of interviews will begin in mid-March.

Job Description: Grants Program Manager

The Grants Program Manager answers to the SEMAC Executive Director acting as assistant director (with Board oversight) in the absence of the director. Due to the level of responsibility and independence this is a salaried position.

Principal Responsibilities

Grants Management – the execution of grant program activities including but not limited to:

- Administer grant programs and grant reviews.
- Manages the grants application process including responding to applicant questions, determining eligibility and grant status, maintaining grant records/database, and other related duties with advice from director as requested.

Publicity and Marketing including but not limited to:

- Coordinate all marketing and publicity materials and prepare plans based on needs assessment and long-range planning.
- Update website and other communications working with vendors as needed.

Administration/Office including but not limited to:

- Office operations include mailings, database, and website management, paying bills, preparing board packets, and other clerical duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
Experience and/or bachelor's degree in the arts, management, community service, administration, or related field.
Ability to manage all aspects of an office.
Ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written form with diverse groups.
Ability to work with volunteers as well as professionals.
Ability to supervise the work of others.
Ability to plan, execute, and evaluate projects.
Ability to manage and prioritize workload independently.
Must possess computer skills including database and web site management.
Knowledge of rural SE Minnesota is helpful.

Updated 6/2008; 6/2017

Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Overview

The Outreach and Accessibility Manager works collaboratively with SEMAC staff and Board to ensure individuals and organizations throughout the 11-county region are aware of its grants, workshops, services, and other programs, and that these opportunities are accessible to all. The person in this position reports to the Executive Director and works as a member of the SEMAC team to deliver programs, grants, and services that support and advance thriving arts communities throughout Southeastern Minnesota.

Responsibilities

Outreach:

- Work with schools, businesses, libraries, history centers, arts organizations, service organizations, and others to foster partnerships to efficiently and effectively serve the arts needs in the region.
- Reach out to individual artists in Region 10 to inform them of key opportunities provided by SEMAC and other regional, state, and national organizations, and assist them to fully utilize SEMAC's programs and services.
- Attend arts events throughout the region as a representative of SEMAC.
- Participate in trainings and other development opportunities with regional, state, and national interest groups to develop relationships and ensure SEMAC follows best practices.
- Present information sessions and workshops about SEMAC to raise awareness of our programs and services.
- Assist Executive Director with recruitment of Board and Arts Advisory Panel members.
- Offer SEMAC grant writing workshops and create tutorial videos on the grant process for individual artists and organizations.
- With the Executive Director and Communications Manager, determine and develop the contents of SEMAC's monthly e-newsletter, social media posts, direct e-mails, flyers, etc.

Accessibility:

- Manage existing and develop new partnerships with organizations to provide translation services and grant coaching for non-English and limited English speakers.
- Recruit and train grant coaches who can work with first-time applicants, rural artists, etc. who may need help with their grant applications.
- Ensure that all SEMAC programs, activities, and grant applications are accessible to all residents in Southeastern Minnesota, including the deaf and blind, people with disabilities,

neuro-divergent individuals, people without access to the internet or a computer, non-English or limited English speakers, etc.

Programs, Services, and Special Projects:

- Develop and/or identify existing professional development workshops for individual artists and training workshops for arts organizations.
- Update and manage the availability and distribution of resources for individual artists and for organizations.
- With the Executive Director and a committee of the Board, coordinate the creation, distribution, and evaluation of Needs Assessment surveys every two to four years. And, using these findings and other information to understand the needs of our constituents, translate those needs into effective SEMAC programs and services.
- Assist Executive Director with the development of new programs and services.
- Examples of special projects include working with the Executive Director to plan for the celebration of SEMAC's 50th anniversary (2027) and working on advocacy efforts to ensure the renewal of the Legacy Amendment (set to expire in 2033).

Administrative Support:

- Provide support with internal communications and document sharing, including with staff and board members.
- Assist with other tasks as assigned.

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Current Board Members as of 3.24.25:

Elisha Marin, President

Rob Hardy, Vice President

Andrea Arnold, Treasurer

Kjellgren Alkire

Anthony Boldt

Sophia Chai

Steve Dietz

Laurel Stinson

Jon Swanson

Amy Wightkin

Melissa Wray

Staff members with authority to access grants funds or determine how those funds are used as of 3.24.25:

Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director

Sharon Mansur, Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Karen Miller, Grants Program Manager

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC)				**Arts &**	**Arts**	**Arts & Cult**			
PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2026			**General Fund**	**Arts Access**	**Education**	**Heritage**	**McKnight**	**Other**	
			2026 State	**2026 State**	**2026 State**	**2026 State**	**Foundation**	**Funds**	**2026 Total**
	REVENUE								
1		State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2026	$191,991	$922,811	$187,547	$62,516	$0	$0	$1,364,865
2		State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2025	$0	$100,000	$40,000	$10,000	$0	$0	$150,000
3		McKnight Foundation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$90,000	$0	$90,000
4		Other Income	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
5		Interest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
6		**TOTAL REVENUE**	**$191,991**	**$1,022,811**	**$227,547**	**$72,516**	**$90,000**	**$2,000**	**$1,606,865**
	EXPENSES								
	Programs and Services								
7	Grant Programs and Services								
	a	Individual Artists and Culture Bearers Grants	$2,000	$40,000	$6,000	$2,000	$90,000	$0	$140,000
	b	Rural Arts Grants	$4,000	$45,000	$6,000	$5,000	$0	$0	$60,000
	c	Artists in Schools Grants	$2,000	$0	$28,000	$0	$0	$0	$30,000
	d	Programming and Project Support for Organizations	$5,000	$420,000	$70,000	$25,000	$0	$0	$520,000
	e	Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants	$25,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,000
	f	General Operating Support Grants	$10,000	$140,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
	g	Grant Coaching and Language Services	$0	$2,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000
	h	Grant Writing Workshops	$800	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$800
8		Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$62,000	$160,000	$55,000	$17,000	$0	$0	$294,000
9		**Subtotal Grant Programs and Services**	**$110,800**	**$807,000**	**$165,000**	**$49,000**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,221,800**
10	Nongrant Programs and Services								
	a	Artist Professional Development Workshops	$600	$4,200	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,800
	b	Arts Management Trainings	$500	$5,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
	c	Board, Panel, and Staff Trainings	$5,500	$4,000	$2,050	$1,000	$0	$0	$12,550
	d	Long Range Planning Consultant and Meetings	$4,000	$7,000	$3,000	$2,340	$0	$0	$16,340
	e	Regional Arts Promotion	$4,000	$7,000	$3,000	$2,000	$0	$0	$16,000
11		Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$50,000	$60,000	$29,000	$7,250	$0	$0	$146,250
12		**Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services**	**$64,600**	**$87,700**	**$37,050**	**$12,590**	**$0**	**$0**	**$201,940**
13	**Total Programs and Services**		**$175,400**	**$894,700**	**$202,050**	**$61,590**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,423,740**
14	**Fundraising**		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**
15	**General Administration**		**$16,591**	**$34,153**	**$10,131**	**$3,757**	**$0**	**$0**	**$64,632**

16		**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$191,991**	**$928,853**	**$212,181**	**$65,347**	**$90,000**	**$2,000**	**$1,490,372**
17		**SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2027 or (DEFICIT)**	**$0**	**$93,958**	**$15,366**	**$7,169**	**$0**	**$0**	**$116,493**
Line 6		Is the sum of lines 1 through 5							
Line 7		Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all grant programs and services costs							
Line 9		Total of all lines under line 7, plus line 8							
Line 10		Change the subitem names, and/or add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all nongrant programs and services costs							
Line 12		Total of all lines under line 10, plus line 11							
Line 13		Add line 9 and line 12							
Line 16		Add lines 13, 14, and 15							
Line 17		Line 6 minus line 16							

	Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2027	General Fund 2027 State	Arts & Arts Access 2027 State	Arts Education 2027 State	Arts & Cult Heritage 2027 State	McKnight Foundation	Other Funds	2027 Total
	REVENUE							
1	State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2027	$191,991	$922,811	$187,547	$62,516	$0	$0	$1,364,865
2	State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2026	$0	$93,958	$15,366	$7,169	$0	$0	$116,493
3	McKnight Foundation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$90,000	$0	$90,000
4	Other Income	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
5	Interest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,500	$2,500
6	**TOTAL REVENUE**	**$191,991**	**$1,016,769**	**$202,913**	**$69,685**	**$90,000**	**$12,500**	**$1,583,858**
	EXPENSES							
	Programs and Services							
7	Grant Programs and Services							
	a Individual Artist and Culture Bearers Grants	$2,000	$40,000	$6,000	$2,000	$90,000	$0	$140,000
	b Rural Arts Grants	$4,000	$45,000	$6,000	$5,000	$0	$0	$60,000
	c Artists in Schools Grants	$2,000	$0	$28,000	$0	$0	$0	$30,000
	d Programming and Project Support for Organizations	$5,000	$410,000	$60,000	$45,000	$0	$0	$520,000
	e Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants	$25,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,000
	f General Operating Support Grants	$10,000	$140,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
	g Grant Coaching and Language Services	$0	$2,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000
	h Grant Writing Workshops	$800	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$800
8	Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$62,000	$162,000	$57,000	$12,000	$0	$0	$293,000
9	**Subtotal Grant Programs and Services**	**$110,800**	**$799,000**	**$157,000**	**$64,000**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,220,800**
10	Nongrant Programs and Services							
	a Artist Professional Development Workshops	$600	$4,200	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,800
	b Arts Management Training	$500	$5,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
	c Board, Panel, and Staff Trainings	$5,500	$4,000	$2,050	$1,000	$0	$0	$12,550
	d Regional Arts Promotion	$8,000	$5,000	$2,000	$1,000	$0	$0	$16,000
	e Arts, Nature, and Wellness Program TBD	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$9,000	$9,000
11	Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$50,000	$80,000	$27,000	$3,000	$0	$1,000	$161,000
12	**Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services**	**$69,100**	**$98,700**	**$31,050**	**$5,000**	**$0**	**$10,000**	**$213,850**
13	**Total Programs and Services**	**$179,900**	**$897,700**	**$188,050**	**$69,000**	**$90,000**	**$10,000**	**$1,434,650**
14	**Fundraising**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**
15	**General administration**	**$12,091**	**$34,537**	**$7,909**	**$685**	**$0**	**$500**	**$55,722**
16	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$191,991**	**$932,237**	**$195,959**	**$69,685**	**$90,000**	**$12,500**	**$1,492,372**

17	**SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2028 or (DEFICIT)**	**$0**	**$84,532**	**$6,954**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$91,486**

Line 6 Is the sum of lines 1 through 5
Line 7 Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all grant programs and services costs
Line 9 Total of all lines under line 7, plus line 8
Line 10 Change the subitem names, and/or add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all nongrant programs and services costs
Line 12 Total of all lines under line 10, plus line 11
Line 13 Add line 9 and line 12
Line 16 Add lines 13, 14, and 15
Line 17 Line 6 minus line 16

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES
INSTRUCTIONS: BUDGET and ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Arts and cultural heritage fund appropriations laws states that, "Money appropriated in this article may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation. Money appropriated…must not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation." Regional arts councils may determine which costs are "directly related to and necessary for" delivering their arts and cultural heritage supported programs and services, keeping in mind that it is vital to use the funds as effectively as possible and minimize administrative costs.

The nonprofit standard is to keep administrative costs to 15 to 20 percent of overall expenses. In our sector, keeping to this same standard is important to be viewed as good stewards of the funds. Public reporting should be similar across all regions to provide consistency during planning periods.

Diverse program development is very important so that the grassroots arts needs of each region can be addressed. Regional arts councils are service providers as well as funding resources. Therefore, the decision to allocate funds to direct programs and services versus grants needs to remain at the regional level.

In October 2003, the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota's finance committee developed a universal budget format and definitions to be used by the regions. This was in order to add consistency to our budgets, especially when legislative committees are reviewing our budgets. These definitions and guidelines follow the categories of the IRS 990 form, so are still applicable. They can be followed by all the regional arts councils as they submit biennial plans.

The attached definitions and examples are meant to provide guidance to regional arts councils in accurately assigning costs.

Working group
Mara Wittman
Maxine Adams
Kim Bemis
Bob DeArmond
Mary Minnick-Daniels
Robin Pearson

DEFINITIONS AND GUIDELINES
The budget template includes 17 main lines. These lines are referenced below for clarification.
Although we use the word "line," in some sections the word line is a series of rows.

Line 1 State of Minnesota (current year appropriations)
Actual amounts that your region is expected to receive from the general fund appropriation and the arts and cultural heritage fund appropriation.

Line 2 State of Minnesota carryforward
Actual amount(s) of funds you expect to have left, unexpended, at the end of one fiscal year, that you intend to carryforward to the following year. These amounts should equal the amount in the Surplus/Carryforward or Deficit line in the previous fiscal year's budget template. These amount(s) must be reported to the Arts Board by June 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated, in order to be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Line 3 McKnight Foundation
Actual amount that your region receives from The McKnight Foundation, or are proposing to receive.

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES
INSTRUCTIONS: BUDGET and ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Line 4 Other Income
List funds received from other sources.

Line 5 Interest
Indicate any interest revenue.

Line 6 Total Revenue
This line is the total of lines 1 through 5.

Line 7 Grant Programs and Services
List all grant programs that your region will offer. List the actual amounts that will be available to regrant.
Do not include staff time and direct expense items here.

Line 8 Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support
This line is the portion of each Council's budget which includes all expenses related to grant programs and services offered by the Council besides the actual grant awards regranted by your Council; as they are listed by grant program in Line 7 area. This line should include the percentage of salaries, benefits (insurance and pension plan contributions), and payroll taxes for the time you and your staff members spend working on your grant programs and includes time spent administering the grant programs as well as technical assistance related to the grant programs. This line should also include the percentage of equipment and operating costs that support the administrative duties related to your grant programs. If this kind of assistance represents X% of you and your employees' time, include X% of equipment repair costs or purchases as well as X% of the rent, electricity, phone, internet connection, website expenses, general supplies, etc. You will also want to include any related travel expenses and the actual printing and postage costs of producing and distributing your grant guidelines.

This line should NOT include the actual amount of grant money that was awarded or paid out during the fiscal year.

Grant programs and services, operations and support activities might include (this list is illustrative, not all-inclusive):
. bookkeeping related to grants
. filing federal and state reports related to grants: 1099s for individual artists
. data collection list to MSAB, MCA grant list for advocacy day
. paying grants
. grant rounds
. grant related committee meetings for the review of grants
. planning committee meetings related to grant programs
. reading and following up on grant final reports
. grant workshops and training
. printing applications, guidelines, and grant books
. development of grant programs and writing the guidelines
. working with individuals on grant related issues (phone calls, meetings, etc.)
. and anything else that is directly related to getting applications in and grants out the door.

Line 9 Subtotal Grant Programs and Services
This line is the total of all lines under 7 (Grant Programs and Services) and line 8 (Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support).

Line 10 Nongrant Programs and Services
The Nongrant Programs and Services line is the percentage of each Council's budget which is related to the programs and services offered by the Council but are not related to its granting programs.

Examples of programs or services that might be included in this area include:

– Regional Exhibits and Showcases: actual costs for travel, printing, postage, and awards related to holding a regional art exhibit; costs associated with having a gallery space
– Workshops and Trainings and Technical Assistance: nongrant related workshops and trainings, actual costs for travel, printing workshop materials, presenter costs, consultants, advertising workshops or trainings; direct costs associated with travel for advocacy work within your region, direct expenses related to MCA, MSAB, and Forum
– Arts Promotion: newsletter printing and postage, marketing booklet printing and distribution costs, Web site costs, e-newsletter service costs; brochures and other printed promotional items

This line should NOT include personnel or administrative costs related to nongrant programs and services.

Line 11 Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support
This section mainly relates to personnel time do certain activities. Activities might include time related to (this list is illustrative, not all-inclusive):
. plan and conduct nongrant related workshops and training
. advocacy work
. work with the Regional Arts Council Forum (label as technical assistance)
. work with the Minnesota State Arts Board
. needs assessment, public forums, and focus groups related to needs assessment
. plan the gallery exhibitions for the year or regional art shows if not under Line 10
. plan the workshop and support the activity
. plan professional development activities
. work with private foundations, etc. (unless for fund raising)
. public speaking
. community involvement related to the arts
. newsletter if not in Line 10 area
. brochures (unless specifically for fundraising – if used for both, costs can be split)
. juried art shows (for those who do them) if not in Line 10 area
. library materials – books made available to constituents
. anything else that is considered service to the state, regions, or your region.
When you include personnel costs, this line should also include the percentage of equipment and operating costs that support nongrant related technical assistance and other programs. If this kind of assistance represents X% of you and your employees' time, include X% of equipment repair costs or purchases as well as X% of the rent, electricity, phone, postage, printing, internet connection, general supplies, etc., expenses.

Line 12 Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services
This line is the total of all lines under 10 (Nongrant Programs and Services) and line 11 (Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support)

Line 13 Total Programs and Services
Add line 9 (Subtotal, Grant Programs and Services) and line 12 (Subtotal, Nongrant Programs and Services)

Line 14 Fundraising
Fundraising expenses should include all expenses related to raising and receiving funds. Fundraising costs do not appear in the columns related to state funds, these costs are general administrative costs for being designated a regional arts council. Every good organization must also raise funds to support its mission. This means someone (usually a paid staff person or an outside professional fundraiser) must write the grant proposals and talk with foundation representatives, someone must conduct direct mail and/or telephone solicitations, and someone must write thank you letters to donors who offer their support.
– excerpted from Charities Review Council Web site: http:www.crcmn.org/donorinfo/faq.htm#6

ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES
INSTRUCTIONS: BUDGET and ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Fundraising expenses might include (this list is illustrative, not all-inclusive):
. writing McKnight plans
. membership fundraising, if applicable, should be under the Other column

Line 15 General Administration
The general administration line is the portion of each Council's budget which is related to general operation of running the Council. This line should include the percentage of salaries, benefits (insurance and pension plan contributions), and payroll taxes for the time you and your staff members spend working on straight administrative duties. This line should also include the percentage of appropriate equipment and operating costs that support administrative duties. If administrative duties represent X% of your and your employees' time, include X% of equipment repair costs or purchases as well as X% of the rent, electricity, phone, postage, printing, internet connection, general supplies, etc., expenses. If an expense is completely for administrative purposes, you should include the full amount of the expense.

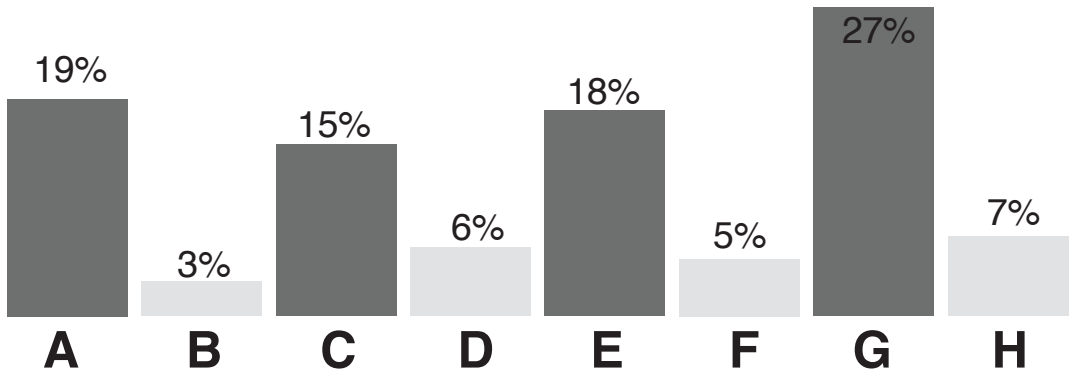
General administration activities might include (this list is for illustration only and is not all-inclusive):
. attending workshops or conferences which focus on administrative issues (i.e. a workshop on personnel issues, QuickBooks, etc. – unless you would be sharing this information with your constituents as part of technical assistance, in which case it could go under nongrant programs & services)
. working with your auditor to prepare for and conduct audit
. federal and state reporting – 990, Annual registration renewals
. paying bills (minus grants) and payroll
. working with the board, committees, and staff on nongrant and nonservice issues
. bookkeeping
. preparing budgets
. preparing board financial statements
. time spent dealing with nonprogram related facility costs
. biennial plan writing and participating in advisory committee review of plans
. writing annual reports for state legislative funding

Line 16 Total Expenses
This number should match your revenue totals in Line 6. If revenue and expenses are not equal, line 17 must be completed.

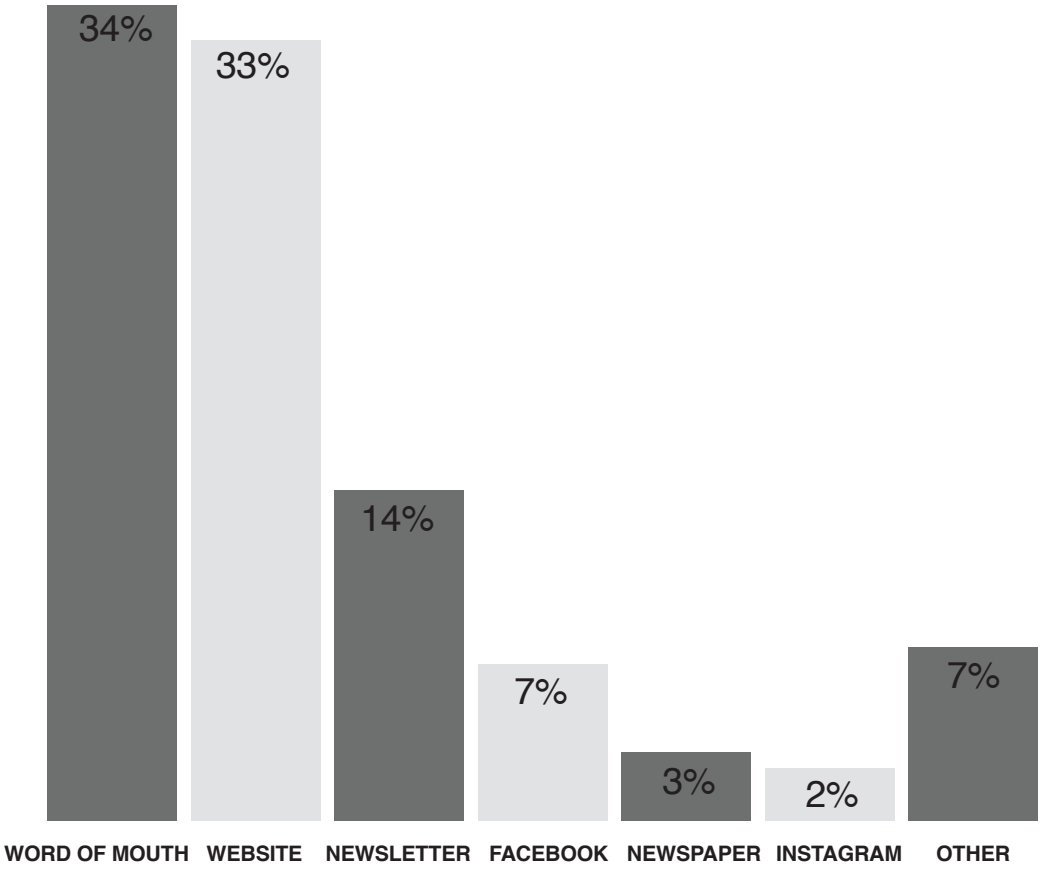
Line 17 Surplus/Carryforward or Deficit
Record the actual difference between revenue and expenses in each column. Funds may not be moved from one state column to another (i.e., surplus in arts education column cannot be moved to arts and arts access column to cover a deficit in the latter column). Carryforward funds must be reported the Arts Board by June 1 of the fiscal year for which the funds were appropriated. State general fund or arts and cultural heritage fund amounts carried forward from one fiscal year must be recorded as revenue in line 2 in the following fiscal year budget.

What is the Primary Way You Interact with SEMAC? Total Responses 223

A	SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient - 43/223	19%
B	SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant - 7/223	3%
C	Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants - 34/223	15%
D	Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants - 14/223	6%
E	Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant - 39/223	18%
F	Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants - 12/223	5%
G	None of the above - 60/223	27%
H	Other (Program/Project Participant, Former Board member, past advisor member, etc) - 14/223	7%



How did you hear about the grant opportunity? Total Responses 137



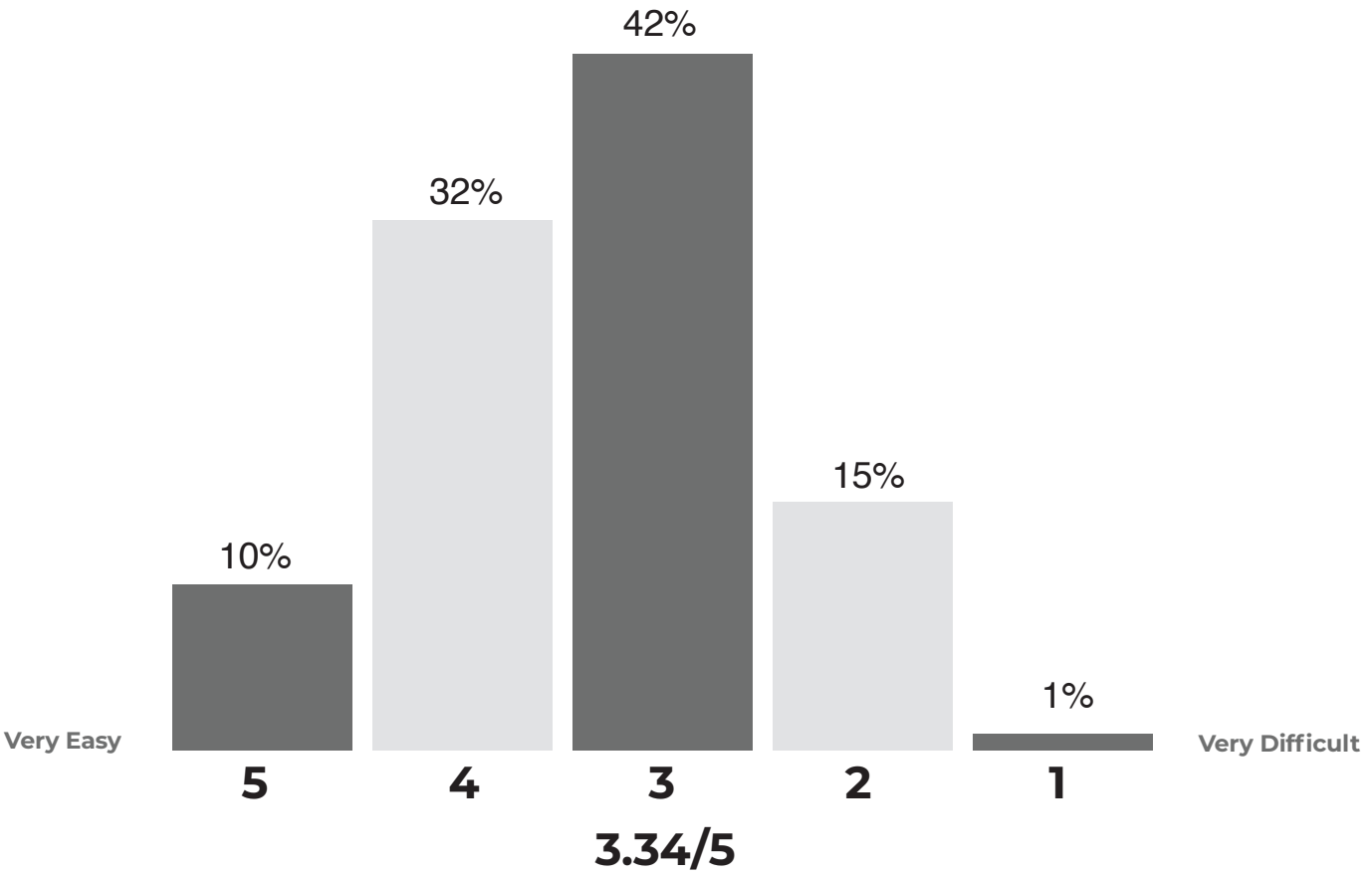
A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	Word-of-Mouth - 39% Website - 22% E-Newsletter - 17% Facebook - 7% Instagram - 7% Newspaper - 6% Other - 2%	TOTAL RESPONSES 54
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	Word-of-Mouth - 31% Website - 31% E-Newsletter - 8% Facebook - 15% Instagram - 8% Newspaper - 8% Other - 8%	13
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 31% Website - 36% E-Newsletter - 19% Facebook- 8% Instagram - 0% Newspaper - 0% Other - 6%	36
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 50% Website - 25% E-Newsletter - 10% Facebook- 5% Instagram - 5% Newspaper - 0% Other - 5%	20
E. PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED	Word-of-Mouth - 30% Website - 17% E-Newsletter - 23% Facebook- 14% Instagram - 2% Newspaper - 2% Other - 14%	44

***MULTIPLE SELECTIONS PER RESPONSE**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

How easy was the application process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 91



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 7% 4 (EASY) - 28% 3 (MODERATE) - 43% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 22% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.21	TOTAL RESPONSES 42
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (VERY EASY) - 0% 4 (EASY) - 14% 3 (MODERATE) - 43% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 29% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 14% AVERAGE 2.57	7
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 9% 3 (MODERATE) - 52% 4 (EASY) - 33% 5 (VERY EASY) - 6% AVERAGE 3.36	33
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 29% 3 (MODERATE) - 14% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 28% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.57	14

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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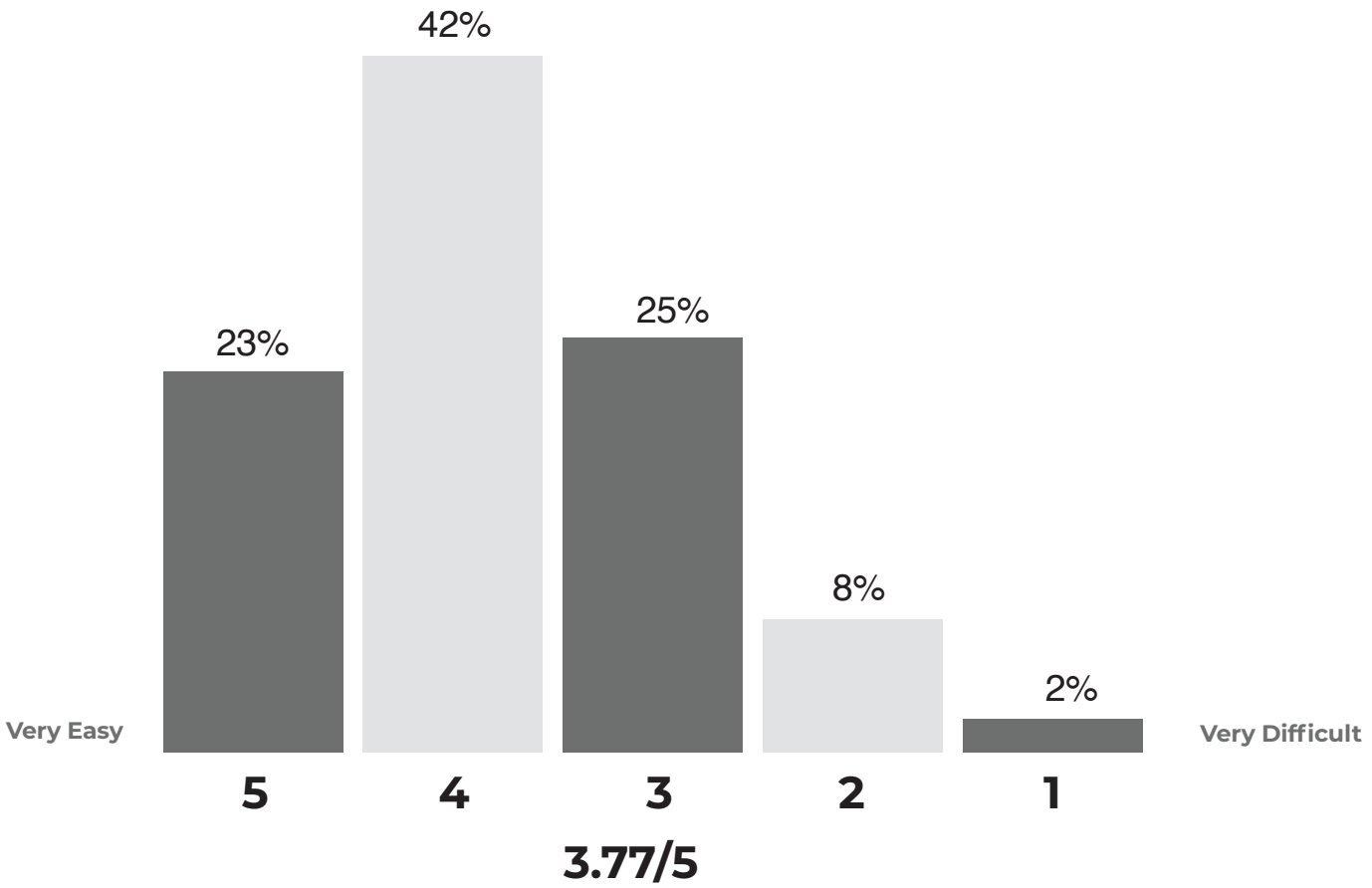
How well did the questions in the application help you focus on your proposed project and allow you to communicate your vision? (1-5 rating) Total Responses 93



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 23% 4 (EASY) - 43% 3 (MODERATE) - 28% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 8% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.8	TOTAL RESPONSES **40**
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 29% 3 (MODERATE) - 29% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 14% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 28% AVERAGE 2.86	**7**
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 30% 4 (EASY) - 42% 3 (MODERATE) - 21% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 6% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.97	**33**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 43% 3 (MODERATE) - 14% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 14% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.86	**13**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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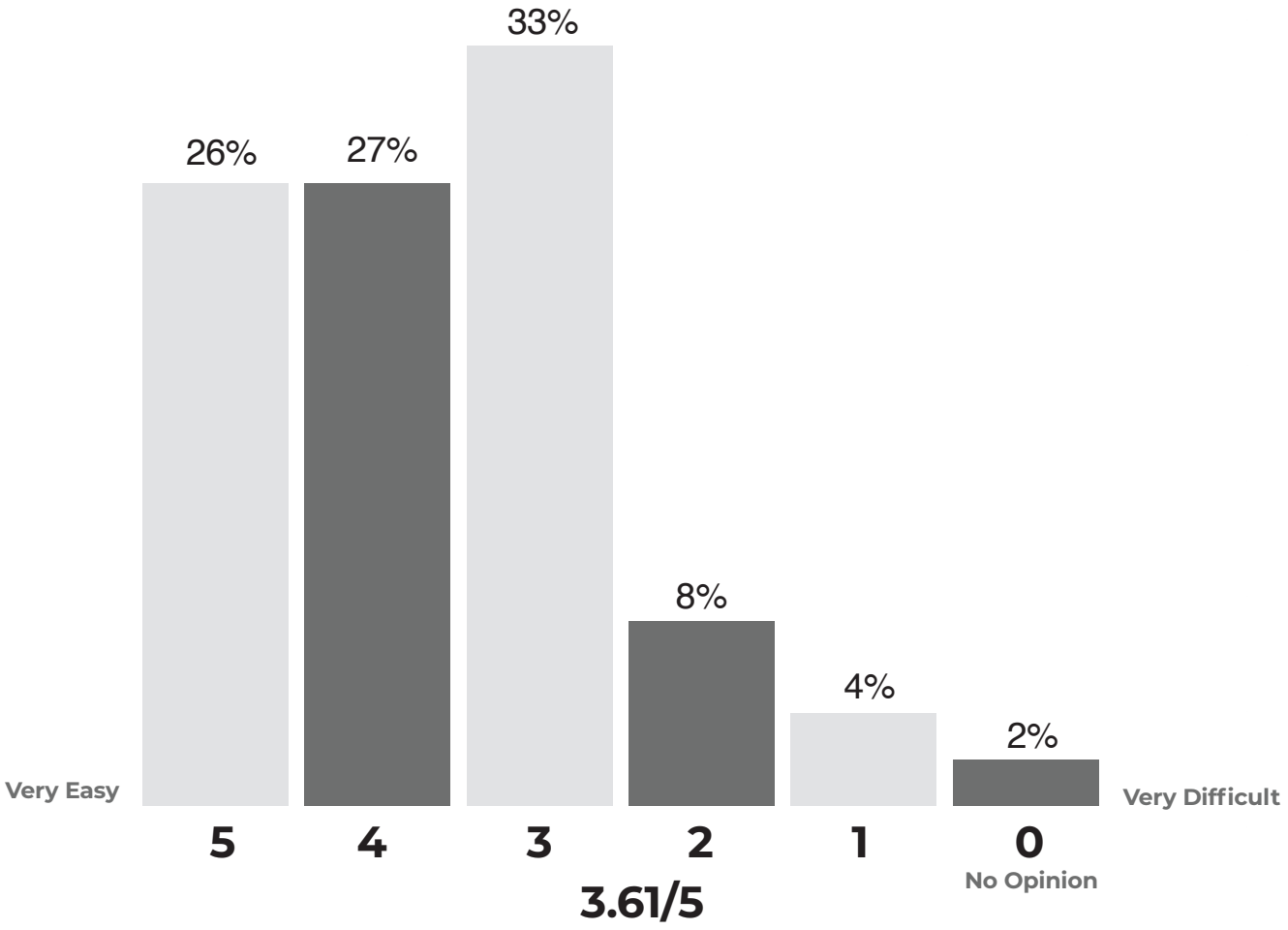
How easy was the reporting process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 88



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (VERY EASY) - 34% 4 (EASY) - 20% 3 (MODERATE) - 37% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 10% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 0% AVERAGE 3.78	TOTAL RESPONSES **41**
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 21% 4 (EASY) - 46% 3 (MODERATE) - 21% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 6% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 6% AVERAGE 3.7	**33**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (VERY EASY) - 29% 4 (EASY) - 14% 3 (MODERATE) - 29% 2 (DIFFICULT) - 7% 1 (VERY DIFFICULT) - 7% 0 (NO OPINION) - 14% AVERAGE 3.07	**14**

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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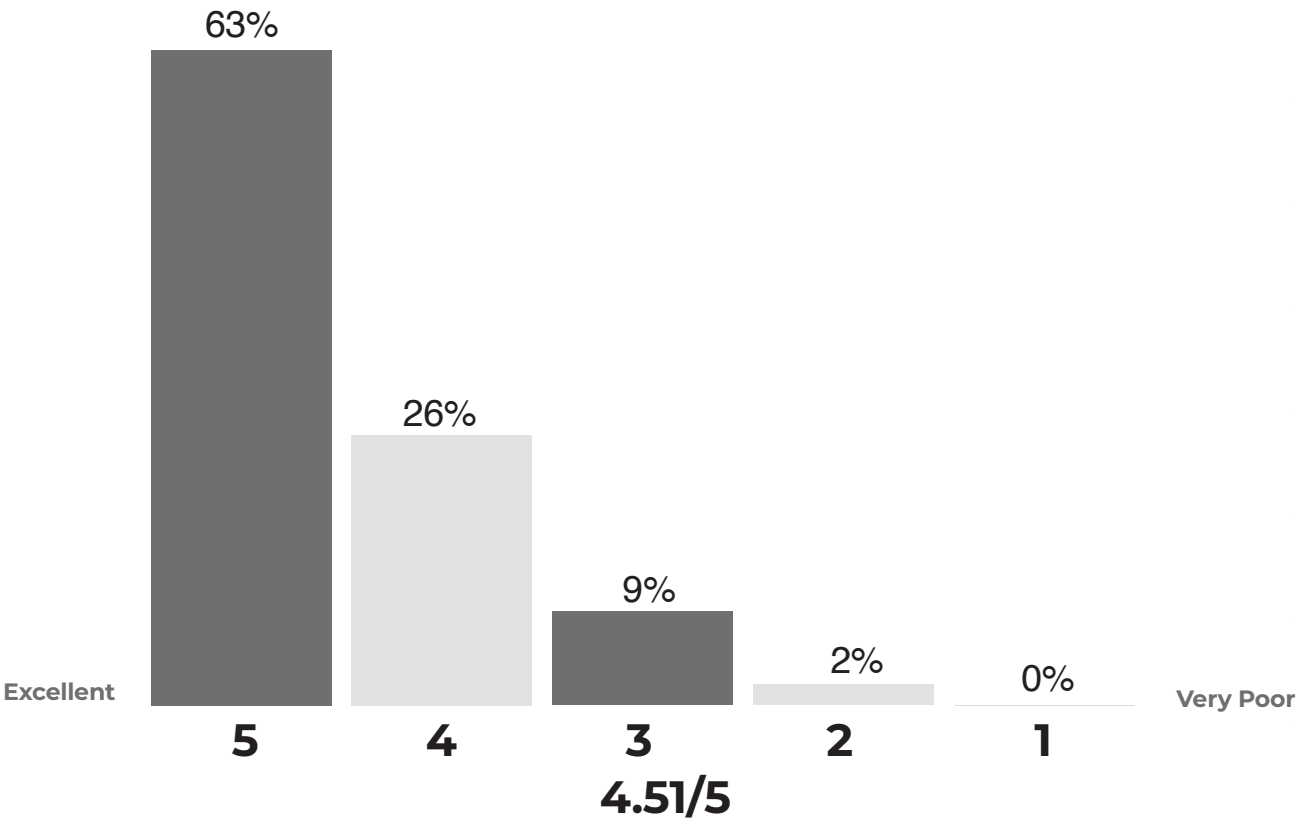
How would you rate the quality of interactions with SEMAC staff throughout the grant process?

(1-5 rating) Total Responses 134



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (EXCELLENT) - 73% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 20% 3 (GOOD) - 7% 2 (POOR) - 10% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.66	TOTAL RESPONSES 41
B. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT	5 (EXCELLENT) - 13% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 29% 3 (GOOD) - 29% 2 (POOR) - 29% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 3.29	7
C. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 89% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 15% 3 (GOOD) - 3% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.79	33
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 72% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 14% 3 (GOOD) - 14% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 3.14	14
E. PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED	5 (EXCELLENT) - 64% 4 (VERY GOOD) - 13% 3 (GOOD) - 5% 2 (POOR) - 0% 1 (VERY POOR) - 0% AVERAGE 4.59	39

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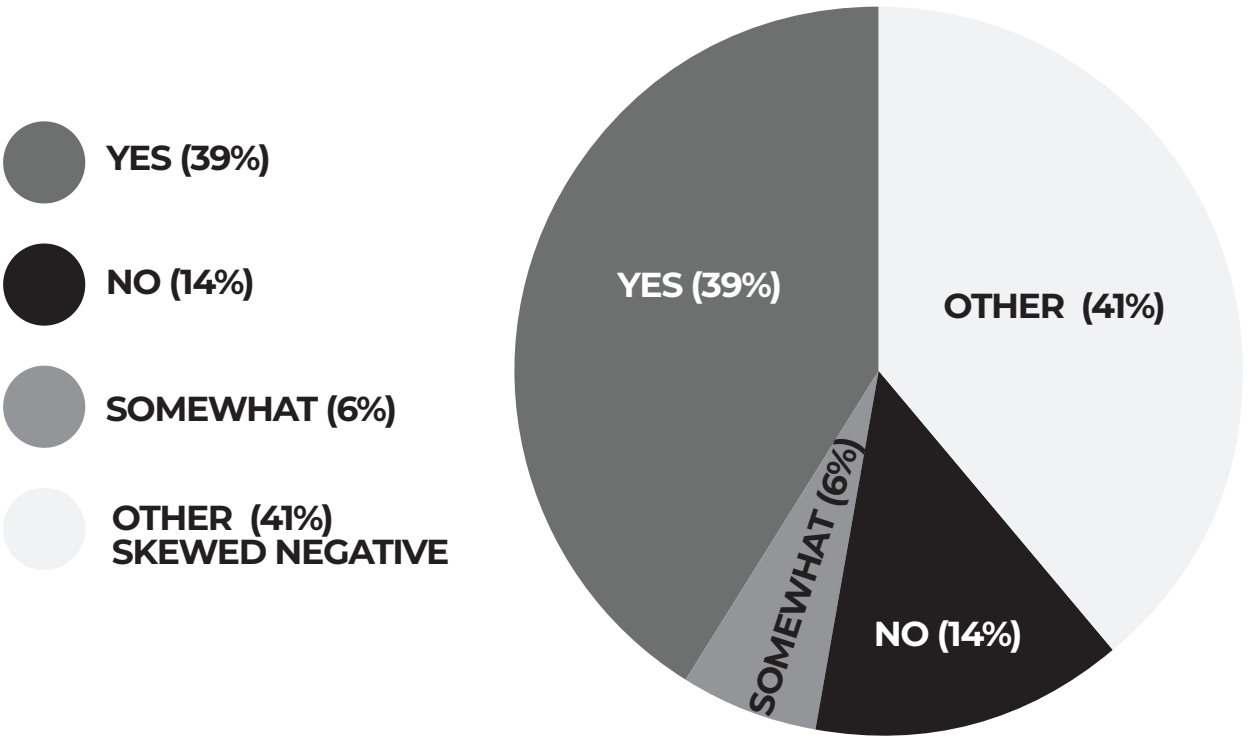
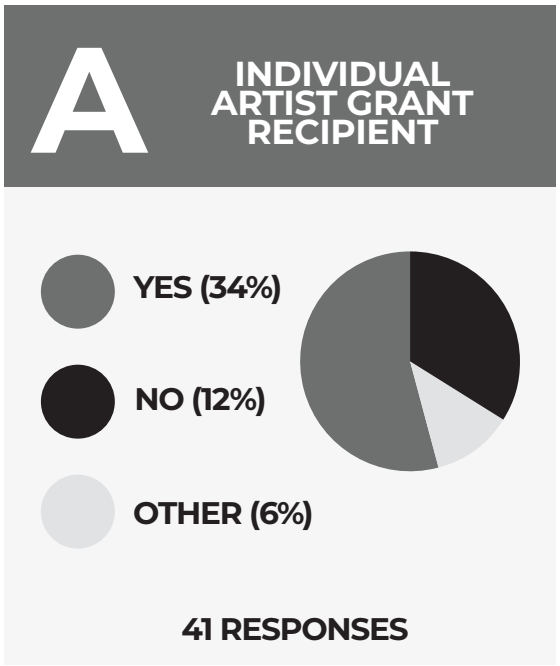
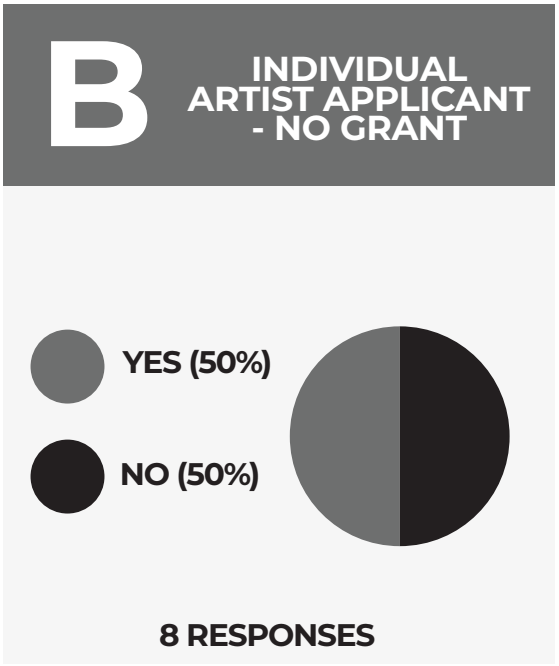
Were the Arts Advisory Panel's comments about your application helpful? Why or why not?

Total Responses 49







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Were the Arts Advisory Panel's comments about your application helpful. Top Sentiments with Frequency

FOUND HELPFUL/POSITIVE (20 MENTIONS)

"VERY HELPFUL AND GRATEFUL FOR FEEDBACK"

"YES, THEY GAVE POSITIVE FEEDBACK"

"HELPED UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE PROPOSAL SUCCESSFUL"

DON'T RECALL/DIDN'T LOOK (10 MENTIONS)

"DON'T RECALL THEM"

"DIDN'T LOOK, PAST COMMENTS WERE RIDICULOUS"

"DON'T REMEMBER RECEIVING ANY"

LACK OF CAREFUL READING (8 MENTIONS)

"PANEL MEMBERS DIDN'T READ CAREFULLY"

"COMMENTS REFLECTED NOT READING APPLICATION"

"REVIEWER MISSED DETAILS THAT WERE INCLUDED"

NO COMMENTS RECEIVED (6 MENTIONS)

"NO COMMENTS DONE"

"DON'T USUALLY GET COMMENTS"

"NEVER GOT THAT FAR"

UNCLEAR/CONTRADICTORY (6 MENTIONS)

"'CLEAR PLAN' VS 'NOT SURE WHAT PLANNING'"

"A BIT AMBIGUOUS"

"COMMENTS MISSED THE MARK"

NOT HELPFUL (5 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T ADD ANYTHING"

"MADE LITTLE SENSE"

"THEY WERE BIASED"

USED FOR IMPROVEMENT (4MENTIONS)

"MADE APPLICATION STRONGER"

"IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE OMISSIONS"

"HELPED UNDERSTAND WEAK AREAS"

PANEL EXPERTISE CONCENS (4 MENTIONS)

"NO WRITERS ON PANEL"

"QUESTION IF PANELISTS QUALIFIED"

"SHOWED NO SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE"

RESTATED CONTENT (3 MENTIONS)

"ECHOED WHAT I WROTE"

"JUST RESTATING APPLICATION"

"REPEATED PROJECT DETAILS"

MIXED FEELINGS (3 MENTIONS)

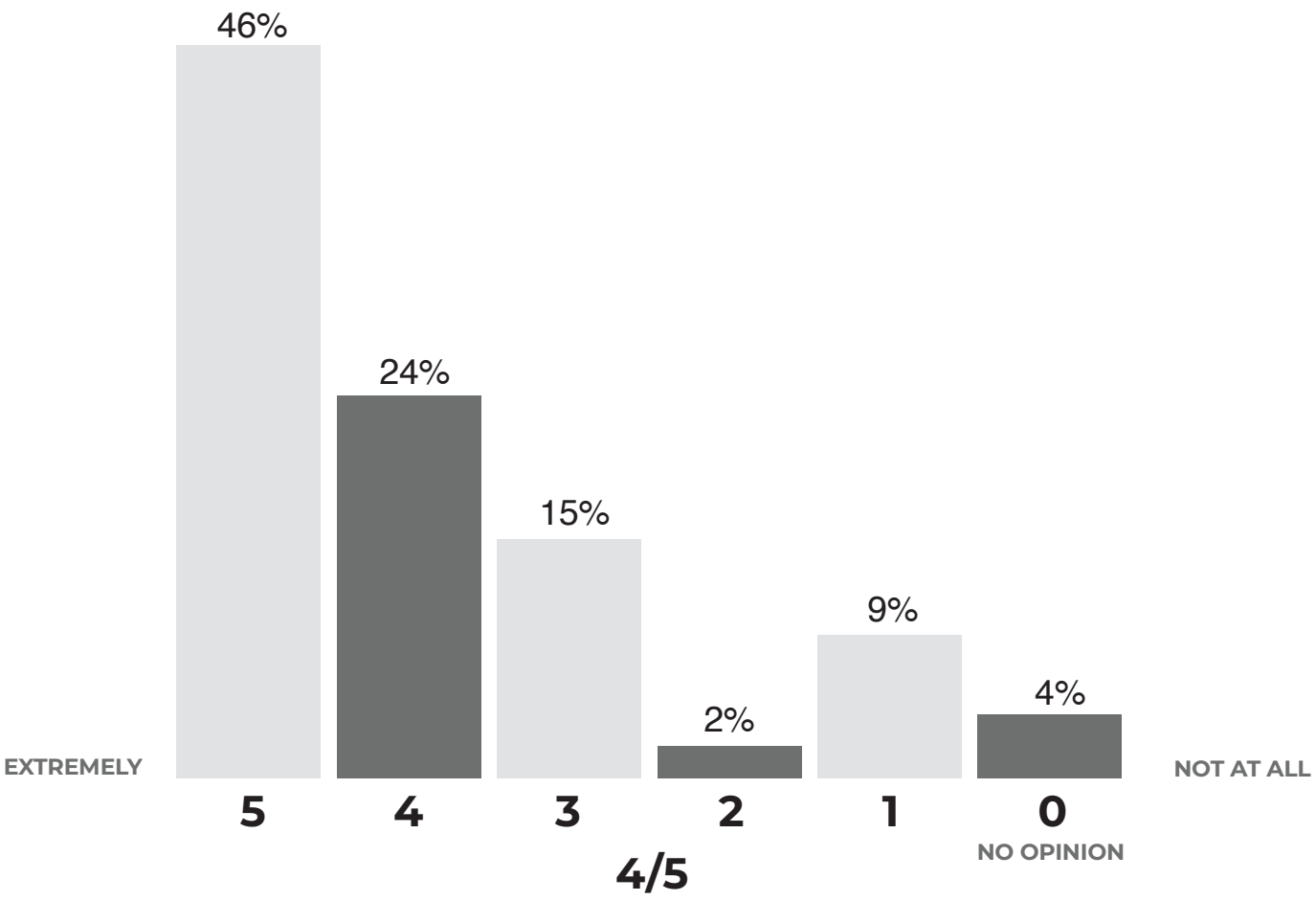
"SOMETIMES YES, SOMETIMES RESTATING"

"SOME PRAISE, SOME COMPLAINTS"

"OKAY"

How impactful was the Capstone Event for your artistic development

Total Responses 89 (Rating 0-5 - 0 no opinion)



A. INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT	5 (EXTREMELY) - 46% 4 (VERY) - 24% 3 (MODERATELY) - 15% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 5% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 10% 0 (NO OPINION - 0%	TOTAL RESPONSES **42**
D. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXTREMELY) - 52% 4 (VERY) - 24% 3 (MODERATELY) - 18% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 0% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 0% 0 (NO OPINION - 6%	**33**
E. GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED	5 (EXTREMELY) - 29% 4 (VERY) - 36% 3 (MODERATELY) - 0% 2 (SLIGHTLY) - 0% 1 (NOT AT ALL) - 21% 0 (NO OPINION - 14%	**14**

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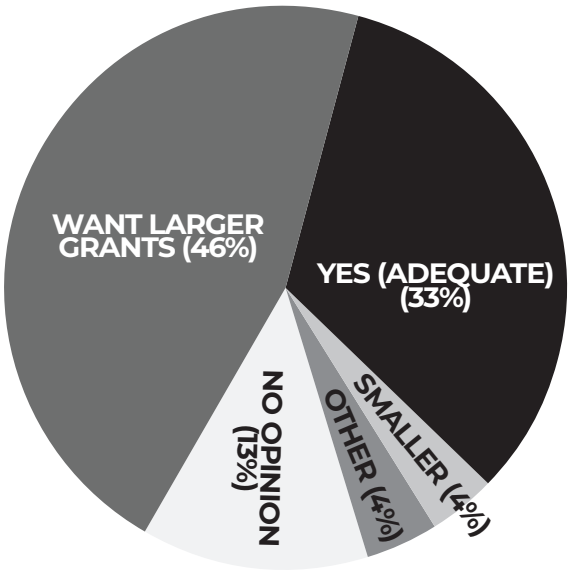
Do you feel the grant amounts offered through SEMAC's current Individual Artist Grant program are adequate for your needs? Total Responses 117

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (46%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (33%)
- WANT SMALLER (4%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (4%)
- NO OPINION (13%)



A INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (66%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (24%)
- WANT SMALLER (5%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (5%)

34 RESPONSES

B INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (40%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (60%)
- WANT SMALLER (0%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (0%)

5 RESPONSES

C GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (36%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (39%)
- WANT SMALLER (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (21%)
- NO OPINION (0%)

33 RESPONSES

D GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (45%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (44%)
- WANT SMALLER (0%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)
- NO OPINION (11%)

9 RESPONSES

E PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED

- WANT LARGER GRANTS (58%)
- YES (ADEQUATE) (25%)
- WANT SMALLER (6%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (6%)
- NO OPINION (5%)

36 RESPONSES

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

Additional Comments/Sentiments:

NEED FOR AMOUNT FLEXIBILTY

WANT VALUES BETWEEN $5000 AND $10000
$5000 IS GOOD BUT WOULD APPLY FOR MORE IF AVAILABLE
HAD TO MODIFY PROJECT SCOPE TO FIT $5000 BUDGET
NEEDS TO BE MORE

MULTIPLE GRANT REQUESTS

WANT ABILITY TO APPLY FOR MULTIPLE GRANTS PER YEAR
WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR 2 SMALL TOWN GRANTS ($5K) PER YEAR
NEED TO SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

COMPETITION CONCERNS

MORE COMPETITIVE NOW DUE TO PROMOTION
FORCES SMALLER GRANT REQUESTS
INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS CAUSING ORGANIZATIONAL STRESS

CURRENT AMOUNT FEEDBACK

$5000 IS "REALLY GREAT" BUT WOULD LIKE MORE AVAILABLE
HAVEN'T NEEDED $5000 YET BUT GOOD FUTURE OPTION
SMALL TOWN GRANTS SIZE ($5K) IS GOOD

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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Is there anything different you would like to see about the application process? What would make the process better from your perspective? Total responses: 34

APPLICATION PROCESS COMPLEXITY/CONFUSION (8 MENTIONS)

TWO-STEP PROCESS CRITICIZED
WEBSITE NAVIGATION ISSUES
REDUNDANT QUESTIONS NOTED

TIMING/DEADLINE CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

SHORT TIMEFRAME FOR STEP 2
DECISION DATES NEED EARLIER SHIFT
LONG WAITING PERIODS

VENUE/LOCATION REQUIREMENTS (4 MENTIONS)

DIFFICULTY SECURING VENUES IN ADVANCE
NEED MORE EXHIBITION SPACES
NON-PROFIT PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES (4 MENTIONS)

NEED FOR VIDEO/LANGUAGE OPTIONS
BARRIERS FOR NEURODIVERGENT ARTISTS
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS CHALLENGING

APPLICATION FORMAT RESTRICTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

CHARACTER LIMITS PROBLEMATIC
RESUME UPLOAD OPTIONS WANTED
LESS RIGID REQUIREMENTS NEEDED

CAPSTONE EVENT CONCERNS (3 MENTIONS)

QUESTIONS NECESSITY
USES FUNDS NEEDED FOR ART
INFLEXIBILITY ISSUES

REVIEW PANEL COMPOSITION (3 MENTIONS)

NEED MORE DIVERSE PANELISTS
AGE/GENDER BIAS CONCERNS
MEDIA-SPECIFIC EXPERTISE NEEDED

BUDGET/PLANNING CONSTRAINTS (3 MENTIONS)

DIFFICULTY WITH PRE-FUNDING SPECIFICS
NEED MORE FLEXIBILITY
GRANT SIZE VS. EXPERIENCE ISSUES

REDUNDANT QUESTIONS (2 MENTIONS)

"SEVERAL REDUNDANT QUESTIONS"
"WHICH INFO TO INCLUDE WHERE"

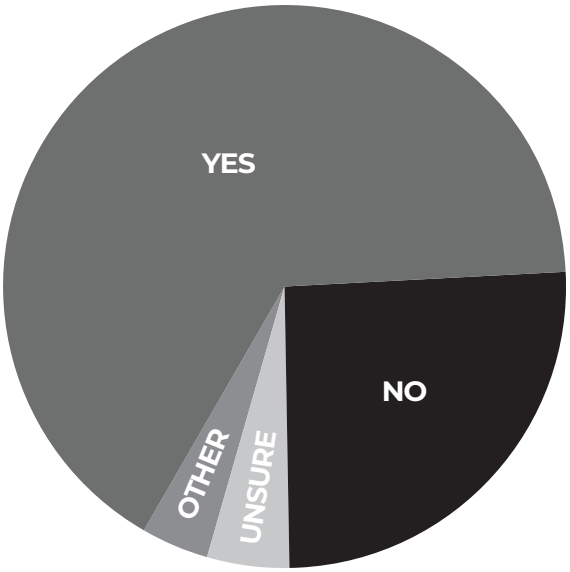
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS (2 MENTIONS)

BALANCE WITH PERSONAL PROJECTS
FLEXIBILITY NEEDED

Would you apply again? Why or why not? Would you recommend this grant opportunity to other artists?

Total Responses 130

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (85%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (33%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (6%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (5%)



A INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENT

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (83%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (2%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (11%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (4%)

41 RESPONSES

B INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT APPLICANT - NO GRANT

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (57%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (29%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (14%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

7 RESPONSES

C GRANT COORDINATOR FOR ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (94%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (3%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

33 RESPONSES

D GRANT COORDINATOR FOR NON-ARTS ORG HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (87%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (7%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (7%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (0%)

15 RESPONSES

E PAID EMPLOYEE, VOLUNTEER OR BOARD MEMBER HAS APPLIED

- YES/DEFINITELY/ABSOLUTELY (88%)
- NO/PROBABLY NOT (6%)
- UNSURE/MAYBE/CONDITIONAL (3%)
- OTHER/ALTERNATIVE (3%)

34 RESPONSES

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant
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Sentiments from those who WOULD apply again

FUNDING IS ESSENTIAL/CRITICAL/NEEDED (28 MENTIONS)

"YES, OF COURSE. IT'S HOW I SURVIVE."
"OUR NONPROFIT OPERATES ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET"
GRANTS ALLOW US TO FOCUS ON OUR MUSIC & SHARING IT WITH THE COMMUNITY"
“FUNDING ALLOWS US TO OPERATE WITHOUT CHARGING DUES TO MEMBERS"
"YES, THE FUNDING GREATLY HELPS TO SUPPORT OR PROGRAM"

STAFF IS HELPFUL/EASY TO WORK WITH (16 MENTIONS)

"KAREN ANSWERED EVERY QUESTION I HAD AND HAD THE PATIENCE TO FULLY EXPLAIN WHAT THE PROCESS SOUGHT"
"I FIND SEMAC STAFF TO BE EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL AND KNOWLEDGABLE"
"STAFF IS GREAT AND THE PROCESS IS NOT TOO ONEROUS"
"STAFF WERE SO EASY TO WORK WITH AND THE GRANT APPLICATION WAS CLEAR"

PROCESS IS FAIR/REASONABLE (12 MENTIONS)

"THE GRANT PROCESS IS FAIR IN RATIO OF WORKLOAD TO OUTCOME"
"ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS IS INTENSE, THE PAYOFF IS WORTH THE EFFORT"
"THE GRANTS ARE SPECIFIC BUT FLEXIBLE"
"WE HAVE BEEN AWARDED GRANTS SEVERAL TIMES SO APPLYING DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A WASTE OF TIME"

IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITY ARTS/RURAL AREAS (11 MENTIONS)

"GREAT SUPPORT FOR RURAL ARTS"
"THE ARTS HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY"
"THIS HAS PROVIDED AN CULTURAL OPPORTUNITY THAT IS RARE OUTSIDE STATE MN"
"ALLOWS US TO PRESENT ARTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR RURAL COMMUNITY"

GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (9 MENTIONS)

"THE GRANTS REALLY HELP EMERGING ARTISTS ESTABLISH OURSELVES AND MORE EXPERIENCED ARTISTS DIVE DEEPER"
"IT WAS A GOOD WAY TO GET TO KNOW WHAT THE GRANT PROCESS IS LIKE”
"THIS SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR MY CREATIVE PRACTICE""
"THE DEADLINE AND CAPSTONE MOTIVATE ME TO STICK TO TIMELINE"

Sentiments from those who WOULD NOT apply again

PANEL/REVIEW PROCESS ISSUES (3 MENTIONS))

"PROBABLY NOT BECAUSE THE PANEL PROCESS IS BROKEN. PANELISTS DON'T DO THEIR HOMEWORK AND RELY ONLY ON WHAT THEY HAPPEN TO SPECIFICALLY KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THEIR OWN COUNTY"

"WOMEN ARTISTS ARE GOING TO GET JUDGED ON THEIR LOOKS, WHETHER THEIR LOOKS ARE SURPRISING IN SOME WAY, OR WHETHER SOME MAN IS GOING TO WONDER OUT LOUD"

"APPARENTLY I AM NOT A GOOD ENOUGH WRITER..... I TALKED WITH MANY PEOPLE ABOUT THIS PROJECT.... I HEARD NOTHING BUT GREAT ENTHUSIASM"

APPLICATION PROCESS TOO DEMANDING FOR GRANT SIZE (2 MENTIONS)

"IT IS UNLIKELY THAT I WILL APPLY AGAIN DUE TO MY CONCERN THAT THIS IS MORE OF A COMMUNITY-BASED GRANT RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL ARTIST GRANT. AND, FOR SUCH A RELATIVELY MODEST AMOUNT OF GRANT MONEY, THE APPLICATION IS CUMBERSOME AND VAGUE IN SEVERAL AREAS"

"FOR THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING, THE APPLICATION PROCESS IS A PAIN IN THE REAR. WE HAVE GRANTS FROM THE STATE FOR 10+-TIMES MORE MONEY THAT REQUIRE LESS"

LACK OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT (1 MENTION)

"I'M NOT SURE. THERE WAS AN INCREDIBLE LACK OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY AND THE ORIGINAL HOST FOR MY CAPSTONE STOPPED COMMUNICATION AND I WAS FORCED TO PUSH THE CAPSTONE BACK BY MONTHS""

GENRE/WRITING NOT SUPPORTED (1 MENTION)

"I'M NOT SURE. IT'S GETTING PRETTY CLEAR THAT WRITERS ARE NOT REALLY GETTING FUNDED"

ORGANIZATION CLOSED (1 MENTION)

"THE MERLIN PLAYERS HAVE SHUT THEIR DOORS""

In what other ways do you think SEMAC could help support Individual artists?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/WORKSHOPS (8 MENTIONS)

"I LIKED THE MONTHLY ZOOM/TOPICS"
"WORKSHOPS OR COLLABORATIONS WITH ORGS LIKE SPRINGBOARD"
"MAYBE 1-2 TIMES A YEAR WITH ONLINE TRAINING ABOUT BUDGETING/FINDING OTHER GRANTS"

GRANT STRUCTURE CHANGES (7 MENTIONS)

"LARGER GRANT AWARDS"
"MAYBE SMALLER INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS GRANTS SO MORE CAN RECEIVE THEM?"
"BEGINNER GRANTS FOR $1000.00 THAT DO NOT REQUIRE CAPSTONES"
"THEY SHOULD PERHAPS HAVE TO TAKE A YEAR OFF BETWEEN?"

ARTIST NETWORKING/ DIRECTORY (6 MENTIONS)

"AN ARTIST DIRECTORY WOULD BE HELPFUL"
"A GATHERING OF THE RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS COULD BE AN AMAZING RESOURCE/ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY"
"MORE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS"

ONLINE PRESENCE/PROMOTION (6 MENTIONS)

"HAVE AN ONLINE GALLERY ON YOUR WEBSITE LINKING TO THE WEBSITES OF PREVIOUS GRANT RECIPIENTS"
"I REALLY APPRECIATED THE SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL MEDIA"
"I ENJOY ALL OF THE WORKSHOPS THAT SEMAC DOES"

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS (5 MENTIONS)

"CREATE A MENTORSHIP PROGRAM WHERE ESTABLISHED ARTISTS CAN HELP MENTOR EMERGING ARTISTS"
"PERHAPS SOME KIND OF A MENTOR-SHIP PROGRAM TO HELP NEW ARTISTS NAVIGATE THE APPLICATION PROCESS"
"PAIRING A NEW ARTIST WITH SOMEONE WHO'S RECEIVED A GRANT PREVIOUSLY"

OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED AREAS/ARTISTS (4 MENTIONS)

"TARGETING AREAS THAT ARE ARTS NEGLECTED"
"HAVING SOME OUTREACH TO LESS ENGAGED AREAS, POPULATIONS AND TYPES OF ARTS"
"FIND PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE ARTS WORLD BUBBLE"

EXHIBITION/PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES (4 MENTIONS)

"MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW WORK FOR CAPSTONE"
"PROVIDING MORE SPACES TO SHOWS AND INTERACT W THE COMMUNITY"
"BIENNIAL EXHIBITS OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

PUBLIC ART SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)

"GUIDANCE IN THINGS LIKE GETTING PUBLIC ART APPROVED"
"I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A PROGRAM SEGMENT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATIONS"

TRANSPARENCY IN PROCESS (3 MENTIONS)

"RECORDINGS OF THE GRANTS RATINGS CONVERSATIONS WOULD BE USEFUL"
"APPROACHABILITY COULD BE BETTER"
"TELL THEM WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING TO FUND"

SUPPORT FOR SPECIFIC ART FORMS (2 MENTIONS)

"GET SOME PANELISTS WHO ARE WRIT-ERS"
"I THINK A DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN 'CRAFTS' AND 'ART'"

In what other ways do you think SEMAC could help support Organizations?

MARKETING/PUBLICITY SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"WE NEED TO TAKE BETTER ADVANTAGE OF SEMAC'S PUBLICITY AVENUES"
“HIGHLIGHT AN ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL A MONTH"
"WE STRUGGLE WITH BETTER WAYS TO MARKET"
"HELPING TO MARKET THE EVENTS“

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/TRAINING (7 MENTIONS)

"PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPS FOR NON-PROFIT LEADERS"
"BY OFFERING WORKSHOPS TO IMPROVE THE BOARD'S AND MEMBERS' SKILLS"
"HELP US LEARN TO BUDGET, MARKET, ORGANIZE FOR THE FUTURE"
"TO GIVE GRANTS TO IMPROVE/TRAIN OUR MEMBERS"

COLLABORATION/NETWORKING SUPPORT (6 MENTIONS)

"ASSIST WITH FINDING COLLABS THROUGH THE REGION"
"BRINGING TOGETHER LIKE-MINDED ARTS ORGS TO COLLECTIVELY PROBLEM SOLVE ISSUES"
"TO SHARE MAILING LISTS”
“ADVICE ON MANAGING VOLUNTEER ARTS ORGANIZATIONS"

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"GRANTS FOR STAFF"
"OPERATION FUNDING"
"MORE GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT FUNDS/OPPORTUNITIES"
"MULTI-YEAR FUNDING WOULD BE WONDERFUL!"

SIMPLIFIED GRANT PROCESS (4 MENTIONS)

"SIMPLIFY THE GRANT PROCESS"
"GRANT APPLICATION FORM COULD BE LESS COMPLEX"
"FEWER OF THE QUESTIONS THAT SEEM VERY SIMILAR"

EVENT CALENDAR/PROMOTION (3 MENTIONS)

"HAVE A CALENDAR WHERE WE COULD LIST ALL OF OUR CONCERTS"
"SEND OUT PRESS RELEASES OF ALL FINISHED PROJECTS"
"PROMOTION OF EVENTS... IN SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

BUILDING/MAINTENANCE SUPPORT (2 MENTIONS)

"WE DO NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO APPLY FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE GRANTS"
"EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE FUNDS"

RESOURCE DIRECTORY (2 MENTIONS)

"HAVE A RESOURCE PAGE OF SUGGESTED STRATEGIC PLANNING FACILITATORS"
"SEMAC TO BE A HUB FOR AREA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES"

SATISFIED WITH CURRENT SUPPORT (2 MENTIONS)

"FOR THE TIME BEING, IT IS JUST FINE"
"SUPPORT IS GOOD AT CURRENT LEVELS"

FUNDING CONCERNS (2 MENTIONS)

"IF YOU ADVERTISE FOR MORE APPLICANTS YOU NEED TO HAVE MORE MONEY"
"ALLOW NON ART ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY FOR LARGER GRANTS"

In what other ways do you interact with SEMAC?

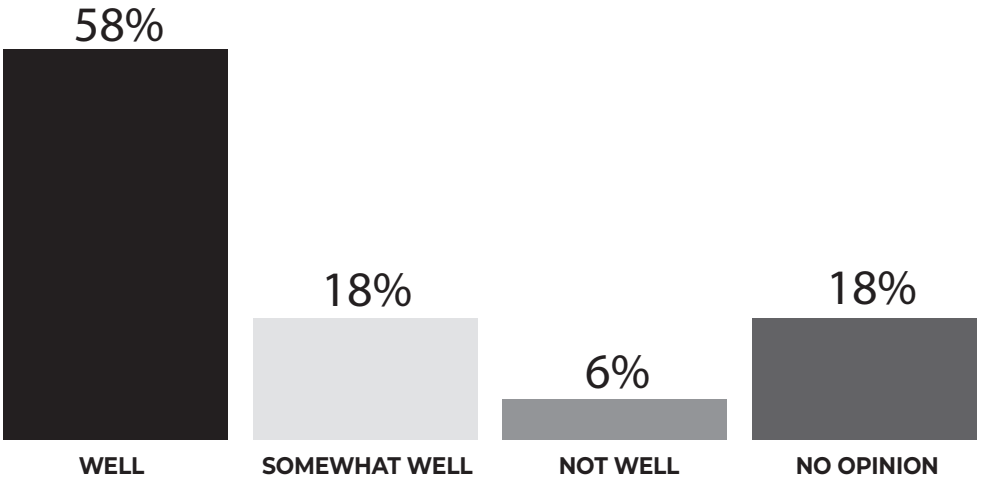
Total Responses 223

72	RECIPIENT OF SEMAC'S MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER	32%
51	FOLLOWER OF SEMAC ON INSTAGRAM AND/OR FACEBOOK	23%
47	NONE OF THE ABOVE	21%
24	FORMER OR CURRENT MEMBER OF SEMAC'S ARTS ADVISORY PANEL	11%
23	ATTENDEE OF A SEMAC GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP	11%
22	ATTENDEE OF A SEMAC ARTIST DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP	10%
21	PARTICIPANT IN ARTS ADVOCACY EFFORTS ORGANIZED BY SEMAC	9%
8	FORMER OR CURRENT MEMBER OF SEMAC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS	4%
8	OTHER MENTIONS	4%

A. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Recipient **B**. SEMAC Individual Artist Grant Applicant who has not received a grant **C**. Grant Coordinator for an arts organization that has applied for SEMAC grants **D.** Grant Coordinator for a non-arts organization or government entity that has applied for SEMAC Grants **E.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has applied for SEMAC Grant **F.** Paid employee, volunteer, or board member of an organization that has not applied for SEMAC grants **G**. None of the above **H.** Other

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

General Operating Support Grants for Organizations (217 responses)



IMPORTANCE FOR OPERATIONS (8 MENTIONS)

"GOS IS FUNDAMENTAL FOR OURORGANIZATION TO FUNCTION"

"VERY IMPORTANT TO ONGOING SUCCESS"

"THESE ARE ACTUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT!"

"MANY GROUPS NEED THE SUPPORT TO CONTINUE THEIR PROGRAMMING"

RURAL/ROCHESTER FOCUS CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

"I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE GOING TO SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

"FOCUS SEEMS ON ROCHESTER"

"MANY SMALL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH-OUT SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA RELY ON SEMAC FUNDS"

"NEED MORE GOING TO SMALL TOWN AND RURAL AREAS"

LACK OF AWARENESS (5 MENTIONS)

"I AM NOT AWARE OF THE OPERATING SUPPORT GRANTS FROM SEMAC"

"I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS OR DOES"

"I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH A LOT OF NONPROFITS IN RICE COUNTY AND NEVER KNEW OF THIS OPPORTUNITY"

SAME RECIPIENTS CONCERN (4 MENTIONS)

"IT SEEMS THE SAME PEOPLE KEEP GETTING GRANTS"

"I SEE MANY OF THE SAME ARTISTS GET THESE GRANTS"

"THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PROGRAMS OR RECIPIENTS DOING THIS"

APPLICATION PROCESS ISSUES (4 MENTIONS)

"I FEEL LIKE THE APPLICATION ITSELF IS CUMBERSOME AND REDUNDANT"

"IT GETS CONFUSING FOR TRACKING WHEN MANY ORGS HAVE CALENDAR FISCAL YEARS AND YOURS IS JULY"

"I DID HAVE A NON-PROFIT BUT GAVE UP

THE STATUS. IT WAS CAUSING MORE WORK AND MORE $ THAN IT WAS OFFERING ME"

FUNDING AMOUNT CONCERNS (3 MENTIONS)

"FEWER GRANTS AWARDS BUT LARGER AMOUNTS - ORGS HAVE GREATER NEEDS"

"AN INCREASE IN FUNDING WOULD BE HELPFUL, IN LIGHT OF INFLATION"

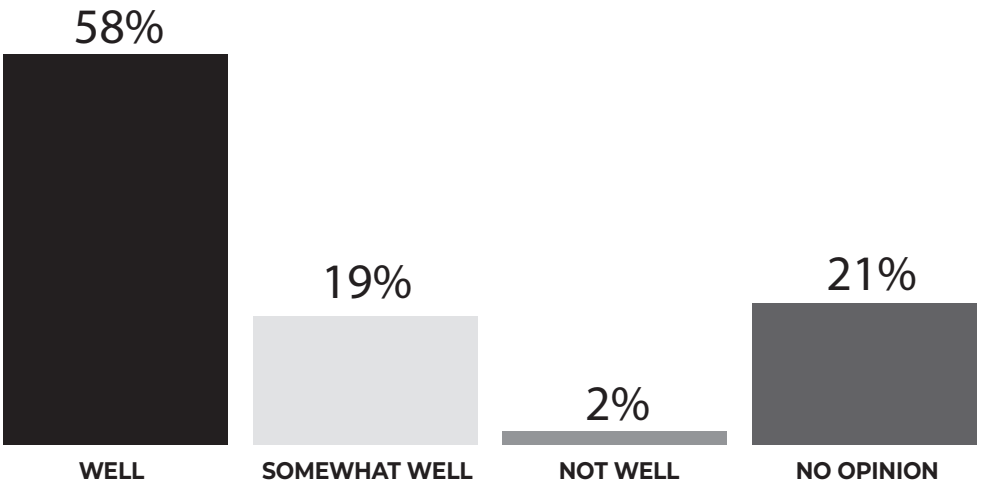
"GENERAL OPERATIONS ARE ALWAYS HARD TO COME BY. THAT'S AN IMPEDIMENT IN ITSELF"

"WAYS TO HELP ORGS MOVE FROM GRANT

SUPPORT TO MORE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MODELS"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Programming Grants for Arts Organizations (161 responses)



NEED FOR INCREASED FUNDING/RESOURCES (5 MENTIONS)

"FUNDING COULD BE HIGHER"

"I WISH THERE WERE MORE FUNDS FOR LEGACY, BUT RECOGNIZE THAT LIMITATIONS EXIST"

"PERSONALLY WOULD PREFER EITHER MULTI-YEAR OR LARGER GENERAL OPERATING GRANTS"

POSITIVE IMPACT ON ARTS ORGANIZATIONS (4 MENTIONS)

"THAT IS THE HEART OF OUR ORG... W/O SEMAC SUPPORT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO PAY OUR ARTISTS"

"MANY SMALL ORGS THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST MN RELY ON SEMAC FUNDS TO KEEP THEIR DOORS OPEN"

"THIS TYPE OF GRANT IS SO HELPFUL TO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS HERE"

VISIBILITY/COMMUNITY PRESENCE (4 MENTIONS)

"I'VE SEEN THE SEMAC LOGO ON CERTAIN OTHER CONCERTS--IT APPEARS THEY ARE VERY ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITIES"
"I SEE THINGS IN THE WEEKLY PAPER OCCASIONALLY"

"SEMAC SHOULD HAVE A PRESENCE BEYOND JUST THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT ON A POSTER"

ARTS ACCESSIBILITY/REPRESENTATION (3 MENTIONS)

"HELPFUL IN BRINGING ARTS TO SOME WHO MAY NOT OTHERWISE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY"

"SOME AREAS ARE LESS WELL REPRESENTED"

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE OTHER WAYS THAT THEY CAN SHOW US HOW TO MORE OF HMONG ARTS"

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT IMPORTANT (3 MENTIONS)

"ALLOWS ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE PROGRAMMING"
"FOCUS ON ARTISTS RATHER THAN ADMINISTRATORS"

"I APPRECIATE THE FLEXIBILITY AND CARING SHOWN TO ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING SUPPORT"

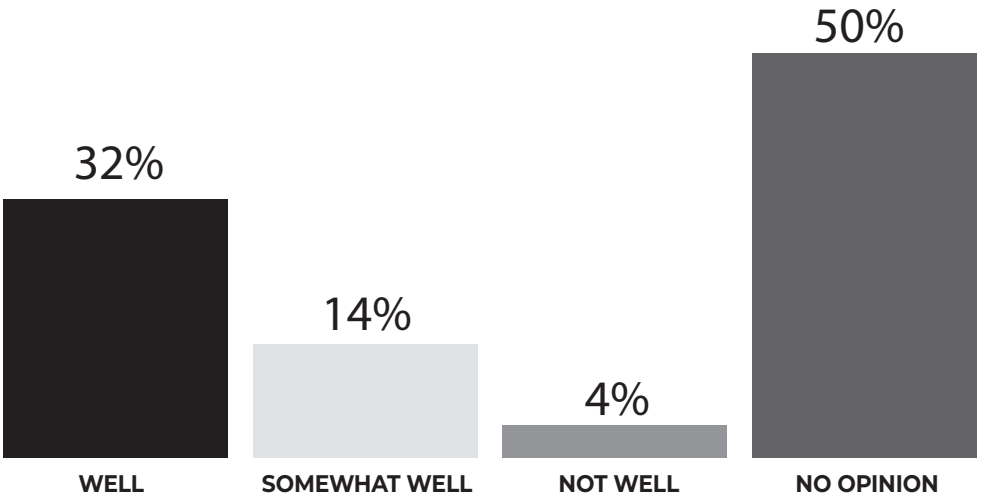
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION FEEDBACK (2 MENTIONS)

"REPRESENTATIVES OF SEMAC SHOULD BE ON HAND TO GATHER PUBLIC INPUT AT INSTALLATIONS"

"AS A BOARD MEMBER, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE PRESENT AT MORE CAPSTONES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

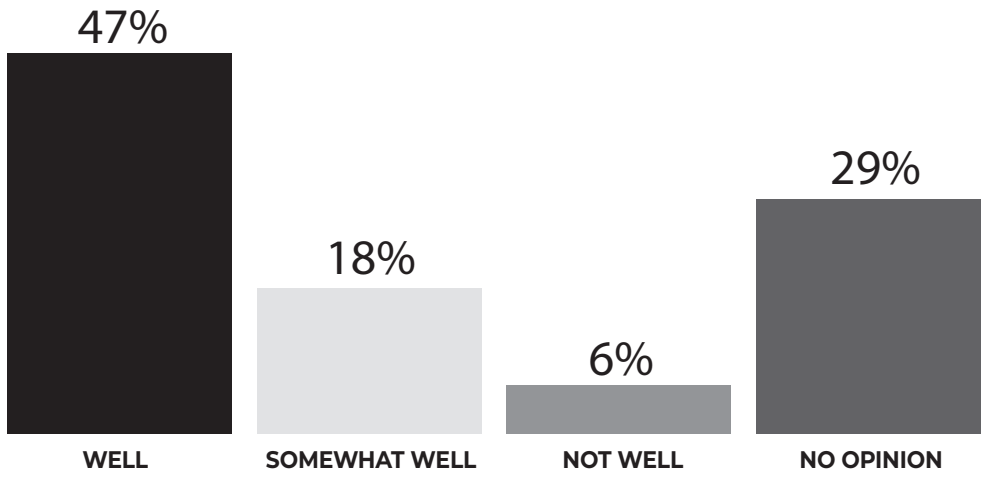
Arts Programming Grants for Non-Arts Orgs (158 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS/CLARITY (4 MENTIONS)	SUPPORT FOR ART-INTEGRATION (3 MENTIONS)
"NOT AWARE OF THIS" "IMPROVE AWARENESS OF AVAIL-ABILITY" "DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A THING" "PLEASE BE MORE CLEAR ON WHAT YOU MEAN BY NON-ARTS"	"EXTREMELY VALUABLE TO HAVE FUNDING" "WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS" "GREAT IDEA" FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES (2 MENTIONS)	**FUNDING NEEDS (2 MENTIONS)**
"FEW ART OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-ART ORGANIZATIONS" "WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES"	"BEING GRANT SUPPORTED WOULD GO A LONG WAY" "DON'T SKIMP ON US"
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FOCUS (1 MENTION)	**EVENT PLANNING CHALLENGES (1 MENTION)**
"SHARE THE BENEFITS OF ARTS TO ALL IN OUR COMMUNITY"	"PLANNERS LACK ABILITY TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK OR AFFORD SETUP FEES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Individual Artist Grants (157 responses)



APPLICATION PROCESS CONCERNS (6 MENTIONS)

"THERE ARE A LOT OF HOOPS TO JUMP THROUGH"

"APPLICATION ITSELF IS CUMBERSOME AND REDUNDANT"

"YOU SHOULD MAKE THE PROCESS SIMPLER"

FUNDING LEVEL SUGGESTIONS (5 MENTIONS)

"ONE MINI-STEP BEFORE THE $3000.00 WITH A LESS ARDUOUS PROCESS"

"ARTISTS COULD ALWAYS USE ADDITIONAL FUNDING"

"PROVIDING A SMALLER STARTER GRANT"

ACCESS/INCLUSIVITY CONCERNS (4 MENTIONS)

"HOW DO WE MAKE GRANTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO TALENTED ARTISTS WHO DON'T HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE"

"COULD USE BETTER STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT IS 'ART'"

"INCLUDE MORE LITERARY ARTISTS, WRITERS, POETS, NOVELISTS"

POSITIVE IMPACT (4 MENTIONS)

"LOVED GETTING THEM. HOPE TO GET MORE. ALWAYS VERY EDIFYING"

"I'VE BEEN VERY INTERESTED AND IMPRESSED BY THE PROJECTS"

"BEING AWARDED AN SEMAC GRANT IS A GREAT MOTIVATION"

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FEEDBACK (3 MENTIONS)

"THE CRITERIA FOR EMERGING/ADVANCED COULD BE RE-EVALUATED"

"WISH THAT THERE WAS NOT A REQUIREMENT THAT ARTISTS BE OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL"

"DECISION MAKING COULD BE MORE CLEAR"

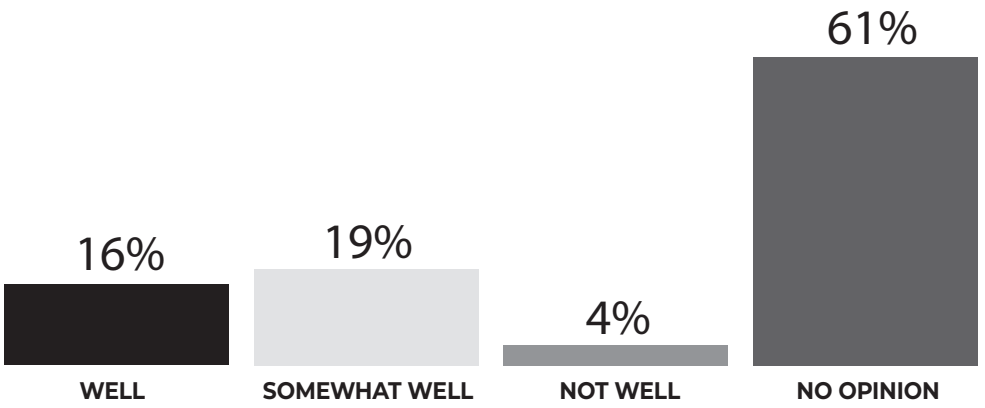
CULTURAL REPRESENTATION (2 MENTIONS)

"THE PROGRAM HELP SHOW OTHER PEOPLE OUR CULTURE AND ARTS"

"WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE LITERARY ARTISTS APPLY AND RECEIVE FUNDING"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

School Residency Grants (158 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (7 MENTIONS)

"NOT SURE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THEM"

"NOT SURE THERE IS A BROAD AWARENESS"

"I WISH I KNEW MORE"

"DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THERE!"

"PROGRAM NEEDS BE BETTER PROMOTED"

POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENTS (3 MENTIONS)

"GREAT FOR KIDS TO EXPERIENCE ARTISTS"

"VERY HELPFUL FOR THE ARTIST(S) AND THE SCHOOLS"

"WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR SCHOOLS"

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES (2 MENTIONS)

"HARD FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PUSH FOR AND CONSIDER ONE MORE THING"

"JUST THE COORDINATION REQUIRED"

UNDERUTILIZATION (2 MENTIONS)

"ISN'T BEING WELL UTILIZED"

"HASN'T BEEN TOO MANY APPLICATION SUBMITTALS"

FEEDBACK SUGGESTIONS (1 MENTION)

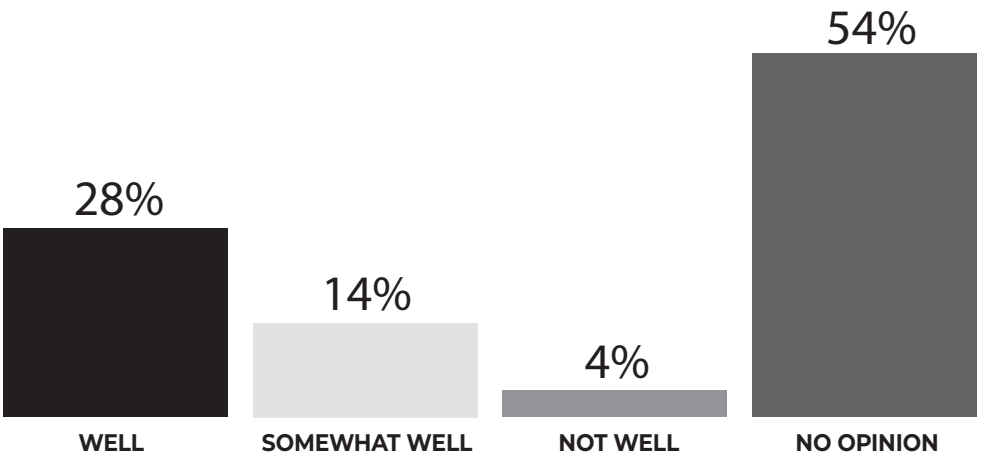
"FOLLOW-UP ON CHILDREN'S PERCEPTIONS SHOULD BE DONE"

HIGHER EDUCATION EXCLUSION (1 MENTION)

"DO NOT HELP THOSE OF US IN HIGHER ED WHO WOULD LIKE TO BRING TEACHING ARTISTS TO CAMPUSES"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Individual Artist Workshop Series (155 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (6 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T KNOW IT EXISTED!"
"DID NOT KNOW THIS WAS A THING"
"I DIDN'T ATTEND ONE AND I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS WORKSHOP SERIES"
"NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT BUT LOVE THE CONCEPT"
"BETTER PUBLICITY?"

POSITIVE RECEPTION (5 MENTIONS)

"LOVED SEEING THIS EMERGE AS A FANTASTIC RESOURCE!"
"I LOVE THAT THESE ARE BEING OFFERED"
"THEY ARE GETTING BETTER FOR SURE!"
"THE SERIES THIS YEAR WAS VERY AFFIRMING"
"THESE SOUND REALLY USEFUL!"

DESIRE FOR MORE/EXPANSION (4 MENTIONS)

"I WISH WE HAVE MORE"
"MORE FOCUSED I.E. MUSIC, VISUAL, DANCE ETC."
"MORE MENTORSHIP FOR YOUNGER ARTISTS WOULD SERVE THE APPLICANTS BETTER"
"MORE WORKSHOPS SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS"

NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT (2 MENTIONS)

"WORKSHOPS TEND TO LEAN AWAY FROM ANY EVALUATION OF ARTISTIC QUALITY REGARDING THE PROPOSALS"
"WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR DIRECTION WITH SOME OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS"

COMMUNITY IMPACT FOCUS (2 MENTIONS)

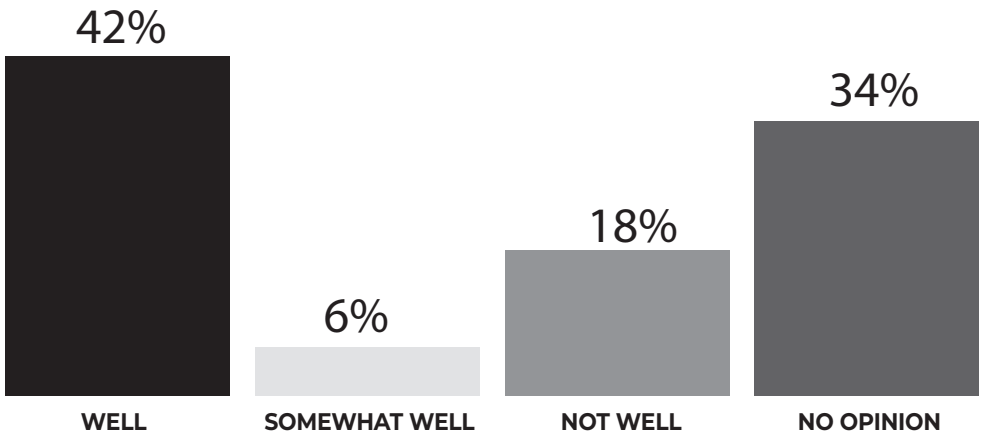
"THE GIVE-BACK ASPECT OF RECEIVING GRANT FUNDS SHOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY"
"SHOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THAT PARTICULAR ARTIST/WRITER LIVES"

BETTER ORGANIZATION/STRUCTURE (2 MENTIONS)

"MORE FOCUSED I.E. MUSIC, VISUAL, DANCE ETC."
"BETTER PUBLICITY?"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

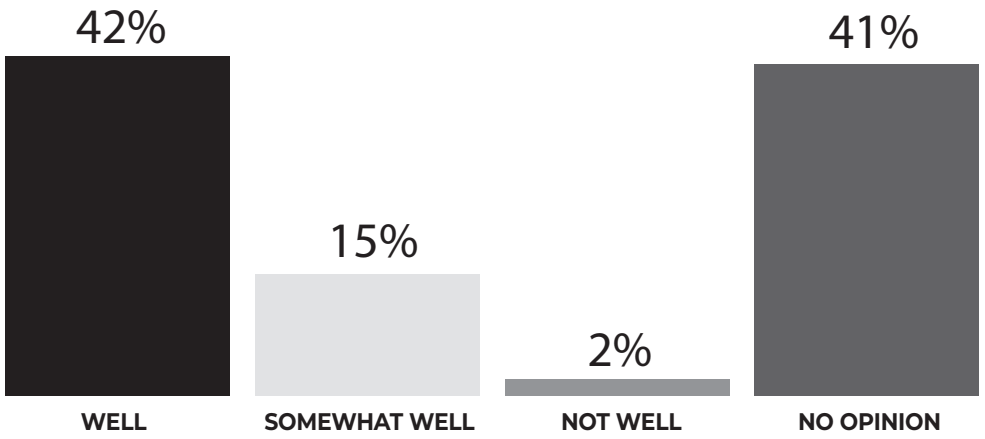
Grant Writing Workshops (156 responses)



LACK OF AWARENESS (4 MENTIONS)	POSITIVE EXPERIENCE/VALUE (4 MENTIONS)
"DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS..." "I DIDN'T KNOW THESE EXISTED" "DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE THERE" "PROBABLY WHAT I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN.... I DIDN'T USE IT, SO NOT SURE"	"THE LAST ONE WAS AWESOME" "I ATTENDED, THIS WAS HELPFUL, THANK YOU FOR OFFERING IT" "THIS IS ALSO A VERY IMPORTANT AND WELCOME RESOURCE" "I CAME TO THE FIRST GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP IN ROCHESTER AT THE SEMAC OFFICE AND ENJOYED IT"
NEED FOR EXPANSION/MORE OFFERINGS (3 MENTIONS)	**NEED FOR MORE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)**
"I WISH WE HAVE MORE" "WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE OF THESE OFFERED IN THE 9 COUNTY REGION" "OFFERED AS A SERIES THROUGH THE LOCAL LIBRARY SYSTEM WOULD BE GREAT"	"MORE HELP IS NEEDED TO INSTRUCT PEOPLE HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION" "MORE OBJECTIVITY NEEDS TO BE USED DURING THE SELECTION PROCESS" "PERHAPS MORE INSIGHT INTO THE REVIEWERS AND HOW THEY APPROACH GRANT GIVING"
RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE (2 MENTIONS)	**CONCERNS ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY/COMPLEXITY (2 MENTIONS)**
"EVERYONE CAN USE HELP TO IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS" "THIS IS A VERY NECESSARY SKILL"	"THE REAL NEWBIES GET OVERWHELMED"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

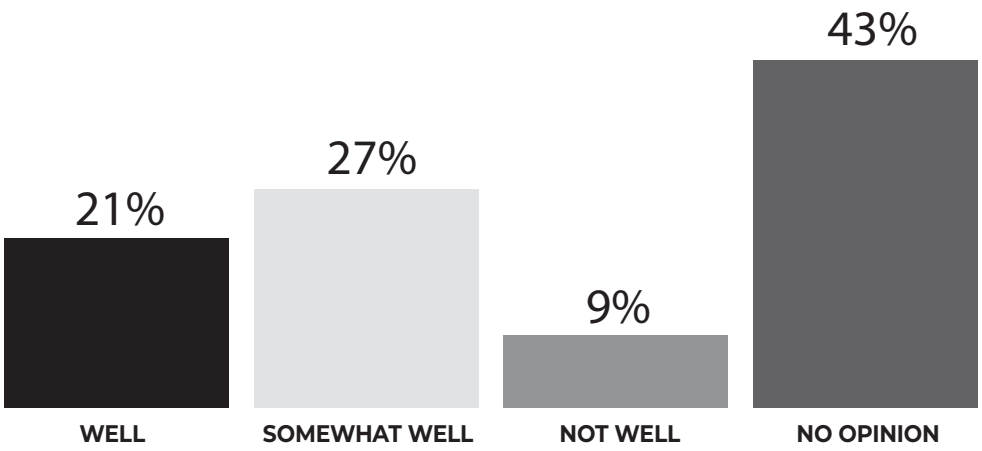
Monthly Newsletter (157 responses)



POSITIVE ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS (6 MENTIONS)	DON'T RECEIVE/UNAWARE (4 MENTIONS)
"THIS HAS BEEN MUCH BETTER THIS PAST YEAR" "NEWLY IMPROVED!" "GREAT REVAMP!"	"I DON'T BELIEVE I GET ONE" "I MUST BE MISSING THIS" "NOT YET ON THE NEWSLETTER"
INFORMATIVE/HELPFUL (4 MENTIONS)	**COMMUNICATION FREQUENCY (2 MENTIONS)**
"REALLY LIKE HEARING ABOUT OTHER SEMAC EVENTS" "THE NEWSLETTER IS CLEAR AND INFORMATIVE" "THIS HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL"	"APPRECIATE THAT THEY ARE NOT FLOODING MY INBOX" "MORE! HELPS REMIND ME OF STUFF"
UNCERTAIN/CAN'T REMEMBER (2 MENTIONS)	**NOT FAMILIAR (2 MENTIONS)**
"CAN'T REMEMBER IF I GET THESE" "LOTS OF EMAIL THESE DAYS"	"NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Social Media Presence (158 responses)



INCREASED/IMPROVED PRESENCE (7 MENTIONS)

"SEEMS LIKE IT'S BEEN INCREASING WHICH IS GREAT"

"DIGITAL/SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BEEN EXCELLENT IN THE PAST 2 YEARS"

"GOOD WAY TO RAISE ARTS AWARENESS"

NEED MORE/EARLIER POSTS (6 MENTIONS)

"COULD POST MORE SO WE CAN SHARE"

"SOME POSTS POP UP TOO LATE TO ATTEND EVENTS"

"NEED TO HAVE MORE POSTS"

UNAWARE OF PRESENCE (5 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T REALIZE, BEFORE TODAY, THAT SEMAC HAS A FB PRESENCE"

"I DON'T KNOW IF I KNEW THESE EXISTED"

"THIS SURVEY IS THE FIRST I'VE SEEN REGARDING SEMAC"

DON'T USE SOCIAL MEDIA (4 MENTIONS)

"I TEND TO AVOID SOCIAL MEDIA"

"OLDER RESIDENTS DON'T USE MUCH SOCIAL MEDIA"

"I'M NOT ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA"

POSITIVE IMPACT/SHARING (4 MENTIONS)

"LOVE HOW YOU SHARE THE EVENTS GOING ON IN THE REGION"

"I LOVE THE GRAPHICS AND PHOTOS!"

"VERY HELPFUL TO SEE REAL TIME ACTIVITIES"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (3 MENTIONS)

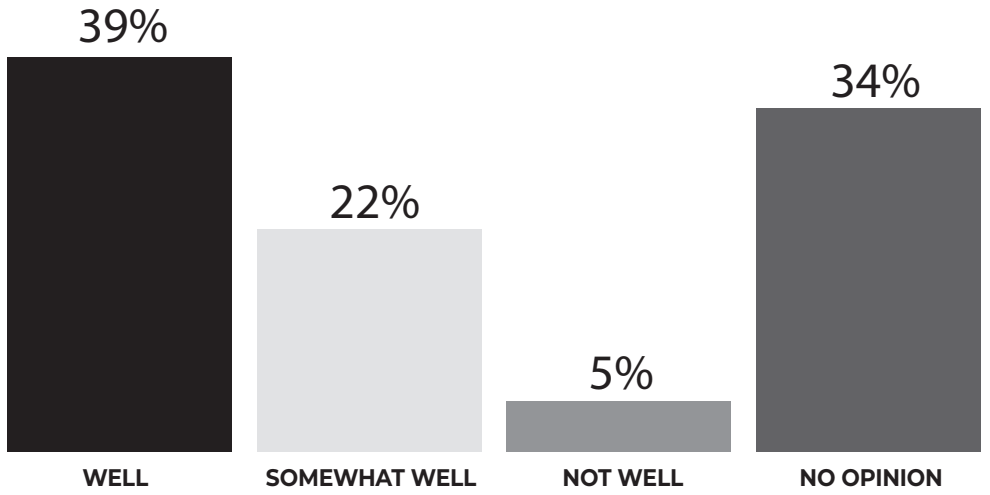
"WISH YOU PROVIDED/REQUIRED A HASHTAG FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS"

"SIGN-UP PROCESS IS ALSO NOT CLEAR"

"A GOOD START TO A WORK-IN-PROGRESS"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Arts Advocacy Efforts (157 responses)



NEED MORE VISIBILITY/PUBLICITY (7 MENTIONS)

"NEED MORE PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC AWARENESS"

"THERE SHOULD BE A GREATER PRESENCE IN ALL SE MN COMMUNITIES"
"MORE ADVOCACY"

POSITIVE ABOUT LEADERSHIP/EFFORTS (4 MENTIONS)

"THE NEW SEMAC LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN VERY PROACTIVE"

"I SEE NEW LEADERSHIP DOING GREAT THINGS"

"TIM PENNY DOES A GOOD JOB"

UNCLEAR/UNFAMILIAR (3 MENTIONS)

"UNCLEAR. I AM FAMILIAR WITH MCA EFFORTS NOT SEMAC"

"I'M NOT SURE I KNOW WHAT THIS INVOLVES"

"ARTS ADVOCACY COMMENTS GO HERE"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (3 MENTIONS)

"COULD DO MORE IN NON-ROCHESTER AND SMALL TOWN VENUES"

"I'D LIKE TO SEE REGULAR INFORMATION RELEASES"

"ADVERTISMENTS, SPONSORSHIPS OF SUPPORTING EVENTS"

CRITICISM OF GRANT FOCUS (2 MENTIONS)

"THERE IS NO SUPPORT FOR THOSE THAT DON'T WRITE GRANTS"

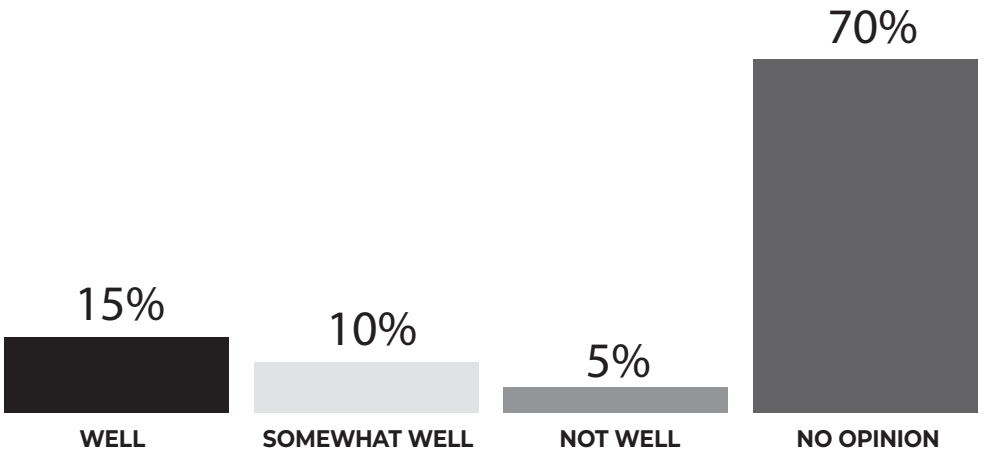
"SEMAC IS STUCK IN A CYCLE OF SELF PROMOTION OVER ARTIST PROMOTION"

APPRECIATIVE (2 MENTIONS)

"WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!"
"I ENJOY THE IDI TRAINING COURSE"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Language Services & Grant Coaching (154 responses)



UNAWARE OF SERVICES (9 MENTIONS)

"I WASN'T AWARE OF THESE SERVICES"
"NOT AWARE ENOUGH TO COMMENT"
"NO CLUE THIS WAS AVAILABLE"
"DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS A THING"

DESIRE FOR MORE COACHING (4 MENTIONS)

"I WOULD LIKE MORE COACHING IN WRITING APPLICATIONS"
"GRANT WRITING CAN BE OVERWHELMING FOR ARTISTS"
"MORE HELP IN APPLYING IS NECESSARY"

POSITIVE FEEDBACK (3 MENTIONS)

"KAREN IS A TERRIFIC RESOURCE"
"VERY HAPPY WITH STAFF RESPONSES"
"I RECOMMEND!"

QUESTIONS ABOUT NEWNESS (2 MENTIONS)

"IS THIS NEW?"
"PERHAPS THEY'RE NEWER OPTIONS"

INTERESTED BUT HAVEN'T USED (2 MENTIONS)

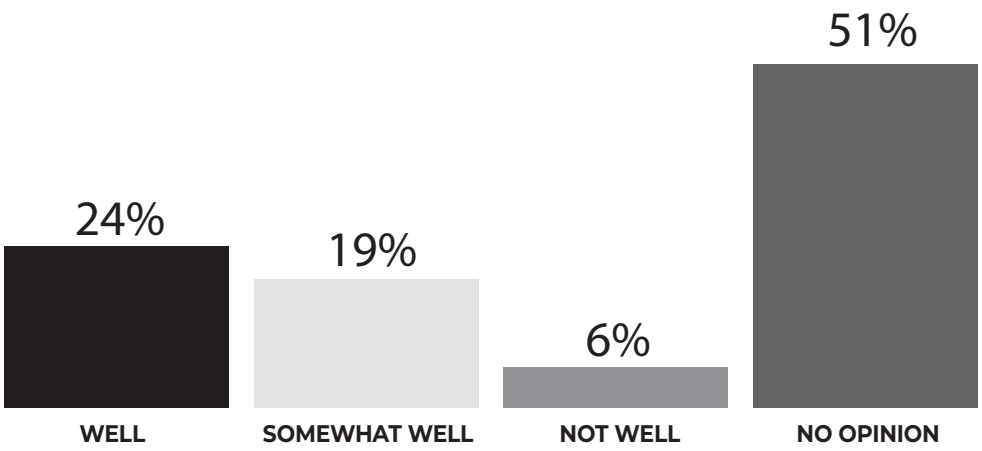
"I HAVEN'T USED THIS - VERY EXCITED ABOUT IT BEING AN OPTION"
"TO BE FAIR I HAVEN'T NEEDED"

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT (2 MENTIONS)

"GRANT COACHING COULD INCLUDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR APPLICANTS TO FURTHER THEIR SKILL LEVELS"
"HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT CULTURE"

How well do you believe SEMAC's current activities support arts development throughout the 11-county region in Southeastern Minnesota:

Calendar on Website (154 responses)



NEED MORE VISUAL/USER-FRIENDLY FORMAT (5 MENTIONS)

"THE FORMAT COULD BE EASIER DISPLAY. LIKE A GOOGLE CALENDER"

"NEEDS TO BE REFRESHED"

"PERHAPS CONSIDER MORE VISUALS WITH THE TEXT HEAVY SECTIONS"

REQUESTS FOR LONGER-TERM PLANNING (3 MENTIONS)

"DATES FURTHER OUT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL"

"HELPFUL TO KNOW THE GRANT SUBMISSION CALENDAR FOR 12-18 MONTHS"

"I PLAN A YEAR OR MORE IN ADVANCE"

UNAWARE/DON'T USE (4 MENTIONS)

"DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ONE"

"I'VE NEVER LOOKED AT THIS"

"HAVE NOT PERUSED YET"

NAVIGATION ISSUES (2 MENTIONS)

"DRACONIAN AT TIMES AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE"

"UNCLEAR HOW WE GET ON THE CALENDAR"

POSITIVE FEEDBACK (2 MENTIONS)

"WEBSITE HAS BEEN GETTING EASIER TO NAVIGATE"

"THE SEMAC WEBSITE IS VERY GOOD"

NEED MORE PROMOTION (2 MENTIONS)

"THIS COULD USE MORE PROMOTING"

"MAYBE PUBLICIZE MORE"

Do you have any additional comments or feedback on SEMAC's current activities?

POSITIVE ABOUT STAFF/ LEADERSHIP (12 MENTIONS)

"STAFF ARE SO VERY SUPPORTIVE AND IT'S CLEAR THEY ARE HERE TO HELP"
"KAREN IS A JEWEL. SHE IS VERY HELPFUL IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS"
"ANASTASIA HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL ADDITION TO THE ORGANIZATION"
"THE STAFF AT SEMAC IS REALLY WONDERFUL, AND KAREN IS A VERY GOOD COMMUNICATOR"

NEED MORE OUTREACH/ VISIBILITY (10 MENTIONS))

"I'VE LIVED HERE OVER 50 YEARS AND AM UNAWARE OF MUCH SEMAC DOES"
"NOT EVEN AWARE OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHICH SUGGESTS LACK OF VISIBILITY"
"LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING MORE; REALIZING MY INDIVIDUAL CONNECTIONS CREATE KNOWLEDGE GAPS"

PRAISE FOR RECENT IMPROVEMENTS (8 MENTIONS)

"THE IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE LAST YEAR OR SO HAVE BEEN AMAZING"
"I FEEL SEMAC HAS A BETTER PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS PAST YEAR"
"I APPRECIATE THE INCREASED ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE IN OUR REGION"
"BETTER PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY THIS PAST YEAR AND IS SERVING ARTIST BETTER"

SUGGESTIONS FOR WORKSHOPS/TRAINING (6 MENTIONS)

"MORE WORKSHOP TRAINING. LIKE SOCIAL MEDIA, ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES... WE ARE ARTISTS NOT PROFESSIONALS BUSINESS PEOPLE"
"MAYBE SEMAC COULD OFFER ORGANIZATIONS AND ARTISTS A WORKSHOP ON MAXIMIZING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA"
"OUR LACK IN BUSINESS BACKGROUND WE FEEL THAT IS ALWAYS SOMETHING LACKING"

GRANT PROCESS CONCERNS (5 MENTIONS)

"PANELISTS SKIM THE APPLICATIONS IN A HURRY & OLMSTEAD COUNTY SEEMS TO RECEIVE A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF GRANTS"
"GRANTEE SELECTION SEEMS TO VARY GREATLY FROM YEAR TO YEAR MAKING IT DIFFICULT"
"DIVISION IN EMERGING AND ADVANCING ARTISTS DOES NOT FEEL DEFINED ENOUGH NOR A BIG ENOUGH JUMP BETWEEN"

MENTORSHIP REQUESTS (4 MENTIONS)

"INDIVIDUALS DURING THEIR EARLY STAGES WOULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM MENTORSHIPS"
"BABY GRANTS COULD BE A COHORT OF 3-5 AND BE TREATED AS A GROUP MENTORED BY A MORE EXPERIENCED ARTIST"
"WORKSHOPS, CLASSES OR MENTORSHIPS WOULD HELP GUIDE THEM IN FURTHERING THEIR SKILLS"

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED (3 MENTIONS)

"HIRE A UBX DESIGNER TO HELP WITH YOUR SITE"
"SOMEWHAT CLUNKY APPLICATION WEBSITE"
"YOUR WEBSITE IS DRACONIAN AT TIMES AND DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE"

COMMUNITY IMPACT APPRECIATION (3 MENTIONS)

"THIS IS A GREAT PROGRAM FOR OUR COMMUNTIES DEVELOPMENT"
"SEMAC HAS BEEN OF AN ENOURMOUS HELP TO OUR DEVELOPMENT AS AN ORGANIZATION"
"SEMAC'S EFFORTS TO REACH OUT TO INDIVIDUALS/COMMUNITIES IS IMPORTANT AND EFFECTIVE IN ADDRESSING ISOLATION"

APPLICATION PROCESS SUGGESTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

"BABY GRANTS THAT ONLY REQUIRE A VIDEO OR VERY SHORT WRITTEN STATEMENT"
"GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL SEEMED TO JUDGE APPLICATIONS MORE ON HOW WELL WRITTEN RATHER THAN QUALITY"
"NEED MORE HELP IN APPLYING"

PROMOTIONAL SUGGESTIONS (3 MENTIONS)

"DOES SEMAC DO ANY LOCAL PROMOTIONS FOR SEMAC EVENTS? THAT COULD BE HELPFUL"
"SOME EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIRECTLY IN THE AREAS THE EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE"
"I APPRECIATE ALL THE NEW EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SEMAC"

What needs within your community or that you have as an artist, arts enthusiast, arts volunteer, or arts professional are not being met by SEMAC's current programs? Total 143

NEED FOR MORE FUNDING/HIGHER GRANTS (22 MENTIONS)

"HIGHER GRANT AMOUNTS FOR MORE AMBITIOUS PROJECTS - DUE TO RISING PRICES"
"A LIVING WAGE FOR PROJECTS - ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BE PROFESSIONAL ARTIST OUTSIDE METRO"
"THE GRANT AMOUNTS NEED TO BE GREATER - CAN TAKE 10 HOURS JUST IN PRE-GRANT WORK FOR ONLY $5000"

DESIRE FOR YOUTH/EDUCATION PROGRAMS (18 MENTIONS)

"MORE GRANTS FOR YOUTH - TEEN CHILDREN THAT COULD REALLY FLOURISH WITH GRANT SUPPORT"
"HOW CAN CHILDREN BE BETTER ENGAGED - ESPECIALLY FROM DISADVANTAGED SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS"
"COMING INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS - NEED MORE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS"

REQUEST FOR ARTIST NETWORKING/COMMUNITY (16 MENTIONS)

"YEARLY ART GET TOGETHER TO SHARE RESOURCES - DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES COULD HOST"
"CONNECTING ARTISTS WITHIN SEMAC'S REGION - REGIONAL ONLINE CONVERSATION AND DATABASE"
"NEED REGIONAL ARTIST CONNECTIONS - STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS AND LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER BETTER"

VISIBILITY/PROMOTION CONCERNS (15 MENTIONS)

"GETTING THE WORD OUT - LIVED HERE 50 YEARS AND UNAWARE OF SEMAC"
"MORE NOTIFICATIONS AND MARKETING ON SOCIAL NETWORKS TO RAISE AWARENESS"
"MORE ADVERTISING IN SMALLER DEMOGRAPHIC COMMUNITIES THAN ROCHESTER - NEED SEED PLANTING"

BUSINESS/PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (14 MENTIONS)

"MORE PROGRAMMING FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES AND MARKETING - WE ARE ARTISTS NOT BUSINESS PEOPLE"
"PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS TRAINING - ESPECIALLY FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS"
"ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE - MANY RELY SOLELY ON VOLUNTEER BOARDS"

MENTORSHIP/GUIDANCE NEEDS (14 MENTIONS)

"PROGRAM TO PARTNER YOUNG ARTISTS WITH AGING ARTISTS - CREATING STRONG BONDS"
"FUNDING MENTORSHIPS TO COMPENSATE BOTH MENTOR AND MENTEE"
"HELP ARTISTS THAT ARE NEW TO AREA AND DON'T HAVE NETWORK - SEMAC COULD CONNECT"

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION FOCUS (12 MENTIONS)

"SERVING RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES - LONG WAY TO GO"
"WOULD LOVE TO SEE NON-WHITE ARTISTS BECOME MORE VISIBLE"
"HISTORICALLY SAME PEOPLE/ORGANIZATIONS APPLYING - NEED MORE DIVERSE APPLICANTS"

VENUE/EXHIBITION NEEDS (10 MENTIONS)

""PROVIDING VENUES TO EXHIBIT - ESPECIALLY FOR VISUAL ARTISTS"
"WE NEED AN ART GALLERY/MUSEUM - NO AVENUE TO SHOWCASE WORK PERIODICALLY"
"MORE PLACES FOR ARTISTS TO TEACH FROM - NOT TEACHING OUT OF HOMES"

GRANT PROCESS ASSISTANCE (9 MENTIONS)

"HELP WITH FILLING OUT GRANTS - PROCESS OVERWHELMING FOR SMALL ORGANIZATIONS"
"MAYBE CONSULTATIONS - HARD TIME FINDING RESOURCES WHEN FIRST STARTING"
"PANEL PROCESS IS BROKEN - NO LONGER ADVOCATE BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS"

RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"YOU IGNORE SMALLER TOWNS OUTSIDE NORTHFIELD AND ROCHESTER"
"NOT A LOT OF RURAL OPPORTUNITIES - NEED FOCUS ON ARTS ON THE FARM"
"RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED MORE ENCOURAGEMENT AND EXAMPLE PROJECTS"

What needs within your community or that you have as an artist, arts enthusiast, arts volunteer, or arts professional are not being met by SEMAC's current programs? Total 143

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT (8 MENTIONS)

"NEED FUNDING FOR PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE HELP - ALL VOLUNTEER BOARDS"

"INTERIM SUPPORT WHEN ORGANIZATION LOSES DIRECTOR"

"SMALL ORGANIZATIONS DISCOURAGED BY COMPETITION - NEED MORE AVAILABLE MONEY"

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS (7 MENTIONS)

"ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ANXIETY/ADHD - DECISION PARALYSIS OVERWHELMING"

"MORE AVENUES FOR DISABLED ARTISTS - REQUIREMENTS AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFYING"

"NEED INFO ON DRESS CODE, PARKING, ENTRANCE - REDUCES BARRIERS"

RESOURCE SHARING (6 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE - MARKETING TOOLS, PRODUCTION STAFF, VENUES"

"NEED ACCESS TO RESOURCES LIKE SCANNING EQUIPMENT, ADOBE SUITE, PODCASTING SPACE"

"DATABASE SO ARTISTS CAN FIND ONE ANOTHER IF DESIRED"

CULTURAL PROGRAMMING (6 MENTIONS)

"DIFFERENT CULTURAL FOOD EVENTS - BEST WAY TO BRING COMMUNITY TOGETHER"

"COOKING CLASSES FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES"

"MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE DIVERSE CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS"

SUSTAINABLE SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"LONG-TERM SUPPORT VS SHORT TERM FUNDING - NEED SUSTAINABILITY"

"MULTI-YEAR GRANTS FOR STABILITY"

"NEED IMPACT TRACKING AND SUSTAINED ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT"

LITERARY ARTS SUPPORT (5 MENTIONS)

"NOT ENOUGH ATTENTION TO LITERARY ARTISTS - REQUIREMENTS WRITTEN FOR VISUAL ARTISTS"

"SUPPORT FOR WRITERS, NOVELISTS, POETS, STORYTELLERS"

"INDEPENDENT PUBLISHING SUPPORT NEEDED"

DIGITAL SKILLS SUPPORT (4 MENTIONS)

"TECHNICAL AND DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING - ESPECIALLY FOR ADVANCED CAREER ARTISTS"

"GRAPHIC DESIGN REFRESHER COURSES"

"ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE WITH TECHNOLOGY - DIFFICULT IN RURAL AREAS"

TRANSPORTATION ACCESS (4 MENTIONS)

"TRANSPORTATION FOR STUDENTS TO ARTS VENUES AND ACTIVITIES"

"ACCESS TO EVENTS - ESPECIALLY FOR YOUTH AND RURAL AREAS"

"NEED HELP GETTING PEOPLE TO VENUES"

PUBLIC ART SUPPORT (3 MENTIONS)

"PERMANENT PUBLIC ART INSTALLATION SUPPORT NEEDED"

"MURAL PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE COMMUNITY MEMBERS"

"MORE PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITIES IN SMALL TOWNS"

PERFORMANCE SPACE NEEDS (3 MENTIONS)

"VERY LITTLE MODERN DANCE SPACE/SUPPORT"

"FULL RESTORATION OF PERFORMANCE VENUES LIKE CHATEAU THEATER"

"NEED MORE DEDICATED PERFORMANCE SPACES OUTSIDE MAJOR CITIES"

What words would you use to describe SEMAC? Total responses 169

POSITIVE

SUPPORTIVE/SUPPORT (31 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORTIVE OF ALL AGE GROUPS"
"STRONG SUPPORTER OF ALL TYPES OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION"

VITAL/ESSENTIAL (15 MENTIONS)

"VITAL TO SMALLER COMMUNITIES"
"VITAL, DEDICATED, WELL CONNECTED"

IMPORTANT (12 MENTIONS)

"IMPORTANT ARTS FUNDER"
"CRITICALLY IMPORTANT FOR ARTS PROGRAMMING"

HELPFUL (10 MENTIONS)

"MOST HELPFUL PEOPLE I HAVE ENCOUNTERED"
"HELPFUL AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SUPPORT"

FUNDING/FUNDER (8 MENTIONS)

"MAIN SOURCE FOR FUNDING"
"CRITICAL FUNDER OF DIVERSE ARTS ACTIVITIES"

CATALYST/ENABLER (7 MENTIONS)

"CATALYST FOR CREATIVITY"
"ENABLERS OF ARTS CREATION"

COMMUNITY-FOCUSED (6 MENTIONS)

"COMMUNITY CHANGING"
"INTERACTIVE, SUPPORTIVE, ENGAGING, COMMUNITY CHANGING"

ADVOCATE/ADVOCACY (5 MENTIONS)

"STRONG ADVOCATE FOR BRINGING QUALITY ARTS"
"ADVOCACY FOR STRENGTHENING PRESENCE OF ARTS"

INNOVATIVE (4 MENTIONS)

"INNOVATIVE APPROACHES"
"SUSTAINERS OF INNOVATION"

EDUCATIONAL (4 MENTIONS)

"SUPPORT AND EDUCATE"
"PROVIDES EDUCATION, GRANT OPPORTUNITIES, AND RESOURCES"

NEGATIVE

UNAPPROACHABLE/EXCLUSIVE (4

"UNAPPROACHABLE TO NEWCOMERS"
"INSULAR, CLIQUEY, EXCLUSIVE"

LIMITED SCOPE (4 MENTIONS)

"NARROW SCOPE AND IMPACT"
"NOT SERVING WIDE ENOUGH BASE"
"SELECTIVE" "SHORT-SIGHTED"

BIASED (3 MENTIONS)

"BIASED TOWARD THE SAME GROUPS"
"MOSTLY BENEFICIAL TO THOSE ALREADY ESTABLISHED" "PREDICTABLE"

UNKNOWN (3 MENTIONS)

"INVISIBLE"
"UNKNOWN"
"UNDER UNDERSTOOD"

BUREAUCRATIC (2 MENTIONS)

BUREAUCRACY"
"TRADITIONAL"

CONFUSING (2 MENTIONS)

"CONFUSING"
"FORMAL, OPAQUE"

FOCUSED ON ADMINISTRATION (2)

"USE FUNDING FOR SALARIES & ADMIN"
"TAKES FUNDING THAT DONORS BELIEVE IS GOING TO ARTISTS"

ARROGANT (1 MENTION)

"ARROGANT. TOO FOCUSED ON DEI"

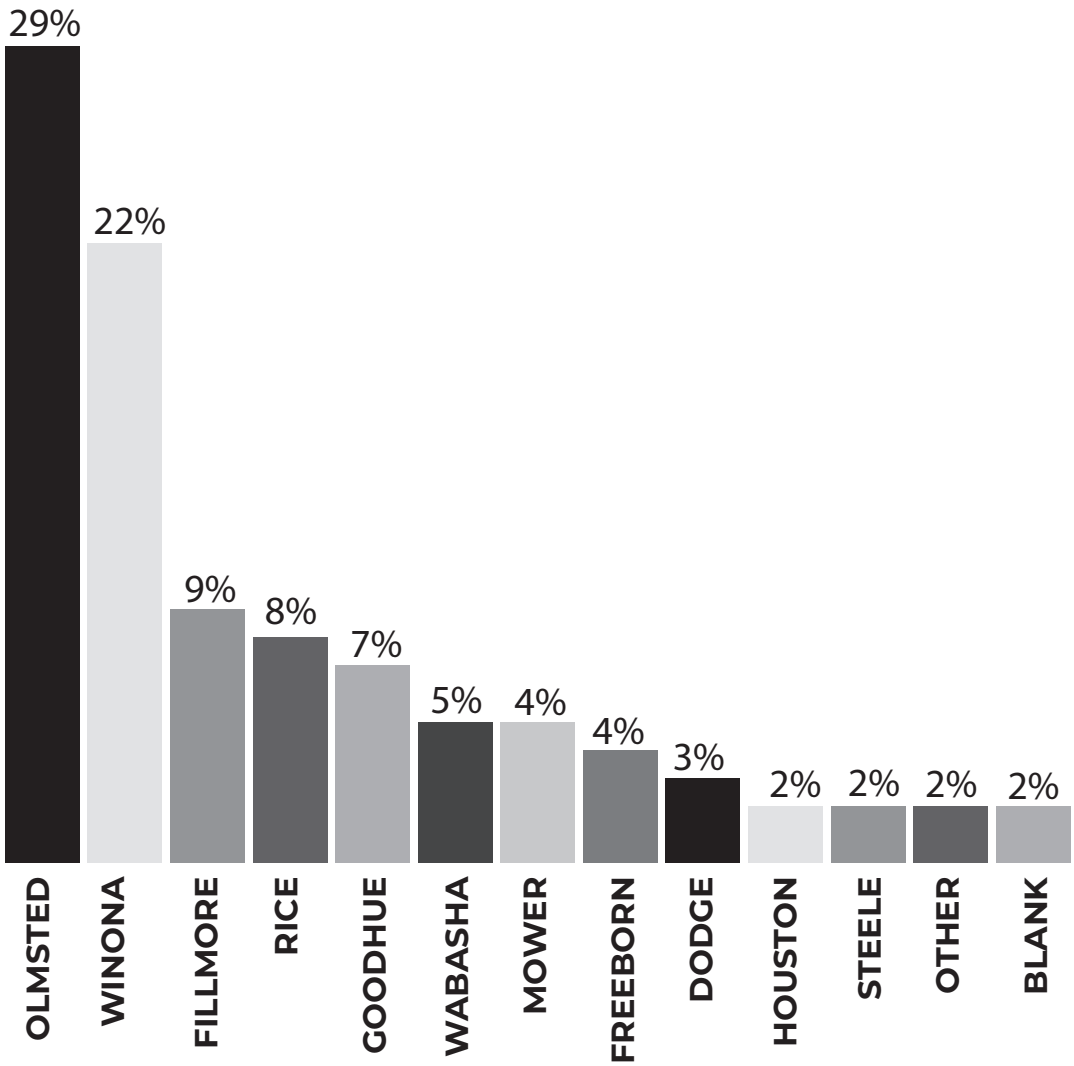
ELITIST (1 MENTION)

"ELITIST""

DORMANT (1 MENTION)

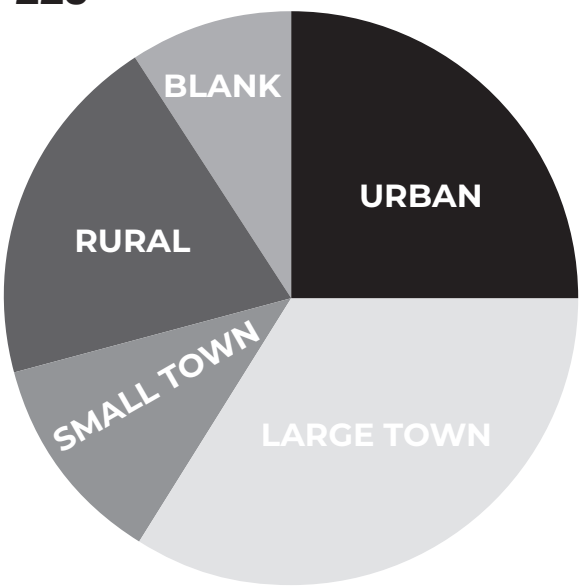
"DORMANT SEED READY TO GROW"

In which southeastern Minnesota county do you reside? Total Responses 223

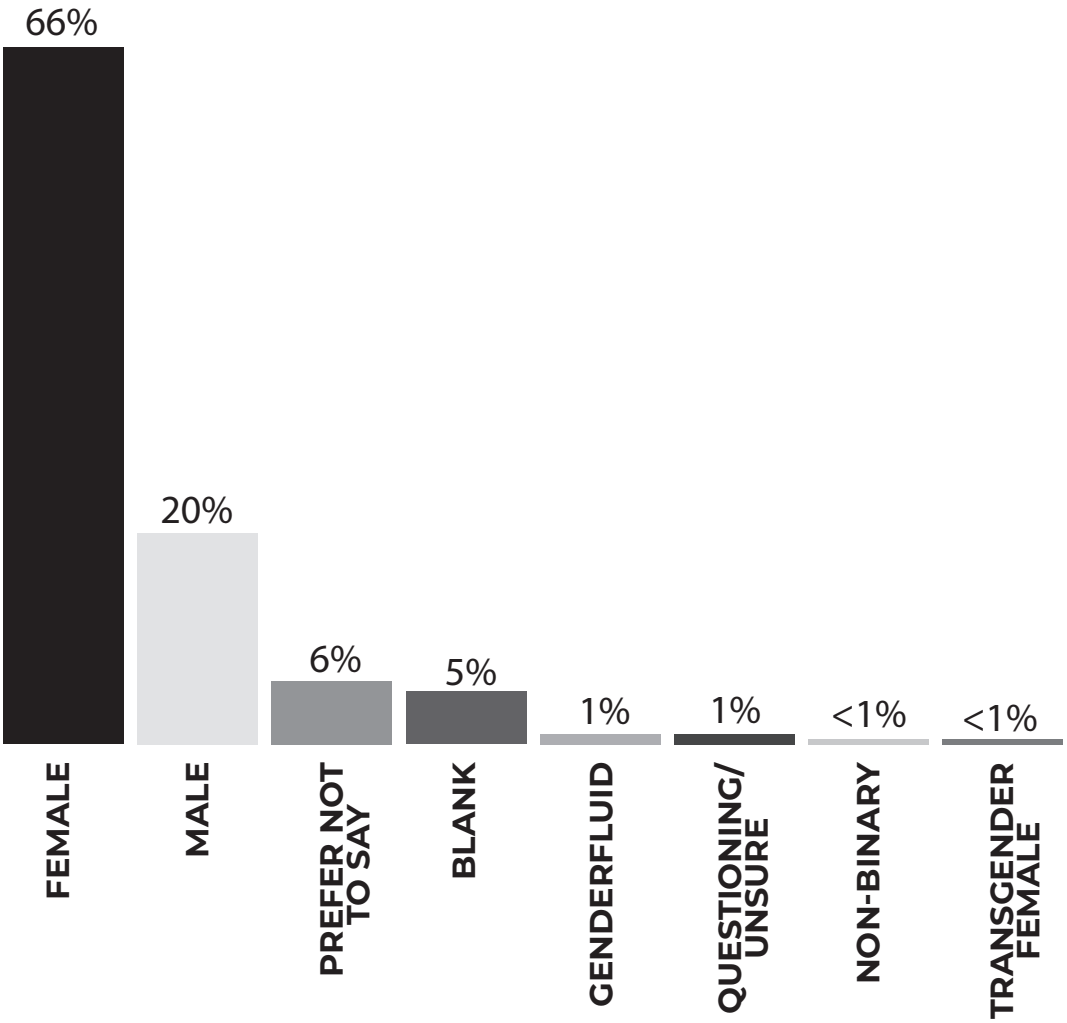


What type of community do you live? 223

- **URBAN (50K+): 25%**
- **LARGE TOWN (10K-50K): 34%**
- **SMALL TOWN (2.5K-10K): 12%**
- **RURAL (<2.5K): 20%**
- **(BLANK): 9%**

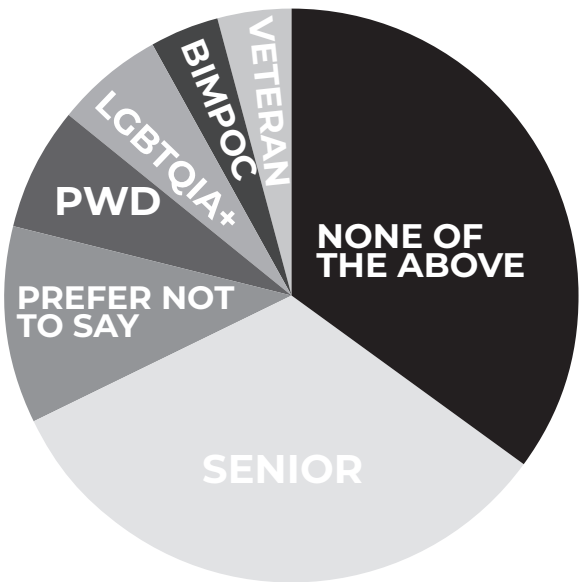


Which of the following best describes your gender identity? 223



Do you identify as a member of any of the following equity groups? Total responses 236

- **SENIOR: 35%** VS US CENSUS 19%
- **NONE OF THE ABOVE: 33%**
- **PREFER NOT TO SAY: 11%**
- **PWD: 7%** VS US CENSUS 9%
- **LGBTQIA+: 6%**
- **BIMPOC: 4%** VS US CENSUS 16.7%
- **VETERAN: 4%** VS US CENSUS 4%



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

For Individual Artists & Culture Bearers

Work Samples are required. For those whose work isn't represented on social media, a limited number of work samples may be uploaded to the application.

All grant activities must take place within the state of Minnesota.

The proposal must include an accessible public engagement component to benefit the citizens of the SEMAC Region. Virtual programming components are allowed, but the event must be in person.

Verification from the host organization that the Public Component has been scheduled and the venue is ADA compliant must be received by the Final Submission Deadline

A Proposal Narrative addressing the three SEMAC Review Criteria is required.

The Start Date must be at least (no fewer than) 90 days after the Final Submission Deadline, with an End Date within twelve months.

- No publicity pertaining to the project may be produced before the Start Date,
- No grant related expenses may be incurred before the Start Date or after the End Date.

Applicants must provide an itemized list of total expenses for the proposed project.

- Budgets with Disallowed Expenses will be disqualified.
- If total expenses exceed the grant amount, applicants will be asked about plans to cover the difference.

Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the deadline, but will not be accepted after the deadline. SEMAC will not accept late applications or emails confirming capstone events, regardless of whether a deadline falls on a weekend. This is in fairness to applicants who submitted on time. No exceptions.

NOTICE: Grants to individual artists are taxable income. Grant recipients will be required to submit Federal Form W-9 and will receive Federal Form 1099.

For Organizations

No organization may have an overdue final report. Final reports that are due before a new grant deadline must be approved before the applicant may apply in the new round.

All organizations must submit data on annual arts participation and related expenses for the previous fiscal year.

All grant activities must take place within the state of Minnesota. Virtual programming components are allowed, but the capstone event must be held in person.

The proposal must include an accessible Public Component to benefit the citizens of the SEMAC Region. The organization must confirm that the capstone event location is ADA compliant.

SEMAC funding cannot be used as a substitute for other traditional state arts funding sources. For example, School Residency Grants must supplement rather than supplant the school's prescribed arts curriculum.

Organizations without 501(c)3 or equivalent designation must submit a signed Fiscal Sponsor agreement.

Organizations may submit only one proposal per grant cycle.

A Proposal Narrative addressing the three SEMAC Review Criteria is required.

The Start Date must be at least (no fewer than) 90 days after the Final Submission Deadline, with an End Date within twelve months.

- No publicity pertaining to the project may be produced before the Start Date,
- No grant related expenses may be incurred before the Start Date or after the End Date.

Applicants must provide an itemized list of total expenses for the proposed project.

- Budgets with Disallowed Expenses will be disqualified.
- If total expenses exceed the grant amount, applicants will be asked about plans to cover the difference.

Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the Final Submission Deadline, but will not be accepted after the deadline. SEMAC will not accept late applications or emails confirming capstone events. No exceptions.

CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

All grantees must agree to the following:

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo

A specified credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity regarding the grant activity. Grantees also receiving support from MSAB Operating Support must acknowledge both funding sources.

The credit line may not be altered in any way. Refer to the Legacy Logo website for usage guidelines and approved Legacy Logo downloads.

2. Grant Activity

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes to the grant activity must be pre-approved by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

3. Out of State Travel

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel by either the Grantee or Partner Organization, or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

4. Access to Participation

Participation in programming cannot be limited based on disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences. See ADA Access Plan.

5. Letters of Thanks

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to your two elected officials in the Minnesota Legislature (one each from the MN House and MN Senate). One example of the letter(s) must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report.

Organizations with a broad reach are encouraged to send letters to multiple officials in the various communities they impact.

6. Final Report

Within 30 days after the stated End Date, an online Final Report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

7. Compliance

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a Misuse of Public Funds and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantees agree to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

School Residency grantees must also agree to the following:

1. Supplemental Programming

   The Minnesota Constitution states that grant funds "…must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute." The Grantee School confirms that this residency does not replace, reduce, or supplant the school's normal funding stream for curriculum or activities.

Individual Artist grantees must also agree to the following:

1. Residency and Eligibility

   The grantee must be a full-time resident of the SEMAC Region and agrees to reside in Minnesota for the duration of the grant activity. The Grantee must also be a United States citizen or resident alien at least 18 years of age. Further, the Grantee is eligible to reapply as long as all previous grant activities have been completed and final reports have been submitted and approved.

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.
Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Please describe below any relationships, positions, or circumstances in which you are involved that you believe could contribute to a real or perceived conflict of interest (as defined in SEMAC's Policy on Conflicts of Interest).

I hereby certify that the information set forth above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I have reviewed, and agree to abide by, the Policy of Conflict of Interest of the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc., that is currently in effect.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SEMAC Conflict of Interest Policy

Purpose & Scope: SEMAC encourages the active involvement of its directors, officers, advisory panelists, and employees in the community. In order to deal openly and fairly with actual conflicts and/or the appearance of conflict that may arise as a consequence of this involvement, SEMAC adopts the following conflict of interest policy. This policy is intended to supplement, but not replace, Minnesota Statutes, Section 317A.255, which governs conflicts of interest for directors of nonprofit corporations. This policy applies to all directors of the board, advisory panelists, and persons employed (both paid and non-paid) by SEMAC, regardless of position.

Responsibility: SEMAC is effective because it includes individuals who have relationships and affiliations throughout the region that may, at times, raise questions about perceived conflicts of interest. Everyone who serves SEMAC has the responsibility to ensure that the entire board is made aware of situations that involve personal, familial, or business relationships that could create a real or perceived conflict of interest. Therefore, SEMAC requires that each director, panelist, and employee (a) to be familiar with the terms of this policy; (b) to disclose to the board any possible personal, familial, or business relationships that reasonably might give rise to a conflict involving SEMAC; and (c) to acknowledge by his or her signature that he or she is in accordance with the letter and spirit of this policy.

Disclosure Statement: Each director, panelist, and employee of SEMAC will be required to submit an annual disclosure statement listing all organizations with which s/he has a personal affiliation or feels unduly biased. The statement should describe the nature of the affiliation as defined below. Appearances of conflict include significant adversarial or advocate relationships in which impartial judgment may be impaired. At the time of disclosure a member should declare any conflicts that have occurred within two years prior to the submission date. These conflicts will continue for two years once declared. In the event there is a material change in the information contained in a disclosure statement, written notification must be promptly submitted to the Executive Director.

A conflict of interest exists if a director or advisory panelist:

- Receives direct financial benefit from the organization or project being reviewed.
- Serves as an employee or governing board member of an applicant organization.
- Serves with or without pay as a consultant to an applicant, or on the application being reviewed.
- Has a familial, adversarial, or significant advocate relationship with an applicant or a staff or board member of an applicant organization.
- Receives free tickets or other benefits **directly** from a grant applicant being reviewed. NOTE: It is permissible for the SEMAC office to receive tickets or other arrangements from a funded grant for distribution to board and panelists.

This policy does not imply that directors, panelists, or employees should reveal any political, religious, ethnic, fraternal, or civic affiliations.

Administration: The SEMAC board president and Executive Director, working together, have the authority to review and determine the existence and affect of a conflict of interest. This determination shall be brought to the attention of the full board. Members acting in violation of the rules will be asked to resign. Information disclosed under this policy will be held in confidence except where, in the judgment of the board, the best interest of the organization requires further disclosure.

Restraint on Participation: A director, panelist, or employee who has declared or has been found to have a conflict of interest in any proposed transaction or other matter involving SEMAC will refrain from participating in consideration of the proposed transaction or other matter, unless for special reasons the board requests information or interpretation from the person or persons involved. Furthermore, a director or panelist will not vote on the matter in question and will not be present at the time of the vote.

Advance Determinations: Any director, panelist, or employee who is uncertain about possible conflicts of interest in any matter may request the board to determine whether a possible conflict exists; the board shall resolve the question by majority vote.

Individual Artists SEMAC Review Criteria	Considerations used to address this criterion include the following:	Additional points and insights
1. Artistic merit and quality of the project or program. Weighted ranking system multiplier 3	• How well do the resources (qualifications of artistic personnel, facilities, activities, etc.) meet the artist's goals? • How well does the project meet or advance your goals? • How does the project contribute to the artistic development of the respective art form and/or audience? • How does the project increase the number and variety of arts opportunities in the community or attempt new approaches to existing art programs?	• Clarity of vision • Innovation • Originality • The intention behind the physical work is evident. • Relationship to the viewer; provocative • Correlation between work and vision stated in proposal • Goals are specific and achievable. • Clarity of the plan as it relates to the goal.
2. Demand or need for the project or program by the artist applying or by the constituents served. Weighted ranking system multiplier 2	• Community involvement and support for the project. • Whether the project is duplicated and if so, does it improve upon an existing program? • The method used to determine that the project is needed.	• Public component is evident and specific. • Audience is defined. • Contributes to the creative capital of the region. • Educational awareness and visibility • Is the benefit long term?
3. Ability of the artist to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented. Weighted ranking system multiplier 1	• The planning process used to develop the project format. • Qualifications of the artistic and administrative personnel used in the project. • Feasibility of the budget. • Marketing and publicity efforts. • Evidence of the host organization's fiscal responsibility. • Previous successful efforts.	• Technical skills; how well they master the materials. • Commitment to their practice • Impact on the artist's career is clearly defined. • Plan is appropriate to where they are in their career. • Budget is realistic • Emerging artists: potential, forming of ideas, dedication. • How well they handle the materials and execute the work.

SEMAC Review Criteria for Organizations

Artistic Merit & Quality

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Project demonstrates exceptional creativity and high artistic and/or historical (organizational) quality. Application provides engaging and insightful overview of project, e.g., applicant's history, capability, organization's mission, programming, administration, public value, planning and evaluation. • Implementation plan is specific, clearly outlined, and objectives are defined. • Goals and objectives are realistic and clearly stated. Timeline is clear and identifies specific activities and dates for completion.	• Project is creative and demonstrates artistic and/or historical quality. Application provides strong overview of project. • Implementation plan is easily outlined and has sound integration of objectives. • Goals of project are stated, realistic, and clear. Timeline is included, along with list of activities and dates for completion.	• Project has artistic and/or historical merit. Application provides basic, clear information about project. • Implementation plan is outlined and connection to objectives stated. • Goals of project are stated and timeline included.	• Project's artistic merit or quality is questionable. Application has limited information about project. • Implementation plan is outlined and has some connection to objectives. • Goals of project are stated but lack detail. Timeline lacks specificity and clarification regarding dates for completion.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Need by the public and/or artist (community impact and public benefit)

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Public value clearly stated and communicated. • Application clearly identifies community need through detailed documentation and research. Application succinctly describes value-added, accessibility and opportunities for participation by community served.	• Application identifies community need and details how it is addressed through project. Application describes accessibility to community served.	• Application identifies community need the project addresses. Application describes accessibility to community served.	• Application fails to identify community need for project. Application mentions accessibility to community served but fails to effectively describe.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Ability of the organization and/or artist to carry out the project

Highly Excellent (5 points):	**Very Good (4 points):**	**Good (3 points):**	**Fair (2 points):**	**Poor (1 point):**
• Clear and concise budget/financial information provided. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Sufficient earned income and/or contributed funds are present from a variety of sources. Applicant demonstrates ability to develop and manage resources wisely. • High confidence about ability to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information provided is sound. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Earned income and/or contributed funds are present. Applicant outlines proficiency in managing financial resources. • Application proves ability to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information provided. Budget is realistic considering target audience size and stated objectives. Earned income and/or contributed funds may be present but weak. Applicant appears capable of managing financial resources. • Application demonstrates competence to carry out project.	• Budget/financial information may be provided. Budget is documented and included but questions exist. Little or no earned income and/or contributed funds present. Applicant fails to demonstrate competence for managing financial resources. • Questions remain about ability to carry out project.	• Incomplete or not addressed.

Monitoring Report FY2024-2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Grantee Name*

Character Limit: 100

Title of Event*

Character Limit: 250

Date and Location of the Event*

Character Limit: 250

Did you identify yourself as representing SEMAC?*

Choices

Yes

No

SEMAC Acknowledgement*

Was SEMAC recognized at the activity and/or was the logo or credit line used in the printed material? If you kept a copy of the program or other material, attach a photo or scan if possible.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

The Grant Activity*

What were your impressions of the activity? Was it what you expected from reading the grant proposal?

Character Limit: 250

Your Thoughts?*

Please report any highlights or concerns you wish to bring to the Board's attention.

Character Limit: 250

Items for Reimbursement*

- State the mileage and destination so you can be reimbursed for mileage at the current IRS rate.
- If you purchased a ticket for yourself, tell us the cost. Also attach a photo or scan of the ticket stub or receipt for our records.
- If you are not seeking reimbursement, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Individual Artist Grants Jan 2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Final Report ID

Grant Number (assigned by SEMAC)
Character Limit: 7

Project Title
Character Limit: 40

Amount Awarded
Character Limit: 20

Contractual Agreement Questions

You agreed to abide by the numbered items stated below. Each item is accompanied by one or more report questions that require a response and/or document upload.

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo*

The required credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on **all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity** regarding the grant activity. Attach examples below.

Was SEMAC funding also verbally acknowledged at public events for this grant activity? Explain briefly.

Character Limit: 250

Attach Applicable Publicity*

Upload a single PDF file that includes scans of those publicity pieces specifically for this grant activity. Circle or highlight the credit line on each piece if possible.

- **Multiple files cannot be uploaded.**
- Include in one PDF the pertinent page(s) of each piece, such as
    - front and back of postcards
    - flyers and/or posters
    - relevant program pages EXCEPT those pages containing only advertising
    - newspaper clippings
    - any photos you wish to submit (multiple images per page preferred)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

2. Residency & Eligibility*

The Grantee is a full-time resident of the SEMAC Region and agrees to reside in Minnesota for the duration of the grant activity. The grantee must also be a United States citizen or resident alien at least 18 years of age. Further, the Grantee is eligible to reapply as long as all previous grant activities have been completed and final reports have been submitted and approved.

Choices

Confirmed

If this statement cannot be confirmed, contact SEMAC immediately.

Online Presence

List one specific URL for a Web page, blog post, online video, etc., regarding the grant activity.

- **Response is optional.**
- If you use this option, please make sure the posting will be available to reviewers for at least six months.

Character Limit: 2000

3. Grant Activity*

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes that affect grant funding require pre-approval by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

1. Briefly describe how the grant funds were used and how it may have differed from the original proposal.
2. What were the highlights of your activities? List the dates and attendance of each public component.
3. Describe any difficulties. For example, were there scheduling conflicts, unexpected costs, problems in getting people to participate?

Character Limit: 500

Evaluating the Grant Activity*

Answer each of the following questions separately. If a survey was conducted, upload a results summary page, but not the individual surveys.

1. What method(s) did you use for evaluation?
2. What specifics did you learn from the evaluation that will assist you in planning for the future?
3. Were there any target populations? If so, how specifically were they affected by the funding?

4. In what ways other than through the above evaluation method(s) do you see the affect it had?
5. How did the larger community benefit?

Character Limit: 2500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

4. Out of State Travel*

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

Choices

No out of state travel was undertaken.
Out of state travel was beyond the scope of project expenses.
If neither statement applies, contact SEMAC immediately.

Review the Itemized Spending Plan from your Contract and/or original application. Then answer the following questions relative to those budgets.

Changes to Budget*

If it was necessary to make changes to your original budget, did you receive written approval from SEMAC?

Choices

Yes
No
Changes were not made to the budget.

Approved Changes to Budget*

How does the budget you followed differ from the original budget request? No need to state reasons, just include the dollar amounts and designations.

- FYI - Approved changes are listed as administrator comments and/or documents uploaded by the administrator.
- If no approved changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Unauthorized Changes to Budget*

If you made changes to the budget but neglected to contact SEMAC to secure approval, describe those changes and why they were necessary to the grant activity.

- If no such changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Actual Expenses*

List all *paid* expenses for this grant activity, indicating which were paid for with SEMAC funds. Explain any differences from the original budget.

Character Limit: 999

Subtotals by Budget Category

- Enter the actual costs for each of the categories you budgeted for (right column).
- Enter a zero in the categories you did not use.

BUDGET CATEGORY	COST ESTIMATE	ACTUAL COST
Artist Fees, Honoraria & Stipends		
Cost of Evaluation		
Equipment & Non-Expendable Materials		
Expendable Supplies & Materials		
In-State Travel		
Publicity		
Rental of Space or Equipment		
Other Expenses		
Total Expenses		

Actual Income*

List all sources of financial support for this grant activity, including earned income, SEMAC grant, other grants and contributions, and cash budgeted for this purpose.

Character Limit: 999

Did you earn money or lose money due to this grant activity?*

- SEMAC acknowledges that artists and organizations may earn money from their proposals.

- Explain any substantial difference (plus or minus 25%) between estimated and actual expenses and estimated and actual income.

Character Limit: 250

Was any durable equipment purchased with SEMAC grant funds?

- **If so**, describe the equipment and report where the equipment will be stored when not in use. List serial and model numbers where applicable.
- Attach a single file containing scans of receipts for all equipment purchased.
- **NO OTHER RECEIPTS are required**.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

5. Access to Participation*

Participation in programming cannot be limited on the basis of disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences.

- Describe how your programming is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant or accessible.

Character Limit: 250

6. Letters of Thanks*

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to the appropriate representatives and senators in the Minnesota Legislature. One example of the letters must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report. (sample letter)

- List below the names of all recipients of these thank you letters and the date(s) the letters were sent.
- Upload **one example** of the letter or email sent to these legislators.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

7. Final Report*

Within 30 days after the specified End Date, an online final report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

- If the grant activity was postponed without prior authorization from SEMAC, contact director@semac.org immediately.

- If you have questions or need clarification regarding your final report, or need extra time to submit, email staff@semac.org with the details.

Choices

Acknowledged

8. Compliance*

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a **misuse of public funds** and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantee agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant

You will receive a confirming email after this final report is approved. The SEMAC Board of Directors reviews final reports. The quality and completeness of the report reflects upon the Grantee.

Choices

Acknowledged

State Mandated Questions

These questions gather information about grant applicants in all Minnesota Regional Arts Councils (RACs). The data is maintained by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the RACs, and may be distributed to others in accordance with the MN Data Practices Act. Responses may appear on the LCC Legacy Amendment Web site.

Total Expenses*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much money was spent on the grant activity? This does not include in-kind contributions.

Character Limit: 20

Outcome Statement

In your original grant application you selected the following goal or outcome. The next two fields measure the actual outcome relative to this proposed outcome.

Choices

Minnesotans participate in the arts because arts experiences are relevant and accessible to them.
Minnesotans learn, grow, or change because they participate in quality arts experiences.
Grantees change, expand, or enrich the ways they connect to their communities.
Members of groups traditionally underserved by the arts feel an authentic connection to the grantee.

Actual Measurable Outcomes*

Keeping in mind the proposed goal or outcome, select one or more actual measurable outcome that applies to the grant activity.

Choices

Supported artists and organizations who create, produce and present high quality arts activities.
Overcame barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities.
Instilled the arts into the community and public life in this region.
Provided high quality, age appropriate arts education for residents of all ages.

Represented the diverse ethnic, cultural and folk traditions represented in this region.

Measurable Outcomes Achieved*

Select one statement that best describes how well the grant activity achieved the proposed outcomes.

Choices

The activities fully achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities mostly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities partly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities did not achieve the proposed outcomes.

Minnesota Counties Impacted*

What Minnesota county or counties were impacted by the grant activity? In other words, from what Minnesota counties did participants and audience come and/or in which counties did you advertise?

- Select all that apply.
- For nearby counties, see our map of the SEMAC Region.

Choices

Aitkin
Anoka
Becker
Beltrami
Benton
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Carlton
Carver
Cass
Chippewa
Chisago
Clay
Clearwater
Cook
Cottonwood
Crow Wing
Dakota
Dodge
Douglas
Faribault
Fillmore
Freeborn
Goodhue
Grant
Hennepin
Houston

Hubbard
Isanti
Itasca
Jackson
Kanabec
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Koochiching
Lac qui Parle
Lake
Lake of the Woods
Le Sueur
Lincoln
Lyon
Mahnomen
Marshall
Martin
McLeod
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Mower
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Norman
Olmsted
Otter Tail
Pennington
Pine
Pipestone
Polk
Pope
Ramsey
Red Lake
Redwood
Renville
Rice
Rock
Roseau
Scott
Sherburne
Sibley
St. Louis
Stearns
Steele
Stevens
Swift
Todd

Traverse
Wabasha
Wadena
Waseca
Washington
Watonwan
Wilkin
Winona
Wright
Yellow Medicine

Total Grant Dollars Spent*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much of the SEMAC grant was spent on this grant activity?

Character Limit: 20

Actual Participation by Artists*

Number of **adult artists** directly involved in, or providing art or artistic services for, grant activities.

- Include living artists whose work was represented regardless of who provided the art work.

Character Limit: 7

Actual In-Person Participation by Youth*

Number of **children and youth ages 0-18** who were directly engaged in grant activities IN PERSON.

- If no in-person activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 7

Actual In-Person Participation by Adults*

Number of **adults** who were directly engaged in grant activities IN PERSON.

- Exclude paid performers, participating artists, and staff not part of the target audience.
- If no in-person activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Actual Online Participation by Youth.*

Number of **children and youth ages 0-18** who were directly engaged in grant activities ONLINE.

- If no online activity was held, enter 0.

- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Actual Online Participation by Adults*

Number of **adults** who were directly engaged in grant activities ONLINE.

- Exclude paid performers, participating artists, and staff not part of the target audience.
- If no online activity was held, enter 0.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.

Character Limit: 10

Population Benefitted by Race/Ethnicity*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Ethnicity** codes.

Choices

N
A
P
B
H
M
W
O
99

Population Benefitted by Age*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Age** Codes.

Choices

1
2
3
4

99

Population Benefitted by Distinct Groups*

Select *up to four groups* that, by your best estimate, made up 25% or more of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Group** codes.

Choices

D
I
P
E
M
Y
5
G

Event Venue(s)*

Record the following information for all **public activities** associated with the grant, including the capstone event.

- Name of Venue
- Address of Venue
- City and Zip Code of Venue
- Number of Days Using the Venue

If some of the grant activities were held in separate locations *create a record for each location*. See below for additional guidance regarding activities with multiple venues.

- For an event such as a street festival that continued for multiple blocks without discrete venues, report a central address as either the center of activity or geographic center.
- If the activities took place at multiple addresses within the larger footprint of the event, report each address as a separate activity location.

Character Limit: 500

By clicking Submit, you certify that the information contained in this Final Report is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Sharing Your Grant Activity

Optional Feedback

We invite you to include photos, quotes or anecdotes from your grant activity and/or capstone event that can be shared on SEMAC social media. **Response is optional.**

For multiple photos, email them directly to communications@semac.org. Otherwise, one photo may be included per upload button below.

Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Organizational Grants Oct 2024

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc.

Final Report ID

Grant Number (assigned by SEMAC)
Character Limit: 7

Project Title
Character Limit: 40

Amount Awarded
Character Limit: 20

Organization Type
What type of organization is the Applicant? An Equity Organization may also be an arts organization. Certain arts organizations are also local government entities. Click both if a similar situation applies.

Choices
Arts Organization
Equity Organization
Other Nonprofit Organization
Local Government Entity
Public or non-religious Private K-12 School
College or University

Financial Statement

Start Date
Character Limit: 10

End Date
Character Limit: 10

Financial Statements*
Upload a financial report showing expenses and income (or profit and loss) that includes the period from Start Date (and deposit of grant funds) to the End Date (or later project transaction). Reports generated by QuickBooks or other accounting software are acceptable.

- **Arts Organizations**. Report should include ALL of the organization's expenses during the grant period.

- **Non-Arts Groups**. Report need include ONLY expenses for this particular grant activity.

The uploaded report must be either an Excel, PDF, or Word formatdocument.

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Contractual Agreement Questions

Your organization agreed to abide by the numbered items stated below. Each item is accompanied by one or more report questions that require a response and/or document upload.

1. Credit Line & Legacy Logo*

The following credit line accompanied by the Legacy Logo must appear in full on **all electronic sites, all email blasts, and all printed publicity** regarding the grant activity.

> *This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.*

The credit line **may not be altered** in any way. Refer to the Legacy Logo Web site for usage guidelines and approved downloads.

- Was SEMAC funding verbally acknowledged at public events for this grant activity? Explain briefly.

Character Limit: 250

Attach Applicable Publicity*

Upload a single PDF file that includes scans of those publicity pieces specific to this grant activity. Circle or highlight the credit line on each piece if possible.

- **Multiple files cannot be uploaded.**
- Include in one PDF the pertinent page(s) of each piece, such as
  - front and back of postcards
  - flyers and/or posters
  - **relevant** program pages EXCEPT those pages containing only advertising
  - newspaper clippings
  - any photos you wish to submit (multiple images per page preferred)

File Size Limit: 5 MB

Online Presence

List one specific URL for a Web page, blog post, online video, etc., regarding the grant activity.

- **Response is optional.**
- If you use this option, please make sure the posting will be available to reviewers for at least six months.

Character Limit: 2000

2. Grant Activity*

The grant activity must remain consistent with the original application. Proposed changes that affect grant funding require pre-approval by SEMAC. Such changes may include budget revisions, start or end date changes, or performance or exhibition rescheduling.

1. Briefly describe how the grant funds were used and how it may have differed from the original proposal.
2. What were the highlights of your activities? List the dates and attendance of each public component.
3. Describe any difficulties. For example, were there scheduling conflicts, unexpected costs, problems in getting people to participate?

Character Limit: 750

Evaluating the Grant Activity*

Answer each of the following questions separately. If a survey was conducted, upload a results summary page, but not the individual surveys.

1. What method(s) did you use for evaluation?
2. What specifics did you learn from the evaluation that will assist you in planning for the future?
3. Were there any target populations? If so, how specifically were they affected by the funding?
4. In what ways other than through the above evaluation method(s) do you see the affect it had?
5. How did the larger community benefit?

Character Limit: 2500 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

Review the Proposed Uses of Funds and Sources of Financial Support from your Contract and/or original application. Then answer the following questions relative to those budgets.

Changes to Budget*

If it was necessary to alter your original budget request, did you receive written approval from SEMAC to add or subtract items?

Choices

Yes
No
Changes were not made to the budget.

Approved Changes to Budget*

How does the budget you followed differ from the original budget request? No need to stat reasons, just include the dollar amounts and designations.

- FYI - Approved changes are listed on the grant interface as administrator comments and/or documents uploaded by the administrator.
- If no approved changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Unauthorized Changes to Budget*

If you altered the budget items or categories but neglected to contact SEMAC to secure approval, describe those changes and why they were necessary to the grant activity.

- If no such changes were made, enter n/a.

Character Limit: 250

Actual Expenses*

List all *cash* expenses for this grant activity, indicating which were paid for with SEMAC funds. Explain any differences from the original budget.

Character Limit: 999

Actual Income*

List all sources of financial support for this grant activity, including earned income, SEMAC grant, other grants and contributions, and cash budgeted for this purpose.

Character Limit: 999

Did you earn money or lose money due to this grant activity?*

- SEMAC acknowledges that artists and organizations may earn money from their proposals.
- Explain any substantial difference (plus or minus 25%) between estimated and actual expenses and estimated and actual income.

Character Limit: 250

Was any durable equipment purchased with SEMAC grant funds?

- **If so**, describe the equipment and report where the equipment will be stored when not in use. List serial and model numbers where applicable.

- Attach a single file containing scans of receipts for all equipment purchased.
- **NO OTHER RECEIPTS are required**.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

3. Out of State Travel*

SEMAC funding may not be used for Out of State Travel by either the Grantee or any Partner Organization, or for activities that take place outside the state of Minnesota.

Choices

No out of state travel was undertaken.
Out of state travel was beyond the scope of project expenses.
If neither statement applies, contact SEMAC immediately.

4. Access to Participation*

Participation in programming cannot be limited on the basis of disability, ethnicity, gender identity, marital status, race, religion, sexual orientation or political or sectarian differences.

- Describe how your programming is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant or accessible.

Character Limit: 250

5. Letters of Thanks*

Letters or emails expressing thanks for grant funding must be sent to the appropriate representatives and senators in the Minnesota Legislature. One example of the letters must be attached to the Grantee's Final Report. (sample letter)

- List below the names of all recipients of these thank you letters and the date(s) the letters were sent.
- Upload **one example** of the letter or email sent to these legislators.

Character Limit: 250 | File Size Limit: 2 MB

6. Final Report*

Within 30 days after the specified End Date, an online final report must be submitted to SEMAC. Past due or unapproved reports will limit eligibility for future SEMAC grants.

- If the grant activity was postponed without prior authorization from SEMAC, contact director@semac.org immediately.
- If you have questions or need clarification regarding your final report, or need extra time to submit, email staff@semac.org with the details.

Choices

Acknowledged

7. Compliance*

Failure to comply with any of the terms of this grant is considered a **misuse of public funds** and may result in loss of current and/or future SEMAC funding. Further, the Grantee agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances in its use and expenditure of these funds. Failure to comply may result in termination or forfeiture of the grant.

You will receive a confirming email after this final report is approved. The SEMAC Board of Directors regularly reviews approved final reports. The quality and completeness of the report reflects upon the Grantee.

Choices
Acknowledged

State Mandated Questions

These questions gather information about grant applicants in all Minnesota Regional Arts Councils (RACs). The data is maintained by the Minnesota State Arts Board in cooperation with the RACs, and may be distributed to others in accordance with the MN Data Practices Act. Responses may appear on the LCC Legacy Amendment Web site.

Total Cash Expenses*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, indicate the total spent from all sources (including the SEMAC grant, but excluding in-kind contributions) on the grant activity.

Character Limit: 20

FTE Funded*

Did you hire any staff *specifically* to manage this grant activity? If so, list the FTE (full-time equivalent) hours for those staff members.

- Contracted professional or service work associated with the grant activity should be reported as a direct project expense, not as FTE.
- Calculate FTE as the total number of new staff hours generated by grant dollars **divided by 2,088**. The resulting number will be small, no more than 2.00.
- **Enter 0 if no new staff positions were created.**

Character Limit: 20

General Administrative Costs*

Did the organization incur **unexpected** administrative costs (i.e., indirect or overhead expenses) that were not included in the project budget? If so, list the cost of those expenses, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

- Remember to **EXCLUDE** all expenses that were part of the original project budget.

- **DO NOT** Include expenses that were incurred even if the grant activity had not happened.
- **Enter 0 if no additional costs were incurred.**

Character Limit: 20

In your original grant application you selected the following outcome or outcomes. Answer the next two questions relative to these statements.

Outcome Statement

Choices

Minnesotans participate in the arts because arts experiences are relevant and accessible to them.
Minnesotans learn, grow, or change because they participate in quality arts experiences.
Grantees change, expand, or enrich the ways they connect to their communities.
Members of groups traditionally underserved by the arts feel an authentic relationshp to the grantee

Actual Measurable Outcomes*

Keeping in mind the proposed outcome, select one or more actual measurable outcomes that applies to the grant activity.

Choices

Supported artists and organizations who create, produce and present high quality arts activities.
Overcame barriers to accessing high-quality arts activities.
Instilled the arts into the community and public life in this region.
Provided high quality, age appropriate arts education for residents of all ages.
Represented the diverse ethnic, cultural and folk traditions represented in this region.

Measurable Outcomes Achieved*

Select one statement that best describes how well the grant activity achieved the proposed outcomes.

Choices

The activities fully achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities mostly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities partly achieved the proposed outcomes.
The activities did not achieve the proposed outcomes.

Grantee Board*

List names of board members or equivalent governing body who were serving at the time of the grant activity. If grantee is a school, provide names of school board members.

- Enter names **alphabetically by surname** in one block of text with a comma between each name.
- Do **NOT** list degrees or other titles such as Dr, Rev, PhD, MD, etc.
- **Example:** John Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, George Washington.

Character Limit: 250

Minnesota Counties Impacted*

What Minnesota county or counties were impacted by the grant activity? In other words, from what Minnesota counties did participants and audience come and/or in which counties did you advertise?

- Select all that apply.
- For nearby counties, see our map of the SEMAC Region.

Choices

Aitkin
Anoka
Becker
Beltrami
Benton
Big Stone
Blue Earth
Brown
Carlton
Carver
Cass
Chippewa
Chisago
Clay
Clearwater
Cook
Cottonwood
Crow Wing
Dakota
Dodge
Douglas
Faribault
Fillmore
Freeborn
Goodhue
Grant
Hennepin
Houston
Hubbard
Isanti
Itasca
Jackson
Kanabec
Kandiyohi
Kittson
Koochiching
Lac qui Parle
Lake
Lake of the Woods
Le Sueur

Lincoln
Lyon
Mahnomen
Marshall
Martin
McLeod
Meeker
Mille Lacs
Morrison
Mower
Murray
Nicollet
Nobles
Norman
Olmsted
Otter Tail
Pennington
Pine
Pipestone
Polk
Pope
Ramsey
Red Lake
Redwood
Renville
Rice
Rock
Roseau
Scott
Sherburne
Sibley
St. Louis
Stearns
Steele
Stevens
Swift
Todd
Traverse
Wabasha
Wadena
Waseca
Washington
Watonwan
Wilkin
Winona
Wright
Yellow Medicine

Total Grant Dollars Spent*

Rounded to the nearest whole dollar, how much of the SEMAC grant was spent on this grant activity?

Character Limit: 20

Actual Participation by Artists*

Number of *adult artists* directly involved in providing art or artistic services *related specifically to this grant activity*.

- Include living artists whose work was represented regardless of who provided the art work.

Character Limit: 7

Actual Participation by Youth*

Number of *children and youth ages 0-18* who directly engaged with the arts *related specifically to this grant activity*.

- Include attendance at arts events as well as participation in arts learning or other types of activities in which they were directly involved with artists or the arts.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

Character Limit: 7

Actual Participation by Adults*

Number of *adults* who directly engaged with the arts *related specifically to this grant activity,* excluding paid performers, participating artists, and staff members not part of the target audience.

- Include attendance at arts events as well as participation in arts learning or other types of activities in which they were directly involved with artists or the arts.
- Do not count repeat attendees more than once.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

Character Limit: 10

Population Benefitted by Race/Ethnicity*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more** of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.

- Click Here for a list of current **Ethnicity** codes.

Choices

99 - no single group made up 25% or more of the population
N
A
P
B
H
M
W
O

Population Benefitted by Age*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more** of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Age** Codes.

Choices

99 - no single group made up more than 25% of the population
1
2
3
4

Population Benefitted by Distinct Groups*

Select ***up to four groups*** that, by your best estimate, made up **25% or more**of the population that directly benefitted from the grant award.

- Include artists or staff who benefitted from the project, but did not provide the programming or services.
- Include measurable virtual audience, but exclude estimated broadcast audience.
- Click Here for a list of current **Group** codes.

Choices

G - No single group made up more than 25% of the population
D
I
P
E
M
Y
5

Event Venue(s)

Record the following information for all **public activities** associated with the grant, including the capstone event.

- Name of Venue
- Address of Venue
- City and Zip Code of Venue
- Number of Days Using the Venue

If some of the grant activities were held in separate locations *create a record for each location*. See below for additional guidance regarding activities with multiple venues.

- For an event such as a street festival that continued for multiple blocks without discrete venues, report a central address as either the center of activity or geographic center.
- If the activities took place at multiple addresses within the larger footprint of the event, report each address as a separate activity location.

SHOULD YOUR VENUE LIST REQUIRE MORE THAN 5 LOCATIONS, PROVIDE THE LIST IN THE FIELD UPLOAD BELOW.

Venue Name	Venue Address	Venue City	Venue Zip	# of Days for Venue

Extended Venue Listing

File Size Limit: 2 MB

Electronic Signature*

Enter your full legal name and your title within the Grantee Organization. If no other title exists, enter Grant Coordinator.

Character Limit: 100

By clicking Submit, you certify that the information contained in this Final Report is true and correct to the best of your knowledge.

Sharing Your Grant Activity

Optional Feedback

We invite you to include photos, quotes or anecdotes from your grant activity and/or capstone event that can be shared on SEMAC social media. **Response is optional.**

For multiple photos, email them directly to communications@semac.org. Otherwise, one photo may be included per upload button below.

Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 5 MB

Additional Upload

File Size Limit: 5 MB

BYLAWS
OF
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL, INC.

ARTICLE I. Name and Territory

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc., hereinafter referred to as SEMAC. The governing body shall be the SEMAC Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board.

SECTION 2. The territory of SEMAC shall include the region known as Southeastern Minnesota which encompasses the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

SECTION 3. This Corporation is a nonprofit, non-political, non-sectarian organization and no one shall be denied the opportunity to participate in any program of the organization on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, marital status, or disability.

ARTICLE II. Purpose

The purposes of SEMAC shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To serve as the legislatively-mandated arts council for the region, maintaining an eleven (11) county, region-based arts planning process.
2. To continue to provide grants and related technical assistance for local arts development in the region.
3. To encourage arts excellence in the region.
4. To promote awareness as to the value of the arts to all residents of the region.
5. To promote, develop, and build increased support for the arts in the region.
6. To encourage increased access to the arts for all residents of region.
7. To ensure that information on the arts and arts activities is communicated within the region.
8. To provide assistance to artists and local arts organizations, including identification of alternative funding sources and help with management and planning.
9. To facilitate and coordinate arts program development where necessary and appropriate within the region.
10. To maintain a meaningful partnership between the region and state and develop a liaison with other regional, state, and national programs and organizations.

ARTICLE III. Membership

SEMAC is not a membership organization. All individuals and organizations within the SEMAC region are eligible to participate in and benefit from the services SEMAC provides.

ARTICLE IV. Board of Directors

SECTION 1. The property and business of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board, which shall consist of not fewer than nine (9) members, but not more than fifteen (15) members, hereinafter referred to as directors. These numbers include the Executive Director as a voting member of the Board.

SECTION 2. The Board shall consist of one (1) director representing each county, the rest to be designated at-large and elected by the current Board, including the Executive Director. All directors shall reside in the SEMAC region, having an interest in and a desire to promote the arts.

SECTION 3. The term of office of directors shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Election of new directors shall be conducted as needed at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 5. A vacancy shall occur when a director shall cease to be a member of the Board or is removed for cause. The vacancy shall be filled by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 6. Three (3) consecutive, unexcused absences from regular or special meetings of the Board shall constitute grounds for removal of the absent director. The President or Executive Director shall have authority to excuse absences.

ARTICLE V. Duties of the Board

The duties of the Board shall be:

1. To establish policy.
2. To assume responsibility for obtaining basic monetary resources.
3. To hire the Executive Director to handle and carry out the day to day operations and duties as assigned by the Corporation.

4. To be accountable for the activities of the Executive Director and appropriate staff.
5. To be accountable for the disbursement of fiscal resources.
6. To approve annual reports.
7. To conduct other business as necessary.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Board shall be held as needed with a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year to elect officers and determine the direction of the organization for the coming year.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of any three directors.

SECTION 3. All directors shall be duly notified of the time and place of all meetings.

SECTION 4. A quorum at any regular or special meeting shall consist of forty percent (40%) of the directors.

SECTION 5. Mileage reimbursement shall be paid to directors.

SECTION 6. In the event of the Board voting on an issue or proposal for funding in which a director is affiliated, as self-determined, that director shall not be allowed to make a motion or vote on such issue. That director shall leave the room.

ARTICLE VII. Officers

SECTION 1. Officers of the Board shall consist of a president, vice president, and treasurer, elected by the Board for a term of one (1) year at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year.

SECTION 2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall oversee the presentation of agendas.
2. The vice president shall perform such duties as assigned by the president, including the duties of president in the president's absence.
3. The treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Board.

SECTION 3. Any officer may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all directors at a regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. In the event an office shall become vacant prior to the expiration of the term, the Board shall elect a replacement at the earliest possible meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. Committees

SECTION 1. The Board president, vice president, and treasurer shall make up the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. Other committees shall be established as determined to be necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE IX. Arts Advisory Panel

SECTION 1. There shall be an Arts Advisory Panel to the Board, hereinafter referred to as the Panel, for the purpose of reviewing and recommending funding of arts grant applications. The Panel will review arts grant applications based on the three established review criteria:

1. Artistic merit and quality of the project or program.
2. Demand or need for the project or program by the applicant or by the constituents served.
3. Ability of the applicant to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented.

The Panel may also advise the Board on policy relating to the granting process and act as liaison between SEMAC and the public.

SECTION 2. The Board shall make all appointments to the Panel, through an open nomination/application process from interested persons residing in the eleven-county region.

SECTION 3. The panel shall consist of up to fifty (50) members, hereinafter referred to as panelists, distributed among the disciplines of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and literary arts, as well as representation by generalists.

SECTION 4. The term of office for panelists shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Appointment of new panelists, as needed, shall be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 5. Appointed terms of panelists shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 6. The Board shall determine the grant review procedure by which the Panel shall function.

SECTION 7. In the event of the Panel voting on a grant request for funding in which a panelist is affiliated, as self-determined, that panelist shall not be allowed to make a motion or vote on such issue. That panelist shall leave the room.

SECTION 8. Individual directors may not review arts grant applications designated for panel review unless an unforeseen emergency need, as determined by the executive director, arises during a particular grant review.

ARTICLE X. Authority

SECTION 1. SEMAC shall have all legal and fiscal authority and responsibility for all actions carried out in its name.

SECTION 2. The provisions of these bylaws shall be subject to State and Federal laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief* shall govern the Board where applicable and consistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order that the Board may adopt.

SECTION 4. All notes of the Corporation and checks over $1,000 shall be signed by the Executive Director and by the Board's designee, or by such other officers or agents as may be designated by resolution of the Board.

SECTION 5. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July of each year.

SECTION 6. These bylaws may be amended by the majority of the Board.

Amended 11/18/2014
Amended 8/19/2014
Amended 11/20/2012
Amended 5/15/2012
Amended 4/24/2012
Amended 8/17/1987

Biennial Plan

SEMAC's 2026-2027 Biennial Plan

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) is developing its required 2026-27 Biennial Plan for the Minnesota State Arts Board, a strategic initiative that will guide arts funding and programming across 11 counties serving over 517,000 residents. This comprehensive plan, informed by feedback from more than 200 artists, arts professionals, and community members through a recent Needs Assessment Survey, outlines grant programs, community initiatives, and vital services. The plan aims to strengthen regional arts development through targeted leadership, expanded outreach, dedicated advocacy, and enhanced mentorship opportunities, with a focus on fostering diverse artistic expressions and ensuring equitable access to arts resources throughout southeastern Minnesota.

Click here to review the SEMAC Biennial Plan for FY2026-27.

SEMAC's Public Input Meeting on the Biennial Plan

SEMAC hosted a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, March 18 from 6-8p, to review and discuss the draft plan. This forum ensured that community voices helped shape the future of arts funding and programming in southeastern Minnesota. The document was available on this page starting March 13, giving community members time to review before providing input at the Zoom meeting.

A recording of the meeting is now available for those who were unable to attend. You can also review a PDF of the presentation for reference. If you were unable to attend the virtual meeting, you still have the option to give feedback using this form through March 24.

The meeting recording (Zoom passcode f?KC6g$X) and PDF presentation can be accessed through the link below.

Meeting Recording

View Presentation

SAVE THE DATE: Public Meeting for SEMAC's Biennial Plan

Tuesday, March 18 | 6-8p
via Zoom

Every other year, the Regional Arts Councils throughout the state are required by the Minnesota State Arts Board to submit a Biennial Plan that sets priorities for the two upcoming fiscal years. This spring plans are due for fiscal years 2026 and 2027!

Each regional arts council's plan is based on input from the communities we serve. SEMAC's plan was shaped by the results of the Needs Assessment Survey we conducted this fall to which more than 200 artists, arts professionals, arts supporters, and members of the general public responded. But, participation from the community in this planning process does not end there! On Tuesday, March 18, we will hold a public meeting on Zoom to go through the key points and to hear your input. Register for this Zoom meeting at the link below.

Learn More

For Immediate Release: February 24, 2025

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc – Rochester, MN

CONTACT: Jacqueline VanRavenhorst, Communications Manager
608-792-6831 | communications@semac.org

SEMAC ANNOUNCES PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS FOR 2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

Attached Images: SEMAC Logo, Legacy Logo

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) invites community members to participate in shaping the organization's 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. This comprehensive strategic plan will guide SEMAC's work to encourage, promote, and support vibrant arts communities throughout 11 counties in southeastern Minnesota: Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona.

The draft plan, informed by feedback from more than 200 artists, arts professionals, and community members through a recent Needs Assessment Survey, outlines grant programs, community initiatives, and vital services. The plan aims to strengthen regional arts development through updated grant programs, expanded outreach, and enhanced learning opportunities, with a focus on fostering diverse artistic expressions and ensuring equitable access to arts resources throughout the region served by SEMAC.

SEMAC will host a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM to gather community feedback on the draft plan. The complete draft will be available for review on semac.org beginning March 13, 2025. Community members can also provide feedback through a Google form available on the SEMAC website where the draft Biennial Plan will be posted.

"Receiving community feedback and input is so important for SEMAC to have the greatest positive impact on the artists, arts organizations, and members of the public who engage with the arts throughout our region. Every two years, we develop a plan for the coming two years in an attempt to understand and better meet the needs of our

region, and we invite the public to be a part of this process. We were thrilled to receive more than 200 responses to our Needs Assessment Survey this fall. The results of this survey had a huge impact helping to shape our draft Biennial Plan for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. I hope people will log into the Public Meeting on March 18 where I will share key components of the draft plan and be available for questions and comments." - Anastasia

The final plan will be submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board and will guide SEMAC's grant programs and community initiatives through fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

For more information about the planning process or to register for the virtual meeting, visit semac.org or contact the office at 507-281-4848.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

--end--

Public Meeting for SEMAC's Biennial Plan

Tuesday, March 18 | 6-8p
via Zoom

Every other year, the Regional Arts Councils throughout the state are required by the Minnesota State Arts Board to submit a Biennial Plan that sets priorities for the two upcoming fiscal years. This spring plans are due for fiscal years 2026 and 2027!

Each regional arts council's plan is based on input from the communities we serve. SEMAC's plan was shaped by the results of the Needs Assessment Survey we conducted this fall to which more than 200 artists, arts professionals, arts supporters, and members of the general public responded. But, participation from the community in this planning process does not end there!

On Tuesday, March 18, we will hold a public meeting on Zoom to go through the key points and to hear your input. The document will be available on the SEMAC website starting March 13, giving community members time to review before providing input at the Zoom meeting. Additionally, there will be an option to give written feedback on the website through March 24 if you are unable to attend the virtual meeting.

Learn More & Register

SEMAC created an online **event**.
March 6 at 8:58 AM ·

Tue, Mar 18

SEMAC 2026-2027 Biennial Plan Public Meeting

Sharon, Dana and Melissa were interested

Interested

Sharon Mansur and 1 other

Like Comment

Comment as Jacque Lline

You're commenting as Jacque Lline.

Ad	Results	Reach	Views	Frequency	Cost per result	Budget Ad set	Amount spent	Ends	Quality ranking Ad relevance...	Engagement rate ranking Ad relevance...
25 Biennial Plan - Traffic	34 Link clicks	2,158	2,610	1.42	$0.45 Per Link Click	$20.00 Daily	$15.13	Mar 18, 2025	Above average	Above average

SEMAC
March 18 at 7:31 AM ·

Join SEMAC for a virtual public meeting tonight from 6-8p to review and discuss our 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. This forum ensures that community voices help shape the fut... **See more**

Tue, Mar 18

SEMAC 2026-2027 Biennial Plan Public Meeting

Sharon, Dana and Melissa were interested

Interested

See insights

Boost a post

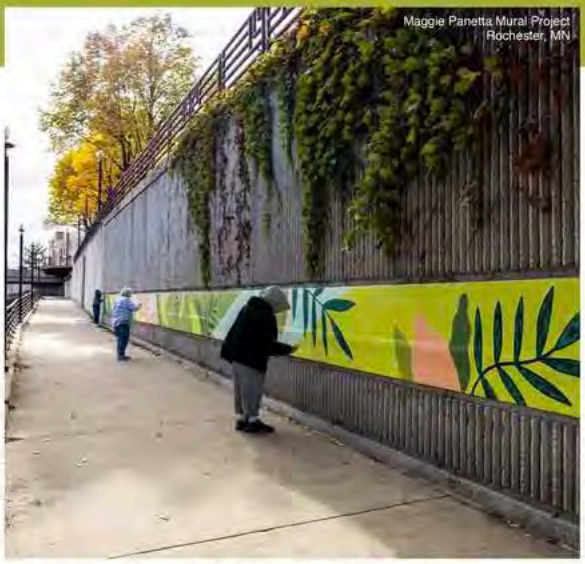
Sharon Mansur

Like Comment Share

SEMAC
Sponsored ·

📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!

...See more



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

semac.org
Biennial Plan - Southeastern Minnesota...

Learn more

Sharon Mansur and 17 oth... 2 shares

Like Comment Share

southeasternmnartscouncil ···

southeasternmnartscouncil Our 2026-2027 Biennial Plan is available on our website! This strategic roadmap will guide arts funding across 11 counties serving over 517,000 residents.
Informed by 200+ artists and community members, this plan outlines our vision for stronger regional arts development through leadership, outreach, advocacy, and mentorship over the next two years.

📝 Review the plan and submit your feedback through March 24th!

Missed our March 18th public meeting? You can still watch the meeting recording (Zoom passcode: f?KC6g$X), review the presentation PDF, and submit your thoughts via our online form.

View insights **Boost post**

Liked by **melissaewray** and **3 others**
6 days ago

Add a comment... Post

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC
southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil ···

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!

Join the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council for a virtual discussion on Tuesday, March 18 (6-8PM), about our 2026-27 Biennial Plan - the strategic roadmap guiding arts funding across our 11 counties serving 517,000+ residents!

This plan, informed by 200+ artists and community members through our Needs Assessment Survey, will determine grant programs and initiatives for 2026 and 2027.

The draft plan will be available on our website (semac.org) starting March 13. Can't attend? Written feedback will be accepted through March 24.

View insights Boost post

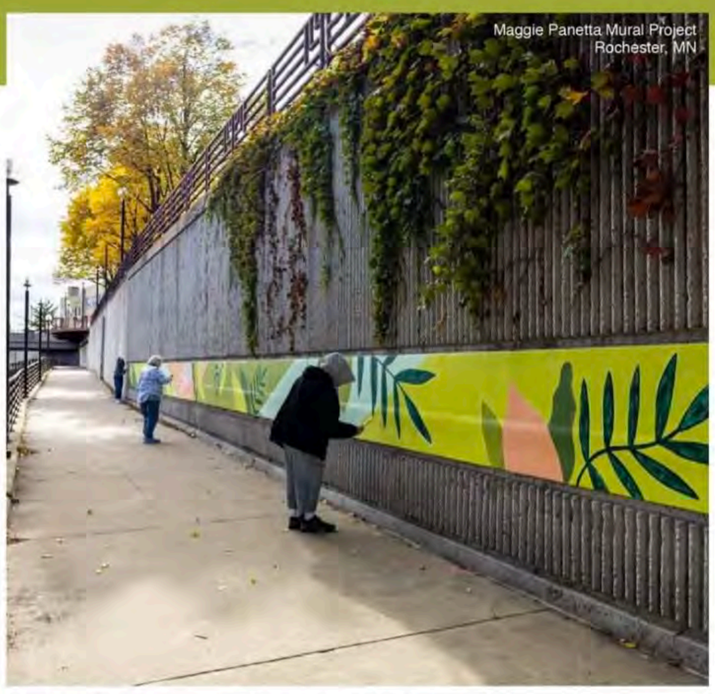
Liked by **melissaewray** and **9 others**

March 12

Add a comment... Post

March 14 7:07 AM

southeasternmnartscouncil



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!...

The SEMAC Biennial Plan is now available for review on our website! Review, register for the Public Input Meeting, or voice your vision at the <<< link

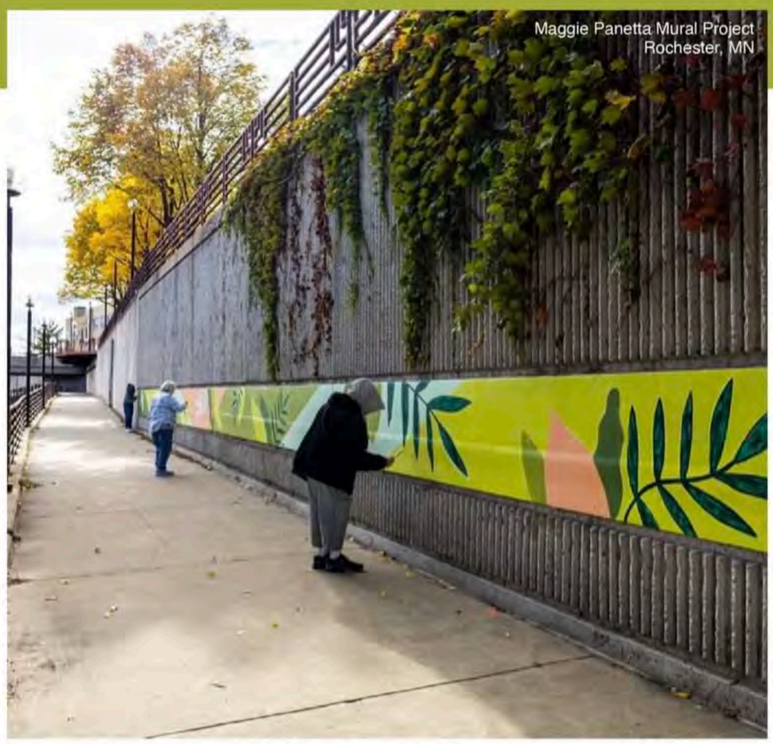
REVIEW & REGISTER

Say something...

Activity Boost Highlight More

March 18 7:25 AM

southeasternmnartscouncil



Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

2026-2027 BIENNIAL PLAN

SEMAC southeastern minnesota arts council

Public Input Meeting | Tuesday, March 18, 6-8p | via Zoom

southeasternmnartscouncil 📣 Help shape arts funding in southeastern Minnesota!...

Join us tonight for our 2026-2027 Beinnial Plan public input meeting

LEARN MORE & REGISTER

Say something...

Activity Boost Highlight More

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OF
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SECTION 3. The term of office of directors shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Election of new directors shall be conducted as needed at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 5. A vacancy shall occur when a director shall cease to be a member of the Board or is removed for cause. The vacancy shall be filled by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 6. Three (3) consecutive, unexcused absences from regular or special meetings of the Board shall constitute grounds for removal of the absent director. The President or Executive Director shall have authority to excuse absences.

ARTICLE V. Duties of the Board

The duties of the Board shall be:

1. To establish policy.
2. To assume responsibility for obtaining basic monetary resources.
3. To hire the Executive Director to handle and carry out the day to day operations and duties as assigned by the Corporation.

4. To be accountable for the activities of the Executive Director and appropriate staff.
5. To be accountable for the disbursement of fiscal resources.
6. To approve annual reports.
7. To conduct other business as necessary.

ARTICLE VI. Meetings

SECTION 1. Meetings of the Board shall be held as needed with a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year to elect officers and determine the direction of the organization for the coming year.

SECTION 2. Special meetings may be called by the president or upon written request of any three directors.

SECTION 3. All directors shall be duly notified of the time and place of all meetings.

SECTION 4. A quorum at any regular or special meeting shall consist of forty percent (40%) of the directors.

SECTION 5. Mileage reimbursement shall be paid to directors.

SECTION 6. In the event of the Board voting on an issue or proposal for funding in which a director is affiliated, as self-determined, that director shall not be allowed to make a motion or vote on such issue. That director shall leave the room.

ARTICLE VII. Officers

SECTION 1. Officers of the Board shall consist of a president, vice president, and treasurer, elected by the Board for a term of one (1) year at a regularly scheduled meeting to be held prior to the end of the fiscal year.

SECTION 2. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

1. The president shall preside at all meetings, shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, and shall oversee the presentation of agendas.
2. The vice president shall perform such duties as assigned by the president, including the duties of president in the president's absence.
3. The treasurer shall be the fiscal officer of the Board.

SECTION 3. Any officer may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of all directors at a regularly scheduled meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose.

SECTION 4. In the event an office shall become vacant prior to the expiration of the term, the Board shall elect a replacement at the earliest possible meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. Committees

SECTION 1. The Board president, vice president, and treasurer shall make up the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. Other committees shall be established as determined to be necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE IX. Arts Advisory Panel

SECTION 1. There shall be an Arts Advisory Panel to the Board, hereinafter referred to as the Panel, for the purpose of reviewing and recommending funding of arts grant applications. The Panel will review arts grant applications based on the three established review criteria:

1. Artistic merit and quality of the project or program.
2. Demand or need for the project or program by the applicant or by the constituents served.
3. Ability of the applicant to accomplish the project or program they describe or the organizational goals as presented.

The Panel may also advise the Board on policy relating to the granting process and act as liaison between SEMAC and the public.

SECTION 2. The Board shall make all appointments to the Panel, through an open nomination/application process from interested persons residing in the eleven-county region.

SECTION 3. The panel shall consist of up to fifty (50) members, hereinafter referred to as panelists, distributed among the disciplines of dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and literary arts, as well as representation by generalists.

SECTION 4. The term of office for panelists shall be three (3) years from the date of appointment. Appointment of new panelists, as needed, shall be conducted at a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 5. Appointed terms of panelists shall be no more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for ninety (90) days.

SECTION 6. The Board shall determine the grant review procedure by which the Panel shall function.

SECTION 7. In the event of the Panel voting on a grant request for funding in which a panelist is affiliated, as self-determined, that panelist shall not be allowed to make a motion or vote on such issue. That panelist shall leave the room.

SECTION 8. Individual directors may not review arts grant applications designated for panel review unless an unforeseen emergency need, as determined by the executive director, arises during a particular grant review.

ARTICLE X. Authority

SECTION 1. SEMAC shall have all legal and fiscal authority and responsibility for all actions carried out in its name.

SECTION 2. The provisions of these bylaws shall be subject to State and Federal laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief* shall govern the Board where applicable and consistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order that the Board may adopt.

SECTION 4. All notes of the Corporation and checks over $1,000 shall be signed by the Executive Director and by the Board's designee, or by such other officers or agents as may be designated by resolution of the Board.

SECTION 5. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of July of each year.

SECTION 6. These bylaws may be amended by the majority of the Board.

Amended 11/18/2014
Amended 8/19/2014
Amended 11/20/2012
Amended 5/15/2012
Amended 4/24/2012
Amended 8/17/1987

a. Names and affiliations of SEMAC board members – March 2025

Kjellgren Alkire Wabasha County Term 2 expires 8/18/2026	810 N Oak St Lake City MN 55041	Visual artist
Andi Lynn Arnold Steele County Board Treasurer 2025 Term 1 expires 3/31/2027	914 Saint Andrews Pl Owatonna MN 55060	Visual artist
Tony C Boldt Dodge County Term 1 expires 9/30/2027	415 West St Mantorville MN 55955	Musical Director, Rochester Community Band Band Teacher, Kasson-Mantorville High School
Sophia Chai Olmsted County Check Signatory FY2025 Term 1 expires 1/31/2027	1931 6th Ave NE Rochester MN 55906	Visual artist
Steve Dietz At Large Term 1 expires 10/31/2026	28839 Lake Ave Way Frontenac MN 55026	Retired arts administrator
Rob B Hardy Rice County Bd Vice President 2025 Term 1 expires 1/31/2027	305 5th St E Northfield MN 55057	Poet Former Poet Laureate of Northfield
Elisha A Marin Freeborn County Board President 2025 Term 2 expires 8/19/2025	224 S Broadway Ave Studio 2 Albert Lea MN 56007	Musician Executive Director, Freeborn County Arts Initiative
Anastasia D Shartin Executive Director	603 First St SW #103 Rochester MN 55902	Executive Director, SEMAC
Laurel Stinson Goodhue County Term 1 expires 10/31/2027	307 E 6th St Red Wing MN 55066	Director of Residency & Advancement, The Anderson Center at Tower View
Jon D Swanson Winona County Term 2 expires 5/20/2025	Minnesota Marine Art Museum 800 Riverview Dr Winona MN 55987	Curator of Collections & Exhibitions, Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Amy Wightkin Mower County Term 1 expires 9/30/2027	801 24th Ave NW Austin MN 55912	Musician Paramount Theatre Manager, Austin Area Arts
Melissa Wray Houston County Term 1 expires 1/31/2028	113 S Badger St Caledonia MN 55921	Visual artist Founding Director, Mainspring Program Director, Lanesboro Arts

b. There are no specific prerequisites for service on SEMAC's Board of Directors, but an applicant's knowledge of and dedication to the arts are considered.

c. The SEMAC Board of Directors consists of one representative from each of the eleven counties, with as many as three at-large positions, and the Executive Director. When vacancies occur, a public call for nominations is issued, using the SEMAC website, e-newsletter, social media, and the general media. Current board members are also asked to suggest names of individuals they feel would serve the region well and the Executive Director actively recruits new members. In addition to representation from all counties, SEMAC seeks members with diverse backgrounds both in terms of artistic expertise and cultural as well as gender identity. Individuals interested in serving are asked to complete a brief application on the grant interface. The Executive Director reviews the application and schedules a meeting with the applicant to get to know them and discuss the role and expectations of directors. If she feels the applicant would make a good addition to the Board, their application is presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting for review and vote.

d. Appointed terms of directors shall be no more than two consecutive three-year terms. Reapplication for a third term will be considered if a vacancy exists for 90 days. (see by-laws, Article 4, Section 4)

SEMAC Staff Information - March 2025

Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director

Karen Miller, Grants Program Manager

Sharon Mansur, Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Executive Director
Job Posting --- January 9, 2023

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc. (SEMAC) is currently accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. For information about SEMAC: https://www.semac.org

Organization Overview

The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council, Inc. (SEMAC) is one of eleven Regional Arts Councils designated by the State of Minnesota to make final decisions on the use of appropriations for local/regional arts development. SEMAC has served Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties since 1977 and is charged with assessing regional needs and planning and administering programs and services using its legislative allocation. The combined counties of the SEMAC region have a population of 519,045, ranging from Minnesota's third-most populous city to industrial hubs to farming communities. In FY2022, SEMAC disbursed $1,094,400 through 189 grants in the region.

SEMAC Mission

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants and services.

SEMAC Vision

- All community members are inspired to take part in the arts and build partnerships that promote the arts and artists.
- New culturally rich artistic opportunities are incorporated into our communities while preserving our existing artistic heritages.
- Community members, leaders, and policy-makers foster a climate that celebrates imagination, creativity, innovation, and excellence that encourages life-long participation in the arts.

Position Purpose

The Executive Director will be a visionary and community-oriented leader to steward the next chapter of SEMAC's work. The Executive Director will be responsible for leading the organization, and working with the Board of Directors, staff, arts community of the SEMAC region, and other community stakeholders to implement an inspiring vision and strategic direction for SEMAC. The Executive Director will be responsible for partnership and community-building, outreach across the SEMAC region with a focus on racial, cultural, and geographic equity, and advocacy for artists and the arts sector in the region.

The Executive Director oversees a staff of one, plus a communications contractor, and other staff and contractors as needed, and works with grant review panelists and stakeholders to deliver on SEMAC's mission and vision. This position is full-time, exempt, with an excellent benefits package. Position starting salary is $100,000, salary will be commensurate with experience.

Key Responsibilities

Organizational Management

- Leads the staff and board, and ensures the vision and strategic direction of SEMAC through clear communication and work plans.
- Sets plans and policies for the organization to ensure its effective functioning and staff engagement.
- Recruits effective and equity-focused staff and board to meet the mission and vision of SEMAC.
- Serves as a member of the Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota to build partnerships and organizational support across the state.
- Serves as liaison to the Minnesota State Arts Board and McKnight Foundation.
- Ensures organizational activities comply with the rules and regulations set forth by the Minnesota State Arts Board, State of Minnesota, and other funders.
- Builds organizational relationships and partnerships to support artists and arts organizations in the SEMAC region.

Advocacy and Outreach

- Is an active community builder with direct outreach and relationship-building skills, willing to travel the region and show up to support the work of partners and stakeholders.
- Conducts virtual and in-person site visits with grantees and potential grantees to better understand the needs of the region.
- Advocates with politicians and stakeholders for the arts and SEMAC, partners with Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and other regional arts advocacy groups to build understanding and support for the Legacy Amendment.
- Finds new relationships for more equitable and inclusive grantmaking.
- Organizes information and activities to support advocacy on behalf of SEMAC, including financial impact, arts participation, SEMAC vision and goals, and relevant activities.

Program Management

- Develops and supervises grants programs, working with staff and grant review panels to ensure inclusive, equitable grant-making.
- Recruits quality panelists and develops transparent, equitable review processes for greater inclusion and artistic representation.
- Ensures effective communication about programs, through direct print and digital mechanisms, as well as speaking and presentation.
- Seeks out new opportunities for SEMAC funding, and expanding program opportunities and partnerships.

Financial Management

- Provides effective financial management of SEMAC as an organization, including budgeting, reporting, and allocation with state guidelines.
- Reports on SEMAC work to the Minnesota State Arts Board and McKnight Foundation, and other potential funders, as well as publicly to stakeholders.
- Prepares audit and meets state and federal requirements of nonprofit organizations.

Knowledge and Skills Required

- 5-10 years of increasingly responsible and mission-driven senior leadership, working with a staff and a Board of Directors.
- Proven ability in recruiting, training, supervising, and retaining highly effective staff, volunteers, and board members.
- Proven ability to successfully supervise, manage, and develop staff, and a willingness to learn alongside and from staff.
- Experience with the local arts communities and cultural institutions with technical and sector-specific knowledge, particularly in smaller or grassroots organizations.
- Ability to be nimble in working with groups of many styles at various stages of development.
- An understanding and working knowledge of the region served by SEMAC.
- Demonstrated experience engaging historically marginalized communities and the ability to apply a racial equity lens to all aspects of the work.
- Ability to bridge political, racial, and geographic differences in service of larger goals.
- Active community-building and outreach experience.
- Expertise in financial oversight and program management for a mid-sized organization.
- Experience in navigating the Minnesota Legacy Funding model, and other public and private funding models in the region and the nation.
- Ability to articulate your passion for the SEMAC mission.
- Leading effective strategic planning and collaborative vision planning.
- Write and present information in a concise and accurate manner.
- Computer competency and digital adaptability, familiarity with web-based applications.
- A strong commitment to constituent service and relationships.

Position Location

- Executive Director is expected to live in the SEMAC region.
- SEMAC currently has an office in Rochester, Executive Director should plan to be in the office for meetings and community connection regularly 2-3 days a week, with flexibility for travel and outreach.
- Candidate should have reliable transportation for meetings, outreach, and advocacy in the SEMAC region.

Position Benefits

- 100% employer paid health insurance for employee (Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota)
- Paid vacation and sick leave
- Flexible work environment
- Travel reimbursement budget
- After 1 year of employment, employer contribution to employee directed IRA

TO APPLY

Please use the following link to upload a cover letter of interest for the position, and a resume listing your qualifications for the role. Submit your application here: **https://bit.ly/3GjetRV**. Please label your submission materials as follows: “Lastname_Firstname_Cover.PDF” and “Lastname_Firstname_Resume.PDF.” The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council is an Equal Opportunity employer. We actively welcome and encourage people who identify as Black, Indigenous, Native and/or People of Color, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities to apply.

If you have questions about the role, please send them to ***semac.ed.applications@gmail.com***. Applications will be reviewed as they are received, with a deadline of February 24, 2023. We anticipate conducting two stages of interviews; the first stage of interviews will begin in mid-March.

Job Description: Grants Program Manager

The Grants Program Manager answers to the SEMAC Executive Director acting as assistant director (with Board oversight) in the absence of the director. Due to the level of responsibility and independence this is a salaried position.

Principal Responsibilities

Grants Management – the execution of grant program activities including but not limited to:

- Administer grant programs and grant reviews.
- Manages the grants application process including responding to applicant questions, determining eligibility and grant status, maintaining grant records/database, and other related duties with advice from director as requested.

Publicity and Marketing including but not limited to:

- Coordinate all marketing and publicity materials and prepare plans based on needs assessment and long-range planning.
- Update website and other communications working with vendors as needed.

Administration/Office including but not limited to:

- Office operations include mailings, database, and website management, paying bills, preparing board packets, and other clerical duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
Experience and/or bachelor's degree in the arts, management, community service, administration, or related field.
Ability to manage all aspects of an office.
Ability to communicate effectively in verbal and written form with diverse groups.
Ability to work with volunteers as well as professionals.
Ability to supervise the work of others.
Ability to plan, execute, and evaluate projects.
Ability to manage and prioritize workload independently.
Must possess computer skills including database and web site management.
Knowledge of rural SE Minnesota is helpful.

Updated 6/2008; 6/2017

Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Overview

The Outreach and Accessibility Manager works collaboratively with SEMAC staff and Board to ensure individuals and organizations throughout the 11-county region are aware of its grants, workshops, services, and other programs, and that these opportunities are accessible to all. The person in this position reports to the Executive Director and works as a member of the SEMAC team to deliver programs, grants, and services that support and advance thriving arts communities throughout Southeastern Minnesota.

Responsibilities

Outreach:

- Work with schools, businesses, libraries, history centers, arts organizations, service organizations, and others to foster partnerships to efficiently and effectively serve the arts needs in the region.
- Reach out to individual artists in Region 10 to inform them of key opportunities provided by SEMAC and other regional, state, and national organizations, and assist them to fully utilize SEMAC's programs and services.
- Attend arts events throughout the region as a representative of SEMAC.
- Participate in trainings and other development opportunities with regional, state, and national interest groups to develop relationships and ensure SEMAC follows best practices.
- Present information sessions and workshops about SEMAC to raise awareness of our programs and services.
- Assist Executive Director with recruitment of Board and Arts Advisory Panel members.
- Offer SEMAC grant writing workshops and create tutorial videos on the grant process for individual artists and organizations.
- With the Executive Director and Communications Manager, determine and develop the contents of SEMAC's monthly e-newsletter, social media posts, direct e-mails, flyers, etc.

Accessibility:

- Manage existing and develop new partnerships with organizations to provide translation services and grant coaching for non-English and limited English speakers.
- Recruit and train grant coaches who can work with first-time applicants, rural artists, etc. who may need help with their grant applications.
- Ensure that all SEMAC programs, activities, and grant applications are accessible to all residents in Southeastern Minnesota, including the deaf and blind, people with disabilities,

neuro-divergent individuals, people without access to the internet or a computer, non-English or limited English speakers, etc.

Programs, Services, and Special Projects:

- Develop and/or identify existing professional development workshops for individual artists and training workshops for arts organizations.
- Update and manage the availability and distribution of resources for individual artists and for organizations.
- With the Executive Director and a committee of the Board, coordinate the creation, distribution, and evaluation of Needs Assessment surveys every two to four years. And, using these findings and other information to understand the needs of our constituents, translate those needs into effective SEMAC programs and services.
- Assist Executive Director with the development of new programs and services.
- Examples of special projects include working with the Executive Director to plan for the celebration of SEMAC's 50th anniversary (2027) and working on advocacy efforts to ensure the renewal of the Legacy Amendment (set to expire in 2033).

Administrative Support:

- Provide support with internal communications and document sharing, including with staff and board members.
- Assist with other tasks as assigned.

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Current Board Members as of 3.24.25:

Elisha Marin, President

Rob Hardy, Vice President

Andrea Arnold, Treasurer

Kjellgren Alkire

Anthony Boldt

Sophia Chai

Steve Dietz

Laurel Stinson

Jon Swanson

Amy Wightkin

Melissa Wray

Staff members with authority to access grants funds or determine how those funds are used as of 3.24.25:

Anastasia Shartin, Executive Director

Sharon Mansur, Outreach and Accessibility Manager

Karen Miller, Grants Program Manager

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC)				**Arts &**	**Arts**	**Arts & Cult**			
PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2026			**General Fund**	**Arts Access**	**Education**	**Heritage**	**McKnight**	**Other**	
			2026 State	**2026 State**	**2026 State**	**2026 State**	**Foundation**	**Funds**	**2026 Total**
	REVENUE								
1		State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2026	$191,991	$766,370	$155,320	$51,765	$0	$0	$1,165,446
2		State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2025	$0	$130,000	$50,000	$20,000	$0	$0	$200,000
3		McKnight Foundation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$90,000	$0	$90,000
4		Other Income	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$18,000
5		Interest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000	$2,000
6		**TOTAL REVENUE**	**$191,991**	**$896,370**	**$205,320**	**$71,765**	**$90,000**	**$2,000**	**$1,457,446**
	EXPENSES								
	Programs and Services								
7	Grant Programs and Services								
	a	Individual Artists and Culture Bearers Grants	$2,000	$30,000	$6,000	$2,000	$90,000	$0	$130,000
	b	Rural Arts Grants	$4,000	$35,000	$6,000	$5,000	$0	$0	$50,000
	c	Artists in Schools Grants	$2,000	$0	$18,000	$0	$0	$0	$20,000
	d	Programming and Project Support for Organizations	$10,000	$380,000	$48,000	$22,000	$0	$0	$460,000
	e	Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
	f	General Operating Support Grants	$10,000	$140,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
	g	Grant Coaching and Language Services	$0	$2,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000
	h	Grant Writing Workshops	$1,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,000
8		Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$82,000	$152,800	$54,000	$17,584	$0	$0	$306,384
9		**Subtotal Grant Programs and Services**	**$111,000**	**$739,800**	**$132,000**	**$46,584**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,119,384**
10	Nongrant Programs and Services								
	a	Artist Professional Development Workshops	$600	$4,200	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,800
	b	Arts Management Trainings	$500	$5,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
	c	Board, Panel, and Staff Trainings	$6,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
	e	Regional Arts Promotion	$4,000	$7,000	$3,000	$2,000	$0	$0	$16,000
11		Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$50,000	$70,500	$29,500	$8,292	$0	$0	$158,292
12		**Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services**	**$61,100**	**$87,200**	**$32,500**	**$10,292**	**$0**	**$0**	**$191,092**
13	**Total Programs and Services**		**$172,100**	**$827,000**	**$164,500**	**$56,876**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,310,476**
14	**Fundraising**		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**

15	**General Administration**		**$19,891**	**$23,353**	**$8,264**	**$1,555**	**$0**	**$0**	**$53,063**
16		**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$191,991**	**$850,353**	**$172,764**	**$58,431**	**$90,000**	**$2,000**	**$1,365,539**
17		**SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2027 or (DEFICIT)**	**$0**	**$46,017**	**$32,556**	**$13,334**	**$0**	**$0**	**$91,907**
Line 6		Is the sum of lines 1 through 5							
Line 7		Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all grant programs and services costs							
Line 9		Total of all lines under line 7, plus line 8							
Line 10		Change the subitem names, and/or add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all nongrant programs and services costs							
Line 12		Total of all lines under line 10, plus line 11							
Line 13		Add line 9 and line 12							
Line 16		Add lines 13, 14, and 15							
Line 17		Line 6 minus line 16							

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC)				**Arts &**	**Arts**	**Arts & Cult**			
PROJECTED BUDGET: Fiscal year 2027			**General Fund**	**Arts Access**	**Education**	**Heritage**	**McKnight**	**Other**	
			2027 State	**2027 State**	**2027 State**	**2027 State**	**Foundation**	**Funds**	**2027 Total**
	REVENUE								
1		State of Minnesota: Appropriations for 2027	$191,991	$980,679	$172,234	$57,429	$0	$0	$1,402,333
2		State of Minnesota: Carryforward from 2026	$0	$46,017	$32,556	$13,334	$0	$0	$91,907
3		McKnight Foundation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$90,000	$0	$90,000
4		Other Income	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$10,000	$10,000
5		Interest	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,500	$2,500
6		**TOTAL REVENUE**	**$191,991**	**$1,026,696**	**$204,790**	**$70,763**	**$90,000**	**$12,500**	**$1,596,740**
	EXPENSES								
	Programs and Services								
7	Grant Programs and Services								
	a	Individual Artist and Culture Bearers Grants	$2,000	$40,000	$6,000	$2,000	$90,000	$0	$140,000
	b	Rural Arts Grants	$4,000	$45,000	$6,000	$5,000	$0	$0	$60,000
	c	Artists in Schools Grants	$2,000	$0	$28,000	$0	$0	$0	$30,000
	d	Programming and Project Support for Organizations	$5,000	$414,000	$60,000	$41,000	$0	$0	$520,000
	e	Organizational Sustainability and Capacity Building Grants	$25,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$25,000
	f	General Operating Support Grants	$10,000	$140,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
	g	Grant Coaching and Language Services	$0	$2,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$2,000
	h	Grant Writing Workshops	$1,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$1,000
8		Grant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$61,800	$162,200	$57,000	$12,000	$0	$0	$293,000
9		**Subtotal Grant Programs and Services**	**$110,800**	**$803,200**	**$157,000**	**$60,000**	**$90,000**	**$0**	**$1,221,000**
10	Nongrant Programs and Services								
	a	Artist Professional Development Workshops	$600	$4,200	$0	$0	$0	$0	$4,800
	b	Arts Management Training	$500	$5,500	$0	$0	$0	$0	$6,000
	c	Board, Panel, and Staff Trainings	$5,500	$4,000	$2,050	$1,000	$0	$0	$12,550
	d	Long Range Planning Consultant and Meetings	$4,000	$7,000	$3,000	$2,340	$0	$0	$16,340
	d	Regional Arts Promotion	$8,000	$5,000	$2,000	$1,000	$0	$0	$16,000
	e	Arts, Nature, and Wellness Program TBD	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$9,000	$9,000
11		Nongrant Programs and Services, Operations and Support	$50,000	$80,000	$27,000	$3,000	$0	$1,000	$161,000
12		**Subtotal Nongrant Programs and Services**	**$69,100**	**$105,700**	**$34,050**	**$7,340**	**$0**	**$10,000**	**$226,190**
13	**Total Programs and Services**		**$179,900**	**$908,900**	**$191,050**	**$67,340**	**$90,000**	**$10,000**	**$1,447,190**
14	**Fundraising**		**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$2,000**	**$2,000**
15	**General administration**		**$12,091**	**$34,537**	**$7,909**	**$685**	**$0**	**$500**	**$55,722**

16		**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$191,991**	**$943,437**	**$198,959**	**$68,025**	**$90,000**	**$12,500**	**$1,504,912**
17		**SURPLUS/CARRYFORWARD to FY 2028 or (DEFICIT)**	**$0**	**$83,259**	**$5,831**	**$2,738**	**$0**	**$0**	**$91,828**
Line 6		Is the sum of lines 1 through 5							
Line 7		Add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all grant programs and services costs							
Line 9		Total of all lines under line 7, plus line 8							
Line 10		Change the subitem names, and/or add as many subitems as necessary to clearly indicate all nongrant programs and services costs							
Line 12		Total of all lines under line 10, plus line 11							
Line 13		Add line 9 and line 12							
Line 16		Add lines 13, 14, and 15							
Line 17		Line 6 minus line 16							