



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 21 July 2020, Online*

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DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diane Crane, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, John Becker, Laura Helle, Drew Medin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:07am Ms. Pearson, Executive Director, called the meeting to order.

Although a quorum was present, due to the small number in attendance, several agenda items were suspended.

Voting for new Directors and Panelists will be postponed until next month.

*Executive Director's Report*

- SEMAC is holding \$48,145 for eight April 2020 grantees that chose to postpone events until next year. These funds will be transferred to the SEMAC savings.
- On July 2, SEMAC received the FY 2021 McKnight Fund of \$90,000.
- According to information shared during the July 15, 2020 MSAB board meeting, the reduction to the Legacy funds will be 14.02%. The reduction to the General fund for this year remains unknown. Additionally, RACs have not received information on when additional legacy funding will occur – only that it will happen.
- On July 17, SEMAC received \$18,231, our share of a \$250,000 Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant to the FRACM. The FRACM will use \$50,000 of this grant for a statewide training program. The remaining \$200,000 was put through the FRACM funding formula to be used for COVID-19 Relief and/or Equity work in each region. Does SEMAC want to create emergency funding relief for artists and arts organizations that currently do not have funding (example \$500 x 20 grants = \$10k.) While this option sounds appealing, SEMAC would face the same challenges that other entities have faced: overwhelming need and not enough money to make an overall difference. Or do we want to apply the funding to equity training for SEMAC panelists, provide additional resources for SEMAC board members, and/or offer workshops to our artists and organizations?

- On July 20, SEMAC was notified that \$132,969, the first payment of the initial fiscal agent agreement, was approved. It was automatically deposited today. The next payment is scheduled for September 20, 2020.
- On June 25, SEMAC received a PPP loan in the amount of \$29,302.
- The Second-Year FY2021 General operating support grant commitments. Will make those payments in September.

Likely Changes to Grant Programs (previously discussed at the June meeting):

- Suspend the school residency program for FY 2021. Only two residencies were funded in FY2020. The program suspension is listed on our website.
- Suspend eligibility for non-arts groups with the exception of those that are culture bearers that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.
- Suspend July 1 application deadline for artists and move deadline to August 3 or September 1, 2020. Change award ceiling to \$3k for all.
- Continue October 1 application deadline for arts organizations with a lowered ceiling on ACHF grants from \$10k to \$6k; keep current Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Town ceiling at \$3k. Remove required match.
- Limit arts organizations to one SEMAC project grant in FY2021. Grantees with current and/or rescheduled projects cannot apply until such projects are completed.
- If funding becomes available during the year, SEMAC can contact grantees that were eligible but, because initial funding was exhausted, did not receive grants, to offer funds based on potential to continue project and/or change schedule.
- John Becker cycles off the Board in August. Should board consider adding at-large positions to create diversity on the board?

### New Business

- Grant Ceilings  
**Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to temporarily adjust the grant ceiling to \$3,000 for all Individual Artist grants and \$6,000 for Arts & Cultural Heritage grants. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:59am.