



MINUTES – GROUP II Grant Review Meeting

Wednesday, 5 November 2025, via Zoom

PANELISTS PRESENT: Rene Halasz, Spencer Johannes, Eileen Moeller, Tali Nyala, Mike Speck

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Desmond Anabrang

1:00pm 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 Janet Behrans, Rochester International Film Group; Julie Fakler, Paradise Center for the Arts; Roxanne Thompson, Quilters Therapy; Emily Foos and Heather Lawrenz, Red Wing Arts; Michael Paulsen, Northfield Youth Choirs; Anna Clift, International Cello Institute; M Nelson; and Newton Holland.

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 25 grant applications. Panelists will discuss each for 6 minutes. After 3 minutes a reminder alarm will sound. 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 November 10, 2025, meeting for their approval. Awards will be announced on November 12, 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.

APPLICANTS FOR REVIEW

Organizational Grants Fall 2025

Applicant	County	Request	Recused
International Cello Institute	Rice	\$11,000	
International Owl Center	Houston	\$6,000	
Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools	Dodge	\$6,000	
Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$6,695	
Lanesboro Barn Dance	Houston	\$5,170	
Lanesboro Community Theatre	Fillmore	\$7,425	
Mantorville Art Guild	Dodge	\$11,000	
Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$11,000	
Northfield Public Library	Rice	\$9,540	
Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$4,555	
Northfield Youth Choirs	Rice	\$4,125	
Olmsted County	Olmsted	\$6,000	
Owatonna Symphony Orchestra	Steele	\$6,930	
Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$11,000	
Peterson Committee for the Arts	Fillmore	\$11,000	
Plainview-Elgin-Millville Com Schools	Wabasha	\$4,470	
Quilters Therapy	Fillmore	\$7,465	
Red Wing Arts	Goodhue	\$11,000	
Rochester Art Center	Olmsted	\$10,000	
Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,200	

Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$11,000	
Rochester Community & Technical College	Olmsted	\$5,455	
Rochester Community Band	Olmsted	\$6,000	
Rochester International Film Group	Olmsted	\$6,000	
Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$8,000	

The grant review adjourned at 11:30am.