



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, 10 November 2025, via Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Alejandro Castañón, Sophia Chai, Steve Dietz, Rob Hardy, Marcia Ratliff, Amy Wightkin, Melissa Wray

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Tony Boldt, Laurel Stinson

STAFF PRESENT: Anastasia Shartin, Karen Miller, Desmond Anabrang

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

Approval of the Agenda

Dir. Wray 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. Wightkin seconded approval of the minutes from the 9 September 2025 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

President’s Report

- SEMAC has not received any communication from the Freeborn County Arts Initiative after we responded to their claims regarding nonpayment of FY2025 General Operating Support.
- New board reviewers will be needed for the second round of General Operating Support applications. Potential reviewers Ratliff, Wightkin, Chai and Castañón have agreed, and Dir. Stinson will be asked about her availability to review.

Treasurer’s Report

- **Dir. Ratliff moved and Dir. Castañón seconded approval of the Treasurer’s Report for the month of September. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director’s Report

- Dir. Alkire has resigned from the Board, effective immediately.
- See attached.

Monitoring Reports

- ED Shartin attended the capstone events for Friends of the Bohemian Brick Hall, Art of the Rural and individual artist Michael Speck. Her reports will become part of the permanent record for those grants.

- Outreach & Accessibility Manager Mansur attended three capstone events: individual artists Carla Galina and Julie Yost, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center, Winona ORC, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Her reports will become part of the permanent record for those grants.

New Business

- Approval of Artists & Culture Bearers in the Schools Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.00	Northfield Public Schools	1426SV	Rice	\$4,000	
25.60	Dover-Eyota Public Schools	1026SM	Olmsted	\$4,000	

- **Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$4,000 each to Dover-Eyota Public Schools and Northfield Public Schools. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Approval of General Operating Support Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.20	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	
29.20	Theatre du Mississippi	Winona	\$5,000	
28.80	Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	\$5,000	
28.20	Zumbrota State Theatre	Goodhue	\$5,000	
27.75	Austin Symphony Orchestra	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin
27.60	Winona Symphony Orchestra	Winona	\$5,000	
27.60	Sandbar Storytelling Festival	Winona	\$5,000	
27.50	Mainspring	Houston	\$5,000	Wray
27.00	Albert Lea Art Center	Freeborn	\$4,952	Castañón
27.00	Mantorville Art Guild	Dodge	\$5,000	
27.00	Northfield Youth Choirs	Rice	\$5,000	
27.00	Rochester Music Guild	Olmsted	\$5,000	
27.00	Sheldon Theatre Brass Band	Goodhue	\$5,000	
27.00	Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.80	Rochester Area Handbells	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.75	Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	\$5,000	Castañón
26.60	Winona Arts Center	Winona	\$5,000	
26.40	Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.40	Southeast MN Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$5,000	
26.25	Mantorville Theatre Company	Dodge	\$5,000	
26.20	River Arts Alliance	Winona	\$5,000	
25.80	Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble	Goodhue	\$5,000	
25.60	Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,000	
25.20	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$5,000	

Dir. Chai moved and Dir. Dietz seconded the motion to award \$119,952 for FY2026 and \$119,952 for FY2027 in full funding to the 24

organizations that scored 25.20 and higher in this category. Motion passed with three abstentions.

- Approval of Programming & Project Support Grants for Organizations

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
29.25	Southeast Service Cooperative	Olmsted	\$6,000	
29.00	Winona Symphony Orchestra	Winona	\$8,000	
29.00	Sheldon Theatre of Performing Arts	Goodhue	\$11,000	
28.67	Summerset Community Theatre	Mower	\$11,000	
28.60	Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center	Fillmore	\$6,000	
28.50	Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$6,000	
28.40	Austin Symphony Orchestra	Mower	\$5,000	Wightkin
28.25	Big Turn	Goodhue	\$11,000	
28.20	International Cello Institute	Rice	\$11,000	
28.00	Zumbro Valley Chorus	Mower	\$11,000	
28.00	Great River Shakespeare Festival	Winona	\$11,000	
28.00	Bluff Country Studio Art Tour	Winona	\$6,200	
28.00	Sandbar Storytelling Festival	Winona	\$11,000	
27.80	Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$11,000	
27.80	Choral Arts Ensemble of Rochester	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.80	Rochester International Film Group	Olmsted	\$6,000	
27.80	Red Wing Arts	Goodhue	\$11,000	
27.80	Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	\$11,000	Castañón
27.75	Winona Arts Center	Winona	\$7,520	
27.67	Rochester Symphony	Olmsted	\$11,000	
27.40	Lanesboro Community Theatre	Fillmore	\$7,425	
27.40	Bridge Chamber Music Festival	Rice	\$10,235	
27.25	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$11,000	
27.25	Winona Creators Collective	Winona	\$10,580	
27.20	Olmsted County	Olmsted	\$6,000	
27.20	Austin Area Arts	Mower	\$11,000	Wightkin
26.50	City of Whalan	Fillmore	\$6,000	
25.75	Wits' End Theatre	Fillmore	\$7,350	
25.00	International Owl Center	Houston	\$6,000	
24.40	Byron Community Education	Olmsted	\$6,000	

Dir. Wray moved and Dir. Chai seconded the motion to award \$237,960 in full funding to the 26 organizations that scored 27.20 and higher in this category, plus \$25,350 to the next four rural applicants. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Since the last Board meeting, SEMAC awarded grants to 56 applicants representing ten counties for a total of \$391,262 in funding. This includes two Artists & Culture Bearers

in the Schools grants for \$8,000, 24 General Operating Support grants for \$119,952, and 30 Programming & Project Support for Organizations grants for \$49,310.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	2	\$10,000
Fillmore	4	\$26,775
Freeborn	3	\$20,952
Goodhue	6	\$48,000
Houston	4	\$22,000
Mower	5	\$43,000
Olmsted	14	\$90,000
Rice	5	\$41,235
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	1	\$5,000
Winona	12	\$84,300
	56	\$391,262

- Panel Candidate Jacob Smithburg
Dir. Castañón moved and Dir. Wightkin seconded the appointment of Jacob Smithburg as a panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.
- Minnesota Paid Leave Policy
Dir. Ratliff moved and Dir. Wray seconded the motion for SEMAC to pay the full premium for employees who take the leave. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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