



MINUTES
Grant Review Session II
Thursday, 4 September 2025, via Zoom

PANELISTS PRESENT: Ben Downs, Rene Halasy, Spencer Johannes, Vivian Lark, Kallianne Morrison, Tali Nyala, Samantha Whipple

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

9:00am Ms. Shartin, Executive Director, called the meeting to order by welcoming the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel and representatives of the Southeastern Minnesota arts community who came to observe our process.

Audience members included applicants Robert Armstrong, Asuka Kakitani, Dirk Nelson, and Pois Peterson.

The Chair outlined the Grant Review procedure as follows.

Welcome to SEMAC's Grant Review Panel Meeting. Thank you in advance for your patience over any technical issues we may have. As a reminder, observers must keep their microphones and video off. If anyone disrupts the meeting, I will kick that person out of the meeting.

Today we will be reviewing a total of 17 grant applications. Panelists will discuss each for 6 minutes. Karen will give us a warning when there is one minute remaining. About half-way through the list, we will take a 10-minute break.

The merit of an application will be discussed considering only the written proposal and submitted materials, and all comments will be focused on the three review criteria only. The review criteria are:

- 1) Artistic merit and quality of the project;
- 2) Demand or need for the project by the applicant or by the constituents served;
- 3) Ability of the applicant to accomplish the project they describe.

Any comments or questions during the discussion period must be tied to one of the three criteria, stating the criterion before making comments. Comments may be opinionated, but please choose your words carefully to provide constructive criticism to help applicants improve their future projects and proposals.

Do not compare proposals. Each application must be reviewed on its own merits. And do not bring outside information into the discussion, which should be focused on the contents of the application.

Each panelist will submit their final scores through the online grant interface within 30 minutes after the meeting has ended. Scores will be given in each of the three review criteria by assigning numbers from 5 to 1, with 5 being excellent, 4 very good, 3 good, 2 fair, and 1 poor.

Once final scores are submitted, staff will weight each of the raw numbers by multiplying them by the following factors: artistic merit and quality is multiplied by 3; demand or need is multiplied by 2; and ability is multiplied by 1 (remains the same). Staff will then add the total number of points for each proposal and divide that number by the number of panelists scoring the application. The list will be sorted from highest average score to lowest average score. Starting at the top of the list, staff will prepare a final list of proposals based on funding available and present this to the Board at the September 9, 2025 meeting for their approval. Awards will be announced on September 10, 2025.

Do not discuss the application outside of this forum until after the awards have been announced.

If there are no questions, we are ready to begin. I will introduce each application and then open the timed 6-minute discussion of the review criterion. Prior to each discussion, I will ask if anyone on the panel has a conflict of interest with that application. If you do, you will be sent to a breakout room for the duration of the discussion.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST & CULTURE BEARER GRANTS

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
Anne George	Winona	\$6,000	Morrison
Asuka Kakitani	Rice	\$6,000	
Daniel Kallman	Rice	\$6,000	
Patrick Lichty	Winona	\$5,905	Morrison
Sue Mundy	Wabasha	\$5,000	
Dirk Nelson	Winona	\$5,975	
John Paulson	Winona	\$6,000	
Lois Peterson	Winona	\$6,000	
Linda Rossi	Rice	\$6,000	
Jacob Schlichter	Freeborn	\$6,000	
Jodi Skurdahl	Olmsted	\$5,235	
Savannah Tines	Olmsted	\$6,000	
Lisa Truax	Winona	\$6,000	Morrison
Andrea Turini	Rice	\$5,100	
Mar Valdecantos	Rice	\$5,000	
Andrew Wykes	Rice	\$6,000	
Tianyao Xie	Olmsted	\$6,000	

The grant review adjourned at 10:45am.