



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 9 September 2025, via Zoom

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjel Alkire

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

1:31pm Dir. Hardy, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

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

President's Report

- Materials from the Freeborn County Arts Initiative appeal are now distributed to the full board from the Executive Committee.
- The review of General Operating Support applications is coming up. Volunteer reviewers include Rob Hardy, Tony Boldt, Steve Dietz, Melissa Wray, and Amy Wightkin splitting with Sophia Chai. Applications will be available to reviewers on September 18, in preparation for presentation to the November board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for FY2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Grants Committee Report

- Over the next few months, the committee will be discussing details of the General Operating Support program.
- Guidelines about funding programming as religious expression/socialization will also be reviewed.

Monitoring Reports

- Dir. Hardy attended the capstone event of advancing artist grantee JC Sanford. His report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.
- Dir. Stinson attended the Ye Olde Opera House capstone event. Her report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.
- ED Shartin attended nine capstone events in July and August. Her reports will become part of the permanent record for those grants.
- Outreach & Accessibility Manager Mansur attended eight capstone events in July and August. Her reports will become part of the permanent record for those grants.

New Business

- Approval of Individual Artist & Culture Bearer Grants *

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
27.86	Asuka Kakitani	Rice	\$6,000	
27.83	Gao Hong	Rice	\$6,000	
27.83	Jessalyn Finch	Olmsted	\$6,000	
27.71	Andrea Turini	Rice	\$6,000	
27.57	Sue Mundy	Wabasha	\$5,000	
26.83	Liz Bucheit	Fillmore	\$6,000	Wray
26.33	Terri Allred	Olmsted	\$4,000	
26.29	Lois Peterson	Winona	\$6,000	
26.00	Spencer Johannes	Olmsted	\$3,650	Wightkin
26.00	John Paulson	Winona	\$6,000	
25.83	Robert Armstrong	Winona	\$6,000	
25.83	Susanne Crane	Freeborn	\$6,000	
25.83	Charles Kernler	Winona	\$4,000	
25.71	Linda Rossi	Rice	\$6,000	

Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$76,650 in full funding to the 14 individual artists and culture bearers that scored 25.71 and higher in this category. Motion passed with two abstentions.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	0
Fillmore	1	\$6,000
Freeborn	1	\$6,000
Goodhue	0	0
Houston	0	0
Mower	0	0
Olmsted	3	\$13,650
Rice	4	\$24,000
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	1	\$5,000

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Winona	4	\$22,000
	14	\$76,650

- Resolution to Approve the Charitable Organization Annual Report
Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to approve the Charitable Organization Annual Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- Board Candidate Alejandro Castanon (résumé attached)
Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Boldt seconded the appointment of Alejandro Castanon as the Freeborn County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.
- Board Candidate Marcia Ratliff (résumé attached)
Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the appointment of Marcia Ratliff as the Winona County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.
- Panel Candidate Maggie Sather (résumé attached)
Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Maggie Sather as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.
- Proposal to Postpone Rural Arts Grant Program to FY2027
Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Wray seconded the motion to postpone the Rural Arts Grant Program to FY2027, thus adding \$25,000 to the organizational grants budget and putting the remainder toward bolstering the launch. Motion passed unanimously.

The board went into executive session to discuss the appeal filed by Freeborn County Arts Initiative.

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

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:59pm.

- * After an error was found in reporting of the grant amount for Andrea Turini, an email poll to increase funding of Individual Artists from \$75,750 to \$76,650 was taken on 9/25/2025 from directors who attended the meeting on 9/9/2025. **Updated motion passed unanimously.** Dollar amounts expressed in this document have been updated to reflect the correct funding.