



MINUTES
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, 17 November 2020, Online

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Diane Crane, Lee Gundersheimer, Levi Livingood, Kara Maloney, Elisha Marin, Drew Medin, Jon Swanson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Kjell Alkire, Andrea Arnold, Laura Helle

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

9:00am Mr. Medin, Board Treasurer, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Swanson seconded approval of the minutes from the 15 September 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of FY 2021. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- Legacy funds were reduced by 14.02%. FY 2021 Legacy funds can be carried forward into next fiscal year. General Fund dollars were not reduced. However, these funds must be obligated and/or spent prior to June 30, 2021.
- As reported last meeting, SEMAC received a share of the \$250,000 Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant awarded to the FRACM. SEMAC will award \$1000 to arts organizations that fully participate in all four sessions of the Art in Digital Spaces training. The balance of funds can be used for additional training opportunities within the region.
- Continuation of Changes to Grant Programs – note that these are considered temporary and for this fiscal year only.
 - Suspend eligibility for non-arts groups with the exception of those that are culture bearers that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.

- Due to the continuing and deepening crisis that our artists are facing, the \$1500 Pandemic Relief Grant for Artists will continue, using FY2020 funds carried forward with eligible grants approved until funding is exhausted. The legislature approved the use FY2020 monies to assist artists with expenses due to loss of income and the MSAB amended our contract accordingly. NOTE: this flexibility was not included in the current fiscal year contract.
- Currently ten grants have been awarded (and an additional one is pending approval). Suggest that we keep it open until the end of May 2021.
- Temporarily lower award ceiling to \$3,000 for artist project grants to February 1, 2021, for projects using both McKnight and Legacy monies as needed. Artists cannot receive both \$1500 pandemic relief and \$3000 project grant.
- For arts organizations, the October deadline was changed to November 1, with a lowered ceiling on ACHF grants but keeping current ceiling for Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Towns. Matches will not be required. Arts organizations are limited to one SEMAC project grant per year. Grantees that currently have outstanding and/or rescheduled projects to later in FY21 cannot apply until those projects have been completed. Suggest that we conduct the April round as usual.
- Second Year FY2021 General operating support grant commitments began in September. Currently holding six grants for arts organizations.
- Continue offering stipends to panelists for their participation. Offering nominal stipends to board.
- Monitoring reports, since most activities are online, should be easier this year
- Next steps for equity: FRACM is meeting with Aamera to continue working on the IDI. Continue with committee work to develop a diversity, equity, and inclusion statement (DEI) for SEMAC. A draft should be ready for the January meeting.
- SEMAC will pay for board members to attend workshops/training webinars, etc. Please share them with me so that I can get the information out to the full board.

New Business - Approval of Grants

- Arts & Cultural Heritage

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
28.63	Northfield Arts & Culture Commission	Rice	\$6,000	
27.78	Mid West Music Fest	Winona	\$6,000	Gundersheimer
27.67	Red Wing Art Association	Goodhue	\$6,000	
27.44	Resounding Voices	Olmsted	\$6,000	
27.33	City of Winona Parks & Recreation	Winona	\$6,000	Gundersheimer
27.00	Sing Out Loud	Olmsted	\$6,000	
26.63	Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale	Olmsted	\$6,000	
26.00	Northfield Arts Guild	Rice	\$4,815	
25.75	Rochester Repertory Theatre Company	Olmsted	\$6,000	
25.56	Rochester Dance Company	Olmsted	\$6,000	
24.56	Ameriikan Pooijat Finnish Brass Band	Rice	\$6,000	
23.67	Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics & Latin Americans	Olmsted	\$6,000	

- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Northfield Arts & Culture Commission. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Mid West Music Fest. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Red Wing Art Association. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Resounding Voices. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to City of Winona Parks & Recreation. Motion passed with one abstention.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Sing Out Loud. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Livingood moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Maloney moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$4,815 to Northfield Arts Guild. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Crane moved and Mr. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Repertory Theatre Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gundersheimer moved and Mr. Marin seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Rochester Dance Company. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Maloney seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Ameriikan Poijat Finnish Brass Band. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Marin moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$6,000 to Alliance of Chicanos, Hispanics & Latin Americans. Motion passed unanimously.

- Presenter/Production Assistance

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
27.50	Children's Dance Theatre	Olmsted	\$3,000	
25.00	Matchbox Children's Theatre	Mower	\$3,000	
21.50	Southeastern Minnesota Poets	Olmsted	\$2,750	

- M. Marin moved and M. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Children's Dance Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Crane moved and M. Gundersheimer seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Matchbox Children's Theatre. Motion passed unanimously.
- M. Gundersheimer moved and M. Marin seconded the motion to award \$2,750 to Southeastern Minnesota Poets. Motion passed unanimously.

- Small Towns/Rural Areas

Score	Applicant	County	Request	Recused
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Score	Applicant	County	Request Recused
28.40	Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association	Houston	\$3,000
22.80	Chamber Music Live	Houston	\$3,000
21.50	Lake City Area Arts	Wabasha	\$2,200

- **M. Swanson moved and M. Marin seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Southeast Minnesota Bluegrass Association. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **M. Marin moved and M. Crane seconded the motion to award \$3,000 to Chamber Music Live. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **M. Marin moved and M. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$2,200 to Lake City Area Arts. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Pandemic Relief for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers**

Lane Michael Powell, Harmony composer, 20-40% artist, requests funds for keyboard, software and 14 hours at \$25 per hour to research best practices and new innovations in composition through online seminars and workshops.

Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Lane Michael Powell. Motion passed unanimously.

For the Fall 2020 grant rounds, SEMAC awarded grants to 29 applicants representing eight counties for a total of \$104,265 in funding. This includes twelve Arts & Cultural Heritage grants for \$70,815, three Presenter/Production Assistance grants for \$8,750, three Small Towns/Rural Areas grants for \$8,200, and eleven Pandemic Relief Grants to individuals for \$16,500.

County	Grants	Total Awarded
Dodge	0	0
Fillmore	1	\$1,500
Freeborn	0	0
Goodhue	4	\$10,500
Houston	2	\$6,000
Mower	1	\$3,000
Olmsted	11	\$46,250
Rice	4	\$18,315
Steele	0	0
Wabasha	1	\$2,200
Winona	5	\$16,500
		\$104,265

Mr. Marin moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to adjourn.

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 9:45am.