



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 13 May 2025, via Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Laurel Stinson, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Andi Arnold, Elisha Marin

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

1:33pm Dir. Hardy, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Boldt seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Stinson seconded approval of the minutes from the 8 April 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Karen Miller has announced her retirement. Her last day will be December 28, 2025. SEMAC will be seeking a new Grants Program Manager to begin at the end of October.
- Starting in FY2026, board meetings will no longer be held every month. Meetings will be geared towards grant approval and other needs of the organization; set for the months of September, November, January, March, May, and June.
- Executive committee voting will be held at the June meeting. Dir. Hardy has agreed to take on the role of President, and Dir. Stinson as Treasurer. Nominations for Vice President are open.
- Stipends for board and panel will be on the agenda for next month.

Treasurer's Report

Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded board authorization to withdraw up to \$18,000 from reserves for budget reconciliation. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Grants Committee Report

- The committee proposed a schedule of grant deadlines and review schedules for both the board and panel for the next two fiscal years.
- **Dir. Boldt moved and Dir. Dietz seconded adoption of the board review of operational grants for organizations. Motion passed unanimously.**

Monitoring Report

- Dir. Hardy attended the capstone event for Northfield Union of Youth. His report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.

Approval of Organizational Grants

- Legacy Grants for Arts Organizations

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
28.40	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$10,000	
28.00	Southeastern Minnesota Youth Orchestras	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.60	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	\$10,000	
27.40	Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$10,000	
27.20	Austin Symphony Orchestra	Mower	\$10,000	
27.00	Minnesota Marine Art Museum	Winona	\$10,000	
27.00	WideSpot Performing Arts Center & Project	Wabasha	\$10,000	
26.40	Lanesboro Arts	Fillmore	\$10,000	
25.60	Mainspring	Houston	\$10,000	Wray
25.40	Theatre du Mississippi	Winona	\$10,000	
25.20	Art of the Rural	Winona	\$10,000	
25.20	Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	\$10,000	
25.00	Rochester New Music Ensemble	Olmsted	\$10,000	
24.80	Dreamery Rural Arts Initiative	Fillmore	\$10,000	
24.60	MacPhail Center for Music – Austin	Mower	\$10,000	Wightkin
24.40	Anderson Center at Tower View	Goodhue	\$10,000	Stinson
24.20	Quince Ensemble	Winona	\$10,000	
24.00	Red Wing Arts & Culture Commission	Goodhue	\$10,000	

Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$180,00 in full funding to the 18 arts organizations that scored 24.00 and higher in this category. Motion passed with three abstentions.

- Legacy Grants for Non-Arts Groups

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.60	Northfield Union of Youth	Rice	\$5,000	Hardy
29.60	Winona Dakota Unity Alliance	Winona	\$5,000	
29.00	Friends of Northfield Public Library	Rice	\$5,000	
28.40	Project FINE	Winona	\$5,000	
28.00	Shorewood Senior Campus	Olmsted	\$5,000	
27.75	Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County	Goodhue	\$5,000	
27.00	Rochester Community & Technical College	Olmsted	\$4,710	
27.00	Three Links Care Center	Rice	\$5,000	
26.80	City of Winona Parks & Recreation	Winona	\$5,000	
26.00	Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center	Winona	\$5,000	

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
26.00	Rice County Neighbors United	Rice	\$5,000	
26.00	USA Dance Chapter 2017	Olmsted	\$5,000	
25.60	Faribault Community Education	Rice	\$5,000	
25.60	RNeighbors (Rochester Neighborhood Resource)	Olmsted	\$5,000	
25.60	Somali American Social Service Association	Olmsted	\$5,000	
25.40	City of Faribault Parks & Recreation	Rice	\$5,000	

Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Boldt seconded the motion to award \$79,710 in full funding to the 16 non-arts groups that scored 25.40 and higher in this category. Motion passed with one abstention.

- Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.50	Winona Arts Center	Winona	\$3,500	
29.00	Zeitgeist	Goodhue	\$5,000	
28.75	South Central Minnesota Studio ARTour	Rice	\$5,000	
26.80	Eyota Days Committee	Olmsted	\$3,600	
26.40	Rochester Pops Orchestra	Olmsted	\$5,000	Boldt
26.40	Winona Community Chorale	Winona	\$5,000	
26.00	Owatonna Symphony Orchestra	Steele	\$5,000	

Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to award \$32,100 in full funding to the 7 arts organizations that scored 26.00 and higher in this category. Motion passed with one abstention.

- Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
29.00	A Great Day Farm	Rice	\$5,000	
28.75	Frontenac State Park Association	Goodhue	\$5,000	Dietz
27.80	Lanesboro Community Theater	Fillmore	\$5,000	Wray
27.40	Rushford Area Society of the Arts	Fillmore	\$4,335	
26.80	Mantorville Economic Development Authority	Dodge	\$5,000	
26.80	Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$4,890	
26.50	Chatfield Center for the Arts	Fillmore	\$4,950	
26.20	City of Peterson Committee for the Arts	Fillmore	\$5,000	
25.80	Friends of the Bohemian Brick Hall	Freeborn	\$5,000	
25.80	Saint Charles Public Schools	Winona	\$5,000	
25.60	Downtown Oronoco Gold Rush Days	Olmsted	\$5,000	

Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Boldt seconded the motion to award \$54,175 in full funding to the 11 small town organizations that scored 25.60 and higher in this category. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 52 applicants representing eleven counties for a total of \$345,985 in funding. This includes eighteen legacy grants

to arts organizations for \$180,000, sixteen legacy grants to non-arts groups for \$79,710, seven programming grants to arts organizations for \$32,100, and eleven small towns/rural areas grants for \$54,175.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	2	\$9,890
Fillmore	6	\$39,285
Freeborn	1	\$5,000
Goodhue	5	\$35,000
Houston	2	\$20,000
Mower	2	\$20,000
Olmsted	12	\$78,310
Rice	8	\$40,000
Steele	1	\$5,000
Wabasha	1	\$10,000
Winona	12	\$83,500
	52	\$345,985

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

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.

Executive Director Report for Board Meeting May 13, 2025

Grantmaking:

- April 30 – pre-panel review check-in meeting
- May 5 – Grants Committee Meeting
- May 7 and 8 - Organizational Grant panel review meetings
- Work with Karen on FY2026 grant calendar

MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- April 10 and May 8 – attended MSAB Board meeting (Zoom)
- April 23 and 24 – Biennial Plan review meetings
- April 25 – FACM Executive Committee Meeting
- May 2 – FACM meeting (Zoom)

Regional Networking (April 8 – May 9, 2025):

- April 26, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – opening reception and poetry reading for “Trust the Hours”, organized by Rochester poet laureate Jean Prokott, a poetry, broadside, and art exhibition to heal and foster empathy around mental health, at the Chateau Theater
- April 27, Lanesboro and surrounding area, **Fillmore County** – Bluff Country Studio Art Tour
- May 1, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Sharon and I met with Sheila Dickinson, curator of the Mayo Clinic art collection
- May 1, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Griot Arts pop-up show for downtown Rochester art crawl
- May 8, Winona, **Winona County** – Erik Jon Olson artist talk at Minnesota Marine Art Museum
- May 9, Chatfield, **Fillmore/Olmsted Counties** – met with Sue Pariseau, potter and potential SEMAC Board member

Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- May e-newsletter sent to 1,259 recipients (58% opens)
- Updated and developed new print pieces – poster, rack card, flyer, service handout
- Updating website – home page banner, as well as navigation and content

Other:

- Met with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel Non-profits
- Planning for June grant workshops for individual artists and culture bearers (June 2, Lake City Area Arts; June 5, Austin ArtWorks; June 25, Zoom step-by-step)
- April 10 – met with Michele Anderson, Rural Director, Springboard for the Arts, Fergus Falls
- April 14 - 18 – vacation
- April 29 – Sharon’s 5- month review
- May 6 – SEMAC Executive Committee Meeting
- May 6 – Met with Bill Kalmes, auditor
- May 7 – attended AFTA national webinar on NEA grant cancellations