



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 9 November 2021, Online

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kjel Alkire, Diane Crane, Laura Helle, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Drew Medin

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

9:01am Ms. Helle, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded approval of this meeting's agenda, as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded approval of the minutes from the 17 August 2021 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Alkire seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of FY 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Ms. Helle encouraged personal outreach to artists. It is rewarding both for the organization and personally.
- Suggestions included social media posts. Ms. Helle will forward an example of reposts that could be used by all directors.

Executive Director's Report

- Reminder that SEMAC now provides \$50 per meeting stipend plus mileage for any in-person meeting attended for directors and panelists.
- Three vacant board positions: Have a potential candidate for Rice County but continue to solicit candidates from underrepresented/diverse groups for Goodhue and Steele Counties.
- MSAB will again offer Creative Support Grants. Last year these large awards impacted the amount SEMAC was able to award since many recipients chose to

not apply for both MSAB and SEMAC grants. Because of this, we anticipate that SEMAC will continue to carry forward funds into FY2023.

- The next grant round – Individual Artists – opens December 1, 2021 and closes January 10, 2022.
- Effective October 25, 2021, the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits has a new Southern Region coordinator, Jessica (Jes) Wysong, who lives in Mankato.
- Americans for the Arts first in-person meeting since 2019 will be held either May or June 2022 in Washington, D.C. Final details will be announced soon.
- National Arts Marketing Project virtual conference December 7-8, 2021.
- The SEMAC website needs a complete restructuring to make it a viable source of information for the region. Our contact at Brandhoot estimates, depending on what is included, this could run \$50-100k. A less expensive but more generic, non-customized (\$25-50k) version is also offered. It will take approximately six months to rebuild the site. Now, when funds are available, is the opportunity to add value to SEMAC as an organization.

Website Committee: Ms. Helle, Mr. Alkire, Mr. Marin and Mr. Swanson were tasked with exploring website options. All directors were asked to forward wish lists, possible vendors, and examples of great arts council websites to Ms. Pearson.

Open/Continuous Grants

Ms. Pearson authorized the following Open/Continuous Grants since the last Board Meeting

- \$1,500 Arts Management Training Grant to Austin Area Commission for the Arts, Mower County, for Intercultural Development Inventory Staff Training.
- \$75 Arts Management Training Grant to Children’s Dance Theatre, Olmsted County, for Workshop “Preparing your Nonprofit to Generate Earned Income.”
- \$1,500 Pandemic Relief for Working Artists to each of the following individuals:
 - Chris Christensen, Olmsted County
 - Kari Christensen, Olmsted County
 - Eric Egger, Olmsted County
 - Lori Hungerholt, Fillmore County
 - Taylor Parker, Olmsted County
 - Jacob Schlichter, Freeborn County
 - Brandon Zastrow, Winona County
- \$5,000 Pandemic Relief for Arts Organizations to each of the following groups:
 - Austin Area Commission for the Arts, Mower County
 - Chamber Music Live, Houston County
 - Lanesboro Barn Dance, Houston County
 - Mantorville Theatre Company, Dodge County
 - Matchbox Children’s Theatre, Mower County
 - Resounding Voices, Olmsted County
 - Rochester Male Chorus, Olmsted County
 - Sing Out Loud, Olmsted County

New Business

- Review of General Operating Support Applications

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Recused</u>
Austin Symphony Orchestra	Mower	Administrative Expenses	
Chamber Music Live	Houston	Staffing & Salaries	
Children's Dance Theatre	Olmsted	Staffing & Salaries	
Freeborn County Arts Initiative	Freeborn	Maintenance & Facilities	Marin
Frozen River Film Festival	Winona	Staffing & Salaries	Gundersheimer
I Cantanti Chamber Choirs	Rice	Facilities & Staffing	
Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	Administrative Expenses	Alkire
Mantorville Art Guild	Dodge	Maintenance & Facilities	
Mid West Music Fest	Winona	Administrative Expenses	Gundersheimer
River Arts Alliance	Winona	Staffing & Salaries	Gundersheimer
Rochester Music Guild	Olmsted	Administrative Expenses	Livingood
Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	Staffing & Salaries	
Southeast MN Bluegrass Assn	Houston	Administrative Expenses	
Southeastern MN Suzuki Assn	Olmsted	Facilities & Staffing	
Ye Olde Opera House	Houston	Administrative Expenses	

- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Austin Symphony Orchestra. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Chamber Music Live. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Children's Dance Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Freeborn County Arts Initiative. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Frozen River Film Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to I Cantanti Chamber Choirs. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Livingood moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Mantorville Art Guild. Motion passed**
Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Sanson seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.

- **Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to River Arts Alliance. Motion passed with one abstention.**
 - **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Rochester Music Guild. Motion passed with one abstention.**
 - **Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Sing Out Loud. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Southeastern Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Southeaster Minnesota Suzuki Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 per year for FY2022 and FY2023 to Ye Olde Opera House. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Approval of Legacy Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.43	Vintage Band Festival	Rice	\$10,000	
28.29	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$10,000	Gundersheimer
27.71	Great River Shakespeare Festival	Winona	\$10,000	Gundersheimer
27.63	Rochester Art Center	Olmsted	\$10,000	Alkire
27.63	Rochester Music Guild	Olmsted	\$10,000	Livingood
27.63	Rochester Symphony	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.50	Rochester Civic Music	Olmsted	\$10,000	
27.50	Rochesterfest	Olmsted	\$5,000	
27.50	Shorewood Senior Campus	Olmsted	\$5,000	
27.33	Paradise Center for the Arts	Rice	\$10,000	
27.14	Austin Area Commission for the Arts	Mower	\$10,000	Helle
26.57	Summerset Community Theatre	Mower	\$10,000	Helle
26.29	Faribault Parks & Recreation	Rice	\$5,000	
25.88	Friends of Peterson	Fillmore	\$10,000	
25.71	Rochester Civic Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$10,000	
25.57	Red Wing Art Association	Goodhue	\$10,000	
25.38	Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	\$10,000	
24.75	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$9,925	
24.75	Theatre du Mississippi	Winona	\$10,000	Gundersheimer
24.43	Austin Culture & Arts Commission	Mower	\$10,000	Helle
24.38	Music Lessons for All	Olmsted	\$8,160	

- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Vintage Band Festival. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Mr. Swanson moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Great River Shakespeare Festival. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Art Center. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Music Guild. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Civic Music. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochesterfest. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Shorewood Senior Campus. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Alkire seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Paradise Center for the Arts. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Area Commission for the Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Summerset Community Theatre. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Faribault Parks & Recreation. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Friends of Peterson. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Rochester Civic Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Red Wing Art Association. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Sing Out Loud. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$9,925 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Theatre du Mississippi. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$10,000 to Austin Culture & Arts Commission. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$8,160 to Music Lessons for All. Motion passed unanimously.

- Approval of Programming Grants for Arts Organizations

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
27.14	Bluff Country Studio Art Tour	Winona	\$5,000	Gundersheimer, Maloney, Swanson
26.88	Art on the Ave	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.88	Rochester Male Chorus	Olmsted	\$5,000	
26.57	Rochester Repertory Theatre	Olmsted	\$5,000	Livingood
26.50	Chamber Music Live	Houston	\$5,000	
26.50	Children's Dance Theatre	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.88	Rochester Chamber Music Society	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.38	Rochester Vidhyalaya	Olmsted	\$5,000	
24.38	Southeastern Minnesota Poets	Olmsted	\$3,750	
23.50	The Merlin Players	Steele	\$4,000	
23.29	That Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$5,000	
23.14	Austin Community Band	Mower	\$5,000	

- **Mr. Livingood moved and Ms. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Bluff Country Studio Art Tour. Motion passed with three abstentions.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Art on the Ave. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Livingood moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Male Chorus. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Ms. Maloney moved and Ms. Helle seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Repertory Theatre. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Chamber Music Live. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Children's Dance Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Chamber Music Society. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Rochester Vidhyalaya. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,750 to Southeastern Minnesota Poets. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$4,000 to The Merlin Players. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to That Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Austin Community Band. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Approval of Small Towns/Rural Areas Grants

<u>Score</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Recused</u>
28.13	Southeast MN Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$5,000	
25.63	Chatfield Brass Band	Fillmore	\$4,660	
23.38	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$3,660	Alkire
23.00	Lanesboro Barn Dance	Houston	\$4,690	

- **Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$5,000 to Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$4,660 to Chatfield Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,660 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$4,690 to Lanesboro Barn Dance. Motion passed unanimously.**

For the October grant round SEMAC awarded grants to 55 applicants representing eleven counties for a total of \$469,920 in funding. This includes 21 Legacy Grants for \$193,085, twelve Programming Grants for \$57,750, four Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$17,010, fifteen General Operating Support grants for \$150,000 (over two fiscal years), two Arts Management Training grants for \$1,575, seven Pandemic Relief for Working Artists grants for \$10,500, and eight Pandemic Relief for Arts Organizations grants for \$40,000.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	2	\$15,000
Fillmore	3	\$16,160
Freeborn	2	\$11,500
Goodhue	1	\$10,000
Houston	8	\$53,690
Mower	8	\$56,500
Olmsted	28	\$177,985
Rice	5	\$44,925
Steele	1	\$4,000
Wabasha	2	\$13,660
Winona	8	\$66,500
	67	\$469,920

- Panel Candidates
 - **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the appointment of Jennie Autoñoë as a dance panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**

- **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the appointment of Martha Chancellor as a music panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the appointment of Jaime Schwaba as a dance panelist on the SEMAC Arts Advisory Panel. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 10:20am.