



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 20 August 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andi Arnold, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

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10:00am Dir. Alkire, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, with no treasurer's report this month. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the minutes from the 16 June 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Dir. Alkire opened a discussion of upcoming votes that affect arts funding in Minnesota.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.
- Request that board meetings be switched to the second Tuesday of the month.

Needs Assessment Committee Report

- September 9 is the goal date to distribute the final version of the SEMAC needs assessment survey. The plan is to leave the survey open until October 31, then analyze the results throughout November.

New Business

- Grants Committee recommended a new Confidentiality Policy (see page 3). This policy will be included with the annual board documents to be released after this meeting.
- New Hire Update. September 24 and 26 reserved for in-person interviews and all board members are invited to participate in the process.
- School Residency Grants

- Dir. Chai and Dir. Hardy have volunteered to serve on the Board Review Committee for School Residency Grants.
- Since the last board meeting, the committee authorized a \$3,000 School Residency Grant to Riverside Central Elementary School in Rochester for *Creating Community Through Puppetry* (capstone event 3/13/2025)
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Riverside Central Elementary School. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 11:16am.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY**

Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council

Any information about SEMAC and its applicants, grantees, directors, and panelists, and personal information about employees or other confidential information obtained by board, staff, and consultants as a result of working with SEMAC should be considered confidential and should be discussed only as appropriately required in connection with SEMAC's work. All information concerning an applicant, grantee, director, panelist, or other confidential information must be maintained in confidence, and particular care must be taken to avoid discussion of SEMAC affairs with third parties, unless authorization to do so is obtained from the executive director, or as required by law.

All files, documents, and working papers of SEMAC are the property of SEMAC. Any board member, staff member, or consultant who purposely, or through a failure to exercise reasonable care, causes confidential information to be disclosed will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. The obligation to keep information confidential continues after an employee, board member, or consultant ceases to be employed by or affiliated with SEMAC.

### **Personal Addresses**

It is the policy of SEMAC not to give out personal addresses or phone numbers of staff, directors, panelists, or applicants to outside persons. Anyone asking for personal information should be instructed to forward all calls, mailings, or invitations to the SEMAC office.

In signing this statement, I confirm that I have received a copy of the Confidentiality Policy and agree to abide by the guidelines set forth therein.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting August 20, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Continue to review eligibility requirements, guidelines, and disallowed expenses with Karen in an effort to streamline information about our grant programs on the website and to reflect this work in grant applications
- Individual Artist Grant applications are being reviewed by Arts Advisory Panel with Panel Review Meetings scheduled for September 10 and 11. We received 61 final applications representing 8 counties; 38 identify in at least one equity group (12 senior citizens, 10 LGBTQIA+, 9 BIPOC, 3 PWD, and 4 veterans); 18 are first-time applicants; and 19 were unfunded in January.
- July 1 and August 12 – Grants Committee Meetings

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- Hired second Economic Impact Survey Collector, Johanna Frisch, and continue to work with her and Taliesen Nyala to determine a schedule and to communicate with venues
- July 12 – Attended MSAB in-person meeting in Morris, MN
- August 13 – Attended McKnight Fellowship/FACM meeting via Zoom. Goal is to explore ways these groups can work together to expand awareness of our programs and further serve artists.

## Networking (June 15 – August 16, 2024):

- June 15 – Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – attended Art in the Park
- June 27 – Lake City, **Wabasha County** – tour of the city with Kjel Alkire
- July 10 – Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – attended Honoring Dakota Project’s Indigenous Artist Market
- July 13 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended opening of Griot Arts
- July 13 – Mantorville, **Dodge County** – attended opening of Larger Than Life Photo Display and celebration for Mantorville Art Guild purchasing their building
- July 23 – Owatonna, **Steele County** – met with Andi Arnold
- July 27 – Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – attended Red Wing Area Studio Tour with a focus on Anderson Center’s artist studios

## Communications:

- July and August e-newsletters sent to 1,203 recipients
- Exterior signage installed
- SEMAC general information poster printed, to be distributed to 62 venues

## Other:

- Weekly meetings with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Finalized agreement with Project FINE to provide translation services and grant coaching
- Working with medical insurance representative to explore our options
- Finalizing Worker’s Compensation Audit
- June 27 – met with Nancy Ariza, Springboard for the Arts, to explore ways we might work together with a focus on further serving SEMAC’s Individual Artist Grant recipients, Zoom
- July 9 – IDI Group Presentation with Aamera and Suzy, Zoom (follow up to June 11 training)
- July 10 – Met with Jennifer Hawkins from Southeastern Minnesota Technical College about the NorthStar Promise to coordinate informing our artist contacts
- July 16 – “Creating a Culture of Belonging”, SEMAC Board Training at the Olmsted County Historical Society
- July 22 – Posted new staff position, Outreach and Accessibility Manager
- July 30 – Attended Art of the Rural/100 Rural Women Farm Bill Panel, Zoom



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 17 September 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Sophia Chai, Rob Hardy, Kara Maloney

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjel Alkire, Andi Arnold, Steve Dietz, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

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10:04am ED Shartin called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of this meeting’s agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the minutes from the 20 August 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer’s Report

**Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of the Statement of Activities for July 2024 and Statement of Financial Position for August 2024. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director’s Report

- A link to the Needs Assessment Survey will be sent to Board; please complete the survey and forward the link to your contacts
- Received 24 applications for the new position; anyone from the Board is invited to participate in the interview process
- Draft timeline for the long-range planning process attached
- Complete ED report is attached

New Business

- Approval of Advancing Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.57	Judy Saye-Willis	Rice	\$5,000	
28.00	Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo	Rice	\$5,000	
27.86	Lane Powell	Fillmore	\$5,000	
27.33	Heidi Bacon	Goodhue	\$5,000	
25.83	Kathleen Hawkes	Winona	\$5,000	

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
25.50	Margaret Shaw Johnson	Winona	\$5,000	
25.33	Steve Harris	Fillmore	\$5,000	
25.33	Louis Epstein	Rice	\$5,000	
25.17	Kevin Dobbe	Olmsted	\$5,000	
25.00	Wendy Placko	Rice	\$5,000	
25.00	Susan Waughtal	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.20	Suzanne Szucs	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.00	Nathaniel Nelson	Olmsted	\$5,000	
23.83	Paul LeDuc	Fillmore	\$5,000	
23.83	Logan Johnson	Olmsted	\$5,000	
23.67	Cassandra Buck	Olmsted	\$5,000	

- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Judy Saye-Willis. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Cecilia Cornejo Sotelo. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Lane Powell. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Heidi Bacon. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kathleen Hawkes. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Margaret Shaw Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Steve Harris. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Louis Epstein. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kevin Dobbe. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Wendy Placko. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Susan Waughtal. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Suzanne Szucs. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Nathaniel Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Paul LeDuc. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Logan Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Cassandra Buck. Motion passed unanimously.**

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.00	Samantha Reiter-Johnson	Olmsted	\$3,000	
28.43	Peter Mutschler	Winona	\$3,000	
27.29	Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle	Rice	\$2,790	
27.25	Espoir DelMain	Wabasha	\$3,000	
27.13	Natasha Roozen	Goodhue	\$3,000	
26.43	Rocky Casillas Aguirre	Rice	\$3,000	
26.00	Jonny Weaver	Rice	\$3,000	
25.25	Kate Langlais	Rice	\$3,000	
25.25	Trina Brunk	Rice	\$3,000	
24.50	Stena Lieb	Fillmore	\$3,000	Maloney
24.00	Sarah Vanasse Miles	Olmsted	\$3,000	
24.00	Carla Gallina	Fillmore	\$3,000	
23.57	Julie Yost	Olmsted	\$3,000	
23.38	Rachel Pauli	Winona	\$3,000	

- **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Samantha Reiter-Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Peter Mutschler. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$2,790 to Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Espoir DelMain. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Natasha Roozen. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Rocky Casillas Aguirre. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Jonny Weaver. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Kate Langlais. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Trina Brunk. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Stena Lieb. Motion passed with one abstention.**
  - **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Sarah Vanasse Miles. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Carla Gallina. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Julie Yost. Motion passed unanimously.**
  - **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Rachel Pauli. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Approval of School Residency Grant

- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$1,275 to Plainview-Elgin-Millville High School. Motion passed unanimously.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 31 applicants representing six counties for a total of \$123,065 in funding. This includes one School Residency grant for \$1,275, sixteen Advancing Artist grants for \$80,000, and fourteen Emerging Artist grants for \$41,790.

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Dodge	0	0
Fillmore	5	\$21,000
Freeborn	0	0
Goodhue	2	\$8,000
Houston	0	0
Mower	0	0
Olmsted	9	\$39,000
Rice	9	\$34,790
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	2	\$4,275
Winona	4	\$16,000
	<b>31</b>	<b>\$123,065</b>

- **Board Candidate Tony Boldt (résumé attached)**  
**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Tony Boldt as the Dodge County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Board Candidate Amy Wightkin (résumé attached)**  
**Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Amy Wightkin as the Mower County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**

ED Shartin will contact Board members via e-mail to see if they are able to change the meeting time to 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. and available to change to meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. She will confirm any changes via email prior to the October meeting.

**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 11:17am.

## **Timeline for Strategic Planning and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** *Draft 9.13.24*

### **FY2025 – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (year two of biennium)**

October 31, 2024 – Deadline for Needs Assessment Survey

*January 2025 – Write biennial plan for FY 2026 and 2027 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027), including program updates and new initiatives reflective of Needs Assessment results*

January - March 2025 – Update grant guidelines on website based on reviews by KM and ADS, with input from Outreach and Accessibility Manager and Needs Assessment Survey findings

April 2025 – Begin process to identify facilitator for strategic planning

May 2025 – DEI training for Board, Staff, and Panelists (informed by Needs Assessment findings, as well as AFTA and Exposed Brick Theatre's reports)

By June 30, 2025 – Complete update/creation of SEMAC Policies and Procedures, and review of Bylaws

### **FY2026 – July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026 (year one of biennium)**

By July 1, 2025 – Finalize contract with facilitator for strategic planning

July 2025 – IDI training for new Board, staff, and panel members

August - December 2025 – Strategic planning and review of Mission, Vision, Goals with Board; potentially to be integrated with and/or kicked off with DEI training

January - March 2026 – Update website, grant program information, communications, etc. to reflect strategic planning and revision of Mission, Vision, and Goals; determine need and timing for new logo (i.e. in FY27 or as part of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration/new website?)

### **FY2027 – July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 (year two of biennium)**

September/October 2026 – Conduct Needs Assessment (?)

Fall 2026 – DEI training for Board, Staff, and Panelists

By September 1, 2026 – Recruit someone to create new website

*January 2027 – Write biennial plan for FY 2028 and 2029 (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029), including plans to celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, updated mission/vision/goals, program updates, and new initiatives*

April 1, 2027 – Finalize communications plan for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

June 1, 2027 – Finalize and complete testing of new website

### **FY2028 – July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028 (year one of biennium) – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting September 17, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Continued to review eligibility requirements, guidelines, and disallowed expenses with Karen to streamline information about our grant programs on the website and to reflect this work in grant applications
- September 1 – opened application for organizational grants (LOI deadline October 1)
- September 9 – Grants Committee meeting
- September 10 and 11 – conducted review panels for Individual Artist Grants, resulting in 30 applications recommended for funding for a total of \$121,790.

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- Over 200 Economic Impact Surveys collected to date by Johanna Frisch and Taliesen Nyala (goal of 400 by the end of the year)
- September 6 – attended FACM meeting (Zoom)
- September 12 – observed MSAB meeting (Zoom)

## Networking (August 17 – September 13, 2024):

- August 17 – Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – attended reception for Lois Peterson exhibit
- August 21 – Winona, **Winona County** – met with Sharon Mansur
- August 22 – Winona, **Winona County** – attended reception for Jamie Schwaba exhibit
- August 24 – Winona, **Winona County** – attended artist talk by Judy Onofrio at MMAM
- August 26 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Mary Beth Magyar
- August 28 – Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – attended artist in residence capstone event with poet Hawona Sullivan Janzen
- September 5 – Winona, **Winona County** – met with Sarah Johnson, Joy Labs
- September 5 – Winona, **Winona County** – Facilitated Artist Development Workshop, “Putting Value on Your Work” with presenters Ann Plummer and Jovy Rockey, at Winona Arts Center

## Communications:

- September e-newsletter sent to 1,202 recipients
- Direct e-mail re: organizational grant writing workshops sent to 342 contacts
- SEMAC general information poster mailed to 62 venues
- Initiated first ad buy on FB promoting SEMAC generally and including workshops

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Completed Worker’s Compensation Audit
- Finalized health insurance plan option
- Finalized Needs Assessment Survey
- August 22 – Attended Propel training, “Empowering Effective Decision-Making on Non-profit Boards” (Zoom)
- September 5 – Executive Committee meeting
- September 10 – Attended webinar presented by Grantmakers in the Arts, “Show me the Money: An Introduction to Finance Documents for Arts Funders”
- September 12 and 13 – conducted initial interviews with several candidates for Outreach and Accessibility Manager position (Zoom)



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 15 October 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Sophia Chai, Kara Maloney

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller, Jacque VanRavenhorst

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1:32pm Dir. Marin, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order and started introductions for the benefit of two new directors.

*Approval of the Agenda*

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Dietz seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

*Approval of the Minutes*

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Hardy seconded approval of the minutes from the 17 September 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

*Communications Manager Report*

- See attached report of social media activity for the period July 1 through October 1

*Treasurer's Report*

**Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Swanson seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report through September 2024. Motion passed unanimously.**

*Executive Director's Report*

- See attached.

*Monitoring Report*

- Panelist Kali Morrison attended the capstone event of advancing artist grantee Nikki Havekost. Her report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.

*New Business*

- Grants Committee Update
  - Questions about originality
  - What do we consider excessive entry fees
  - Restrict religious socialization versus promotion of religious beliefs

- Proposed grants calendar
- General Operating Support will be next focus
- Board Candidate Laurel Stinson (résumé attached)  
**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Boldt seconded the appointment of Laurel Stinson as the Goodhue County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Panel Candidate Samantha Whipple (résumé attached)
- **Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the appointment of Samantha Whipple as a Theatre Panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Panel Candidate Samantha Reiter-Johnson (résumé attached)  
**Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the appointment of Samantha Reiter-Johnson as a Visual Arts Panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting October 15, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Continued to review eligibility requirements, guidelines, and disallowed expenses with Karen
- September 17 – Offered Organizational Grant Writing Workshop, in person, 10 attended
- September 23 – Offered Org Grant Writing Workshop, via Zoom, 20 registered, 8 attended
- October 7 – Grants Committee meeting
- Organizational Grants October deadline – 74 applications received; all 11 counties represented

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- 264 Economic Impact Surveys collected to date by Johanna Frisch and Taliesen Nyala, including 85 from BIPOC events (goal of 400 total by the end of the year, including 80 BIPOC)
- September 27 – FRACM Policy Manual Committee Meeting (Zoom)
- October 2-4 –FRACM in-person retreat at ARC Retreat Community, Stanchfield, MN
- October 10 – presented on SEMAC at MSAB meeting (Zoom)

## Networking (September 14 – October 11, 2024):

- September 14 – Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – He Mni Can Wacipi Education session at Red Wing High School, Minnesota Children’s Book Festival at Anderson Center, and Hispanic Heritage Festival presented by Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County
- September 15 – Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – History Alive’s “Time for Women, 150 Years of Leadership”
- September 19 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – DMC’s Annual Meeting at which Sophia Chai spoke
- September 20 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Andi Sutton, ED, Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, University of Minnesota Extension
- September 20 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Griot Arts open mic poetry event
- September 22 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Absolute Theatre’s “Calendar Girls” at the Chateau Theatre
- September 30 – Owatonna, **Steele County** – met with Andi Arnold and community leader/arts advocate/former teacher Beverly Cashman
- October 4 – Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association gala
- October 8 – Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – met with Laurel Stinson, Residency and Advancement Director, Anderson Center (potential Goodhue County Board representative)
- October 11 – Winona, **Winona County** – Sandbar Storytelling Festival

## Communications:

- October e-newsletter sent to 1,221 recipients
- E-mail re Needs Assessment Survey sent to 1,210 contacts (90 surveys completed as of 10/8)

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- September 18 – IDI Stage Appropriate Training for Panel and Board by Aamera Siddiqui and Suzy Messerole of Exposed Brick Theatre
- September 18 – Attended CA for the Arts webinar, Advocacy and Public Policy for Arts and Health Initiatives
- September 26 – with Kara Maloney, conducted in-person interviews with several candidates for Outreach and Accessibility Manager position
- September 26 – attended Honoring Dakota Project’s online community conversation with teens
- October 8 – 14 – calls with references for new hire candidates



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 19 November 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller, Sharon Mansur

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1:33pm Dir. Alkire, Board President, called the meeting to order and started introductions.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Marin seconded approval of the minutes from the 15 October 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report through October 2024. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- After having served several terms with SEMAC, Dir. Alkire announced that he will step back from the president's position due to starting a new job, and will rotate off the board at the end of his term.

Executive Director's Report

- See attached. Update on Audience Survey - 400 total.

New Business

- Approval of School Residency Grant  
**Dir Swanson moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Lake City Public Schools for *Beatboxing Saxophone Artist* (score 26.67). Motion passed with one abstention. (capstone concert 3/7/2025 at 7:30pm, Lincoln Jr/Sr High School)**
- Approval of Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.00	Chatfield Brass Band	Fillmore	\$5,000	
28.00	Root River Current	Fillmore	\$5,000	Maloney
28.00	Southeast MN Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$5,000	
27.33	Lanesboro Barn Dance	Houston	\$5,000	
26.67	City of Whalan	Fillmore	\$5,000	
26.33	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$5,000	
26.33	Wits' End Theatre	Fillmore	\$5,000	
23.67	Wabasha County Fair	Wabasha	\$2,400	
21.50	Kasson-Mantorville Community Education	Dodge	\$5,000	

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Chatfield Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Root River Current. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast MN Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Lanesboro Barn Dance. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to City of Whalan. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Wits' End Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$2,400 to Wabasha County Fair. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Kasson-Mantorville Community Education. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- Approval of Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.57	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
27.86	Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
27.33	Rochester International Film Group	Olmsted	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
25.71	Little Theatre of Owatonna	Steele	\$5,000	Arnold, Wightkin
25.43	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$3,565	Arnold, Wightkin
24.86	Bluff Country Studio Art Tour	Winona	\$5,000	Maloney, Swanson, Wightkin
24.43	Austin Community Band	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.29	Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.00	Hometown Opera Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
23.43	Rochester Community Band	Olmsted	\$5,000	Boldt, Wightkin
23.00	Zumbrota Area Arts Council	Goodhue	\$5,000	Wightkin

- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Frozen River Film Festival. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Male Chorus. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester International Film Group. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Little Theatre of Owatonna. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,565 to Rochester Repertory Theatre Company. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Bluff Country Studio Art Tour. Motion passed with three abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Austin Community Band. Motion passed with one abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Chamber Music Society. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Hometown Opera Company. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Community Band. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Zumbrota Area Arts Council. Motion passed with one abstention.

- Approval of Legacy Grants for Non-Arts Groups

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
27.29	Winona ORC Industries	Winona	\$5,000	Wightkin
27.14	Healthy Community Initiative	Rice	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.80	Engage Winona	Winona	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.43	Southeast Service Cooperative	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.00	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Fillmore	\$5,000	Wightkin
26.00	International Owl Center	Houston	\$5,000	Wightkin
25.83	Hiddo Soor	Steele	\$5,000	Wightkin
25.29	Steele County Historical Society	Steele	\$2,190	Wightkin
25.20	Autism Resource Guide	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.83	Cambodian American Partnership of MN	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
24.71	Welcome Center	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin

- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Winona ORC Industries. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Healthy Community Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Engage Winona. Motion passed with one abstention.

- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast Service Cooperative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to International Owl Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Hiddo Soor. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the motion to award \$2,190 to Steele County Historical Society. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Autism Resource Guide. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Cambodian American Partnership of MN. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Welcome Center. Motion passed with one abstention.**

- **Approval of Legacy Grants for Arts Organizations**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recused</b>
28.40	Rochester Art Center	Olmsted	\$10,000	
28.00	Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	
27.67	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.00	Choral Arts Ensemble	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.00	Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$10,000	
27.00	Summerset Community Theatre	Mower	\$10,000	
26.80	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$10,000	
26.60	Big Turn	Goodhue	\$10,000	
26.60	Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	\$10,000	Marin
26.25	Rochester Symphony	Olmsted	\$10,000	
26.00	Great River Shakespeare Festival	Winona	\$10,000	
26.00	Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$10,000	
26.00	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$10,000	Swanson
26.00	Widespot Performing Arts Center	Wabasha	\$10,000	
25.60	Austin Area Arts	Mower	\$10,000	Wightkin
25.60	Bridge Chamber Music Festival	Rice	\$7,275	
25.60	Med City Arts Festival	Olmsted	\$10,000	
25.50	Vintage Band Festival	Rice	\$10,000	
25.40	City of Peterson Committee for the Arts	Fillmore	\$10,000	
24.80	Austin Culture & Arts Commission	Mower	\$10,000	
24.75	Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative	Olmsted	\$10,000	
24.75	Sheldon Theatre Brass Band	Goodhue	\$10,000	
24.60	Red Wing Arts	Goodhue	\$10,000	

- **Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Art Center. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Civic Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Choral Arts Ensemble. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Paradise Center for the Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Summerset Community Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Big Turn. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Freeborn County Arts Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Symphony. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Great River Shakespeare Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mantorville Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Widespot Performing Arts Center. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Area Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Dir. Marin/Hardy moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$7,275 to Bridge Chamber Music Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Wightkin/Chai moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Med City Arts Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin/Maloney moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Vintage Band Festival. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire/Marin moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to City of Peterson Committee for the Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Wightkin/Marin moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Culture & Arts Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Marin/Chai moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Gallery 24 Artists Collaborative. Motion passed unanimously.
- Dir. Alkire/Arnold moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sheldon Theatre Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Dir. Alkire/Hardy moved and Dir. X seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Red Wing Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 55 applicants representing eleven counties for a total of \$378,430 in funding. This includes one School Residency grant for \$3,000, 34 Legacy grants for \$279,465, eleven Programming grants for \$53,565, and nine Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$42,400.

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Dodge	2	\$15,000
Fillmore	6	\$35,000
Freeborn	1	\$10,000
Goodhue	5	\$45,000
Houston	3	\$15,000
Mower	5	\$40,000
Olmsted	15	\$103,565
Rice	5	\$42,275
Steele	3	\$12,190
Wabasha	4	\$24,000
Winona	6	\$40,000
	<b>55</b>	<b>\$378,430</b>

- Board Candidate Melissa Wray  
**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the appointment of Melissa Wray as the Houston County representative to the SEMAC Board of Directors. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Formation of JEDI Committee (justice equity diversity inclusion)  
Anyone interested in serving one hour per month with ED Shartin, Dir. Wightkin and Dir. Chai.
- Mid-Term Executive Committee Changes  
**Dir. Maloney moved and Dir. Boldt seconded appointment of Dir. Marin, president, Dir. Hardy vice president, and Dir. Arnold treasurer, to act as the executive committee of the SEMAC Board of Directors to serve until June 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Upcoming Board Meetings 1:30-3:00 SECOND TUESDAY

**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting November 19, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Organizational Grants October deadline – 56 final applications reviewed; panel meetings held via Zoom on November 13 and 14
- Decided to eliminate LOI for Individual Artist Grants, starting with January round

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- 335 Economic Impact Surveys collected to date by Johanna Frisch and Taliesen Nyala, including 85 from BIPOC events (goal of 400 total by the end of the year, including 80 BIPOC)
- October 29 – Submitted McKnight Final Report for FY2024
- November 1 – FRACM meeting (Zoom)
- November 6 – Submitted MSAB Final Report for FY2024
- November 14 – MSAB meeting (Zoom)
- November 14 – MCA Post-Election 2024 Webinar

## Networking (October 12 – November 15, 2024):

- October 14, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Indigenous People’s Day Celebration in Peace Plaza
- October 25, Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – McKnight Fellowship Information Session and visited Lanesboro Arts to see exhibition installation in progress for “Embodied Multiplicity: Group Exhibition from Lanesboro BIPOC Artists-in-Residence”
- November 4, Zoom – Ash Hanson, ED, Department of Public Transformation
- November 12, Faribault, **Rice County** – met with Ibrahim Khalif, ED, Faribault Youth Empowerment Center and stopped in to see Julie Fakler, ED, Paradise Center for the Arts
- November 13, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – Rochester Art Center annual meeting
- November 15, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Matthew Winkler, artist

## Communications:

- November e-newsletter sent to 1,192 recipients
- Contracted with Kallie Rollenhagen, photographer, to capture high quality photos and video clips of six SEMAC funded capstone events to supplement Jacque’s geographic reach

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Hired Outreach and Accessibility Manager
- Needs Assessment Survey closed October 31 with a total of 223 submitted
- October 25 – attended Exposed Brick Theatre’s, *Log Kya Kahenge (What Will People Say?)* at Lyric Arts, Anoka, MN
- October 28 – met with Lisa Higgs regarding her proposal for a Rochester Cultural Plan
- October 29 – attended meeting at UM Rochester re: “Pathways to Prosperity”, a study by University of Minnesota Extension Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership and Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
- October 30 – attended GIA webinar on Capitalization and Non-profit Health
- November 5 – Executive Committee meeting
- November 12 – attended “Beyond the Clock” event hosted by Department of Public Transformation (Zoom)



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 17 December 2024, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjel Alkire, Laurel Stinson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller, Jacque VanRavenhorst

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1:44pm Dir. Marin, Board President, called the meeting to order.

*Approval of the Agenda*

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

*Approval of the Minutes*

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Swanson seconded approval of the minutes from the 19 November 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

*Executive Director's Report*

- See attached.

*Grants Committee Report*

- ED Shartin described current discussion points at the Grants Committee, including equity in the application process and discouraging excessive fees to artists by hosting organizations. General Operating Support is the next major subject to be examined. All board members are invited to attend the next committee meeting (January 6, 2025 at 10am).

*New Business*

- AFTA Economic Impact Survey Report  
ED Shartin highlighted the continued progress of survey collection by Johanna Frisch and Taliesin Nyala. Dir. Marin commended them for achieving such an impressive number of responses.
- Needs Assessment Survey Report  
See presentation by Jacque VanRavenhorst at the following link.  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1kpR4Xgr9FsmVbBOZxgRp-WlwfsW-S6EDliq7prLRW1E/edit?usp=sharing>

**Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting December 17, 2024

## Grantmaking:

- Continued work with Karen on grant eligibility and rules
- December 2 – Grants Committee Meeting

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- AFTA Economic Impact Survey collection completed with a total of 402 surveys
- October 29 – Submitted McKnight Final Report for FY2024
- November 20 – FACM Policy Manual Meeting
- December 3 – Biennial Plan “Deep Dive” with Sue Gens
- December 5 – 6 – FACM meeting (Alexandria, MN)
- December 11 – met via Zoom with Annick Dall-Desbois, Outreach and Accessibility Coordinator for MSAB, and Sharon about program MSAB is planning in Owatonna/Rice County

## Regional Networking (November 16 – December 13, 2024):

- December 2, Rochester, **Olmsted County** –met with Omar Nur, Somali American Social Service Association
- December 7, Winona, **Winona County** – attended the Driftless Dance Film Tour, curated by Sydney Swanson
- December 11, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Simon Huelsbeck, artist and art instructor at RCTC
- December 12, Austin, **Mower County** – met with Angela Sedgwick Perry, ED Matchbox Children’s Theatre
- December 12, Austin, **Mower County** – met with Tom Robbins, ED Austin ArtWorks
- December 12, Austin, **Mower County** – met with Jon Kittleson, artist

## Communications:

- December e-newsletter sent to 1,179 recipients

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- On-boarded Sharon Mansur, Outreach and Accessibility Manager
- Needs Assessment Survey – worked with Jacque as she prepared the report and organized staff meeting with Elisha Marin where she presented the report to be shared with the Board
- November 22 – Met with Andi Sutton, ED Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, and Anna Pollock, ED Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 14 January 2025, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell Alkire, Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller

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

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Boldt seconded approval of the minutes from the 17 December 2024 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Presentation

- "Pathways to Prosperity," Andi Sutton, ED, Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership
- Link to the full report and appendices: <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/268280>

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

New Business

- Biennial Plan Process
  - Includes points from Grants Committee Report
  - Plan submission target date April 1/April 8
- Panel Candidate Mike Speck (résumé attached)  
**Dir. Wightkin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Mike Speck as a theatre panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting January 14, 2025

## Grantmaking:

- Individual Artist Grant application opened December 28 (January 28 deadline)
- January 6 – Grants Committee Meeting
- January 9 – Individual Artist Grant Writing Workshop (with Sharon) Zoom and recording distributed; 28 registrations

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- January 4 – 7 – met twice with Sue Gens, ED MSAB, and corresponded via e-mail regarding anonymous e-mail received January 3
- January 8 – FACM Policy Manual Meeting
- January 9 – MSAB Board Meeting (Zoom)
- January 10 – FACM Meeting (Zoom)

## Regional Networking (December 14, 2024 – January 10, 2025):

- December 16, Winona, **Winona County** – met with Mike Speck, panel applicant
- December 18, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Mary Beth Magyar, artist
- December 18, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Sara Grover, Project Outdoors, based in Wabasha County
- December 19, Lanesboro, **Fillmore County (Zoom)** – met with John Torgrimson, Co-founder/Editor, Root River Current
- January 4, Lanesboro, **Fillmore County** – attended capstone event for Lanesboro Arts Rural Arts Production Training Program

## Communications:

- January e-newsletter sent to 1,179 recipients

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Worked with Sharon to outline a 3-month, 6-month, and long-range work plan
- Began work on Biennial Plan
- January 10 – phone conversation with US Bank regarding short term investments to yield more interest income



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 11 February 2025, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Andi Arnold, Tony Boldt, Sophia Chai, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Jon Swanson, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Steve Dietz

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller

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1:34pm Dir. Marin, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Hardy seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded approval of the minutes from the 14 January 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Boldt seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for the months of December and January. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Grants Committee Report

- The committee discussed the impact that suspending the rule for individual artists to sit out one or two years between applications has had for SEMAC.

Monitoring Reports

- Dir. Hardy attended two capstone events for advancing artist grantees Stephanie Cox and Gao Hong. His reports will become part of the permanent record for those grants.

New Business

- Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Form  
Each director is encouraged to review their current conflict disclosure form and update it as appropriate.

- Arts Action Week – March 3-7  
Zoom meetings to be held throughout the week with an in-person rally and “meet your legislator” event on March 4.
- Update on Biennial Plan  
Our goal is to have the board approve a final draft of the preliminary plan at the March 11 board meeting. A Zoom discussion is planned for February 27.
- Panel Candidate Scott Roberts  
**Dir. Swanson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the appointment of Scott Roberts as a panel generalist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:40pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting February 11, 2025

## Grantmaking:

- Individual Artist Grant application closed January 28; reviewed all applications for project eligibility; 66 began applications; 46 submitted; 43 advanced to Panel review
- January 18 – Grant workshop with MSAB at Owatonna Art Center
- January 29 – Pre-panel Review Meeting to share Needs Assessment feedback re panel review process and to present revised plan for panel meeting process
- February 3 – Grants Committee Meeting

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- January 31 – FACM Executive Committee Meeting
- February 7 – FACM Board Meeting

## Regional Networking (January 11 – February 7, 2025):

- January 16, Northfield, **Rice County** – attended capstone event for Stephanie Cox at Northfield Public Library
- January 17, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Mary Beth Magyar, artist
- January 24, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended reception for Tierney Parker’s exhibit at Griot Arts
- February 7, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – met with Rene Halsey from RNeighbors

## Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- February e-newsletter sent to 1,245 recipients
- February 6 – review of SEMAC website with Jacque and staff

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel for Non-profits
- Continued work on Biennial Plan
- January 16 – Conversation with Alycia Overbo, Supervisor for the Communications & Strategic Initiatives Unit at Minnesota Department of Health who also is part of the Clean Water Communicators group
- January 20 – Initial meeting of SEMAC’s JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Committee
- January 23 – Sharon and I met with Nancy Ariza at Springboard for the Arts about contracting with them to present Artist Development Workshops
- January 27 – Sharon and I met with Aamera Siddiqui and Suzy Messerole to plan DEI and IDI trainings for Board and Panel at end of FY25 and early FY26
- January 29 – Met with Scott Roberts, who applied to join the Arts Advisory Panel
- February 3 – Staff met with Aamera Siddiqui and Suzy Messerole re FACM Statewide DEI Survey funded by FACM



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 11 March 2025, via Zoom*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Andi Arnold, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Elisha Marin, Laurel Stinson, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Tony Boldt, Jon Swanson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller

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1:32pm Dir. Marin, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, with no president's report. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Hardy seconded approval of the minutes from the 11 February 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed with one abstention.**

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Monitoring Reports

- Dir. Stinson attended the capstone event for Big Turn Music Fest. Her report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.
- Dir. Hardy attended the capstone event for Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle. His report will become part of the permanent record for that grant.

Ongoing Grant

- Since the last board meeting, ED Shartin approved a \$500 opportunity grant to Quilters Therapy in Fillmore County to pay artist expenses for their *Neighborhood Sewcial* scheduled for April 5, 2025.

Old Business

- Biennial Plan.  
**Dir. Dietz moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the 2026-2027 Biennial Plan. Motion passed unanimously.**
- The Individual Artist Grant Eligibility Policy was tabled to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business

- Approval of Advancing Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.00	Christopher Tazzell	Olmsted	\$5,000	
28.83	Dawn Mikkelson	Goodhue	\$5,000	
28.75	Ivete Martinez	Olmsted	\$5,000	
28.50	Martha Larson	Rice	\$5,000	
28.33	Annie Mack	Olmsted	\$5,000	Marin, Wray
28.20	Kate Bauman	Goodhue	\$5,000	
27.67	Kent McInnis	Rice	\$5,000	
27.00	David John Kassler	Olmsted	\$5,000	Wightkin
27.00	JC Sanford	Rice	\$5,000	
26.83	Barbara Schwenk	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.83	Shari Setchell	Rice	\$5,000	
26.80	Maggie Panetta	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.50	La Vonte Thompson	Winona	\$5,000	
25.80	Scott Roberts	Rice	\$5,000	
25.67	Mike Speck	Winona	\$5,000	
25.67	Paul Dice	Rice	\$5,000	
24.83	Roger Nelson	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.67	Benjamin Gateno	Olmsted	\$4,380	
24.67	Robbie Brokken	Fillmore	\$5,000	Marin

**Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Arnold seconded the motion to award \$94,380 in full funding to the 19 Advancing Artist applicants who scored 24.67 and higher. Motion passed with four abstentions.**

- Approval of Emerging Artist Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.83	Micaiah McNeilus	Fillmore	\$3,000	
28.33	Andrew Kranz	Winona	\$3,000	
27.17	Marlene Petersen	Olmsted	\$3,000	
27.00	Elizabeth Tevis	Winona	\$3,000	
26.50	Megan McCarthy	Winona	\$2,455	
26.33	Melissa Wray	Houston	\$3,000	Marin, Wray
25.67	Libby Schultz	Olmsted	\$3,000	
25.67	Lisa Becker	Winona	\$3,000	
24.83	Brian Johnson	Goodhue	\$3,000	
24.80	Rosei Skipper	Olmsted	\$3,000	
24.67	Nat Wilson	Rice	\$3,000	

**Dir. Arnold moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to award \$32,455 in full funding to the 11 Emerging Artist applicants who scored 24.67 and higher. Motion passed with two abstentions.**

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 31 applicants representing six counties for a total of \$127,335 in funding. This includes one opportunity grant for \$500, 11 emerging artist grants for \$94,380, and 19 advancing artist grants for \$32,455

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
Dodge	0	
Fillmore	3	\$8,500
Freeborn	0	
Goodhue	3	\$13,000
Houston	1	\$3,000
Mower	0	
Olmsted	11	\$48,380
Rice	7	\$33,000
Steele	0	
Wabasha	0	
Winona	6	\$21,455
	<b>31</b>	<b>\$127,335</b>

- Panel Candidate René Halasy  
**Dir. Hardy moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the appointment of René Halasy as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting March 11, 2025

## Grantmaking:

- February 26 – Step by step grant writing workshop for organizations
- March 3 – Grants Committee Meeting
- March 5 and 6 – Panel Review Meetings for the Individual Artists and Culture Bearers Grant

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- February 20 – Attended MCA webinar, Making Arguments for the Arts
- February 28 – FACM Executive Committee Meeting
- March 4 – Attended rally for Arts Advocacy Day at the Minnesota State Capitol
- March 7 – FACM Board Meeting

## Regional Networking (February 7 – March 7, 2025):

- February 7, Northfield, **Rice County** – attended capstone event for Andrew Mazariegos-Ovalle at Northfield Arts Guild
- February 10, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended capstone event for Suz Szucs and Cassandra Buck at 125 Live
- February 14, Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – met with Heidi Bacon, Executive Director, and Board members of the Artist Sanctuary
- February 15, Winona, **Winona County** – attended Frozen River Film Festival
- February 21, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended “When Artists Go to Work: A Dialogue” with Sophia Chai and Nicole Nfonoyim-Hara at Griots Arts
- February 27, Chatfield, **Fillmore County** – visited Rita and Paul LeDuc’s exhibit
- February 28, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended The Sound of Gospel at the Mayo Civic Center Presentation Hall
- March 6, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended reception for Kjellgren Alkire’s exhibit at RCTC

## Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- March e-newsletter sent to 1,256 recipients

## Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel Non-profits
- February 19 – attended Propel Non-profits webinar, Fundamentals of Non-profit Finance
- Continued work on Biennial Plan, including meeting with Board members on February 27



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 8 April 2025, via Zoom*

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Andi Arnold

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Sharon Mansur, Karen Miller

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1:30pm Dir. Marin, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded approval of the minutes from the 11 March 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- The July 8 Board of Directors Meeting will be held in-person in Rochester (location to be determined). Morning IDI session with Exposed Brick Theatre, followed by lunch, then the afternoon will be devoted to long range process. Sue Gens and Michael Charron of the State Arts Board will be invited.
- A second day-long in-person planning meeting will be scheduled for the fall. ED Shartin will poll all directors for availability.

Treasurer's Report

**Dir. Alkire moved and Dir. Swanson seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report through the end of March. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

Grants Committee Report

- The committee proposed that individual artist grantees sit out a minimum of one year before reapplying so that more individuals may benefit from SEMAC grants. **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Wray seconded approval of this policy. Motion passed unanimously.**

- The committee presented a proposal for board review of grant programs. After discussion, the idea was sent back to committee for reconsideration at the next board meeting.

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 3:08pm.

# Executive Director Report for Board Meeting April 8, 2025

## Grantmaking:

- Organizational Grant Application deadline March 30

## MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACM:

- March 13 – attended MSAB Board meeting (Zoom)
- April 1 – Preliminary Biennial Plan submitted to MSAB
- April 3 and 4 – FACM in-person meeting in St. Cloud

## Regional Networking (March 8 – April 7, 2025):

- March 8, Winona, **Winona County** – attended Theatre du Mississippi One Acts
- March 11, Winona, **Winona County** – attended Engage Winona’s annual report meeting
- March 20 – met with Matt Fluharty, Art of the Rural, at the SEMAC office
- March 20, Byron, **Olmsted County** – attended Rochester Community Band’s Spring concert
- April 4 and 5, Rochester, **Olmsted County** – attended two films of the Rochester International Film Festival
- April 5, Winona, **Winona County** – attended community conversation and meal organized by WSU’s Turtle Island Student Organization with support from Art of the Rural, Honoring Dakota Project, and Winona County Historical Society
- April 5, Caledonia, **Houston County** – attended opening reception for Houston County High School exhibit at Mainspring

## Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- April e-newsletter sent to 1,265 recipients

## Other:

- Met with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel Non-profits
- March 18 – Public Meeting for Biennial Plan with 11 attendees from 6 counties (Fillmore, Freeborn, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona)
- March 24 – attended Arrowhead Regional Arts Council’s public meeting (Zoom)
- March 26 – 31 – vacation
- April 1 – SEMAC Executive Committee Meeting



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

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjell 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

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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.

<b>County</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
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
	<b>52</b>	<b>\$345,985</b>

**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



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 10 June 2025, via Zoom*

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Steve Dietz

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller

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1:36pm Dir. Hardy, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

**Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Boldt seconded approval of the minutes from the 13 May 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Details of the July 8 In-Person Meeting were outlined by ED Shartin
- Authorization of Board and Panel Stipends  
**Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Wray seconded approval of continuing the SEMARC Stipend structure through June 2027. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Call for directors to review General Operating Support applications
- Election of Officers
  - **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Hardy seconded the motion to elect Laurel Stinson as Board Treasurer for FY2026. Motion passed with one abstention.**
  - **Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Wray seconded the motion to elect Amy Wightkin as Board Vice President for FY2026. Motion passed with one abstention.**
  - **Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to elect Rob Hardy as Board President for FY2026. Motion passed with one abstention.**
  - **Dir. Stinson moved and Dir. Marin seconded the motion to retain Sophia Chai as check signatory for FY2026. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report through the end of April 2025. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

- See attached.

New Business

- **Panel Candidate Andy Kranz**  
Dir. Wightkin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Andy Kranz as a panel generalist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Panel Candidate Spencer Johannes**  
Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Chai seconded the appointment of Spencer Johannes as a visual arts panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.

**Dir. Marin moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

## Executive Director Report for Board Meeting June 10, 2025

### Grantmaking:

- Finalized grant program details and calendar for FY2026
- Grant writing workshops co-presented with Sharon Mansur – June 2 at Lake City Area Arts (**Wabasha County**) and June 5 at Austin ArtWorks (**Mower County**)

### MSAB/McKnight/MCA/FACMN:

- May 30 – FACMN Executive Committee Meeting
- June 2 – Submitted final Biennial Plan with updated budget approved via e-mail by 8/10 Board members
- June 3 – FACMN/MSAB Liaison Committee
- June 6 – FACMN meeting

### Regional Networking (May 10 – June 6, 2025):

- May 15, Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – Our Relative Haha Wakpa event at Anderson Center at Tower View, organized by artist Margaret Pearce with Prairie Island Indian Community Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Anderson Center, and Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance
- May 16 – Andi Sutton, ED, Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership
- May 27, Red Wing, **Goodhue County** – met with Nicky Buck, Kim Lampe, and Jasmine Fiddler from Honoring Dakota Project

### Communications:

- Weekly check-ins with Sharon and Jacque
- June e-newsletter sent to 1,260 recipients (56% opens)
- Finalized and produced new print pieces – poster, rack card, flyer, service handout
- Updated Grants information and other menu items on website
- Prepared for Jacque’s maternity leave June 7 – August 11, returning part-time July 7 and with some work on the e-newsletter at the end of June

### Other:

- Met weekly with John Skillings, financial trainer with Propel Non-profits
- May 19 – 21 – personal leave
- June 2 – SEMAC Executive Committee Meeting
- June 4 – Springboard for the Arts webinar on Emergency Relief Fund