

Hello! It's me again, Rob Hardy. I wanted to introduce myself as the new Rice County representative on the Board of Directors of SEMAC, the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council.

[SEMAC](#) "is one of eleven Regional Arts Councils designated by the State of Minnesota to make final decisions on the use of appropriations for local/regional arts development. SEMAC has served Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona counties since 1977 and is charged with assessing regional needs and planning and administering programs and services using its legislative allocation."

As your representative on the SEMAC board, I'm happy to provide regular updates on SEMAC grant opportunities and awards, and on other SEMAC activities.

One grant opportunity I'd like to highlight is the [School Residency Grants](#) program, which provides \$30,000 in funding for artist residencies in public schools. If you have contacts in the schools who might be interested in this opportunity, please pass this information along. The application period for these grants opens on July 1, 2024.

School Residency Grants

The School Residency grant is intended to support artist residencies in public or non-religious private schools. A residency is an interactive arts activity involving K-12 students, teachers, and artists. Residencies provide young people with a direct arts experience with artists, as well as encourage the artist's professional development by providing a unique employment experience and audience contact. Residencies must be based upon a well-defined educational experience that is at least one full day or up to five school days in length, and culminate in a capstone event showcasing the students that is accessible and open to the public.

- *\$3,000 School Residency grants for the school year 2024-25 will be available on July 1.*
- *Matching funds are never required for School Residency grants.*
- *Recipients of School Residency grants are eligible to reapply annually.*
- *The submission deadline is thirty days prior to the planned artist residency.*

The Residency must supplement rather than supplant the school's prescribed curriculum. Programs designed to meet K-12 Minnesota Academic Standards in the Arts are not eligible.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the five Northfield artists who received SEMAC individual artist grants in the most recent round of grants (March 19, 2024):

- Stephanie Cox, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Comic book about Zulu-S. MN connection.

- Arlo Cristofaro, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Gate by the Garden: An Ecosystem of Song.
- Gao Hong, Northfield, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for New Composition for Pipa and Cello
- Daniel Kallman, Northfield, received a \$5,000 Advancing Artist grant for Nerstrand Community Celebration Song.
- Martha Larson, Northfield, received a \$3,000 Emerging Artist grant for Explorations in Music and Movement.

March/April 2024