



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
*Tuesday, 15 September 2020, Online*

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

STAFF PRESENT: Robin Pearson, Karen Miller

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9:02am Ms. Arnold, Board President, called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of the Minutes

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded approval of the minutes from the 18 August 2020 Board meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

President's Report

- Today we will begin a discussion of the SEMAC mission, goals and values.

Executive Director's Report

- On August 14, 2020, we officially received notice that the reduction to the Legacy funds will be 14.02%. SEMAC will receive the remaining 50% of our allotment after the MSAB October board meeting. Distribution dates of the remaining funds and general fund are unknown at this time. Distribution of the initial 50% funds: 7/20/20, 9/20/20, 11/20/20, and 1/20/21.
- SEMAC received \$18,231 as a share of a Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund grant of \$250,000 awarded to the FRACM. \$50,000 of this grant will be used by the FRACM for a statewide training program with remaining \$200,000 allotted via the standard FRACM funding formula.
- Changes to Grant Programs – note that these are considered temporary and for this fiscal year only.
  - School Residencies suspended for FY 2021. SEMAC funded only two residencies in FY2020.
  - Eligibility for non-arts groups suspended with the exception of culture bearers and those that provide cultural services to BIPOC communities.

- July 1 artist deadline was suspended. Will replace it this year only with:
  - \$1,500 Pandemic Relief Grant for Artists as quickly as possible using FY2020 carry-over funds until funding is exhausted.
  - Temporarily lower the award ceiling to \$3,000 and move application deadline for artist project grants to February 1, 2021, utilizing both McKnight and Legacy monies as needed. Artists cannot receive both the \$1,500 pandemic relief and the \$3,000 project grant.
- Move October 1 deadline to November for arts organizations with a lowered ceiling on Arts & Cultural Heritage grants to \$6,000; and keeping current Presenter/Production Assistance and Small Towns/Rural Areas ceiling at \$3,000. Matches will not be required. Limit arts organizations 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. April deadline remains unknown.
- Second Year FY2021 General operating support grant payments will begin in September.
- SEMAC will pay for board members to attend workshops/training webinars, etc.

### New Business

#### Approval of Pandemic Relief Grants for Individual Artists and Culture Bearers

- Michael Arturi, Red Wing musician and teacher, 40-60% artist, requests funds for supplies and 36 hours at \$35 per hour for practice, networking and research time. **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Michael Arturi. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Will Brzezinski, Winona ceramicist, 20-40% financial support from art, requests funds for rent, utilities, supplies and 15 hours at \$15 per hour. **Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Will Brzezinski. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- Mike Munson, Winona musician, full-time artist, requests funds to create new work for 75 hours at \$20 per hour. **Mr. Swanson moved and Mr. Livingood seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Mike Munson. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- Ryan Utterback, Rochester musician, 20-40% income from music, requests funds for living expenses and to put 75 hours at \$20 per hour into his craft. **Mr. Gumdersheimer moved and Mr. Swanson seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to Ryan Utterback. Motion passed with one abstention.**
- John Wells, Red Wing painter, 20-40% income from art, requests funds for supplies and artist fees for 62 hours at \$20 per hour. **Mr. Alkire moved and Mr. Medin seconded the motion to award \$1,500 to John Wells. Motion passed unanimously.**

### Old Business

DEI Committee (Andrea Arnold, Laura Helle, Kara Maloney and Robin Pearson) began discussion of moving the SEMAC core values forward. Current statements as follows.

- Mission

SEMAC exists to encourage, promote, and assist regional arts development by providing leadership, outreach, advocacy, mentorship, grants and services.

- Vision
  - All community members are inspired to take part in the arts and build partnerships that promote the arts and artists.
  - New culturally rich artistic opportunities are incorporated into our communities while preserving our existing artistic heritages.
  - Community members, leaders, and policy-makers foster a climate that celebrates imagination, creativity, innovation, and excellence that encourages life-long participation in the arts.
- Core Values
  - SEMAC seeks out and rewards creative efforts of high artistic integrity that stand out among similar efforts.
  - SEMAC believes that high quality art should be challenging and original, able to illuminate the human condition and serve the vital interests of the community.
  - Rooted in basic human values, SEMAC believes that art should move the imagination and the heart, and enrich rather than merely entertain.
  - SEMAC believes that art should be artistically challenging for both the artists and the audience, and should significantly contribute to the development and enrichment of a given art form(s).
  - SEMAC funded artists must demonstrate serious training with reputable teachers or mentors, a commitment to their art form and life as an artist, and present art of lasting value.

Discussion will continue.

**Mr. Alkire moved and Ms. Crane seconded the motion to adjourn.**

The Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 10:30am.